

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
17 January 2023 at 7:30 PM

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
Maureen Kiely, Councilor
Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Absent: Gary MacDougall, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Ted Langill, Chief of Staff
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor
Brian Connolly, Town Auditor
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with Councilor MacDougall absent. President Mathews reported that Councilor MacDougall had a prior work commitment.

MINUTES

Vice President Molisse motioned for approval of the **Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023**. Motion seconded by Councilor Kiely, and voted unanimously.

Vice President Molisse motioned for approval of the **Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023**. Motion seconded by Councilor Kiely, and voted unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

22 136- National Grid/Verizon Utility Petition for 6 Fogg Road
Abutters notified on December 9, 2022, hearing continued from December 19, 2022
Petition to be withdrawn at the request of National Grid

President Mathews explained that on 12 January, Emily O'Brien of National Grid notified the Town Council Office that it is no longer necessary for National Grid to file this petition.

Vice President Molisse motioned to open the hearing on measure 22 136, motion seconded by Councilor Kiely, and voted unanimously. President Mathews opened the floor to comments from the public, both in person and via zoom, to which there was no response.

Vice President Molisse motioned to close the public hearing on measure 22 136, motion seconded by Councilor Kiely and voted unanimously.

Vice President Molisse motioned to withdraw measure 22 136, motion seconded by Councilor Kiely and voted unanimously.

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

22 004-Municipal Aggregation of Electricity

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth authorize the appropriate department(s) to research, develop and participate in a contract(s) to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses of Weymouth and for other related services, independently or in joint action with other municipalities, and authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to accomplish the same.

Vice President Molisse motioned to refer the measure to the Economic Development Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

NEW BUSINESS

23 001-Fiscal Year 2021 Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter Brian Connolly, Town Auditor

Auditor Connolly stated that the fiscal year 2021 Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter are finalized and ready for distribution to the Town Council and the Mayor's Office. This measure is being introduced to the Town Council tonight for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, which in turn will meet on 2/6/2023, a regularly scheduled meeting time of the Town Council. At the 2/6/23 meeting, the Budget/Management Committee will vote to "accept the audited Financial Statements" and "Management Letter" and refer this measure to the full Town Council for vote.

Scott McIntire CPA, Principal with Melanson and Auditor Connolly will be scheduled 45 minutes on the Budget/Management Committee agenda and 30 minutes on the Town Council agenda to present the documents and to answer any questions the Councilors may have.

Councilor Belmarsh noted that she is partially done reviewing the report and is wondering if the changes noted for the Chapman School and AARPA funding balances will be discussed in more detail. Auditor Connolly noted that the outside auditor will present and he will make him aware of her request. Councilor Belmarsh also asked if her questions should be asked at the Budget/Management Meeting or the Town Council Meeting. President Mathews confirmed she should ask her questions at the 6 February Town Council Meeting.

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

**23 002-Contract for Independent Audit of FY23 and FY 24
Brian Connolly, Town Auditor**

Auditor Connolly submits the following Measure to Town Council for consideration:

That the Town Council in accordance with the provision of Section 6-11 of the Town Charter, proceed to take a formal vote for the award of a two (2) year contract for Independent Audit Services to be performed in FY23 and FY24.

He requests a referral of this measure to the Budget/Management Committee to deliberate and subsequently approve this measure and refer it to the full Town Council. Upon approval, he will work with the selected firm and the Mayoral Administration in preparing for this audit.

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

**23 003-Acceptance of MGL Chapter 41, Section 110A
Action requested under 2-9(b)
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk**

Town Clerk Deree proposes the acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 41, section 110A. By accepting the statute, the town would be allowed to move a voter registration day to a Friday of the work day before, should it fall on a Saturday or holiday. The law was attached for everyone's perusal.

Vice President Molisse motioned for action under 2-9(b), seconded by Councilor Kiely. Councilor Abbott stated that given the recent scrutiny surrounding elections he suggests referral to a committee. Councilor Abbott made a substitute motion for referral to the Budget/Management Committee, motion seconded by Councilor Belmarsh. Councilor Burga asked if this measure is time sensitive. President Mathews noted that the Town Clerk asked for this a while back and he just now included on an agenda-it was confirmed by the Town Clerk that this is not time sensitive.

Motion voted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council is 6 February 2023. At 7:49 PM; there being no further business, Vice President Molisse motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council
Voted unanimously on 6 February 2023