

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Zoom # 853 9302 2588
March 1, 2021, Monday

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

Also Present: Robert Hedlund, Mayor
Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Malary, Chief Financial Officer
Brian Smith, Asst. Superintendent, WPS
Keith Stark, Chief, WFD
Patrick McDermott, Norfolk County Sheriff

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with all members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update from Sheriff Patrick McDermott

Sheriff McDermott thanked the Council for allowing him to address the meeting. Since the election, he has been going around to cities and towns in the county introducing the office of Norfolk County Sheriff and its programs. As a longtime resident of Quincy and former member of its City Council, he is familiar with most Councilors. He provided biographical information including his 20 years as an attorney and former Register of Probate and involved with many communities. He welcomes the opportunity to serve as Sheriff, and brings a new perspective about public safety to the office. His mission is that the office serves as a public safety resource to the 28 communities that make up Norfolk County. It's time to reconsider what is meant by "public safety." It's not just putting criminals in jail, but taking a more proactive approach to improving the conditions that make residents safer, and those that lead residents to enter into criminal behavior. One of the ways is by expanding programming and community outreach by opening the ROPES Course in Braintree and the youth services program targeting at-risk youth

and increase participation in senior program, including the lifesaving *Are You Ok?* Program and enhancing it to serve more residents. He wants to ramp that program up and increase their numbers. He is committed to continuing to make security resources available to supplement local police forces with mobile command center and canine units to supplement local departments. Programming is not just about stopping crime, but making sure all residents feel safe. It includes not just crime prevention, but also challenges from COVID, climate changes, social isolation, opioid addiction, systemic racism, etc. that don't stop at town borders. They need to work together to tackle these issues head on. There is no one size fits all approach. The office is uniquely situated to meet challenges across the county, and will only be successful if it's guided by the experience and needs of each community. He will work closely with Weymouth and can tailor public safety programs to meet the town's needs. He wants to make sure it is a safe place for everyone.

President Mathews asked if there are programs or information on a website that he wants to promote? Sheriff McDermott responded that the website, which is undergoing improvements is www.norfolksheriff.com. He urged seniors to register with Deputy Sheriff Cheryl Banbury for the *Are You OK?* Program. Dep. Sheriff Banbury reaches out for all failed calls. It is a proven lifesaving program. The Youth Academy camp program is going forward this year, and will be accepting applications in late March. It will be with smaller groups because of COVID. His office is hosting a blood drive at the Braintree site on April 8, 2021, in partnership with Childrens' Hospital to benefit the Mighty Quinn.

Councilor Happel congratulated him on his recent election and his mentorship with the unions and WHS, to identify at-risk students and for promoting opportunities other than college. The office has also decreased recidivism. Weymouth has an apprenticeship partner in Local 550 sprinkler fitters. Sheriff McDermott responded that he met with several dozen local unions during his campaign and are rebuilding relationships. Mental health and addiction exist, but there are skills lacking that can be met. With youth, not everyone wants a degree or extensive higher education and he will be working on that. The trades are a great opportunity. Councilor Kiely asked what age groups participate in the Youth Academy and the sheriff responded that it's middle school age students, with high schoolers as interns. Information will go out to the towns shortly. It's on the Braintree campus and the leadership camp opens in fall. Councilor Burga pointed out that the Youth camp registration sells out in minutes; he recommends pre-registration. Sheriff McDermott responded they will make sure to be able to handle the capacity and they'll look at folks who signed up in past years who couldn't get in for preference and participation will be spread evenly over the county.

Councilor Harrington added his congratulation. President Mathews thanked Sheriff McDermott for the presentation and he looks forward to working with him. Sheriff McDermott urged the Council to reach out to share their ideas to make Weymouth a safer community.

MINUTES

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2021

Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2021 Public Safety Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021

Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

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

21 013-Municipal Fiber Broadband Master Plan

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Reserve Fund to a capital project fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with the completion of a Broadband Master Plan to investigate a municipal fiber network.

NOTE: The amount of this reserve fund transfer will spend down FY21 reserve funds, however, the subsequent FY22 reserve fund will be partially funded with FY21 Free Cash, which is expected and includes the unappropriated \$10 million received via the Host Community Agreement with Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, resulting in no net change in the FY21 and FY22 reserve balances from this expenditure.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 013 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 014-Appointment to Cultural Council-Dominic Paulo

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, James Malary requested that, in accordance with section 2-10 of the Town Charter, the town of Weymouth appoint Dominic Paulo of 65 Webster Street to the Cultural Council for a 2-year term to expire on June 30, 2021. This is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Catherine Bevans.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 014 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 015-Reappointment to WETC Board of Directors-Christopher Castro

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, Mr. Malary requested that in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, the town of Weymouth reappoint Christopher Castro of 90 sea Street for appointment to WETC Board of Directors for a 3-year term to expire on March 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to consider measure 21 015 under 2-9b, same night action and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

Councilor Hackett asked a point of information- the charter allows appointment under 2-9(b)? President Mathews responded that typically there would be a motion to adopt the reappointment list. Solicitor Callanan confirmed the response. Councilor Hackett noted she did not need the motion restated. She misheard it. She didn't hear the work "reappointment."

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 21 015; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter reappoint Christopher Castro of 90 Sea Street to the WETC Board of Directors for a 3-year term to expire on March 1, 2024 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 016-Home Rule Petition-Retirement of Officer Sean Murphy

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth submit the petition to the General Court of Massachusetts for enactment.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 016 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-

Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget/Management Committee-Chair Michael Molisse

Chair Molisse reported that the Budget/Management Committee met on March 1, 2021 to deliberate the following measures:

20 008-Request to Enter into 5-Year School Bus Transportation Contract

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 16, 2021. The committee met on March 1, 2021 and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve measure 20 008; that the Town Council authorize the Town to enter into a contract for school bus transportation for a term of 5 years, beginning with the school year commencing in September 2021, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 12. Councilor Hackett seconded the motion. Councilor Dwyer asked if the current vendor is getting the contract or if it will be a new vendor? Brian Smith, Asst. Superintendent of Schools responded that an Invitation to Bid will go out following this vote.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 009-Reserve Fund Transfer-Weymouth Fire Fighters Collective Bargaining Agreement

This measure was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on February 16, 2021. The committee met on March 1, 2021 and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve measure 20 009, as amended; that That the Town of Weymouth transfer the following amounts from the Fiscal Year 2021 Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with the FY20-FY22 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Town of Weymouth and the Weymouth Fire Fighters, Local 1616 of the International Association of Fire Fighters:

\$148,061.00	FY20 Fire Department Salaries
\$10,396.53	FY20 Fire Department Overtime
\$104,569.72	FY21 Fire Department Salaries

The total impact of the contract is \$263,027.25.

The remaining CBA salary and overtime expenses for FY21 will be covered by anticipated year-end balances in salary and overtime line items. Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be Monday, March 15. At 8:08 PM, there being no further business, Vice President Molisse made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Attachments:

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council
Voted unanimously 5 April 2021