

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall Council Chambers

February 11, 2008

Present: Michael Smart, President
Arthur Matthews, Vice-President
Robert Conlon
Kenneth J. DiFazio
Ed Harrington
Thomas J. Lacey
Brian McDonald
Michael Molisse
Patrick O'Connor
Victor Pap, III
Kevin Whitaker

Also Present: Franklin Fryer, Town Clerk
James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer

Not Present: Maureen Duffy, Town Auditor
George Lane, Town Solicitor

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

President Smart called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:30pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor O'Connor announced that Councilor Pap and his wife Mary had a baby boy.

Councilor McDonald announced that Sustainable Weymouth, an environmental group, will meet at the Tufts Library from 6:45pm to 8:45pm on February 14, 2008. The speaker will be Judith Van Camp who is the president of the Sustainable parent group. She will brief the group on solar and wind energy projects.

Councilor Molisse announced that the February Recreation flyer is online and is also available at the Teen Center.

CITIZEN'S CONCERN/COUNCIL RESPONSE

Enabling Legislation governing the re-use project of the Naval Air Station – Dominic Galluzzo

Mr. Galluzzo read a letter into the record about his concerns regarding the redevelopment of the former Naval Air Station.

Councilor Mathews stated that the Town Council will not be voting on the proposed changes. He stated that if residents have concerns they need to contact Senator Hedlund or Representatives Murphy or Mariano. He noted that residents of Rockland and Abington should also contact their Senator and Representatives.

Councilor Conlon thanked Mr. Galluzzo for bringing this information to the Council. Councilor Conlon stated that he plans to be at the State House to oppose the changes. He stated that a 20 year bond is sufficient.

Councilor DiFazio stated that it appears that Mr. Galluzzo has two points: 1) the change in legislation takes away the Council's right to decide whether to extend the project and 2) a small amendment will give them the bonding capability they need without changing the entire legislation.

Mr. Galluzzo expressed disappointment with Councilor Mathews' comment that the Council will not take a vote on the legislation.

Councilor Mathews responded that he believes that Mr. Galluzzo has misunderstood him. What he is saying is that Massachusetts General Laws are changed by a vote of the legislature.

Councilor DiFazio noted that the proposed change to the legislation has not been referred to any committee. He noted that he believes that Rockland has referred this matter for legal review.

Councilor O'Connor stated that Senator Hedlund's office is attempting to have the public hearing on this issue held in Weymouth.

Mr. Galluzzo asked if the Council will draft a letter to the legislators to express the Council's position.

Council President Smart stated that this is no different than the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) comment period after July 25, 2005. He stated that every Councilor submitted letters during that process and he expects the same for this.

Councilor DiFazio stated that he believes that this issue is more important than just responding on an individual basis. He believes that the Council should take a stand.

Councilor Whitaker stated that he believes that the legislation needs to be changed. He pointed out that there will obviously be different opinions regarding what exactly needs to be changed.

Councilor Conlon stated that he agrees with Councilor DiFazio that the Council should make a decision regarding the Council's position on this issue.

Councilor O'Connor stated that this bill is in the beginning of the legislative change process.

COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS, AND TOWN BOARDS

08 010 GPWTP Site Preparation Contract

This measure reads as follows:

That the Town of Weymouth raise and appropriate the sum of \$275,721 from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings for the purpose of funding the cost of the site preparation for the new treatment plant at Great Pond.

Mr. Wilson noted that \$1.4 million is available in the Water Enterprise Fund.

This measure requires a legal notice and a public hearing.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to REFER item number 08 010 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

08 011 Weed Harvesting Project – Whitman's Pond

This measure reads as follows:

That the Town of Weymouth re-appropriate the sum of \$26,000 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance Unreserved (4906.321001) purposes of funding a weed harvesting project for Whitman's Pond to be conducted during the Spring/Summer of 2008.

Community Preservation Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources prior to adoption of this measure is \$944,381.86.

This measure requires a legal notice and public hearing. This project was approved by the CPC on May 24, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to REFER item number 08 011 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget/Management Committee – Chairman DiFazio

08 004 Reserve Fund Transfer – Property Insurance

This item was referred on 1/22/08. The Committee met on 2/6/08. The committee voted unanimously to recommend favorable action.

A MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to recommend favorable action on item number 08 004 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

08 005 - Reserve Fund Transfer – Veteran's Benefits

This item was referred on 1/22/08. The Committee met on 2/6/08. The committee voted unanimously to recommend favorable action.

A MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to recommend favorable action on item number 08 005 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

08 006 - Reserve Fund Transfer – Poll Workers

This item was referred on 1/22/08. The Committee met on 2/6/08. The committee voted unanimously to recommend favorable action.

A MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to recommend favorable action on item number 08 006 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

08 007 - Reserve Fund Transfer – Fire Department Expenses

This item was referred on 1/22/08. The Committee met on 2/6/08. The committee voted unanimously to recommend favorable action.

A MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to recommend favorable action on item number 08 007 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

08 008 - Reserve Fund Transfer - Worker's Compensation

This item was referred on 1/22/08. The Committee met on 2/6/08. The committee voted unanimously to recommend favorable action.

A MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to recommend favorable on item number 08 008 and was seconded by Councilor O'Connor and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Public Works Committee – Chairman Mathews

Curbside residential trash removal at 800 Broad Street

Councilor Mathews stated that the Committee met on 12/17/07 and 2/6/08. He pointed out that this issue was brought up under Citizen Concerns/Council Response. He noted that Mayor Kay and Mr. O'Connor, the Director of Public Works have addressed this matter.

Signature Drive regarding review of water and drainage report for Legion Field

Councilor Mathews stated that Environmental Partners gave a presentation at the December Council meeting. Questions were submitted at this time and answers were received at the February meeting. Mayor Kay, DPW Director O'Connor, and Environmental Partners were present at the February meeting.

Mayor Kay stated that she would like to see work performed at Legion Field as follows: \$144,000 for site preparation including demolition of the grand stands; \$124,000 for landscaping; \$370,000 for field drainage issues, and \$50,000 for Endicott drainage improvements for a total of \$690,000. Mayor Kay stated that there is currently no funding source available for this work to be completed.

Memorandum dated 1/2/08

This memo was in regards to the proposed agreement between the Town of Weymouth and South Shore Tri Town Development Corporation for services and resources provided. For more detailed information, Chairman Mathews stated that the minutes of the 12/17/07 and 2/6/08 meeting are available for review. He pointed out that no action was taken on this or the previous two items.

NEW BUSINESS

08 009 – Review of Town Council Rule #55

Councilor Harrington stated that according to Town Council Rule #55, a review of the Town Council rules are in order.

A MOTION was made by Councilor Harrington to REFER item number 08 009 to the Rules Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 pm there being no further business, Councilor Mathews MOTIONED to adjourn and Councilor O'Connor seconded and was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Michael Smart, President