

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 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 Town Manager David Cox

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. 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 Regular Meeting of May 25, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Presentations

Presentation on House Bill 6107 and Other Relevant Legislation

Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli provided an overview of House Bill 6107 and how it could affect the town. The full bill and memo will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

House Bill 6448 discusses outdoor dining provisions and remote and hybrid meetings. There is no longer a mandate for certain boards and commissions to hold remote or hybrid meetings. Towns may hold in-person, remote only or hybrid meetings. Each board or commission has the discretion as to how it plans to conduct its business.

House Bill 6655 is now focused on eliminating barriers to regionalization.

Ray Zatorski, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission, commented on the opt out provisions for House Bill 6107 for accessory dwelling units and he suggests opting out so the Town can retain control.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

None

Continued Business

Consideration & Possible Action on WPCA Water Budget

Public Utilities Administrator Scott Clayton presented the second reading of the 2021-2022 WPCA Water Budget. A public hearing was held on June 1 although no members of the public attended. There is no recommended increase in rates.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve the FY 2021-2022 Water Budget as presented. Voted (7-0)

New Business

Set Date for Public Hearing for Neighborhood Assistance Act Application

The CT Neighborhood Assistance Act requires a public hearing prior to applications being submitted. Epoch Arts has again submitted an application seeking support of energy efficiency improvements for HVAC at their building on Skinner Street. Mr. Johnson noted that he is on the Board of Directors at Epoch Arts and will not be able to vote on approving the application but can vote to schedule the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to set a Public Hearing date of Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:30pm for the Neighborhood Assistance Act. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager Report

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds

Mr. Cox noted that the town will receive approximately \$3.7 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund. He has asked staff to provide recommendations for the funds. He will review the information and then provide Council with some recommendations. The funds need to be obligated by December 2024 and used by December 2026. It was suggested to have a Town Council workshop to discuss the use of the funds.

Mr. Cox also reported on the rainstorm on Friday, June 4 that washed out portions of the road and sidewalk in the Village Center and on White Birch Road. The storm water systems could not handle the quantity of rainwater that fell in such a short time. Portland Reservoir Road, Wangonk Trail and Sears Park beach also had issues that are being addressed. Mr. Cox gave kudos to the Department of Public Works staff that have worked on many projects that performed well during the rainy weather.

Mr. Cox provided an overview of his written report which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. He also noted that the Board of Education has been named a Board of Distinction. Also, canine officer Ardo and his handler Officer Wilson made a traffic stop that resulted in finding 25 bags of narcotics in the vehicle.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

None

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

May 2021 Board and Commission Summary

Council members received the May 2021 Board and Commission summary.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm.

Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk