

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Joint Ordinance and Environmental Committee Meeting
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 31, 2016 at 6:30 PM

Present: (Ordinance) Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman
 Michael Smart, Vice Chairman
 Arthur Mathews, Councilor

 (Environmental) Brian McDonald-Chairman
 Robert Conlon, Councilor
 Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor
 Patrick O'Connor, Councilor
 Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor

Also Present: Jennifer Miller, Retirement
 Richard Hayes, Retirement
 Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
 Joe Callanan, Town Solicitor
 Robert Luongo, Director of Planning
 Ryan Blackman, Southfield

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

Ordinance Chairman Kenneth DiFazio called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Chair DiFazio explained that there is one item to be deliberated jointly and as all members of the Environmental Committee aren't present, the Ordinance Committee was called to order. Councilor Smart motioned to take measure 16 090 out of order, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

16 090-Acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 101-Supplemental Annual Allowance to Widows of Disabled Public Employees

Ms. Miller and Mr. Hayes presented-prior to November of 1996, widows of disabled public employees were ineligible for a supplemental annual allowance, this increases the minimum option paid. Originally the amount was \$6k, then it was increased to \$9k, but the request is to increase further to \$12k. The Massachusetts retirees are in support of this, it was further noted that \$12k is the maximum allowance.

Councilor Smart motioned for favorable action on measure number 16 090-Acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 101-Supplemental Annual Allowance to Widows of

Disabled Public Employees, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

16 015-Proposed Amendment to Southfield Zoning and Land Use-White Street

Chair DiFazio noted that this was referred on April 7, the committee met on May 2, and a joint public hearing with the Planning Board was held on May 18. The Planning Board issued its recommendation for favorable action.

It was noted that the residents of White Street are looking for certainty that their street will not become an entrance to Southfield.

Chair DiFazio questioned if the SRA needs to vote this as well, to which Mr. Blackman responded in the negative.

Councilor Mathews raised the issue which constituents discussed at the public hearing: that there were concerns with the width of the road-he asked Mr. Blackman if they were willing to reduce the width from its intended 20 feet, to which he explained that they are working with the neighbors on this issue.

Councilor Smart noted that this is an old problem and he appreciates putting this forward as it is an improvement to that neighborhood and allows them a sense of security.

Councilor Smart motioned for favorable action on measure number 16 015, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Councilor Conlon motioned to call to order the Environmental Committee meeting, motion seconded by Councilor DiFazio and voted unanimously.

16 031-Proposed Amendment to Southfield Zoning and Land Use by-Laws/Solar

Councilor McDonald noted that this measure is a great start to Southfield becoming a green community.

Ryan Blackman, of Southfield, presented that they are capping the Westgate Landfill, rezoning parcels and adding a solar overlay district, equipped with panels, in an effort to become a solar community. It was noted that this would be the third designation for Southfield as a green community.

Chair DiFazio noted that this measure was jointly referred on April 19th, a joint public hearing was held with the Planning Board on May 16, and the Planning Board issued its report on May 18, with a recommendation for favorable action.

He further reiterated that this land wasn't open space, just a portion was, but there was a mixed use, and it will now be all open space, which is an actual increase by 5.7 acres,

with a decrease in open space by 2.5 acres on White Street. Chair DiFazio impressed the importance of keeping track of these designations.

Councilor Smart recollects that the applicant would redistribute open space elsewhere. Chair DiFazio stated that there is no need to compensate for those areas lost.

Councilor Mathews asked about the life expectancy of the solar panels and if they will be replaced by someone other than the town, to which Mr. Blackman responded in the affirmative, that both maintenance and replacement provisions have been made.

Councilor McDonald stressed that the capped landfill can't be utilized for any other purpose, so this at least is serving a purpose.

Councilor Conlon motioned for favorable action to the Town Council on measure 16 031 on behalf of the Environmental Committee, seconded by Councilor DiFazio and unanimously voted. Councilor Smart motioned for favorable action on measure 16 031 on behalf of the Ordinance Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and motion was voted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Conlon to adjourn, on behalf of the Environmental Committee, seconded by Councilor DiFazio and unanimously voted.

Councilor Smart motioned to adjourn, on behalf of the Ordinance Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio as Ordinance Committee Chairman

Approved by Brian McDonald as Environmental Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 15 August 2016