

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
January 7, 2019, Monday

Present: Michael Smart, President
Arthur Mathews, Vice President
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Fred Happel, Councilor
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Brian McDonald, Councilor
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Absent: Ed Harrington, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Christine Howe, Program Manager-Grants &Procurement

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Smart called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with member two members absent. President Smart reported that Councilors Kiely and Harrington had previous family commitments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Haugh announced that in July 2017, Governor Baker ordered a health assessment survey of the Fore River basin, including areas in Weymouth, Braintree, Quincy and Hingham. Councilor Haugh served on the 13-member advisory group that was formed, and the report from the Health Impact Assessment report is now complete and available on the website: www.foreriverhiala.com. It contains good data on cancer rates, etc. She thanked the Council and administration for allowing her to be a part of it.

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2018

A MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2018 Economic Development Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor DiFazio. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

18 126-Measure Amending the Annual Salary of Various Elected and Appointed Officials

A MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to open the public hearing on 18 126 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. This was published on December 28, 2018. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Chief of Staff Langill introduced the newest member of the administrative team, Christine Howe and together, they presented the measure. Mr. Langill reported that the effort began before the Mayor took office; the charter established who does and doesn't receive compensation. This measure is not meant to change that. Issues have arisen which are worthy of discussion that can take place during charter review. This is to show comparable rates with other cities and towns and offers an adjustment of a modest increase across the board. The total increase is roughly 16% and rounded to whole dollars. The Charter sets the timetable and deadlines to be met; any vote must be within 18 months of the 2-year term. They didn't want to file this during budget season. If voted, the change will take effect in January 2020, after the next election. He provided backup showing the Mayor's salary is out of synch with other communities and on all comparison points. It's a 16% increase across the board and it has been fourteen years since the last increase. If prorated, it would be about 1% per year. If it were adjusted for inflation, it would have been \$140,000. This request is a reasonable increase. They then applied the same increase to other salaries in the Charter. The administration provided a survey of other cities with both a Mayor and town manager forms of government that shows there is inequity in more than only Mayor cities. The total impact on the budget is minimal - just over \$42,000; less than 1% of the total budget.

Councilor Hackett noted that when the charter was initially set, the Mayor's salary was set at highest pay grade. Was there any consideration to keeping in line with that? Mr. Langill responded that the amount would then have been a lot higher. They purposely chose a more modest amount; while it makes some sense to connect it to something else, that wasn't the point of the measure. Councilor Hackett noted it is worth highlighting in the analysis- that it's a 16% raise spread over that amount of time. A similar analysis was not performed for Town Council and School Committee; they just applied the same percentage across the board.

Councilor McDonald noted that the survey they provided included some town administrator salaries, but not comparable information for Town Councils and School Committees. He also noted that Marshfield is a smaller community and Quincy larger. Mr. Langill responded that they felt they should take a look at those also. Ms. Howe noted that the research included some town managers, who were paid higher than any Mayor forms of government. Councilor McDonald responded that it would have been helpful to have this detail for the discussion.

Council President Smart asked if there were any comments from the public, to which there were the following:

Cathy Torrey- Riverbank Road- supported the proposal. As someone who volunteers, she noted that she has contact with the Mayor and Councilors, who have always made themselves available.

Elizabeth Foster Nolan, 54 House Rock Road- supported the change in the Mayor's salary. She noted if the measure cannot be bifurcated, then the same research should be provided for Town Council and School Committee salaries; it requires more due diligence. She also noted that all town boards work hard. Since it doesn't become effective until 2020, they have the time to research it correctly.

President Smart responded that some of these same concerns were brought up in the Ordinance Committee's review. A survey was put together by the Auditor and will be made available after the meeting.

Councilor DiFazio noted there are blanks in the survey provided by the administration. Ms. Howe responded that the blanks were because no information was provided, or no stipend is offered for the position. Mr. Langill noted that the Auditor's report provided some additional information.

Councilor Haugh noted in reading through the charter that the change has to take effect by June 30th. Since there are some concerns, there is time to further research. The Chair of the Ordinance Committee confirmed that he was not trying to rush it.

Councilor McDonald agreed it's not much of an impact to the budget, but how soon would the administration need it voted relative to the budget process? Mr. Langill responded that it would be helpful to have this voted before the budget is submitted, but because of the relatively low impact it's not a huge deal. It does get busy quickly once budget season starts. He asked if the Ordinance Committee has set another meeting. Councilor DiFazio responded that it will be set after this meeting.

Councilor DiFazio disagreed that \$45,000 is of no impact to the budget; that amount could be used for pothole repairs. Every single dollar counts. Mr. Langill responded that they are already into the budget process; this is not capital money. In a \$168 million budget, this would be considered a rounding issue. At the end of the day, if he was off by \$42,000 he would consider it a balanced budget.

A MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to close the public hearing on 18 126 and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

19 001 Fund Transfer – Free Cash to Reserve Fund-Daylighting of the Smelt Brook in Weymouth Landing

Chief Financial Officer Brian Connolly requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$275,000 from free cash to the reserve fund for the purpose of replenishing funding costs associated with the daylighting of the Smelt Brook in Weymouth Landing.

Measure 18 123 originally funded this daylighting expense from the reserve fund with the intent of transferring the amount from free cash to the reserve fund, once free cash was certified.

A MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to refer measure 19 001 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

19 002-Reserve Fund Transfer – Unpaid Bills

Chief Financial Officer Brian Connolly requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$75,922 from the Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying the following unpaid bills:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Invoice Number</u>	<u>Originated</u>	<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>Deductible</u>
M16P095052:001	20150390503309	2015	\$ 29,946.77	\$ 15,000.00
M16SB93881:001	20150390503311	2015	\$ 7,329.18	\$ 7,329.00
M15P092112:001	20150390503387	2015	\$ 25,231.73	\$ 15,000.00
M16GL97555:001	20160390503308	2016	\$ 22,558.36	\$ 10,000.00
M16P096000:001	20160390503310	2016	\$ 3,441.50	\$ 3,442.00
M17P099016:0001	20160390503313	2016	\$ 108,625.80	\$ 15,000.00
M17SB793171:0001	20160390503314	2016	\$ 790.50	\$ 791.00
M18GL897700:0001	20170390503315	2017	\$ 9,359.92	\$ 9,360.00
				\$ 75,922.00

Furthermore, that the Town Accountant is hereby authorized to pay such bills.

A MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to refer measure 19 002 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

19 003-Free Cash for a Bucket Truck and Wood Chipper

Chief Financial Officer Brian Connolly requested on behalf of the Mayor that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$233,528 from free cash for the purpose of funding costs associated with purchasing a medium duty truck with aerial device and man-bucket and a wood chipper for the Weymouth DPW.

These needs are #6 and #21 on the Town's FY2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan.

A MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to refer measure 19 003 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Town Council Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2019, following the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

At 8:00 PM; there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Salary Survey from Administration
2. Salary Survey from Auditor Swanson

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Michael Smart as President of the Town Council.

Voted unanimously on 22 January 2019