

*Town Council Meeting
December 2, 2013 at 7:30 PM
Town Council Chambers*

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

Also Present: Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
 Kathy Deree, Town Clerk
 George Lane, Town Solicitor
 Paul Haley, BOA/Chairman
 Pam Pantermoller, Principal Assessor
 William McKinney, Chief Financial Officer

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

President Mathews called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Kathy Deree conducted roll call with Councilor McDonald not present.

Announcements:

Councilor Burke announced that the North Weymouth Civic Association will meet on December 11th at 7:00 PM at the McCulloch Building, and is open to all.

Councilor Molisse announced the Columbian Square Business Association is holding their annual holiday festivities on Saturday from 4-7. All businesses are involved and proceeds from the event will benefit the Fogg Library.

Councilor McDonald arrives here.

Council President Mathews announced that on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM at Rockland High School, a meeting of the three towns will occur regarding Starwood's proposed changes to the enabling legislation. He noted that the meeting will be posted so we are in compliance with open meeting law.

Additionally, he announced the passing of Bruce Valicenti of the Building Department, who was a dedicated employee for numerous years. A moment of silence in honor of Mr. Valicenti was held.

Minutes:

Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2013

Councilor O'Connor motioned to approve the Budget/Management Committee meeting minutes of October 21, 2013, motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2013

Councilor O'Connor motioned to approve the Town Council meeting minutes of October 21, 2013, motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Councilor O'Connor motioned to take measures 13 128 and 13 129 from "Reports of Committees" out of order, motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Reports of Committee

Budget/Management-Chairman Kenneth DiFazio

13 128-Appointment to the Board of Library Trustees-Vicki Kaufman

Ms. Kaufman was present and is honored that her name was submitted for this appointment. She has much experience as she served on the statewide board of libraries, the Friends of Libraries and Commission on Libraries. Councilor DiFazio noted that this measure was referred on November 12th, the committee met this evening and voted unanimous favorable action and on behalf of the committee, Councilor DiFazio motions for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor O'Connor and voted unanimously.

13 129-Appointment to the Youth Coalition-Mary Jordan Roy

Ms. Roy was present and noted that she chose to live, marry, and raise her child in the town and has been a resident for 40 years. She wants to contribute to the Weymouth Youth Coalition by serving as a member. Councilor DiFazio noted that this measure was referred on November 12, the committee met this evening and voted unanimous favorable action and on behalf of the Budget/Management Committee motions for favorable action. Motion seconded by Councilor O'Connor and voted unanimously.

(Agenda reverts back to section 6-Public Hearings)

Public Hearings

7:35 PM 13 130-Fiscal Year 2014 Tax Classification

Councilor O'Connor motioned to open the public hearing on measure number 13 130, motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously. Mr. Haley and Ms. Pantermoller presented and stated that the Department of Revenue has successfully approved the increase, voted by the Board of Assessors (1.48 shift-with no residential exemption) and the town has met the required criteria. The town has realized \$672k in new growth last year which is a bit higher than prior years. The Board of Assessors is recommending a shift of 48% with more burden on commercial than residential. The residential will increase from \$12.93 for fiscal year 2013 to \$13.31 for fiscal year 2014, and commercial/industrial will increase from \$21.14 in fiscal year 2013 to \$21.71 in fiscal year 2014.

It was noted that the tax levy is \$86,083,778.

Councilor Hackett requested clarification on the \$672k in new growth--if it was for fiscal or calendar year—it was confirmed that it is for fiscal year 2014, which was influenced in value by previous year's figures. She further asked as related to the Starwood proposal (property taxes within Weymouth's borders would come to Weymouth) how the town would go about capturing the tax revenue as the budget for fiscal year 2014 has been set. Councilor Hackett recommends obtaining assistance from the Department of Revenue from an assessing standpoint as we have already approved our budget. Mr. Haley responded that if the legislation passes, then new growth could come to the town and would have to be worked out in the legislation, this is an issue that DOR needs to address.

Councilor Harrington asked if they have any suggestions as to how the town could benefit from a tax standpoint. Mr. Haley responded that we need to understand how these properties are absorbed into the tax rolls with the least amount of burden to the towns.

Councilor Smart asked that during the re evaluation of homes that a badge system is established for security reasons. Miss Pantermoller confirmed that a notice will be included in the final tax bill and each appraiser will show a badge and letter from her, the police know about this as well and it will be announced in the newspapers.

Council President Mathews asked if there were any comments from the public to which there was no response. Councilor O'Connor motioned to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Communications and Reports from the Mayor's Office, Town Officers, and Town Boards

13 131-Free Cash School Department

Mr. McKinney presented on behalf of the Mayor's Office in request to raise and appropriate the sum of \$230,258 from free cash for the purposes of funding the costs associated with the school department operations during fiscal 2014.

Councilor O'Connor motioned for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Smart. Councilor O'Connor requests that Mr. McKinney run the numbers on the net school spending deficit in addition to contacting the schools to ascertain what this funding will be applied to. Motion passes unanimously.

13 132-Stipends for Weymouth Retirement Board Members

Mr. McKinney requests on behalf of the Mayor's Office that section 34 of chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011 is adopted to set the stipend amount for the Retirement Board Members to \$4,500 per year.

Councilor O'Connor motions for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Smart. Council President Mathews requests that Solicitor Lane attend the Budget/Management committee meeting, motion passes unanimously.

13 133-Appointment to the Community Events Committee-Chris Heffernan

Mr. McKinney presents on behalf of Mayor Kay's office that in accordance with section 2-10 of the Weymouth Town Charter, Chris Heffernan to be submitted as a candidate for appointment to the Community Events Committee. Term to expire June 30, 2014.

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

Reports of Committee

Budget/Management Committee/Chair Kenneth DiFazio

13 130-Fiscal Year 2014 Tax Classification

Chairman DiFazio noted that this measure was referred on November 18th, the committee met on December 2nd, and the public hearing was held this evening. On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee Councilor DiFazio motions for favorable action on measure number 13 130 as follows:

“ That the Town of Weymouth approve a classification tax rate shift of 1.48 for commercial, industrial, and personal property taxes with no residential exemption for fiscal year 2014.”

Motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business to attend to, Councilor O'Connor motioned to adjourn at 7:58 PM, noting that the next Town Council Meeting will be held on December 16, 2013, motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Diane T. Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Council President Arthur Mathews