

*Town Council Meeting
March 19, 2012
Town Council Chambers*

Present: Arthur Mathews, President
Robert Conlon
Kenneth DiFazio
Jane Hackett
Thomas J. Lacey
Ed Harrington
Michael Molisse
Patrick O'Connor

Not Present: Brian McDonald
Victor Pap III
Michael Smart

Also Present: George Lane, Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Kathy Deree, Town Clerk
William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer
James Clarke, Director of Planning and Community Development

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

President Mathews called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Kathy Deree conducted roll call with Councilors McDonald, Pap and Smart absent. President Mathews noted that he had spoken with Councilor McDonald who is on vacation, Councilor Pap who had a work commitment, and Councilor Smart who had to attend to a family matter.

Announcements:

Councilor Hackett announced that the Murphy School Parent Council is hosting a silent auction on Friday 23 March from 7-9 PM. All monies will be utilized to fund the after school enrichment program. She further noted that for those who cannot attend, the school has launched a program entitled "What the Heck-Write a Check".

Councilor Conlon announced that he will not be able to hold his usual office hours on 3 April as he will be out of town. Additionally, he is expanding office hours on the first Tuesday of the month from 3-4 PM at Southfield Town Hall.

Minutes:

Councilor O'Connor motioned to approve the **Joint Parks and Recreation and Budget/Management Committee Meeting minutes of February 21, 2012**, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Councilor O'Connor motioned to approve the **Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2012**, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Public Hearings:

7:35 PM 12 018 Joint National Grid/Verizon Utility Petition-Idlewell

Councilor O'Connor motioned to open the public hearing, noting that the abutters were notified on 12 March, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Tom Cicocki, of National Grid, was in attendance to present and indicated that a new pole for service is needed for a new home located at 188 Idlewell.

President Mathews asked if there were any comments from the public, there was no response.

Councilor O'Connor motioned to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for action under 2-9b (same night action), motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for favorable action on measure number 12 018, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Communications and Reports from the Mayor, Town Officers and Town Boards

12 019-Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Greg Shanahan

William McKinney presented on behalf of the Mayor's Office and requests that Greg Shanahan of 185 Mediterranean Drive be appointed to the Conservation Commission, with term to expire on June 30, 2015.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

12 020-Sale of Town Owned Land

William McKinney requests on behalf of the Mayor, that in accordance with section 2-206 to sell the following parcels of land:

- 0 Pine Cliff Road, 5000 square feet
- 40 Beals Street, 5209 square feet
- 0 Webb Street, 2000 square feet
- 0 Putnam Street, 4700 square feet
- 0 Foye Ave., 4097 square feet
- 0 Summer Street, 470 square feet
- 0 Rucille Ave., 200 square feet
- 0 Rucille Ave., 400 square feet
- 0 Westminster Road, 800 square feet
- 0 Front Street, 2509 square feet
- 0 Lakehurst Ave., 4385 square feet
- 0 Perkins Street, 3316 square feet
- 0 Patterson Street, 4600 square feet
- 0 Carver Street, 4759 square feet
- 0 Venus Street, 5290 square feet
- 1047 Front Street, 4139 square feet
- 0 Robinswood Road, 216 square feet
- 0 Thicket Street, 400 square feet
- 0 Thicket Street, 481 square feet

Councilor O’Connor motioned for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

12 021-Capital Projects to be Bonded

William McKinney on behalf of the Mayor requests the following:

“That the sum of \$4,865,000.00 is appropriated for paying the costs of the following projects:

Pratt Library building repairs	\$ 100,000.00
DPW building repairs	\$ 235,000.00
New salt shed	\$ 300,000.00
Sidewalk repairs	\$ 150,000.00
Drainage repairs	\$ 100,000.00
Iron Hill Dam repair	\$ 480,000.00
Hamilton School door & window replacements	\$ 500,000.00
Lower Central Interceptor sewer project	\$3,000,000.00
TOTAL	\$4,865,000.00

In order to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 and 8 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore.”

Councilor O’Connor motioned for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

12 022-Seach School Boiler Replacement Project

William McKinney on behalf of the Mayor requests the following

That the Town of Weymouth, appropriate the sum of \$550,000.00 for the purpose of paying the costs of boiler replacement at the William Seach Primary School, 770 Middle Street, Weymouth, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “Project”) which propose repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Construction Steering Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the town incurs in excess of any grant approval by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) the percent (%) of eligible, approved projects costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA.”

Councilor O’Connor motioned for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

12 023-Free Cash 2012 Receipts-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

William McKinney on behalf of the Mayor requests that the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,040 from free cash to be transferred to the special purpose stabilization fund-capital projects.

