

**Town Council Minutes
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 20, 2024**

Present:

Michael Molisse, President
Pascale Burga, Vice President
Rick Coughlin, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor
Gary MacDougall, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Absent:

John Abbott, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor

Also Present:

Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor
Owen MacDonald, Traffic Engineer
William Scully, P.E. of Kimley-Horn

Recording Secretary:

Kim McCutcheon

President Molisse called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with Councilors Abbott and Heffernan absent. President Molisse reported that both Councilors Abbott and Heffernan had work commitments and would not be in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Burga announced a reminder that dog license renewals are due by February 29, 2024 to avoid a late fee.

MINUTES

Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2024

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to amend the Town Council Meeting minutes of February 5, 2024. Page 3 under measure 24 005 to Revoke Opioid Settlement Purpose Stabilization Fund, the minutes should have read, “Vice President Burga made a motion to refer to the Budget Management Committee” versus “Vice President Burga made a motion to approve measure 24 005 and refer to the Budget Management Committee.” Vice President Burga made a motion for favorable action on the amended minutes of February 5, 2024. Motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

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

Safe Streets for All Grant- Grant to Study Dangerous Intersections

William Scully, P.E. from Kimley-Horn and Owen MacDonald, Town Traffic Engineer, presented a presentation on the Safe Streets for All Grant – Grant to Study Dangerous Intersections.

Mr. MacDonald explained Mr. Scully is a consultant to the Town for the preparation of a formal safety plan with the objective of eliminating deaths and serious injuries due to traffic crashes through the Safe Systems approach.

Mr. Scully provided an overview of the program and the process the Town will go through. The Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant program was created in 2022 to fund transportation plans and implementation projects with a focus on safety. The goal is to eliminate fatalities and reduce serious injury crashes. The program includes funding action plans and implementation grants, with up to \$10 million and \$25 million budgets respectively. Municipalities can apply directly to the federal government for projects. The safe systems approach is proactive and takes a holistic approach to solving the problem. The grant requires a 20% match by the town, which can be in kind services or a cash match. Data-driven analysis is critical to identifying the prevailing causes of serious crashes. The town of Weymouth was awarded a grant of \$336,000, with a 20% match requirement. Over the next 10 months, changes may be required to improve safety, such as accommodating bikes or pedestrians or eliminating a travel lane. The town had over 6,400 reported crashes between 2018 and 2023, including over 400 injures and 20 fatalities. The program aims to reduce these numbers by creating a transportation system and mindset for users that eliminates fatalities, also known as “Vision Zero”

Vice President Burga asked Mr. Scully if the program was for all streets in Weymouth including state highways - Route 18, Route 3 and Route 3A, or just for the other streets. Mr. Scully responded they are including local state highways. The program will not look at Route 3, but will include Routes 18, 53 and 3A. Review may result in talking to MassDOT to address problems on those roadways.

Councilor MacDougall asked if the grant funding came from the Infrastructure Bill to which Mr. Scully confirmed that it was. Councilor MacDougall then asked if projects currently underway may qualify to which Mr. Scully responded that they most likely will not. Councilor MacDougall then asked Mr. MacDonald where the hot points for accidents in town are currently. Mr. MacDonald reported that traditionally it has been Route 18, and the intersection of West Street and Middle Streets, however the revised signalization under the Route 18 program will help improvements over time.

Councilor Kiely asked Mr. MacDonald if there were location consistencies with the 20 fatal crashes. Mr. MacDonald stated the locations were scattered, areas ranging from locations on Middle Street to the narrow section of Randolph Street that runs along the pond were given as examples.

Please see the attached presentation for more information regarding the presentation.

24 009-Emery Estate Revolving Account

James Malary stated that measure 24 009 is hereby submitted on behalf of Mayor Hedlund for consideration by Town Council.

Please see attached measure 24 009.

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer measure 24 009 to the Budget/Management Committee, seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

24 010-Free Cash Transfer for Improvements to 111 Middle Street

James Malary stated that measure 24 010 is hereby submitted on behalf of Mayor Hedlund for consideration and action by Town Council.

Please see attached measure 24 010

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer measure 24 009 to the Budget/Management Committee, seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

24 011-Traffic Regulations for Pleasant Street/Mutton Lane

James Malary stated that measure 24 011 is hereby submitted on behalf of Mayor Hedlund for consideration and action by Town Council.

Please see attached measure 24 011

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer to the Ordinance Committee, seconded by Councilor Kiley. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The following reappointments were grouped together and voted. There were no Councilor opposition to the reappointments:

24 012-Reappointment to the WETC Board of Directors-Christopher Castro

24 013-Reappointment to the Planning Board-Anthony DiFeo, Jr.

24 014-Reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees-Lisa Kimball

24 015-Reappointment to the Scholarship Fund Committee-Jaimie Lane

24 016-Reappointment to the Waterfront Committee-Patricia O’Leary

24 017-Reappointment to the Scholarship Fund Committee-AnnMarie Rush

24 018-Reappointment to the Local Emergency Planning Committee-Stephen White

President Molisse entertained a motion to accept the reappointment list, measures 24 012 through and including 24 018. Vice President Burga made a motion to accept the reappointment list, seconded by Councilor Coughlin. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Chair Shanahan reported that the Budget/ Management Committee met on February 20, 2024 to deliberate the following:

24 007-Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Charles McCrosson

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 5, 2024. The committee met and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Commission, Chair Shanahan motioned to approve measure 24 007; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Charles McCrosson, of 25 Georgia Road, to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term set to expire on June 30, 2026, replacing former member John Reilly. Vice President Burga seconded the motion. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

24 008-Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority-Conor Foley

The measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 5, 2024. The committee met and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Commission, Chair Shanahan motioned to approve measure 24 008; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Conor Foley, of 40 Roberts Drive, to the Redevelopment Authority for a five-year term set to expire on June 30, 2029, replacing former member George Burke. Vice President Burga seconded the motion. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be Monday March 11, 2024 due to the Presidential Primary Election. At 8:06 p.m., there being no further business, Vice President Burga made a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Kim McCutcheon as Recording Secretary

Approved by Council President Michael Molisse
Approved unanimously on 11 March 2024