

**Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Dean Markham, Vice Chairperson Karen Wanat, Council Members Deborah Cunningham, Tim Feegel, 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 (7-0).

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of February 13, 2024

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of February 13, 2024 as submitted. Voted (7-0).

Public Hearing

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

Town Manager David Cox provided an overview of the ordinance and proposed language changes. Language was added to the draft to have police officers required unless the Chief of Police determines they are not needed on a particular job.

No comments were given.

Chairman Markham closed the Public Hearing.

Public Remarks

Russell Kaplan, Chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force, invited the Town Council to a presentation from the Sierra Club regarding the Inflation Reduction Act at 6:00pm on Tuesday, March 5 in the Police Training Room.

Presentations

None

Bids & Contacts

None

Resolutions/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations

Review and Possible Action on 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

Members discussed the ordinance changes. Mr. Solomon preferred the original amendments, but the new amendments make the police officers required for all jobs on a certain list of roads and gives the Police Chief the option to tell a company that police officers are not required.

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the amended version of the ordinance presented at the meeting. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Werme, to amend the motion to approve the original version of the ordinance without the changes presented at the meeting. Voted (1-6) Mr. Solomon in favor.

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to add a designee for the Chief of Police and reverse the words “other” and “such” in Section 273-23 Item B. Voted (7-0)

Chairman Markham suggested keeping a record of how the process is working so if needed, changes could be made in the future.

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Knotek noted that the Appointment Sub-Committee met prior to the regular meeting and interviewed residents for various board and commission positions. No appointments will be made tonight but reappointments will be done later in the meeting.

Mr. Werme attended the Board of Education meeting where their budget was voted (8-1) in favor to be put forward to the Board of Finance. It is a significant increase in dollars but status quo for staff and services.

The first Listening Session was held prior to the regular meeting. A handful of residents attended. The next session is Wednesday, February 28th at 2pm at the Senior Center. Future sessions are Tuesday, March 5 at 6pm at the Public Library and Saturday, March 16th at 9am at the Air Line Trail.

New Business

Review and Possible Action on Library Strategic Planning Community Survey

Library Director Christine Cachuela provided an overview of the Library Strategic Planning process and a Community Survey they would like to distribute online and on paper.

Mr. Markham also welcomed Christine as the new Library Director. Ms. Cunningham noted she met with Christine recently and she is doing a great job at the Library.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to approve the Library Strategic Planning Community Survey as presented. Voted (7-0)

Review and Possible Action on Engineering Services Agreement for Sodium and Chloride Testing on Residential Wells

Ms. Cunningham recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Cox explained that the Town received notice from the State about two residential wells that were impacted by chloride and/or sodium and there were questions about whether it was caused by road deicing. The testing that would be conducted under the agreement will demonstrate any seasonality to the issue and show potential links, or lack thereof, to the deicing activities.

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Werme, to approve the engineering services agreement for chloride and sodium testing in residential wells by GEI Consultants in the amount of \$20,700 as presented. Voted (6-0) Ms. Cunningham was recused.

Ms. Cunningham returned to the meeting.

Review and Possible Action Regarding Police Department Policies/General Orders - General Order 10.7 – Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information Checks Made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of General Order 10.7. Changes will be made to the wording as follows:

- Item VI – B – The acronym LASO will be spelled out
- Item VIII – The acronym TAC will be spelled out.

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Werme, to approve the Police Department General Order 10.7 Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information Checks Made or Non-Criminal Justice Purposes, as amended above. 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 Listening Session dates, the budget information on the Town website and provided additional information on the Wopowog culvert. He noted that the Army Corps of Engineers regulations are different dependent on the time of year. Projects starting by April 1st need to have the site de-watered completely and projects that begin July 1st can work in the water. Pricing will be obtained through the RFP for de-watering.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reappoint the following:

- Elizabeth Sennett – Arts & Culture Commission – term through December 31, 2026
- Jonathan Searles – Clean Energy Task Force – term through December 31, 2025
- Cynthia Shirshac – Library Advisory Board – term through December 31, 2026
- Casey Donnelly – Middle Haddam Historic District Commission Alternate – term through December 31, 2028
- Kara Pederson – Middle Haddam Historic District Commission – term through December 31, 2028
- Ted Hintz, Jr. – Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate – term through December 31, 2025

Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to move Beth Angel from an alternate member on the Commission on Aging to a full member with a term through December 31, 2026. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to appoint John Pionzio to the final seat on the newly created Water Commission with a term through February 28, 2026. Voted (7-0)

Chairman Markham noted that Tim Feegel will replace Brandon Goff on the sub-committees and liaison positions he had been assigned to which includes: Appointments, Bylaws, Ambulance and Water.

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Feegel, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$734.01. Voted (7-0).

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

None

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk