

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
June 1, 2009- Monday

Present: Kevin Whitaker, Chairman  
Arthur Mathews  
Ed Harrington  
Brian McDonald  
Michael Smart

Also Present: Robert Conlon  
Michael Molisse  
Patrick O'Connor  
Thomas Lacey  
George Lane, Town Solicitor  
Maureen Duffy, Town Auditor  
Michael Gallagher, Director of Community Services  
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer  
James Clarke, Director of Planning

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Chairman Kevin Whitaker called the Ordinance Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**09 037- Front Street Peak Hour Parking Restrictions**

Chairman Whitaker noted that there was a problem with scheduling of this public hearing, which will occur on June 15, 2009.

Jim Clarke confirmed that he has asked the Traffic Engineer to attend the public hearing on June 15. There is a change in the parking restrictions from full time to part time (the hours of 7-9 AM and 4-6 PM Monday through Friday). It was noted that none of the Committee members or the Traffic Engineer have heard any concerns or objections from the neighbors.

Councilor Smart motioned favorable action, pending a favorable public hearing, seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

**09 039-Front Street/Federal Street Stop Signs**

Jim Clarke noted that this measure was generated by correspondence sent to the Mayor by Councilor O'Connor. As a result a traffic study was conducted. A four way stop sign is being proposed at Front and Federal Streets, as this will most definitely benefit that area. Accident data indicates in excess of three times the norm for occurring of accidents.

Councilor O'Connor extended his gratitude to Jim Clarke, George Bezkorovainy for their efforts, in addition to the approximately 25 residents who attended the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Councilor Mathews motioned favorable action, pending a favorable public hearing, seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

**09 038-Proposed Ordinance "Neighborhood Property Preservation"**

Chairman Whitaker wants to recognize Councilors Harrington and Molisse for raising this issue. Councilor Harrington notes that they are working in tandem with Solicitor Lane, at this point there is nothing concrete to report. Solicitor Lane noted that he spoke with Councilors Harrington and Molisse, in addition to the

Health Director and confirmed that this proposed ordinance does not create conflict with the health portion of the ordinances. Solicitor Lane confirmed that the Mayor is receptive to the proposal.

Councilor Whitaker is grateful for the cooperative approach amongst all involved members and stated that this item will be continued to a future date.

#### **Issue Peer Review/Role Process**

Councilor Mathews confirmed that a draft proposal has been distributed to the committee and explained the background of his reasoning for putting this issue forth. He based this on information gathered from his experience on numerous boards, constituent feedback and other Councilor feedback. Many constituents have questioned why the peer review process is not open to the public.

Councilor Mathews asked those who wish to comment on his draft to advise Diane Hachey and she will correspond with him as to changes. Councilor Mathews noted that he is open to suggestions. Councilor Smart extended an invitation to Rod Fuqua and Jim Clarke to comment based on their expertise in this area. Solicitor Lane requested clarification of what boards, committees or commissions Councilor Mathews is referring to in the draft. Councilor Mathews noted specifically Conservation Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Board or any group requiring a peer review. He noted that this ordinance would not be requesting Department Heads to take on additional duties nor is it a reorganizational amendment.

Councilor Harrington noted his concern surrounding the lack of a procedure on peer reviews. He attended numerous Conservation Commission meetings concerning the Alexan project and feels that the proponent is too close to the issue. Solicitor Lane cautioned that the concept/definition of a peer review requires exact definition.

Chairman Whitaker stated that Councilor Mathews should advise him when he is ready to proceed and he will include on a future Ordinance Committee Agenda. Chairman Whitaker noted that this will be the final Ordinance meeting until the Council commences their summer recess. If an issue should arise during that time he requests that he is contacted. An Ordinance meeting will be scheduled for 7:00 proceeding the first September Council Meeting to review outstanding issues. Chairman Whitaker asked Solicitor Lane that if there are any timing issues that the committee needs to be aware as far as the Clapp Memorial is concerned, that he be advised.

At 7:33, there being no further business to conduct, Chairman Whitaker entertained a motion to adjourn, so moved by Councilor Mathews, seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Diane T. Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by: Chairman Kevin Whitaker