Councilor O’Connor motioned for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Reports of Committees

Education Committee-Chair Thomas Lacey

Update on Superintendent Search

Chair Lacey updated that the committee met earlier and 35 plus individuals have applied to the search committee, which is comprised of 11 members. The search committee will work in conjunction with the Human Resources Department and submit finalists to the School Committee, with a target of April to May. The committee is hopeful for a September start but is cognizant of a 90 to 120 day notice issue, from the individuals leaving their post.

Chair Lacey noted that the interim superintendent search update detail differs from the report he gave at the last meeting. A new interim superintendent, Ed Malvey has been brought in to help transition until the permanent superintendent is seated.

2013 School Budget

Chair Lacey distributed an update to all members of the Council, and stated that this represents what the School Committee would like to submit to the Mayor. He noted that the highlighted line items are additional requests, which were discussed and prioritized by the school committee. There is a subcommittee meeting on 20 March followed by a full committee meeting (22 March) at which time they will vote the proposed budget.

Chair Lacey, on behalf of the School Committee, extends their gratitude to the Town Council for the charter revisions which aided in their crafting of the budget, by allowing them to arrive at a closer number to submit to the Mayor. Chair Lacey thanked his Education Committee for their diligent efforts.

Councilor Hackett extended her appreciation to the Chair and the School Committee for the open, aggressive process and highlighted that \$440k is included to support the Chapman 5/6, 7/8 structure, \$850k for K-6, \$15k for band program, \$400k for school athletics, \$50k for a business teacher at the high school, and \$25k for Information Technology replacement costs.

Reports of Committees-Chairman Kenneth DiFazio-Budget/Management

12 015-Free Cash OPED Liability Trust Fund

Chairman DiFazio stated that this was referred on February 21, public hearing held on March 12, with the Budget/Management committee meeting on March 15 and voting 4-1 for favorable action. On behalf of the committee Chairman DiFazio motioned to raise and appropriate \$600,000 from free cash to be transferred to the OPEB Trust Fund, motion seconded by Councilor O'Connor and voted unanimously.

12 016-Reappointment to the Waterfront Committee-Daniel Keefe

Chairman DiFazio reports that this was referred on February 21, and the committee voted on March 15 unanimously for favorable action. He motioned to reappoint Daniel Keefe to the Waterfront Committee, motion seconded by Councilor O'Connor and voted unanimously.

12 017-Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Statements and Management Letter

Chairman DiFazio reports that this was referred on February 21, the committee met on March 12 and voted unanimous favorable action. He motioned to accept the Fiscal year 2011 financial statements and management letter, motion seconded by Councilor O'Connor and voted unanimously.

Joint Parks and Recreation Committee and Budget Management Committee

12 007-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund-Turf Field Feasibility Study

Chairman Molisse noted that this was referred jointly on 5 February and a joint meeting was held on 21 February, with Jim Clarke and Steve Reilly in attendance who presented the overview. They discussed Riley, Ralph Talbot and Legion but determined that the study should be for the overall town, therefore they widened the scope of the study and voted to continue. On 21 February a public hearing was held, with a continuance of the joint meeting until 15 March, at which time Jim Clarke presented a revised version of the measure, which is a widened scope of project. Town maintenance and the Mayor were in attendance and spoke of centralizing maintenance. Councilor Molisse spoke of the importance of inclusion of Legion Field, he will follow up and is in support of this as a start. As of today the town council office has received 220 emails in support of the study, 49 support rehabilitation of the field, but no mention of the feasibility study, and 4 are not in support. The committee voted 4-0 for favorable action. Chairman Molisse motions for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor O'Connor.

Chairman DiFazio noted that this was referred on 6 February, committee met on 21 February and the public hearing was held that same evening. The committees met again on 15 March and Budget/Management Committee voted unanimous favorable action. Chairman DiFazio motions for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor O'Connor.

Councilor O'Connor stated that the Mayor realizes the fields are in disarray and this is resultant from the fiscal climate. He noted that turf fields are positive, but has concerns with security issues (drugs, graffiti, litter) but fully supports this measure.

Councilor Conlon stated that more than 5,000 children use town fields, he would like to get together with South Field for field use for the benefit of the children.

Councilor Lacey appreciates administration expanding/clarifying the measure to access the true needs of the parks.

Councilor Hackett stressed the need for additional turf field capacity, centralizing the maintenance of the fields. She requests that the Mayor make one rectangular field in interim, suggesting this to be located at Legion. Councilor Hackett feels confident that administration will handle and expressed her thanks to the sports advocates.

Motion voted unanimously (8-0).

With no further business to attend to, Councilor O'Connor motioned to adjourn, noting that the next regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 2 April 2012, motion seconded by Councilor Harrington and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Diane T. Hachey

Approved by:

Council President Arthur Mathews

