

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
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. Peterson, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of January 28, 2023 as written. Voted (7-0)

**Public Remarks**

JoAnn Hewitt, 120 Hog Hill Road, commented that she would like to see pickleball courts at Sears Park.

Joe Sabat, Bellevue Street, commented in support of pickleball at Sears Park.

Eric Rosenberg, 15 Bay Road and Chairman of the Commission on Aging, commented his concern about a rumor of the library expanding into the Senior Center. He doesn't want to lose the center or diminish services for older adults.

Cindy Craig, volunteer at the Senior Center, does not want to lose the Senior Center and supports an upgrade.

Jo Ann Ewing, Senior Center Director, noted her concerns about the library expanding into the Senior Center. If there were any plans, the seniors should be involved. The article in the Rivereast on February 3 was perceived as a threat by the seniors.

Sali Cosford Parker, 30 Main Street, noted her concerns about the survey being proposed by the Library. She feels changes should be made so that good data is obtained.

**Presentations**

None

**Bids & Contracts**

None

**Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations**

None

## **Continued Business**

### **Sub-Committee Reports & Updates**

Mr. Cox reported that the Water Sub-Committee will be meeting the week of February 20<sup>th</sup> with the engineers.

Mr. Reich reported that the Middle School Roof Committee will have their first meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

### **Follow-Up Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Tax Relief Programs Including Establishing a Public Hearing Date**

Mr. Cox provided a review of the changes to the proposed ordinance regarding tax relief programs. Discussion included whether the line under Line of Duty Death should include “Travel to and from the place of business is not considered in the line of duty.”

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to leave the line “Travel to and from the place of business is not considered in the line of duty” in the document. Voted (5-2) Mr. Brown and Mr. Goff voted against.

Council members also agreed to adjust section 278-54 to include a 0% interest rate.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 during the regular Town Council meeting for the ordinance amendment. Voted (7-0)

## **New Business**

### **Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Library Strategic Plan Survey**

Library Director Tim Kellogg provided an overview of the proposed survey to assist in the process of developing the Strategic Plan for 2023-2026. The Library Advisory Board has approved the survey. Council members expressed their concerns on portions of the survey including building initiatives and the timing of when any kind of library project would be done noting the survey information could be out of date by that time.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to postpone the Library Strategic Plan Survey indefinitely. Voted (5-2) Mr. Brown and Mr. Reich against.

### **Consideration and Possible Action Regarding RFP for Watershed Projects**

Mr. Reich recused himself from this item as he is on the Edgemere Condominium Board.

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the RFP for the Watershed Improvement Project #7 & 8. The memo from Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Hall that outlines the projects will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk’s Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the RFP for the Watershed Projects #7 & 8 as presented. Voted (7-0)

### **Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Police Department Policies/General Orders**

- 1) **General Order 2.1 - Organizational Structure**
- 2) **General Order 2.6 - Organization and Management**
- 3) **General Order 5.9 - Traffic Enforcement**
- 4) **General Order 5.10 - Securing Prisoners**

- 5) **General Order 5.16 - Marine Patrol Operations**
- 6) **General Order 8.1 - Recruitment**
- 7) **General Order 9.1 - Training-Administration**

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the seven General Orders being submitted for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve General Orders 2.1, 2.6, 5.9, 5.10, 5.16, 8.1 and 9.1 as presented. Voted (7-0)

### **Town Manager's 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. He also noted he attended a meeting at the RiverCOG. Congressman Joe Courtney was in attendance regarding a federal grant that could be used to develop roadway safety projects. The RiverCOG can prepare documents regionally which could include the Route 66 corridor, sidewalk improvements or better service for MAT transit.

### **Appointments**

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

- Ethics Commission – Mary Krogh
- Park & Rec Advisory Board – Natalie Hurt

Voted (7-0)

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$26,209.37. Voted (7-0).

### **Public Remarks**

Marty Swan, EH Volunteer Fire Department, commented that the CT Firefighters Association covers firefighters for 24 hours after a call in Line of Duty deaths.

### **Communications, Correspondence & Announcements**

- a. January 2023 Board & Commission Summary
- b. State of CT Drinking Water Section – Well Permit Application – Edgewater Hill
- c. Eversource Infrastructure Updates – East of Hurd Park

Council members received the documents listed above. Mr. Philhower also noted that Terry Concannon resigned from the Housing Authority Board.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk