

**Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Dean Markham, Vice Chairperson Karen Wanat, Council Members Deborah Cunningham (via Zoom), Richard Knotek, Jack Solomon, and Jordan Werme and Town Manager David Cox.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Markham 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 Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Knotek, to adopt the agenda as submitted. Voted (6-0).

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of January 23, 2024

A motion was made by Mr. Werme, seconded by Mr. Knotek, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of January 23, 2024 as submitted. Voted (6-0).

Public Remarks

None

Actions Regarding Town Council Vacancy

Motion to Accept the Resignation of Council Member Brandon Goff

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to accept the resignation of Brandon Goff from the Town Council as of January 31, 2024. Voted (6-0)

Motion to Appoint Timothy Feegel to Fill the Town Council Vacancy

A motion was made by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to nominate Timothy Feegel for the Town Council to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Goff's resignation. Voted (6-0)

Swearing In and Seating of New Council Member

Town Clerk Patricia Burnham administered the oath of office for Timothy Feegel.

Mr. Feegel was seated on the Town Council.

Presentations

None

Bids & Contacts

None

Resolutions/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations

Review and Set Public Hearing for an Ordinance Amending Chapter 273 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Streets and Sidewalks Concerning Excavation of Streets and Activities Impairing Traffic Flow

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the proposed ordinance changes regarding streets and sidewalks concerning excavation of streets and activities impairing traffic flow. The ordinance provides requirements for permits and bonds from those undertaking work and will identify certain standards for protection of workers, motorists and pedestrians in and around those work sites. The draft ordinance will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, February 27, 2024 during the regular Town Council meeting for the Ordinance Amending Chapter 273 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Streets and Sidewalks Concerning Excavation of Streets and Activities Impairing Traffic Flow. Voted (7-0)

Review and Possible Action on a Resolution Establishing a Water Committee

Mr. Cox provided an overview of a resolution establishing a Water Committee as an advisory body to the Town Council with responsibility for overseeing, publicizing, receiving community input on and advising the Town Council on efforts to establish a new water source, interconnect existing Town water systems and expand municipal water in the Town. The draft resolution will be included in the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The members of the committee will be nominated later in the meeting under Appointments.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Werme, to adopt the resolution establishing a Water Committee as presented. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Knotek noted appointments and reappointments will be done later in the meeting.

Mr. Solomon reported the Capital Committee has sent their portion of the budget to the Board of Finance.

Ms. Cunningham attended the Library Advisory Board Meeting and the Fire Commission and introduced herself as the liaison.

Mr. Werme attended the Board of Education meeting. There was public discussion on their budget. All information is on the Board of Education website.

New Business

Review and Possible Action on Revisions to the Job Description for the Recreation Program Coordinator

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the revised job description for the Recreation Program Coordinator.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Knotek, to approve the revised job description for the Recreation Program Coordinator as presented. Voted (7-0)

Review and Possible Action on Revisions to the Firefighters Awards Program

- **Reaffirm Trustees**
- **Change Investment Advisor**

Finance Director Jeff Jylkka provided an overview of two memos for the Firefighters Awards Program. The first reaffirms the trustees by position and name and the second changes the investment advisor to Fiducient Advisors, which is the same company used for other town accounts.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reaffirm the trustees of the Fire Department Awards Program as follows: Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners – Darin Hurne; Volunteer Fire Chief – Robert Rainville; Firefighter at large – John Kovach; Town Finance Director – Jeff Jylkka. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to change the investment advisors for the Firemen's Pension Plan to Fiducient Advisors. Voted (7-0)

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Police Department Policies/General Orders - General Order 5.5 – Family Violence

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the General Order 5.5 – Family Violence.

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Werme, to approve the Police Department General Order 5.5 – Family Violence, as presented. Voted (7-0)

Discussion of Budget Public Input Process

Mr. Cox provided an overview of opportunities for the public to participate in the budget process:

- Tri-Board Meeting – Thursday, February 22nd at 5:30pm – the public can comment
- March Board of Finance Meeting – Town Manager and Superintendent will give a presentation on their budgets
- The week of March 18 the Board of Finance will hold workshops with each department
- The Board of Finance will then deliberate
- Board of Finance will give budget to Town Council in mid-April
- Public can speak at Town Council meetings in person or by Zoom
- Emails can be sent to budget@easthamptonct.gov
- Recorded messages can be sent through a link on the Town website
- Council members Jordan Werme and Deb Cunningham have scheduled Listening Sessions on the following dates:
 - February 27 – 4pm to 6pm - Town Hall
 - February 28 – 2pm to 3pm - Senior Center
 - March 5 – 6pm to 8pm - Library/Community Room
 - March 16 – 9am to 11am - Air Line Trail
- One to two members of each elected body will be present to listen
- There will be a brief overview of the budgets by the Town Manager with a brief statement from a Democrat and a Republican
- Public can provide comments, concerns and opinions with a time limit of up to 6 minutes
- It will not be a question and answer session
- The sessions will be recorded and transcribed

A motion was made by Mr. Werme, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to approve the four dates and locations noted above for the Listening Sessions. 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. Mr. Cox highlighted the Library's Strategic Plan Process, the process for repairing the Wopowog Road culvert, the RFP for mowing town properties and the new K9 Hero has been picked up and will graduate in May from the Police Academy with handler Officer Steven Wawruck.

Ms. Wanat thanked the Rotary Club for the fundraising for the new police dog.

Mr. Knotek asked why the Army Corps of Engineers is involved in the Wopowog culvert repair. Mr. Cox noted it is because it is a waterway.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to appoint Jack Solomon, Tim Feegel, Dean Markham, David Terry, Anthony DeSimone and Robert Drewry to the newly created Water Committee. Voted (7-0). The seventh member of the committee will be named at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Werme, to appoint Paul Wisniewski and Diane Achenbach-Zatorski to the Board of Assessment Appeals with terms through November 2025. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to reappoint David Price to the Clean Energy Task Force with a term through December 31, 2025. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reappoint Deb McKinney to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board with a term through December 31, 2026. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to reappoint Ray Zatorski to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term through December 31, 2028. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to reappoint Matthew Walton as an alternate member of the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term through December 31, 2025. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reappoint Kevin Kuhr to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term through December 31, 2028. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reappoint Shelley Grendzinski to the Housing Authority (tenant commissioner) with a term through December 31, 2028 and to the Commission on Aging with a term through December 31, 2026. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to reappoint Eric Germaine to the Board of Fire Commissioners with a term through November 30, 2026. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reappoint William Abbott to the Board of Fire Commissioners with a term through November 30, 2026. Voted (7-0).

A motion was made by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to appoint Alison Walck as a Republican moderator. Voted (4-1-2) Mr. Solomon abstained and Mr. Werme and Ms. Wanat against.

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Worme, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$7,522.83. Voted (7-0).

Public Remarks

Daniel Finn, 85 Champion Hill Road, congratulated Tim Feegel on his appointment to the Town Council, thought the Listening session program brought about by Mr. Werme and Ms. Cunningham was a great idea and he also spoke about the value of special education in the schools. He commented on his own daughter and the value of her special education program and the dignity and equality it provides to the student.

Russ Kaplan, Chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force, provided information on a presentation at the Senior Center on February 20th about the Shared Clean Energy program. He thanked Jo Ann Ewing and Eric Rosenberg for their support of the program.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

January 2024 Board and Commission Summary

Council members received the January 2024 Board and Commission Summary.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk