

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2017
Middle School Library

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Patience Anderson, Vice Chairman Ted Hintz, Jr., Council Members Pete Brown, Melissa Engel and Kevin Reich and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco

Not Present: Mark Philhower and Josh Piteo (Mr. Piteo was available by phone for a portion of the meeting as noted under Bids & Contracts)

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Engel, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (5-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Hintz, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of March 28, 2017 as written. Voted (5-0)

Presentations

Presentation on Fracking Waste

Jen Siskind, Local Coordinator of Food & Water Watch provided a presentation on the dangers of fracking waste. A handout and sample ordinances will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. A draft ordinance for East Hampton will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Public Remarks

Marc Lambert, 20 Brookside Court & Chairman of the Board of Finance, provided an overview of the budget that was approved by the Board of Finance. A copy of the document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Nancy Oakley, Pocotopaug Drive, commented that she is following the budget closely and is in support of both budgets.

Bids & Contracts

Mr. Piteo was present on the telephone for this portion of the meeting.

Community Center Energy Efficiency Lease

Mr. Maniscalco provided an overview of the cost of the program that was questioned by Council members at prior meetings. An email from the Library Director was also provided in support of the program.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the lease as presented for the leasing of energy efficiency fixtures at the Library/Senior Center. Voted (6-0)

Bid Waiver for the Board of Education Bus Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Hintz, seconded by Ms. Engel, to waive the bidding for the Board of Education bus contract. Voted (6-0)

Award of Architect Bid for Town Hall/Police Department

Glenn Gollenberg, Chairman of the Town Facilities Building Committee, was present to provide an overview of the process for choosing the architect firm. Seven bids were received, the committee shortlisted the groups to four that would be interviewed. It was a quality based process. Each group was scored by the members and then the fee proposals were reviewed. The lowest qualified bid was from Amenta Emma Architects of Hartford.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Engel, to award the bid to Amenta Emma of Hartford, CT to be the designer/architect for the Town Hall/Police Department. Voted (5-1) Mr. Hintz against.

Mr. Piteo ended his telephone call.

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

None

Continued Business

None

New Business

2017/2018 Budget from Board of Finance

The Council members received the budget from the Board of Finance. The members will review the document and this will be placed on the next agenda.

Attorney Policy Review

Mr. Maniscalco provided a draft of proposed changes to the Attorney Policy. The main change to the document was to include that requests to contact the attorney be in writing. This item will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Tax Abatement for West High Enterprises, LLC

The Council was provided a signed Tax Assessment Agreement from West High Enterprises. The agreement is different than the original application as there is an increase in the square footage of retail space. This item will be included on the next agenda for possible approval.

Town Manager Report

State Revenue Projections

There has been no new information from the State regarding the budget. The Assessor has been reviewing the personal property cap on automobiles that is currently at 32 mills. If the town mill rate exceeds that amount there would adjustments that need to be made on automobile tax bills.

Update on Town Attorney Search

Five firms submitted bids and all were interviewed. Scoring has identified a firm that the committee has recommended. A second interview will be done with that firm and the choice will be announced at the next Council meeting.

Update on Elderly Nutrition Program

A memo from Senior Center Director JoAnn Ewing will be included in the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Update on Town Facilities Building Committee Meeting

The architect bid was awarded at the beginning of this meeting. The Committee is working on the construction manager RFP, design and programming. Press releases have been in the Rivereast updating their progress.

Update on Open Positions

Assessor

The posting for the Assessor position closes on April 14th. No applications have been received to date.

Appointments

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

A motion was made by Mr. Hintz, seconded by Ms. Engel, to appoint JoAnn Ewing as the Municipal Agent for the Elderly for a four year term. Voted (5-0)

250th Anniversary Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Engel, to appoint Robyn Letourneau to the East Hampton 250th Anniversary Committee. Voted (5-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Engel, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$14,918.06. Voted (5-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

March Board and Commission Summary

The March Board and Commission Summary was provided to the Council.

An invitation was received from the VFW for the Council to march in the Memorial Day Parade.

A letter was received from Art Linares to Chris Goff, Chairman of the Board of Education, regarding the legalization of marijuana.

A letter was received from Brian Cutler regarding Sports on 66.

All letters will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Hintz, seconded by Ms. Engel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Voted (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk