

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Town Hall Council Chambers**  
**Zoom # 812 6859 4042**  
**November 21, 2022, Monday**

Present: Arthur Mathews, President  
Michael Molisse, Vice President  
John Abbott, Councilor  
Lisa Belmarsh, Councilor  
Pascale Burga, Councilor  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Fred Happel, Councilor  
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor  
Gary MacDougall, Councilor  
Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Absent: Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk  
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor  
Brian Connolly, Town Auditor  
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance  
Paul Haley, Chair of Board of Assessors  
Trish O’Kane, Principal Assessor

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 absent. President Mathews acknowledged Councilor Kiely’s absence.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Burga announced the Annual Tree lighting ceremony scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2022 from 2-7 PM at Town Hall.

Councilor Mathews announced that the town seeks plow drivers for the upcoming winter season. Interested applicants may contact the DPW office.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**22 132-FY23 Tax Classification**

Vice President Molisse motioned to open the public hearing on measure 22 132 and was seconded by Councilor Burga. This was published on November 11, 2022. Unanimously voted.

Paul Haley, chair of the Board of Assessors presented the measure with, Kevin Spellman and

Denise Alexander and Principal Assessor Trisha O’Kane. Chair Haley reported that Ms. O’Kane prepared the report that the Council received. He provided an update on activities. The town just completed a full revaluation of properties; required every five years. Although efforts were constrained by COVID restrictions and they were unable to enter homes, they were able to support the values submitted and approved by DOR. Tax bills can be issued. He explained the tax calculation process; last year’s levy limit + 2.5% + new growth (\$1.8M and mostly attributable to Southfield). This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Chapman debt exclusion. Without a shift, residential properties, (86% of all property) would see a 10.5% increase in the tax bills. The board recommends a 46% shift to commercial/industrial. The shift has been between 45-50% over the last several years (except 2015, when it was 55%). He reviewed the impact to the average residential property and to commercial with the proposed shift. Commercial would expect to see a slight increase, and he added that commercial property did not appreciate as much as residential property has. Residential continues to appreciate, but at a slower rate. The handout also includes a community comparison, which indicates Weymouth is still one of the lowest in surrounding area. Brockton is slightly lower, and most other communities do not include trash collection.

President Mathews added that the measure was reviewed in detail during the Budget/Management Committee’s meeting held earlier.

Councilor Belmarsh added that the presentation is posted on the town website. She noted the presentation helped her understand how the process works.

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

Laura Sabadini, 386 Front Street (Zoom participant) noted the formatting of documents posted to the web are not easily accessible to the vision impaired. Ms. O’Kane advised her she could contact the Assessors office if she needs further information.

Vice President Molisse motioned to close the public hearing on measure 22 132 and was seconded by Councilor Burga. Unanimously voted.

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

### **22 137-Reserve Fund Transfer-Grant Match**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$62,875 from the FY23 Reserve Fund to Grant Fund (grant match revenue) for the purpose of matching the \$183,375 Dam and Seawall State Grant for Lane Beach/River Street.

Vice President Molisse motioned to refer the measure to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Burga. Unanimously voted.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **Budget/Management Committee-Chair Michael Molisse**

Vice President Molisse reported that the Budget/Management Committee met on November 21, 2022, to deliberate the following:

#### **22 132-FY23 Tax Classification**

This measure was referred to the committee on November 14, 2023. The committee met on November 21, 2022 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. A public hearing was held earlier this evening.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse motioned to approve measure 22 132; that the Town of Weymouth approve a Classification Tax Rate Shift of 1.46 for commercial, industrial, and personal property taxes with no residential exemption for fiscal year 2023. Councilor Burga seconded the motion. Unanimously voted.

#### **22 133-Acceptance of Gift & Creation of Donation Account**

This measure was referred to the committee on November 14, 2022. The committee met on November 21, 2022 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, Vice President Molisse motioned to approve measure 22 133; that the Town of Weymouth, through Town Council, authorize the acceptance of three (3) bequests of Sandra Cunningham in accordance with the terms outlined in her Trust, attached hereto for reference, and to further authorize the creation of three (3) Sandra Cunningham Donation accounts as follows:

1. Sandra Cunningham Donation Account for the benefit of the Tufts Library; approximately \$13,000 bequest comprised of 1% of residue of the Estate;
2. Sandra Cunningham Donation Account for the benefit of Elder Services; approximately \$13,000 bequest comprised of 1% the residue of the Estate;
3. Sandra Cunningham Donation Account for the benefit of the Town of Weymouth Scholarship Fund; approximately \$39,000 bequest comprised of 3% the residue of the Estate

None of these bequests are restricted in use and department authorization, with consent of the Mayor, should be granted to expend each of those funds to the limit of the bequest.

Councilor Burga seconded the motion. Unanimously voted

#### **22 134-Acceptance of Land Donation for Park Purposes**

This measure was referred to the committee on November 14, 2022. The committee met on November 21, 2022 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, Vice President Molisse motioned to approve measure 22 134; that the Town of Weymouth, through Town Council, authorize the acceptance of a land bequest of land, for park purposes, located on the corner of Washington and Broad Streets, Weymouth, Massachusetts, having a description as follows:

“Lot 2,” Donated Town Lot

A certain parcel of land shown on a plan entitled “APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED WASHINGTON & BROAD STREET, WEYMOUTH, MA” drawn by Town of Weymouth Department of Public Works Engineering Division, dated September 20, 2022, to be recorded herewith.

Beginning at a Stone Bound Back Center (SBBC), along the southerly side of Route 53 (Washington Street), to the south of the intersection of Broad Street and Washington Street, along the easterly line of #217-219 Washington Street, Town of Weymouth Assessor’s Sheet 20 Block 275 Lot 19, said SBBC being the continuance of Route 53, marked as MHB SBBC on a plan recorded herewith, thence running; N 56°31’44” E a distance of 60.00’ to a Point of Intersection (PI), marked as P.O.B. 1 on said plan, the point of beginning, thence running;

N 33°26’26” W a distance of 34.32’, to a point of Curvature (PC), thence running;

along a curve turning to the right with a radius of 12.00’ with an arc length of 21.11’, with a delta of 100°47’00” with a chord bearing of N 16°57’04” E, with a chord length of 18.49’, to a Point of Tangency (PT), thence running;

S22°39’26” a distance of 3.84’ to a PI, thence running;

N 71°22’34” E a distance of 25.50’, to a PI, thence running;

S 08°52’59” E a distance of 53.23’, to a PI, thence running;

S 56°36’26” W a distance of 16.05’, to a PI thence running;

N 33°28’16” W a distance of 12.59’ to a PI, to the; which is the point of beginning.

Having an area of 1505.7 Square Feet, 0.035 Acres, & and Perimeter of 1676.6’

Councilor Burga seconded the motion. Vice President Molisse reiterated the information Director Luongo provided to the Budget/Management Committee earlier.

Councilor Burga expressed her thanks to the donor, Union Towers, Inc. and to the Mayor for his efforts securing the donation. Unanimously voted.

**Ordinance Committee-Chair Ken DiFazio**

President Mathews reported that the agenda omitted the language citing the information from the meeting the Ordinance Committee chair was to report out. In order to avoid a violation of the Open Meeting Law, the report will be provided at a future date.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council is December 5, 2022. At 7:52 PM; there being no further business, Vice President Molisse motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor DiFazio. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

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Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council

Voted unanimously on 19 December 2022