

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Pete Brown, Vice Chairman Dean Markham, Council Members Tim Feegel, Derek Johnson, Barbara Moore, Mark Philhower and Kevin Reich and Finance Director Jeff Jylkka.

Call to Order

Chairman Brown 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. Moore, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the agenda adding a Resolution for the Small Cities Grant. Voted (7-0)

Public Hearing on 2021-2022 Budget

Vice Chairman Markham provided an overview of the Democratic Town Council Proposed Budget. The current proposal is \$49,659,879, a 1.48 mill increase. Reductions were made to the original budget proposal including purchasing teacher laptops with funds remaining this year, moving SWAT funding to the special revenue fund and \$15,000 for Park & Rec being funded by the special revenue fund.

There were no comments on the budget for the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing section was closed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting of April 20, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of April 27, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Margaret Faber, 45 School Lane, commented on the inability to speak on items at the Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency meeting. She submitted a letter, pictures and a petition. These items will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mike Cunningham, 54 Long Hill Road, concurred with Ms. Faber and noted his frustration of not being able to comment at the Inland Wetlands meeting.

Mr. Philhower noted that the Town Council does not have control over the land use board's decisions. They have their own rules and regulations based on State Statutes. Any interference by

Council could jeopardize the town by getting sued and could contaminate an application. He doesn't believe the IWWA did anything wrong in not having a Public Hearing.

Mr. Johnson suggested an overview of procedural practices be done for the land use boards to be sure best practices are being followed.

Presentations

None

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Resolution for Small Cities Grant

The Town and Housing Authority received a Small Cities Grant for improvements at the Housing Authority properties. A resolution is required for the acceptance of the grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to adopt the resolution for the Small Cities Grant. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Consideration of a Modification to the Street Standards Related to Driveways

Director of Public Works Matt Walsh was in attendance to respond to the Council's question from the last meeting to determine when the conflict between the Street Standards and the Zoning Code occurred. He noted the current Zoning Code was adopted in 1990. The current version of the Street Standards was revised in 2003 but it could not be determined if the driveway language was changed at that time.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the Street Standards Section 9.02 Driveway Criteria as presented. Voted (7-0)

New Business

Consideration & Possible Action Regarding High School Athletic Fields Project Scope

Kevin Fuselier of SLR Consulting was in attendance to provide a presentation on the High School Athletic Fields Project Scope. The presentation will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the High School Athletic Fields Project Scope as presented. Voted (7-0)

Mr. Philhower noted his opinion that the track not be blue due to additional ongoing maintenance costs.

Consideration & Possible Action Regarding EDCs Bells on the Bridge Project

Economic Development Commission member Jase Doane provided a presentation on the EDC proposed project Bells on the Bridge. They are asking permission from the Town Council to utilize

the bridge on Main Street near the Library. A copy of the presentation will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Director of Public Works Matt Walsh noted no weight issue for the number of bells that would be on the bridge. He suggested the Town have the right to remove or move bells as needed. Chairman Brown would like to see plastic zip ties used rather than the metal ties as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the use of the Main Street Bridge for the Bells on the Bridge project. Voted (7-0)

Review & Possible Action on WPCA Water Budget

Public Utilities Administrator Scott Clayton provided an overview of the WPCA Water Budget. He noted a decrease from last year and again this year there is no recommended increase in rates. The water budget will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. A public hearing will be held on June 1, 2021. The final budget will be sent back to Council at the June 8th meeting.

Set Town Meeting & Referendum Date for 2021-2022 Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, to set the Town Meeting date of Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, to set the Referendum date of Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at the Middle School from 6:00am to 8:00pm.

There will be no additional public opinion questions on the ballot related to the size of the budget.

Town Manager Report

The Town Manager's Report was provided to Council members.

Appointments

Water Sub-Committee

Chairman Brown created a Water Sub-Committee to include himself, Mr. Feegel and Mr. Johnson. The Sub-Committee will review water sources and the direction for the Town. The first meeting will be Tuesday, May 25th at 5:45pm.

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$3,763.99. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

April Board and Commission Summary

The April Board and Commission Summary was provided to Council members.

Mr. Markham noted that the Council will vote on the budget that will be passed on to the residents at the May 25th meeting.

Mr. Philhower thanked everyone involved for fixing the clock on the Center School.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm.
Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk