

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Via Zoom # 843 9576 4454
September 8, 2020, Tuesday

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

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Robert Luongo, Director of Planning and Development
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with absent. President Mathews reported that Councilor Hackett was absent due to a prior family commitment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Heffernan thanked the Town Clerk and her staff and the poll workers for facilitating an orderly process for early and mail in voting during the recent primary election. They went above and beyond to maintain social distancing and disinfection practices, especially during this time and continuing into the presidential election on November 3rd.

Councilor Burga announced that the Mayflower Council BSA will hold a council-wide recruiting day at the DPW parking lot on Winter Street from 12-3. Boys and girls aged 6-10 are encouraged to attend on Saturday, September 12, 2020.

MINUTES

Ordinance Committee Meeting of August 4, 2020

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2020 Ordinance Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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 of August 10, 2020

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2020 Special Town Council meeting, as amended, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

Budget/Management Committee Meeting of August 25, 2020

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2020 Budget/Management Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

Special Town Council Meeting of August 25, 2020

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2020 Special Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

Ordinance Committee Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2020

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2020 Ordinance Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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

20 101- Appointment to Cultural Council-Marie Stoeckel

On behalf of administration, President Mathews requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Marie Stoeckel of 63 Alroy Road to the Cultural Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 20 101 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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

20 102-Appointment to Cultural Council-Daniel Callahan

On behalf of administration, President Mathews requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Daniel Callahan of 31 Paris Street to the Cultural Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 20 102 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

20 103-Appointment to Scholarship Committee-Alicia Lyons

On behalf of administration, President Mathews requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Alicia Lyons of 90 Taft Road to the Scholarship Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 20 103 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

20 104-Appointment to Scholarship Committee-Matthew Tierney

On behalf of administration, President Mathews requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Matthew Tierney of 567 Summer Street to the Scholarship Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 20 104 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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

Ordinance Committee-Chair Ken DiFazio

Councilor DiFazio reported that the Ordinance Committee met to deliberate the following measure:

20 088- Traffic Regulations-Speed Limit- A Portion of East Street

The measure was referred on June 1, 2020. The Committee met on July 14, 2020 and August 27, 2020, and again on August 27, 2020 voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. A public hearing was held on August 10, 2020 on the measure.

That the Town of Weymouth, through Town Council, pursuant to G.L. Chapter 40, §22, and the Town of Weymouth Code of Ordinances 13-104(a), authorize the erection of signs regulating motor vehicle movements as follows:

Speed Limit			
Street	Location	Direction	Speed Limit
East Street	Between Hanian Drive and Commercial Street	Both	25 Miles per Hour

And cause the above regulation to be listed in the town of Weymouth Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Regulations Affecting Motor Vehicles, Attachment 1- Appendix A under Schedule XII, Speed Limit.

Councilor DiFazio reported that in March, a speed-monitoring test was performed by the WPD. Sgt. Morse recommended a 25 mph speed limit in a report in May. A community meeting was conducted on June 25 with the Planning Department. The committee received a letter from the traffic engineer in July outlining the different alternatives for safety measures on East Street. During the Ordinance Committee’s deliberations on August 27, 2020, six motions were affirmed for forwarding to the full Town Council:

1. On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councilor DiFazio that the town reduce the speed limit on East Street, from Green Street to Commercial Street, to 25 miles per hour, and install three new 25 miles per hour speed limit signs, on each side of East Street. Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

2. On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councilor DiFazio that the Town Council request that the administration discuss with the utility owners the application of reflectors on all sign and telephone poles on East Street. Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

3. On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councilor DiFazio that the Traffic Engineer and the Department of Public Works inspect both sides of East Street for lines of sight issues and correct any shrub or tree interference. Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

4. On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councilor DiFazio that the Department of Asset Management and the Traffic Engineer inspect and review the necessity for more street lights or a change in intensity of street lights on East Street. Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

5. On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councilor DiFazio that the Traffic Engineer investigate the crosswalks currently on East Street, and the safety of said crosswalks, as well as having said crosswalks newly painted and install crosswalk signs on each crosswalk in each direction, and further, repaint the fog lines on both sides of East Street, being located ten feet from the center road line. Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

6. On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to request the administration seek additional funds in the future to install an electronic speed board on East Street. Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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.

NEW BUSINESS

20 100- Citizen Petition Request to Change Zoning Ordinance Section 120-64.7.1 Billboard Relocation Overlay District

President Mathews reported that Kathy Swain of 134 Mill Street filed a citizen petition to the Town Clerk's Office on September 2, 2020. The petition includes 37 citizen signatures certified by the Town Clerk's office. The request is for additions, deletions and revisions to the current Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinance entitled "Billboard Overlay District."

Billboard Relocation Overlay District; Per M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the undersigned registered voters in the Town of Weymouth request of the Town Council the following changes to Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinances:

§120.64.7.1 Billboard Relocation Overlay District
Eliminate Section C.

No more than three electronic billboards are the only permitted use within the Billboard Relocation Overlay District and are subject to the approval of a billboard reduction and relocation agreement or development agreement for the reduction and relocation of billboards in compliance with this Section.

Insert a new Section C as follows:

No more than TWO electronic billboards are the only permitted use within the Billboard Relocation Overlay District and are subject to the approval of a billboard reduction and relocation agreement or development agreement for the reduction and relocation of billboards in compliance with this section.

Insert New Section E.
Section E.

Construction of billboards and related facilities and structures within the billboard relocation overlay district shall be subject to a special permitting process by the zoning Board of Appeals.

A decision shall not be rendered on an application for a special permit until the Zoning Board of Appeals has made its findings. Said finding shall include but not limited to the following:

1. Demonstrate compliance with the regulations of the Office of Outdoor Advertising
2. Demonstrate that no residentially zoned property or pre-existing nonconforming property or other property used for residential purposes, excluding hotels or motels, is within a one-thousand-foot radius of the proposed location.
3. Demonstrate that the proposed location does not adversely interfere with the use of adjacent properties, including but not limited to, increasing noise or vibration, casting a shadow on, or causing a flicker on adjacent properties.
4. Demonstrate that the proposed billboard is in harmony with or suitable for the surrounding area and would not do significant damage to the visual environment. In making the determination, the special permit granting authority may consider, among other factors, health, safety, general welfare of the public, the scenic beauty of the area, the physical, environmental, cultural, historical or architectural characteristics of the location and area, proximity of the proposed billboard to schools, or places of worship or open space, architectural characteristics of the location and area, the structure, height, and size of the sign, and the number of signs on the premises and in the area where the billboard is to be located.
5. No flashing lighting shall be allowed. Flashing shall be defined as changing natural or artificial light or color effects by any means except as may occur when panels or messages change on electronic/digital billboards.
6. No sexually orientated, sexually provocative or adult-oriented businesses as defined in Article XIII, §135-1302 shall be advertised on a billboard.

7. The Planning Board shall determine the number of annual hours the billboard shall devote to public service announcements during a calendar year.
8. Financial or other compensation to the Town, including but not limited to removal of existing nonconforming billboards, to mitigate the impact of the proposed billboard on the Town, in a form and/or amount identified in an agreement approved by the Office of the Mayor and the Town Solicitor.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 20 100 to the Ordinance Committee and the Weymouth Planning Board and was seconded by Councilor Harrington.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga- Yes, Councilor DiFazio- Yes, Councilor Dwyer-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 regular meeting of the Town Council has been scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2020. At 7:52 PM; there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council
Voted unanimously on September 21, 2020