

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 11, 2008**

Present: Kevin Whitaker, Chairperson
Arthur Mathews, Vice-Chairperson
Ed Harrington
Brian McDonald
Michael Smart

Also Present: Patrick O'Connor
Robert Conlon

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairperson Whitaker called the Ordinance Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Councilor Whitaker introduced two new members of the committee, Ed Harrington and Brian McDonald.

REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING MEASURES

07 031 – Proposed ordinance amendment sec. 3-326/Community Preservation Committee

Councilor Mathews stated that this was a proposal that he brought up to make amendments to the Code of Ordinances in regards to the Community Preservation Act. He noted that previously, projects submitted to the Mayor were not being acted upon in a time-sensitive manner. He stated that there is a new Administration and one of the issues he had been concerned about has already been resolved. He also stated that he intends to meet with the Mayor.

Councilor Mathews pointed out that Solicitor Lane has stated his opinion that these amendments need to come from the Administration because they are organizational in nature. Councilor Mathews stated that he disagrees with Solicitor Lane's opinion.

Utility Company Issues – Mr. Murstein's letter

Councilor Mathews pointed out that a copy of this letter should be sent to the DPW Director, Mr. O'Connor.

Councilor McDonald suggested that the utility companies be contacted.

Councilor Smart stated that there have been issues in the past regarding roads being left in disrepair and abutter notification with specific details. He stated that the utility companies have been contacted but the town has met with resistance from the utility companies.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to FORWARD Mr. Murstein's letter to DPW and to the new Councilors and was seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

08 003 Mayor – Proposed Ordinance Tax Title Payment Agreement

Mr. Wilson stated that this measure is taking advantage of general laws for municipal tax relief which allows the town to reduce the interest rate from 16% to 8% for property in tax title. This is intended to encourage property owners to pay their back taxes. In 2004, this program netted the town approximately \$1 million.

There is a sunset clause to this program since allowing this relief indefinitely would otherwise promote poor behavior wherein property owners do not pay their taxes for a number of years and then look for relief from the 16% interest rate.

Councilor Whitaker stated that a public hearing will be scheduled on this matter for early March.

07 130 Sex Offender Residency

Councilor O'Connor stated that this ordinance would require residency restriction for Level 3 sex offenders. There are six (6) such individuals residing in Weymouth. The ordinance would prohibit Level 3 sex offenders from living within 1,500 feet of schools, playgrounds, and accredited daycare centers.

Councilor O'Connor stated that Solicitor Lane has questions and he will meet with him on Friday in order to discuss.

Some changes have been made since the measure was submitted. Councilor Whitaker suggested that Councilor O'Connor report back to the committee after the meeting with Solicitor Lane

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Harrington and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Kevin Whitaker, Chairperson