

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023  
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Mark Philhower, Vice Chairman Tim Feegel, Council Members Pete Brown, Brandon Goff, Eric Peterson, Kevin Reich and Alison Walck and Town Manager David Cox

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Philhower called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

**Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of January 10, 2023 as written. Voted (6-0-1) Mr. Feegel abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

**Public Remarks**

None

**Presentations**

None

**Bids & Contracts**

None

**Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations**

None

**Continued Business**

**Sub-Committee Reports & Updates**

Mr. Cox reported for the Water Sub-Committee that the contractor did a walk-through with the Utility Director as they continue their work.

Mr. Goff reported that at the Board of Education meeting a bus contract was approved with M&J Bus. Also, the Superintendent released the proposed budget with a 5.8% increase.

Ms. Walck attended the Housing Authority meeting noting the residents greatly appreciate the new board and the mood is uplifted at the two locations.

Mr. Philhower noted the Capital Committee has met and they are still working on the Capital plan.

### **Follow-Up Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Tax Relief Programs**

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the options that can be included in an ordinance for additional tax relief programs. Council members discussed and asked questions about the options. Mr. Cox will put together a more formal draft for Council members to review at the next meeting for possible scheduling of a public hearing.

### **New Business**

#### **Update and Discussion Regarding Library Space Planning Evaluation**

Library Director Tim Kellogg provided an overview of the Space Planning Evaluation for the Library. A copy of the printed slides will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The Library and the Library Advisory Board have begun work on an update to the Library's Strategic Plan. The evaluation shows little ability to provide expanded or enhanced program or collection space with the existing building. There will be future discussions with the Council to discuss findings and determine a desired path forward.

### **Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Cox provided his written report for the Council members which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

### **Appointments**

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Reich, to reappoint the following:

- Arts & Culture Commission - Rebecca Tinelle
- Clean Energy Task Force - Russ Kaplan, Martin Podskoch and Nico Guerrero
- Ethics Commission - Allison Kane and Mark Laraia
- Fire Commission - Darin Hurne and Phil Visintainer
- Library Advisory Board - Melinda Jones, Jack Solomon and Amie Meacham
- Middle Haddam Historic District Commission - Patrick Walsh
- Park & Rec Advisory Board - Tim Adams and Jessica Rurka
- Planning & Zoning Commission - Rowland Rux

Voted (7-0)

Chairman Philhower named the following to the Fire House Exploratory Committee:

- Town Council – Brandon Goff – Chairman
- Fire Department – Greg Voelker
- Public – William Abbott, Ray Zatorski and George Pfaffenbach

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,516.09. Voted (7-0).

### **Public Remarks**

None

### **Communications, Correspondence & Announcements**

None

**Executive Session****Attorney Client Privilege Communication – Pending Claims/Litigation**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to enter Executive Session at 7:35pm. Voted (7-0). Town Manager David Cox and Town Attorney Richard Carella were included in Executive Session.

Executive Session ended at 7:55pm.

**Possible Action on Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Reich, to direct the Town Attorney to settle the case regarding 108 Main Street in the amount of attorney fees with no interest. Voted (5-2) Mr. Peterson and Ms. Walck against.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk