

# APPROVED

## TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Town Hall Council Chambers March 9, 2020, Monday

Present: Arthur Mathews, President  
Pascale Burga, Councilor  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Jane Hackett, Councilor  
Fred Happel, Councilor  
Ed Harrington, Councilor  
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor  
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor  
Maureen Kiely, Councilor  
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

Absent: Michael Molisse, Vice President

Also Present: Robert Hedlund, Mayor  
Ted Langill, Chief of Staff  
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk  
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor  
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor  
Robert Luongo, Director of Planning  
John MacLeod, Director of Asset Management  
Steve Reilly, Director of Recreation

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with one absence. Councilor Molisse is away this week.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Heffernan announced the start of the Census 2020 count and urged the public to participate.

Councilor Kiely announced the streamlined process for obtaining library cards in anticipation of the opening of the new library.

President Mathews announced the Council is accepting applications until March 16, 2020 from registered voters who are interested in filling the vacant District 6 seat.

## **MINUTES**

### **Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2020**

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2020 Economic Development Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2019**

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2020, Budget/Management Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2020**

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2020 Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

## **RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY COMMENT**

### **Jack Carey-Chair of the Charter Review Committee-Update**

Mr. Carey, Chair of the Charter Review Committee, was invited to the table. He reported that the committee has been meeting on a weekly basis. He welcomed feedback from the council and the public, but has not received much yet. The committee will review the first 4 sections of the charter at its meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. President Mathews reported that the process takes place only every ten years, and that any residents who wish to submit comments or speak, this is the opportunity to do so. The committee is under a specific deadline and any proposed changes will be submitted for the Mayor's approval, and will go to ballot.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **20 013- Traffic Regulations-Chauncy Street**

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to open the public hearing on measure 20 013 and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Traffic Engineer Owen MacDonald presented the measure with Planning Director Bob Luongo. Mr. MacDonald provided background on the measure in a Power Point presentation. Columbian Square is a confusing intersection. (7:39 JH arrived). They had hoped originally to fund with mitigation from Union Point, but it was not available. They then looked into what portions might be completed with in-house funding. The element of particular concern is the crosswalks Pleasant / Union. They came up with a temporary measure to build out the corners to improve visibility. Parking spaces were lost, so to recover, they would make Chauncy street one way and include angled parking on one side without any significant curb changes. 20 spaces currently exist; this would provide total of 30. Chauncy Street will be one way from Pleasant to Camelot. Traffic approaching the square could get a space easily and there would be access to the main parking lot. Movement from Camelot to Pleasant would not be able to be made.

Mr. Luongo added that, as mentioned, the master plan was developed over a period of 8-9 months 3 years ago, with input from merchants and residents. This is a compromised solution; a plan that accommodates pedestrian safety and slows traffic in the square and helps businesses. It was part of UP mitigation; the mayor has state and town appropriated funds of \$225,000 to design to 25%. He is looking at additional state grants to bring it to 100% (\$400,000 for engineering cost). Once design is done, and plans and specs are in hand, the mayor will look for additional funding to do the construction. It's a low process, but the problem has been around a long time. In incremental changes, this is temporary to create a safer crossing. Temporary fixes will go away with the permanent solution. 20 MPH on Pleasant, signage, the change to one way on Chauncy are portions of the entire project. President Mathews reiterated that a meeting was held in January with community, merchants at Old South Union. The general consensus was favorable, with some concern on a few issues: SSH employees using the municipal lot for hospital parking and a lack of traffic enforcement. The Planning Department Contacted SSH and the police department; both have agreed to periodic sweeps and enforcement.

