

**Town Council Minutes
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 5, 2024**

Present:

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

Absent:

Christopher Heffernan, Councilor

Also Present:

Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Brian Connolly, Town Auditor
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor

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 Councilor Heffernan absent. President Molisse reported that Councilor Heffernan had a work commitment and would not be in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor MacDougall announced the School Committee vacancy and the School Committee would be accepting letters of interest by February 6th at 4:00pm.

In light of the recent resignation of school committee member Steve Buccigross and in accordance with the Weymouth Town Charter section 4-6(b), the School Committee is accepting letters of interest to appoint an individual to fill the vacant position of school committee member until the next regular election, the Weymouth School Committee is currently accepting letters of interest from registered voters of the Town who are interested in serving the School Committee until the next annual Town election. To apply, submit a letter of interest postmarked by 4:00PM on February 6, 2024 to the Weymouth School Committee attention Eileen Pitts at 89 Middle St. Weymouth, MA 02189 via U.S. Mail or submit an e-mail by 4:00PM on February 6, 2024 to Eileen.Pitts@weymouthschools.org . The temporary appointment term is until the 2025 Annual

Town Election, at which time the vacancy will be put on the ballot to be filled by the voters, and the person chosen to fill such vacancy shall forth be sworn in and shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term, in addition to the term for which elected. The School Committee will review applicants on February 8, 2024 in Executive Session. Two candidates will be moved forward for an interview at the February 15, 2024 School Committee meeting.

President Molisse welcomed the Boy Scouts of America Troop 2 who are in attendance to earn their Communication and Citizens badge.

MINUTES

Southfield/Union Point Committee Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2024

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the Southfield/Union Point minutes of January 8, 2024 and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the Town Council Meeting minutes of January 16, 2024 and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY COMMENT

Mr. Matthew Tierney spoke as a member of the Weymouth Scholarship Committee to discuss the committee, the committee's mission and how residents can apply for a scholarship in 2024.

The mission of the committee is to provide a voluntary check off and donation program for the purpose of raising scholarship funds to maintain a perpetual local trust for supporting and expanding post-secondary educational opportunities for all with residents, regardless of race, color, creed, age, or sex. The Weymouth Scholarship Committee has awarded over \$1.2M in financial aid to high school seniors, students currently attending college, and adult residents returning to school for further retraining or for their post-secondary or college education. In 2023, a total of \$125,600 in financial aid was awarded to 50 residents at the annual ceremony at Tufts Library.

Awards are made possible through the generosity of business partners, organizations, sponsors of memorial scholarships, and Weymouth citizens who made donations. In 2023 the committee was able to increase the minimum award to \$2000 per recipient, double the amount previously awarded. Residents who are chosen to receive a scholarship are contacted with instructions on how to claim their award. The scholarship fund is a great way for businesses to give back and for people to honor the memory of loved ones. Sponsors are the lifeblood of the program and cannot be thanked enough for their participation over the years. Inquiries on how to sponsor a scholarship to promote your business, or to honor the memory of a loved one can be sent to weymouthscholarshipfund@gmail.com.

The committee is now accepting applications for 2024 until the hard deadline of March 15th. The application can be downloaded from the Town of Weymouth website. The application needs to be printed and returned via mail or dropped off at Town Hall. Residents can make donations to the fund on the web page, as well as sending in donations that are sent with town tax mailings. Mr. Tierney also encouraged everyone to like the town of Weymouth Scholarship Fund Facebook page where updates and are made as well as highlighting winners.

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

24 004-Town Clerk-Call of the Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday March 5, 2024 -Action Requested Under 2-9(b)

Kathy Deree read her measure into the record:

In the name of the Commonwealth, the Town of Weymouth is hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, who are qualified to vote in the Presidential Primary Election to vote on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Vice President Burga made a motion to take measure 24 004 under 2-9(b) same night action which was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Motion passed 10-0.

Vice President Burga made a motion to approve measure 24 004 which was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Motion passed 10-0.

24 005-Revoke Opioid Settlement Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

James Malary stated that measure 24 005 is hereby submitted on behalf of Mayor Hedlund for consideration and action by Town Council.

Please see attached measure 24 005

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer measure 24 005 to the Budget/ Management Committee, seconded by Councilor Kiely and voted unanimously.

24 006-Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Account

James Malary stated that measure 24 006 is hereby submitted on behalf of Mayor Hedlund for consideration and action by Town Council.

This measure requires a legal notice and public hearing.

Please see attached measure 24 006

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer measure 24 006 to the Budget/ Management Committee, seconded by Councilor Kiely and voted unanimously.

24 007-Appointment to the Conservation Commission-Charles McCrosson

James Malary stated that measure 24 007 is hereby submitted on behalf of Mayor Hedlund for consideration and action by Town Council.

In accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, I respectfully submit the name of Charles McCrosson of 25 Georgia Road, Weymouth, MA 02190 for appointment to the Conservation Commission, filling a 3-year term due to expire on June 30th, 2026.

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer measure 24 007 to the Budget/ Management Committee, seconded by Councilor Kiely and voted unanimously.

24 008-Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority Conor Foley

James Malary stated that measure 24 008 is hereby submitted on behalf of Mayor Hedlund for consideration and action by Town Council.

In accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, I respectfully submit the name of Conor Foley of 40 Roberts Drive, Weymouth, MA 02190 for appointment to the Redevelopment Authority. This is a 5-year term due to expire on June 30th, 2029.

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer measure 24 008 to the Budget/ Management Committee, seconded by Councilor Kiely and voted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

24 003-Town Council Rules and Regulations for 2024-2026

Vice President Pascale Burga made a motion to refer measure 24 003 Town Council Rules and Regulations for 2024-2026 to the Rules Committee. Councilor Kiely seconded.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be Tuesday February 20, 2024 due to the President’s Holiday. At 7:44 p.m., there being no further business, Vice President Molisse motioned to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Kim McCutcheon as Recording Secretary

Approved by Council President Michael Molisse
Minutes approved unanimously on 20 February 2024