

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Ordinance Committee
Kelley Room
Town Hall
March 21, 2016 at 7PM

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman
Michael Smart, Vice Chairman
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Patrick O'Connor, Councilor

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Dan McCormack, Director, Health Department

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Chairman Kenneth DiFazio called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

15 006 - Ordinance Amendment- Chapter 7

Chair Kenneth DiFazio recapped for the committee. This measure was filed in January of 2015, the committee has met on several occasions, a public hearing was held on March 7, 2016 at the last Town Council Meeting and the public hearing was closed. The final draft of the ordinance amendment to Chapter 7 has been reviewed and submitted. He asked if there were any questions from the committee members.

Councilor Mathews noted that Chair DiFazio experienced walk-a-way landowner issues which were resolved in conjunction with Joe Callanan; due to items included in the ordinance.

Joe Callanan reiterated that the Attorney General's Office has instituted an abandoned property initiative whereby they have assigned heavy staff to handle the program. With successful passage of this ordinance, the Town of Weymouth will have enforcement capabilities.

Councilor Smart asked about the responsibility for enforcement of the ordinance. Health, Police, Fire and Building Departments would be involved depending on the offense.

It was noted that a provision in the Ordinance allows for the Building Department to be the lead department for violations which involve several departments.

Chair DiFazio noted his initial concern was that there would be criticism that the ordinance would encourage neighbor versus neighbor disputes. With departments overseeing the violations, this would not be an issue.

Joe Callanan noted that there is an appeal process option built into the ordinance.

Councilor Mathews stated that he would like to vote and Councilors Lacey and Haugh (proponents of the ordinance) were invited to comment.

Councilor Haugh extended her gratitude to the committee and Solicitor Callanan for their hard work and patience.

Councilor Smart noted, for the record, that the committee is voting on the ordinance version dated February 16, 2016. It was confirmed that this is the proper version.

Councilor Smart motioned for favorable action on measure number 15 006-Ordinance Amendment Chapter 7, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews, and voted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:12 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Smart to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio as Chairman