

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Pete Brown, Vice Chairman Dean Markham, Council Members Tim Feegel, Derek Johnson (via Zoom), Barbara Moore, Mark Philhower and Kevin Reich and Town Manager David Cox

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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 Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Public Hearing for an Ordinance Amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Establishing a Moratorium on Certain Activities Related to Adult-Use Cannabis

Jaryd Boisvert, 255 East High Street, commented that he is in favor of the town allowing retail sale of cannabis. He doesn't see a concern about people loitering in the area. Since the sale of other intoxicating substances are allowed marijuana shouldn't be treated differently. He noted tax revenue would go elsewhere if the sale is not allowed here. Allowing legal purchase of marijuana in town reduces the likelihood of someone buying marijuana illegally.

Vice Chairman Markham asked about the estimated tax revenue if sales are allowed. Mr. Cox noted there was a broad calculation by the State of an average of \$4million in sales for an average year for the average establishment and \$120,000 in tax revenues. Our town would be allowed one store based on population.

Mr. Philhower noted the moratorium allows the town to be able to make a better-informed decision and gather more information.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:41pm.

Approval of Minutes

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 September 28, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Presentations

Presentation of Mission Statement for the Economic Development Commission

Matt Reich, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, provided an overview of the Mission Statement for the commission. The base statement reads “The East Hampton Economic Development Commission will lead and support projects that contribute to the successful attraction of new businesses, retain established businesses and improve the quality of life of East Hampton residents, visitors and tourist. These objectives will form the pillars around which the commission will center its efforts.” The three pillars contain more specific information. The full statement will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Mr. Cox noted that if the Council is happy with the statement as presented, he will provide at the next meeting a revised copy of the EDC ordinance that includes the mission statement. The Council would then set a Public Hearing for the ordinance change. It was agreed to have Mr. Cox prepare the draft ordinance revision for the next meeting.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Review & Possible Adoption of an Ordinance Amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Establishing a Moratorium on Certain Activities Related to Adult-Use Cannabis

A Public Hearing was held at the beginning of the meeting where one comment was received in favor of the sale of cannabis products. The moratorium will provide time for consideration of the new regulations, review of various approaches to local regulation and receipt of public input. The ordinance also includes a prohibition of the smoking, vaping, use, consumption or possession of cannabis products on Town owned or controlled properties and acknowledges a similar prohibition on State owned properties.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to adopt the Ordinance Regarding Establishing a Moratorium on Certain Activities Related to Adult-Use Cannabis as presented. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Vice Chairman Markham reported that the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Sub-Committee met just prior to the Council meeting. The group is still looking at requests and confirming if certain allocations are allowed. There will be no recommendations at this time.

Mr. Reich reported that the High School Athletic Fields project construction began on September 22nd. They are on schedule.

Review & Update on the Poet Laureate Selection Process

The Council asked the Arts & Culture Commission to create a process to select a new Poet Laureate for the town. They have developed an application for the process. Once the applications have been received and applicants interviewed, the Arts & Culture Commission will recommend a candidate to the Town Council for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the process and application for the Poet Laureate position. Voted (7-0)

New Business

Review & Possible Approval of Police Department General Order 3.1 Use of Force

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the changes to the Use of Force General Order. The changes clarify the use of chokeholds and neck restraints.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve General Order 3.1 Use of Force as presented. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager Report

Mr. Cox provided an overview of his written report which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Cox noted that sewer bills went out October 1 and are due in two installments, October and April. A notice was sent to taxpayers showing a breakdown of what their tax dollars are used for. Police body worn cameras have been implemented. In car cameras are coming soon. The Library has submitted a presentation to be considered for the Library conference in Oregon and was chosen to be presented – the topic is Increasing Circulation during COVID.

Mr. Markham asked about the draft Home-Based Business regulations and how parking issues will be handled. Mr. Cox noted issues will be complaint driven.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,830.73. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

September 2021 Board and Commission Summary

Council members received the September 2021 Board and Commission Summary. The document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk