

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Town Hall Council Chambers**  
**Zoom # 818 9123 1083**  
**December 20, 2021, Monday**

Present: Arthur Mathews, President  
Michael Molisse, Vice President  
John Abbott, Councilor  
Pascale Burga, Councilor  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Jane Hackett, Councilor  
Ed Harrington, Councilor  
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor  
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor

Absent: Fred Happel, Councilor  
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk  
Robert Hedlund, Mayor  
James Murphy, Representative  
Patrick O'Connor, Senator

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. Both Councilor Happel and Kiely were absent due to other commitments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Recognition and Farewell to Outgoing Councilors- Councilor at Large Jane Hackett / District Five Councilor Ed Harrington / Councilor at Large Rebecca Haugh – President Arthur Mathews and Vice President Michael Molisse – Mayor Robert Hedlund – Representative James Murphy – Senator Patrick O'Connor**

President Mathews invited the outgoing councilors- Jane Hackett, Ed Harrington and Rebecca Haugh to the podium along with Senator O'Connor, Representative Murphy, and Mayor Hedlund. He noted their combined service exceeds 32 years. The relationships and friendships that were built, and their dedication and commitment to Weymouth have made it a better place.

He reviewed Councilor Haugh's service. He pointed out that she was the primary driver to getting the Council virtually connected during the pandemic and shutdown. He read the citation from the Council. Mayor Hedlund also commented on her service, noting that no one has brought more passion to the job. He read his citation. Representative Murphy also pointed out her service to her constituents and emphasized her work on the compressor station fight and read

a citation on behalf of the House of Representatives and on behalf of Speaker Ron Mariano. Senator O'Connor pointed out that Becky ran his campaign for senate and he read a citation on behalf of the state senate.

Councilor Haugh commented on her time on the Council. She thanked her family, who was her inspiration for running for the Council. She also thanked the neighborhood groups, the department heads and especially the current and former Councilors she served with. She wished the incoming Councilors the best of luck.

President Mathews next addressed Councilor Jane Hackett. Her name is synonymous with parks and recreation, services that have been greatly improved during her time on the Council. She has also been extremely supportive of the education system. Vice President Molisse read the citation from the Council and he reviewed Jane's service to Weymouth, beginning as Chief of Staff to the first Mayor and working in tandem on many committees. Jane has shown great passion and will be missed. Mayor Hedlund read a citation and pointed out that no one was more helpful than she when he made the transition to Mayor and as they worked through the charter change. She made her opinions known, and her advice was welcomed and her stepping down is a loss for the Council and the town. Representative Murphy read a citation and pointed out that Jane and her family have been in public service for more than 100 years. Senator O'Connor read a citation and pointed out that there is nothing in town that hasn't had her influence.

Councilor Hackett read prepared comments that included a long list of thank you's. She reported that she ran in 2009 because of the failure of the middle school structure and the town's public spaces, which had become an eyesore.

President Mathews noted that "passion" is the theme of the three Councilors who leave tonight, and he read a citation. Ed Harrington surely has shown his passion with citizen activism and service on the Council. He has many years of public service, and ran one of the best local campaigns. The Council is losing three tremendous assets.

Councilor Harrington recalled he came on board just as the country was plunged into recession. The town struggled to stay afloat, yet the Council still managed to get things done- playing fields that were in deplorable condition are now gems, and the Net School Spending has been improved. The main focus is how to make the town more valuable. Home values, good schools are what will draw people to the town. He came in during a time of great need, and leaves with a sense of some accomplishment.

## MINUTES

### **Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2021**

Vice President Molisse motioned to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2021 Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. Unanimously voted.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Chair DiFazio reported that the Ordinance Committee met on to deliberate the following measure(s):

### **21 116-Citizens Petition to Change Zoning Ordinances-Article IV Section 120-13 Article IV A Section 120-13.3 (eliminate “funeral home” section)**

This measure was referred to the Ordinance Committee on November 8, 2021. The committee met on November 23, 2021, and a joint public hearing was conducted on December 6, 2021. The Planning Board voted an amended motion on December 9, 2021 to allow funeral homes in the B-1 and B-2 zones, both by special permit. The Ordinance Committee met again on December 13, 2021 and voted to forward the measure, as amended, to the full town council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Ordinance Committee and fifteen registered voters in the town of Weymouth who petitioned the town, Councilor DiFazio motioned to approve measure 21 116; that the Town of Weymouth adopt the following changes to the Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinances:

1. Article IV (Residential District R-1) §120-13 (Special permit uses by Board of Zoning Appeals)

Eliminate Section A (Funeral Home)

2. Article IV A (Residential District R-2) § 120.13.3 Special permit uses by Board of Zoning Appeals

Eliminate Section B (Funeral Home)

3. Include Funeral Homes in § 120-24 G, by special permit and § 120-27 D to include Funeral Homes by special permit in B-2 zones

Vice President Molisse seconded the motion. Councilor DiFazio thanked the committee, and especially the citizens who participated. They were very professional and it should be a signal to other citizens who want to see change.

Councilor Harrington noted that the citizens who brought the petition forward had specific business in mind, and this ordinance change is further reaching. The funeral industry in evolving into something much larger, and when the zoning was crafted, this wasn't envisioned. The original funeral home concept was to provide a small service to the neighborhood. He did not believe a funeral home that will provide all aspects of funeral services and other social functions, in an expanded building with associated parking facilities, properly belongs in an R-1 district. He supports allowing it in the B-1 and B-2 district zones where it would have less of an impact.

Unanimously voted.

**Auditor Selection Committee- Chair Michael Molisse**  
**Update on Town Auditor Vacancy**

Vice President Molisse reported that in September, Auditor Richard Swanson retired. An internal committee was formed to conduct the auditor selection process. Members were Councilors DiFazio, Haugh, Heffernan and Burga-he is the chair. The committee has met and discussed the process, advertised the position in several media, received 25 applications, 6 of whom the committee selected for interviews. A few candidates never returned calls for interviews and a few had accepted other jobs in the meantime. The few that were interviewed by the committee were not selected to put forward to the Council. The process will begin again on January 3 with a deadline for submittal of January 19-- hopefully there will be a candidate in place by the end of January.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council is January 3, 2021. At 8:33 PM; there being no further business, Councilor Harrington motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. Unanimously voted.

Attachments:

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council.  
Voted by Council on 18 January 2022