

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

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

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda:

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt the agenda as written. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special Meetings of June 15, 2020 and June 17, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of June 23, 2020 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Presentations

Update from Board of Education on Fall Re-Opening Plans

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith and Chairman of the Board of Education Christopher Goff were in attendance to provide an overview of the plans for reopening schools in the fall. The full document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. It was noted that the document was approved at a Board of Education meeting on July 13, however, the document can be modified and reapproved if needed.

Bids & Contracts

Police Department Vehicle Purchase

A new police vehicle purchase was approved in the 2020/2021 budget. This vehicle will replace an older vehicle in the fleet.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford Utility Police Interceptor vehicle from MHQ, Inc. under State Contract Award #12PSX0194 in the amount of \$34,243.40. Voted (7-0)

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Resolution authorizing the issuance of not exceeding \$1,500,000 refunding bonds for payment in whole or in part of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$3,175,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, and \$2,985,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, and Related Costs

Finance Director Jeff Jylkka was in attendance to provide an overview on the re-financing of bonds. The Town issued debt in 2006 and 2009 to finance various capital improvement projects. These bonds

carry interest rates varying from 2.5% to 5.0% with an average outstanding coupon rate of 4.2%. Current municipal interest rates are at historic lows and both bond issues are eligible to be re-financed.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance of not exceeding \$1,500,000 refunding bonds for payment in whole or in part of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$3,175,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, and \$2,985,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, and Related Costs. Voted (7-0)

Resolution authorizing a lease-purchase financing to finance acquisition of a Public Works heavy duty truck and related equipment

Resolution authorizing a lease-purchase financing to finance acquisition of a Public Works excavator and related equipment

Public Works Director Matt Walsh was in attendance to provide an overview of the vehicles and equipment to be purchased. Two pieces of equipment for Public Works were included in the FY2021 capital plan to be lease financed.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the resolution authorizing a lease-purchase financing to finance acquisition of a Public Works heavy duty truck and related equipment not to exceed \$176,250. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the resolution authorizing a lease-purchase financing to finance acquisition of a Public Works excavator and related equipment not to exceed \$110,000. Voted (7-0)

Police Department General Orders Regarding Conduct & Use of Force

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Continued Business

Discussion of Funding Plans for High School Baseball Field, Tennis Court and Track Improvements

At the last Council meeting there was a discussion regarding financing the High School baseball field, tennis court and track improvement projects through funds remaining from the High School project. There were some concerns raised as to how the projects would be coordinated and if the projects would be modified. There was discussion on whether an outside professional should be brought in to look at the projects. A meeting was held with Parks & Rec Director Jeremy Hall, Superintendent of School Paul Smith, Facilities Director Don Harwood and Athletic Director Shaun Russell to discuss the projects. Mr. Cox would propose to put out an RFP for an outside professional to coordinate with staff to review the projects. The downside of the plan is that a baseball season could be missed on the field. The funds could be included in the bonding and there are a number of years available to expend the funds. The Town Manager will work to put together an RFP for an outside firm to look at the projects. The High School Building Committee would need to provide a resolution to include these projects in the full High School project. Mr. Cox will work with the Building Committee on that process.

New Business

Discussion & Possible Approval of Epoch Arts Neighborhood Assistance Act Project

Mr. Johnson recused himself from the meeting for this item as he is on the Board of Directors for Epoch Arts.

The CT Neighborhood Assistance Act is a tax credit program designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses who make cash contributions to these entities.

A public hearing was held for this item prior to this meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the submission of paperwork for the Epoch Arts 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act project to the State of Connecticut. Voted (6-0). Mr. Johnson recused himself from this vote.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the Town Manager Report, which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. He also noted that per the 2020 unaudited budget the Town reached 100% of the budgeted revenue for the year.

Update on the Building Department

Mr. Cox provided three weeks of permit reports to the Council for review. He noted there is a need to modify the feedback form that is given to residents that interact with the department and apply for permits. Timely response issues were discussed as well as the possibility of Zoom meetings for some inspections.

Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to appoint Jeffrey Leith to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board with a term through December 31, 2023 and Beth Kelpen to the Housing Authority with a term through December 31, 2021. Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

None

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

June Board & Commission Summary

Council members received the June Board and Commission summary.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Voted 7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk