

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 23, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman P. Loiselle called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT: David Dickson, William "Bill" Gahara, James Gorton, Jason Hyde, George Longfellow, David Ross (arrived at 6:35 pm), Patricia Rueppel (excused), Stuart Werksman, Chairman Paul Loiselle, David Jodoin (Town Administrator)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 9, 2008 – ***S. Werksman moved to approve the April 9, 2008 minutes. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. Motion carried.*** W. Gahara and D. Dickson abstained.

D. Jodoin introduced the newly hired Real Estate Appraiser, Cheryl Akstin to the Council. She will start the first week of May. The Town Administrator also informed the Council that Cliff Jones was hired as the new Code Enforcement Officer and was not able to attend tonight due to a family issue. He will start on Monday, April 28th.

G. Longfellow moved to nominate Cliff Jones as the Health Code Officer. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Elderly Exemptions

Chairman P. Loiselle expressed his concerns regarding the need to establish a written policy for updating elderly exemptions. There should be a policy in place to make sure that people who are getting exemptions are entitled to them.

J. Hyde: I assumed it was a yearly application. There has to be a yearly application.

G. Longfellow: They need to make an appointment for about 30 minutes. I think re-doing the applications every 3-5 years should be sufficient. The labor involved in doing it every year is tremendous.

D. Ross: I think it is a given, knowing the rules, that if your status changes and you don't take the appropriate action, it is a violation.

P. Loiselle: You still have to go back to the original form that they signed. There is nothing on that form that indicates they have to report any changes in their financial status.

J. Gorton: We have to follow what is being done at the State level.

Council consensus was for the Board of Assessors to form a committee to gather the information needed to review elderly exemptions.

Code of Ethics

The Human Resource Coordinator was assigned to come up with a proposed Code of Ethics. This will be presented to the Council for their review and approval in about a month.

Village School / New Town Hall

D. Jodoin updated the Council on the status of the Village School. The conduits are being installed for the computer and telephone lines. The contractors are working on the punch list items from the Fire Department. The parking lot will be paved soon. The Town Hall should be moving in by the end of May and should be open to the public after the Memorial Day weekend on Tuesday, May 27th if everything goes as planned.

Police Commission

Police Chief Steve Agrafiotis suggested to require current members of the Police Commission who are looking to be re-appointed to go through the regular process of application which include, criminal background and driver's records.

D. Ross moved to revise the application process for the Police Commission to include re-appointments. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comcast Issue

The Council received an inquiry from a constituent regarding the way Comcast does billing.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

D. Ross moved to forward the issue to the Attorney General's Office. Motion seconded by W. Gahara.

J. Hyde offered to take care of the issue.

J. Gorton moved to table. Motion seconded by D. Dickson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNH GIS CTAP Pilot Project Proposal

D. Jodoin provided the Council with some information on UNH Technology Center's proposal for an online GIS CTAP pilot project. The proposal has some benefits but there are some concerns with regards to privacy issues.

Council consensus was to invite them to the next meeting to explain what the project entails.

Fire Union Contract Negotiations

The process will be started. The Committee members will try to schedule their first meeting in May for a meet and greet session.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Public Hearing re: Acceptance of \$1,320 Grant from the Department of Environmental Services per RSA 31:95(b).

Chairman P. Loiselle opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm.

D. Jodoin explained that this is a grant the Town applies for every year for the waste oil-recycling program.

The public hearing was closed at 7:01 pm.

J. Gorton moved to accept the \$1,320 grant from the Department of Environmental Services per RSA 31:95(b). Motion seconded by J. Hyde. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Heads Point Neighborhood Speed Limit.

David Campbell: I represent Manchester Sand & Gravel. We are designing one of the neighborhoods for Heads Point development. We asked for a waiver from the Planning Board to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph at one particular neighborhood and it was unanimously approved. We went to the Police Department and you'll find a letter from the Chief stating he does not have any objections to reduce the

speed limit. This is a very low traffic area with limited access. We are requesting for the Council to approve reducing the speed limit to 25 mph.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

D. Ross moved to approve the request to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph. Motion seconded by W. Gahara. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

D. Jodoin informed the Council on the following:

1. The Economic Development Committee has applied for a grant through DRED to update the committee's web page. We should hear something in June whether the grant is accepted or not.
2. Due to fuel costs and the economy, there are issues with some budget items. The salt and sand shed are almost bare. Last year, the Town was able to fill them up at the end of the year. He suggested doing the same this year. The Family Services Department is almost over budget right now. Department heads were asked to closely monitor their budgets and have them come up with a list of items they may wish to encumber. The Town is working on locking in utility rates and heating oil as well as various other supplies with the School.
3. The White Farm Auction is scheduled for May 17th.
4. At their meeting on April 16th, the Economic Development Committee passed a resolution supporting the sewer bond.

D. Dickson offered to draft an editorial letter to the Hooksett Banner supporting Warrant Article #3, Sewer Bond.

D. Ross stated that the Council should approve any editorial letters from the Council.

J. Gorton stated he would prefer not including his name on the letter.

Discussion ensued regarding sewer capacity and the process of pre-selling capacity to developers like Manchester & Gravel for a proposed development.

J. Hyde stated he disagrees with the Council writing a letter in support of something that the Council did not unanimously approve.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

5. The Town Administrator congratulated Al Dionne (Emergency Management Director), Harold Murray (Deputy EM Director) and Fire Chief Michael Williams for running a successful training exercise held at the Safety Center.
6. He asked for the Council to sign a proclamation to be presented to the Citizen of Year, Mr. William H. Shackford. The event honoring Mr. Shackford will be held on Saturday, May 10th.

D. Ross moved to authorize the chair to sign the proclamation and make the presentation. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. Motion carried unanimously.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recycling & Transfer Advisory Board

The Board discussed the proposed automated trash collection. The majority of the committee is in favor of manual collection. The automated process will take an initial cost of over \$1 million.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Harold Murray, Deputy EM Director: The Home Depot donated sump pumps to the Town amounting to about \$500.

D. Jodoin: That will be on the next Council agenda for the 14th of May.

Michael Sorel, 54 Cross Road: This subject is very important to me personally and professionally. There was an article in the Hooksett Banner last week. Part of that article is inaccurate and incorrect. I would like to clarify the incorrect part this evening. I've spoken to Deb Brewster of TF Moran, as well as Gene Beaudoin. The Hooksett Banner made comments credited to me that the people of Hooksett wanted growth control. That is not true. I sponsored a growth management petition, which members of the Town Council and board committees have signed. It was a growth management petition, not growth control. There is a difference between control and management. My personal and professional position is, growth is good and the Town needs growth. Control is a negative word and I take issue with it when it's used and credited to me. I have calls into the newspaper, which have not been returned. I just want to clarify what I said to the reporter, which was not reported. Anyone who says I am for growth control is either misinformed or not telling the truth. My personal position is clear. I am supporting management of growth but I am not against growth. I am not criticizing the Planning Board for adopting the phasing ordinance and not supporting the Growth Management Ordinance.

D. Ross: At the last joint meeting, the current chairman stated that the new Growth Management Ordinance could be potentially indefensible again. Is that accurate?

M. Sorel: I will comment that the Town of Londonderry has a 6-page document that is inclusive of a phasing ordinance and a growth management ordinance. That document was put together with assistance from Dr. Philip Herr, who also served our community. I've spoken at length with Londonderry's Town Planner back when I was doing my research. I attended a conference about growth management when the two people assigned to attend were unable to go. It was a very simple 6-page document. I didn't understand why our previous Planner needed to put together a 12 to 14-page document in order to achieve what could be done for the best interest of the community. The Planning Board this time decided to go with a phasing ordinance, which I supported publicly. Dr. Herr pointed out that the phasing ordinance should be done in concert with conservation easements, conservation land purchases and changing of land density. Just the phasing ordinance by itself won't get the job done.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

W. Gahara moved to enter into a non-public session at 8:06 pm under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) "The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

W. Gahara moved to exit the non-public session at 8:20 pm. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

S. Werksman moved to enter into a non-public session at 8:22 pm under RSA 91-A:3, II (e) "Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the body or agency or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his membership in such body or agency, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled." Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

G. Longfellow moved to approve the March 26, 2008 non-public minutes. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

W. Gahara moved to exit the non-public session at 8:40 pm. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

G. Longfellow moved to divulge the non-public minutes of March 26, 2008. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Roll call vote failed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

David F. Dickson
Town Council Secretary