Councilor Harrington noted they were planning to make some changes prior to the study. He asked if that work will blend in? Mr. Luongo responded that Chauncy Street is the easy part; no physical changes are needed. Temporary improvements are just that. The bump-outs at the intersections will be asphalt but under the final plan they will be permanent (brick, cement, benches and lighting). It will be aesthetically pleasing. Mr. MacDonald added that the Pleasant Street approaches will be realigned with the permanent fix. Councilor Harrington noted that the last space adjacent to Chauncy Street may be an issue with cars backing out. He also had a concern with the lag time between the study and the actual work and whether the study will be viable in two years. Mr. Luongo responded that the longer they wait, the more outdated something becomes. That's why the mayor is committed to funding to complete 100% plans. The project has been studied almost 10 years. They are at the point where they have to act; get to design phase and find the money. Time is the enemy. A lot of money has been committed and they are well on the way to getting it to full design. Mr. MacDonald noted they considered the widening of Rt. 18 when it was designed. Councilor Happel reported that he was at the January meeting and he is glad they are able to find solutions. He noted that if someone is parked on Union Street in front of the barbershop and cottage bar, the traffic bottlenecks in the morning all the way to Union Street. Mr. MacDonald responded that they realize this will affect the morning traffic, but it isn't at a time of high parking demand. Councilor Happel noted his concern with a change from 3 to 2 outlets for the traffic, it will back up on Central and Union. Mr. MacDonald responded it will be looked at following implementation; it may result in parking restrictions.

Mr. Luongo added that this may ease congestion on Pleasant Street but they will monitor it. Councilor Happel suggested no parking from 6-9 AM in front of the Cottage bar might help. Councilor Kiely suggested bollards when it's first implemented around the bump outs. Mr. Luongo responded they will look at a way to do that. It will also be a good test of the final design to see how it works. Councilor Burga asked if one way in the other direction would be more beneficial? Mr. MacDonald responded that traffic would have to cross a lane of traffic to take a turn. They will observe it closely; if there are problems they have the opportunity to correct before a permanent solution is implemented. Councilor DiFazio asked about the angled parking and whether there will be adequate signage for it. Mr. Luongo responded that there will be plenty of signage.

President Mathews asked if there were any comments from the public, to which there was the following:

Joe Fucile- reported he has worked in Columbian square since 1980. To say it was studied is an understatement. He applauded the town for moving forward. His sense from the merchants is that everyone is comfortable. In front of Snyder's Jewelers, the merchant would like to have the sidewalk repaired so it's continuous. Cars could cut in where there is parking; it's dangerous. The left turn is not that big a deal; traffic can loop on Chauncy. He thanked the administration for listening and getting it done.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to close the public hearing on measure 20 013 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. It was noted that this is still in the Ordinance Committee, and it will be deliberated at future meeting based upon the comments and feedback received here. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**20 015- Utility Petition-NGRID-Gas Installation-Summer Street/Adorn Street/Autumn Lane**

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to open the public hearing on measure 20 015 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. 164 abutters were notified on February 28, 2020. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mary Mulroney presented the petition on behalf of NGRID. It involves installing and maintaining 4" gas main on Summer Street # 463 to Autumn Lane.

President Mathews noted this is a significant project. He asked if any concerned abutters called. Ms. Mulroney responded that she had one call about the scatter box (that will be replaced) and one other abutter today.

Councilor Kiely asked about the time frame. Ms. Mulroney responded they have to apply for the permit first, once the engineers get together.

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

Mr. Fucile asked about the timeline, which was just answered. He asked if they will work on it this year? President Mathews explained the process. The temperature has to be above 45 degrees and is subject to permitting by the DPW. If they go forward, how long does it take? President Mathews responded that it will be this year. Mr. Fucile asked if this is the time to contact the utility if they wanted to hook up at this time. Ms. Mulroney confirmed this. Mr. Fucile noted there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood; and questions where the equipment will be stored at night. DPW will determine, and a police detail will be determined. Mr. Fucile noted the street hasn't been paved since the sewer line went in. Does it get repaved once it's done? President Mathews noted the DPW has a list from the mayor of streets to be done. The work has to have 6 months to settle and then it will be repaved.

Sean O’Keefe, 47 Belmont St. asked if they will replace existing pipe to his property? Ms. Mulrone responded yes. He also asked how long the project will take? Ms. Mulrone responded that it is depended on the number of contractors, weather, etc.

Paul Hensen, 95 Belmont Street- noted there were a lot of complaints of gas leaks in service already in the neighborhood-leaks are not taken care of. This is an opportune time to look at this. High pressure lines were the beginning of the problem. Ms. Mulrone stated that if they smell gas, they call the gas company. Mr. Hensen responded that they see the digging done, but the utility doesn’t get back to the homeowners. Five areas that have recurring leaks. Ms. Mulrone responded that they are replacing the existing lines. She reiterated; if there is a suspected gas leak, please call it in. She will follow up on 95 Belmont. President Mathews asked for someone from NGRID to take a look at where he refers and noted there are punch holes that don’t get filled in.

Mr. O’Keefe attested to the gas leaks and the punch holes that were not filled in.

Patricia Pedro, 455 Summer Street- noted that the explanation didn’t make sense. Are they putting in different size gas mains? She asked will they get another notification when the work is starting, will they have unimpeded access in and out of their driveways. Ms. Mulrone responded that NGRID will have contractors on site and will make every effort to accommodate the residents. They will receive notification before work starts.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to close the public hearing on measure 20 015 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to consider measure 20 015 under 2-9(b), Same Night Action and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to approve measure 20 015; that the Town of Weymouth consent to the locations of mains as hereinafter described for the transmission and distribution of gas in and under the public streets, lanes, highways and places of the Town of Weymouth and of the pipes, valves, governors, manholes and other structures, fixtures and appurtenances designed or intended to protect or operate said mains and/or accomplish the objects of said mains and/or accomplish the objects of said Company, and the digging up and opening the ground to lay or place same:

To install and maintain approximately 2050 feet more or less of 4 inch gas main in Summer Street, Weymouth, from existing 4 inch gas main at house #363 southerly to the intersection of Autumn Lane, approximately 1175 feet more or less of 2 inch gas main in Autumn Lane from the new gas main in Summer Street to the end of main near house #61 Autumn Lane, approximately 1755 feet more or less of 2 inch gas main in Belmont Street from the new gas main in Summer Street southeasterly then northeasterly to the end of main at house #116 Belmont Street and approximately 790 feet more or less of 2 inch gas main in Adorn Street from the intersection of Belmont Street near house #8 Adorn Street southeasterly to the intersection of Belmont Street in front of #103 Belmont Street as part of the Summer Street main replacement project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**20 017- Utility Petition-NGRID-Gas Installation/Replacement-North Street/Shaw Street**

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to open the public hearing on measure 20 017 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. 33 Abutters were notified on February 28, 2020. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mary Mulrone presented the petition on behalf of NGRID to install and maintain new gas main.

President Mathews asked if Ms. Mulrone saw the comments by DPW. Ms. Mulrone responded that she did not see them. President Mathews read the comments and suggested they should continue the public hearing so the issues can be addressed.

Councilor Haugh asked what happens to the abandoned pipe in the street. Will they take out the pipe? Ms. Mulrone responded that in most cases it's left in the street.

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

John Joyce, 79 Shaw Street- what is the actual reason to do the 4-inch instead of 2? Ms. Mulrone responded that it was being increased to provide adequate pressure. President Mathews responded that this will be continued to the next hearing and this is the notice. Will they be re-notified? Mr. Joyce asked how long the residents would be inconvenienced? Ms. Mulrone responded that once they start they continue working.

Sean O'Keefe, 47 Belmont – asked if this is all happening because of the compressor station. President Mathews explained the process.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to continue the public hearing on measure 20 017 to Monday March 16, 2020 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**20 025- Utility Petition-NGRID Gas Main Installation-Third Street**

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to open the public hearing on measure 20 025 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. Abutters were notified on February 28, 2020. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mary Mulrone presented the petition on behalf of NGRID for installation and maintaining gas lines on Third Street.

President Mathews asked if there were any comments from the public, to which there were none.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to close the public hearing on measure 20 025 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to consider measure 20 025 under 2-9(b) same night action, and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to approve measure 20 025 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett; that the Town of Weymouth consent to the locations of mains as hereinafter described for the transmission and distribution of gas in and under the public streets, lanes, highways and places of the Town of Weymouth and of the pipes, valves, governors, manholes and other structures, fixtures and appurtenances designed or intended to protect or operate said mains and/or accomplish the objects of said mains and/or accomplish the objects of said Company, and the digging up and opening the ground to lay or place same:

To install and maintain approximately 25 feet more or less of 4 inch gas main in Third Street Weymouth, from existing 4 inch gas main at house #17 southwesterly to house #21 in order to provide a gas service to #21 Third Street.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**20 026 Traffic Regulations Filomena Street**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that that the Town of Weymouth, through Town Council, pursuant to G.L. Chapter 40, §22, and the Town of Weymouth Code of Ordinances, Section 13-104(d), authorize the placement of signs regulating motor vehicle movement as follows:

One-Way Street		
Street	Location	Direction
Filomena Street	Between a point 210 feet northeast of Broad Street and Madison Street	Northeast bound

And cause the above regulations to be listed in the Town of Weymouth Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Regulations Affecting Motor Vehicles, Attachment 1 – Appendix A under Schedule XIII, One-Way Streets.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to refer measure 20 026 to the Ordinance Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**20 027- Reappointment to Board of Assessors- Robert Brinkman**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Robert Brinkman of 53 Ford Road to the Board of Assessors for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

**20 028- Reappointment to the Board of Zoning Appeal- Robert Christian**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Robert Christian of 27 Michele Drive to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

**20 029- Reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee- Christopher Hannan**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Christopher Hannan of 411 North Street to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

**20 030- Reappointment to the Youth Coalition- Kathryn Howard**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Kathryn Howard of 103 Rustic Drive to the Youth Coalition for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

**20 031- Reappointment to the Memorial Committee- Steven McCloskey**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Steven McCloskey of 38 Saunders Street to the Memorial Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

**20 032- Reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees- Dominic Paulo**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Dominic Paulo of 65 Webster Street, Apt. 211, to the Board of Library Trustees for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

**20 033- Reappointment to the WETC Board of Directors-Christopher Potter**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Christopher Potter of 33 Moreland Road to the WETC Board of Directors for a term to expire on March 31, 2023.

**20 034- Reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees-Matthew Tallon**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Matthew Tallon of 105 Trefton Avenue to the Board of Library Trustees for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

**20 035- Reappointment to the Planning Board- Sandra Williams**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth appoint Sandra Williams of to the Planning Board for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to adopt the reappointment list, Measures 20 027 through 20 035, inclusive.

**20 036- Authorization to Expend CDBG & HOME Funds FY2020-2021**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the town of Weymouth accepts the fiscal year 2020-2021 HUD grants in the amounts of \$712,833 for CDBG and \$177,780 In HOME Investment Partnership Grant funds.



Furthermore, that the Director of Planning and Community Development, having received the approval of the Mayor, be permitted to expend said grants in their entirety as described on the attached funding allocation lists.

Both are allocations from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

These amounts are estimated as HUD will not have actual award amounts until a later date; however, approval is needed prior to the date of notification of the actual grant amounts.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to refer measure 20 036 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025**

President Mathews reported that the council received the CIP for fiscal years 21-25.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to refer Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **Ordinance Committee-Chair Ken DiFazio**

Councilor DiFazio reported that the Ordinance Committee met on March 9, 2019 and deliberated the following items:

#### **20 013-Traffic Regulations Chauncy Street**

This measure was referred to the Ordinance Committee on January 21, 2020. The committee met on February 3, 2020 and again on March 9, 2020. A public hearing was held on March 9, 2020.

The committee has not completed its work and will deliberate further at its next meeting and report back to the full town council.

#### **Issue-Restricting Single Use Plastic Bags**

This issue was referred to the Ordinance Committee on September 3, 2019. The committee met on September 23 and October 21, 2019 and again on March 9, 2020. A draft ordinance was sent to the administration for comment and a response was recently received (dated November 26, 2019).

There has been a lack of communication from administration; a memo was lost and just recently received. There are voluminous questions. Based on the new information and because the state is deliberating the same issue, the committee will review the comments from administration and then deliberate how and whether to move it forward and how it will be implemented; with no vote taken at this time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Town Council has been scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2019. At 8:49 PM; there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor DiFazio to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker, as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Arthur Mathews, as President of the Town Council.

Voted unanimously on 27 April 2020