

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
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 submitted. 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 May 10, 2022 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Presentations

Introduction of New Library Director Timothy Kellogg

Mr. Cox introduced the new Library Director Timothy Kellogg.

Presentation of Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment

Art Thatcher of Berry Dunn, formerly Green Play, provided an overview of the Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey results. The full presentation document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Bids & Contracts

Approval of the C-PACE Partial Release Agreement

The Town originally entered into the C-PACE Agreement in 2013. C-PACE is a financing solution that helps make green energy upgrades accessible and affordable for building owners. Previously, the Town was responsible for billing and collecting the voluntary assessment through which the property owner repaid the cost of the improvements. Connecticut Green Bank will now undertake the billing and collection aspects. Currently no properties are making payments.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the amendment to the C-PACE Partial Release Agreement. Voted (7-0)

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Adoption of Fair Housing Resolution

This is the annual resolution updating the Town's commitment to upholding and enforcing fair housing for all within the community.

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution. Voted (7-0)

Consideration of a Resolution for the Allocation of American Rescue Plan Funds for Capital

This resolution follows the intent the Council expressed in its adoption of the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan in which funding using \$710,100 of ARPA Funds was indicated. The resolution identifies the projects being funded and the maximum amount being funded using ARPA.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to adopt the resolution allocating \$710,100 from the American Rescue Plan Funds for Capital. Voted (4-3) Mr. Brown, Mr. Reich and Ms. Walck against.

Review of an Ordinance Amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Solid Waste & Transfer Station and Set Public Hearing Date

This revision to the Town Code is to update the chapter related to solid waste disposal since the Town voted to leave the MIRA agreement as of July 1, 2022. More information is included in the Agenda Information included in the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Ms. Walck would like to see a clarification to Section G Part 3 related to bodily waste.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to set a public hearing for the Ordinance Amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Solid Waste and Transfer Station for Tuesday, June 14, 2022 during the Regular Town Council Meeting. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Reich reported that the High School Athletic Fields Sub-Committee will be meeting on Thursday. The tennis court project will be started after school is out in June. The track was completed today.

Mr. Cox reported that the Water Sub-Committee should be received the draft of the report late next week and there will be public meetings in June and July to educate the residents on the project.

Mr. Goff reported that the Appointments Sub-Committee will meet the week of June 6th for interviews.

Ms. Walck attended a Commission on Aging meeting where the survey and action plans were discussed. She had questions on the Housing Authority meeting format as the agenda requested that the space in the meeting be reserved for board members, tenants and staff and whether it was open to the public.

Follow Up on Ambulance Association Discussion

Mr. Philhower noted that the Ambulance Association provided their financials as requested. He would like Mr. Cox to follow up with them month regarding the consultant they have hired to assist in their business plan going forward.

New Business

Set Public Hearing Date for Review of Neighborhood Assistance Act Application(s)

The CT Neighborhood Assistance Act program requires a public hearing to hear comments on any applications received for the program. The town is expecting an application from Epoch Arts.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to set a public hearing for the Review of Neighborhood Assistance Act Application(s) for Tuesday, June 14, 2022 during the Regular Town Council Meeting. Voted (7-0)

Consideration of the FY 2022-2023 Public Water System Operating Budget & Water Rate Recommendation

Public Utilities Administrator Scott Clayton provided an overview of the 2022-2023 Public Water System Operating Budget and water rates. He noted there will be no increase in rates again this year. The WPCA will hold a public hearing and the budget will come back to the Town Council for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to send the 2022-2023 Public Water system Operating Budget & Water Rate Recommendation to a public hearing on June 7, 2022. Voted (7-0)

Consideration of Business Incentive Plan Application for Global 66 LLC

Chairman Philhower and Mr. Peterson recused themselves for this item.

Global 66 LLC has submitted a Business Incentive Program Application for their property at 265 West High Street. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) has reviewed and scored the application based on the requirements in the ordinance. The EDC has recommended approval of the application with a score of 47 which places them in the second-tier benefit range of 70% of fixed assessment abated for 3 years or 50% of fixed assessment abated for 5 years. They can choose term they would like. If approved, an agreement will be drawn up based on the ordinance and will be brought back to the Town Council for approval.

The EDC also is recommending a review of the ordinance to clarify some items. The ordinance notes that this incentive should be in place prior to construction but recent applications have been approved outside of this timeframe. It should be determined if that timeframe is unnecessary then it should be changed in the ordinance. The EDC will review the ordinance and will bring back suggested changes to the Town Council in the near future.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the Business Incentive Plan Application for Global 66 LLC. Voted (5-0)

Chairman Philhower and Mr. Peterson returned to the meeting.

Consideration of Job Description & Authorization for a Parks & Recreation Program Manager

Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Hall provided an overview of a proposed Program Manager position in the Parks & Recreation Department. The proposed position would add programming related duties to a current part time position, creating a full-time position. The position would be funded both by the current part time town funded budget and the additional portion would be funded

by the Special Revenue Fund. Mr. Philhower noted possible concerns with combining the salary with town and other funds, possible issues with the union and if the Special Revenue Funds were not sufficient, the process of the position being eliminated. He would like clarification from the Town's labor attorney on possible issues. This item will be brought back to the Council after consultation with the Town's labor attorney.

Acceptance of Easements from Owner of 82 Main Street

The Town has existing storm water facilities that cross this property from Barton Hill to Main Street and in order to ensure that the Town is allowed to maintain the pipes, catch basins and other structures, the property owner has expressed willingness to grant a permanent easement to the Town. Mr. Brown questioned the ownership of the strip of property between the building and the State's parking lot, thinking it was already town property. Mr. Cox noted in the research of the property it belongs to the building owner.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the acceptance of the easements from the owner of 82 Main Street as presented. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager 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. In addition to items in the report, he reported that the Meet and Greet with the new Library Director has been rescheduled to June 1 from 5pm-6pm at the Library. He also provided an update on the Police Department arrests recently related to gun charges. He gave credit to Sergeant Hardie Burgin, and Officers Matt Hanlon, Tim DeRoehn and Earl Snyder for their work on the arrests and to Chief Woessner for the mentoring of his staff.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,278.12. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk