

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 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 Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of May 24, 2022 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Hearings:

2022 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Application Received from 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.

Bryce Annino, 153 Wopowog Road, spoke in favor of the projects and the funding requested for Epoch Arts from the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to close the Public Hearing. Voted (7-0)

Whether the Town Should Allow the Sale & Manufacturing of Cannabis Products and the Related Regulations

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the State laws on cannabis noting a change that the municipalities can now decide how many dispensaries are in their towns. It is not limited to 1 per 25,000 residents any longer.

Adele Cyr, 27 Mathieu Lane, commented against the town allowing the sale of cannabis in town. She commented on the difficulties for youth receiving mixed messages if there is retail sale of cannabis products for adults in East Hampton. There are studies in other states that youth cannabis usage increased after retail sales for adults began. Edibles and potency are also concerns.

Leonard Johnson, 21 Long Crossing Road, commented against the town allowing the sale of cannabis. He feels the cost to the town for public services will outweigh the tax dollars coming in. He feels the town should say no to cannabis.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to close the Public Hearing. Voted (7-0)

An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Solid Waste and Transfer Station

No comments

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the Public Hearing. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Bob Yenknor, Spellman Point Road, asked how the town is handling VRBO and AirBNB in town. He noted some recent events in his neighborhood have caused concern. He asked if there are any regulations.

Chuck Yenknor, Spellman Point Road, commented that the town could use some regulations on short term rental properties.

Presentations

Lake Status Report

Chuck Yenknor, Chairman of the Conservation-Lake Commission, provided an overview of the May 2022 Report from Northeast Aquatic Research LLC. The aeration is working. The water clarity is the same as this time last year. The Health Department started their monitoring at the end of May and are testing clarity and algae by observation. The goal of the Conservation-Lake Commission is to keep the lake open all summer. There are five new retrofit projects for this year. They are working to increase education through the Lake Smart Awards. The Friends of the Lake are also giving grants up to \$150 for residents to make their lawns more lake friendly. The Conservation-Lake commission discussed a fertilizer ban but it is very difficult to enforce. They are looking at remediating the phosphorus already in the lake with the aeration system and the BioBlast treatments. He reviewed copper sulfate treatments noting that if applied properly locks up the phosphorus in the bottom of the lake, but this is just a temporary fix. There is a new project called Lake Guard Oxy that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Affordable Housing Plan Presentation

John Guskowski of Tyche Planning & Policy provided an overview of the Affordable Housing Plan. The full presentation document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Solid Waste & Transfer Station

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the Ordinance Amending the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Solid Waste and Transfer Station. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Reich reported that the High School Athletic Fields Building Committee met. The track is complete. Work will begin on the tennis court in the next couple weeks.

Mr. Cox reported that the Water Sub-Committee will meet in the next couple weeks. The draft Preliminary Engineering Report has been received.

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

Scott Clayton, Public Utilities Administrator, provided an overview of the Water System Operating Budget & Water Rates. The budget will be \$237,924.00 and the water billing rates will be \$40/EMU and the Commodity Charge will be \$11.50/1000 gallons, if approved. There is no increase in water rates.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the water budget and rates as presented. Voted (7-0)

Discussion of Adult Use Cannabis Regulations

The Town Council members were not ready to vote on the adult use cannabis sale and manufacturing at this meeting. They will direct any questions they have to the Town Manager to obtain more information and the item will be put on a future agenda for action.

New Business

Consideration of the 2022 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Application from Epoch Arts

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the submission of the 2022 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Application from Epoch Arts. Voted (7-0)

Review & Possible Approval of Police Department General Orders:

- a. **General Order 1.7 – Strip and Body Cavity Searches**
- b. **General Order 5.24 – Roadway Hazards & Motorist Assistance**

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the Police Department General Orders. General Order 1.7 – Strip and Body Cavity Searches reflects changes in language specific to LGBTQ populations. General Order 5.24 Roadway Hazards and Motorist Assistance is a new General Order.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve Police Department General Order 1.7 Strip and Body Cavity Searches and General Order 5.24 Roadway Hazards & Motorist Assistance as presented. Voted (7-0)

Consideration of Algaecide Treatment in Lake Pocotopaug

Chuck Yenker, Chairman of the Conservation-Lake Commission requested that the Council approve an algaecide treatment for Lake Pocotopaug. Their recommendation is to make the Lake Guard Oxy the first option to deploy if needed to treat a significant blue green algae bloom. If the permit cannot be obtained in time, then the copper sulfate should be the backup choice.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Goff to approve the use of Lake Guard Oxy with the copper sulfate treatment as a backup if the Lake Guard Oxy permit is not received in time. 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. Mr. Cox also reported that the Tax Sale took place earlier in the day. Seven properties were sold to private entities and two properties were taken by the Town.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Reich to appoint the following:

- David Price – Clean Energy Task Force
- Jack Solomon – Clean Energy Task Force
- Casey Donnelly – Alternate – Middle Haddam Historic District Commission
- Peter Pach – Alternate – Middle Haddam Historic District Commission
- Matthew Walton -Alternate – Planning & Zoning Commission

Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

None

Public Remarks

Bob Yenknor, Spellman Point Road, commented that the Save the Lake Coalition supports the Conservation-Lake Commission. In 2020 the sale was not closed. In 2021 the town saw substantial rainfall with a lake closure. The goal is to keep the lake open. The lake is still better than it was 10 years ago.

Leonard Johnson, 21 Long Crossing Road, commented that if the Council rejects the sale of cannabis in town, making the product not as convenient to obtain, it would send a message to young people and adults.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

May 2022 Board & Commission Summary

The Council received the May 2022 Board & Commission Summary.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk