

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 21, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Chair W. Gahara called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT: David Boutin, David Dickson, James Gorton, Paul Loiselle, George Longfellow, Michael Pischetola (arrived at 6:55 pm), David Ross, Nancy VanScoy, Chairman William Gahara

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

D. Boutin moved at 6:35 pm to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) "Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant." Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

D. Boutin moved at 7:10 pm to exit the non-public session. Motion seconded by D. Ross. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

The Council made a statement that they voted not to divulge the minutes of the non-public session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 24, 2010 Non-Public (1) – G. Longfellow moved to approve the March 24, 2010 non-public (first session) minutes. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. Motion carried. D. Boutin and M. Pischetola abstained, not present at the meeting.

March 24, 2010 Non-Public (2) – P. Loiselle moved to approve the March 24, 2010 non-public (second session) minutes. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. Motion carried. D. Boutin and M. Pischetola abstained, not present at the meeting.

April 14, 2010 – D. Boutin moved to approve the April 14, 2010 minutes. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Motion carried. N. VanScoy and Chair Gahara abstained, not present at the meeting.

April 14, 2010 Non-Public – D. Boutin moved to approve the April 14, 2010 non-public minutes. Motion seconded by M. Pischetola. Motion carried. N. VanScoy and Chair Gahara abstained, not present at the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jason Hyde, 36 Edgewater Drive and John Danforth, 31 Dale Road, on behalf of the Boy Scouts requested for an exception to the Sign Ordinance to place signs at four designated public properties, namely, the Donati Field, Library, Transfer Station and the corner of Main Street and Route 3A. They will pay for the permit, place the signs and remove the signs in accordance with the ordinance.

Peter Rowell, Code Enforcement Officer, explained the Ordinance states that signs are to be placed on your own property or place of business and can not be placed on any public property, or other people's property. The Council could grant an exception as a courtesy to any non-profit organization.

This item will be discussed under "New Business".

PROCLAMATIONS

Hooksett Lion's Club Citizen of the Year – James A. Sullivan

The Council approved the proclamation and authorized the Chair to sign.

National Preservation Month (May) and Heritage Day (May 22nd)

The Council approved the proclamation and authorized the Chair to sign.

The Town will celebrate Heritage Day on Saturday, May 22nd. A schedule of events will be published.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Available Board Positions

Zoning Board of Adjustment, alternate member, exp. 6/2010

Appointments

D. Boutin moved to appoint Susanna Hargreaves to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, full member, exp. 6/2012. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

No scheduled appointment.

NEW BUSINESS

Quarterly Financial Report

Christine Soucie, Finance Director presented the quarterly (3rd quarter) report. 75% of the year has expired and roughly 64% of the budget was expended. Revenue for the 3rd quarter is at 52%. A little under where the Town was for the last 2 years. Administration's budget is 76% expended mainly due to Property and Liability Insurance and Workers Comp. These were paid in full for the year. Legal expenses are also higher because of the hiring of new Town Counsel. Building permits are down. Interest on deposits is lower than expected. State revenue is down. The four major sources of revenue (Motor Vehicle Registration, Building Permits, Interest on Deposits and State Revenue) are down, considerably.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

The Council requested for an update on all projected revenue shortages figures to be presented at their May 12th meeting.

Building Permit Fees

P. Rowell presented the proposed updated Building Department Permit Fees Schedule. Current fees were reviewed and compared with surrounding communities. The Town of Hooksett charged the least amount of fees. The new fees will bring the Town somewhere in the middle compared to other communities. The proposed fees schedule represents approximately 100% increase in both residential and commercial fees and will double the potential revenues in the Building Department. Other types of permits, not being charged in the past, were also added to the schedule.

The Council had a discussion on the proposed fees schedule. The final costs of residential and commercial fees including impact fees may be too high. This may discourage development.

The Council requested for more information on the fees schedule. They would like to see a side-by-side comparison of the old and proposed fees schedule with impact fees and all other associated fees included.

This item will be added to the May 26th agenda.

Acceptance of Donation from Pike Industries

At the last meeting, the Council accepted a gravel donation from Dale Hemeon. Pike Industries offered to donate its services to screen the gravel into sand and stone. The value of the donation is \$3,000.

M. Pischetola moved to accept the donation in the form of gravel screening service in accordance with RSA 31:95-e. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Sign on South Bow Road

Councilor Longfellow received a request from a resident to install a "Caution: Blind Person" signs in both directions on South Bow Road.

D. Ross moved to approve the signs as described and have them installed. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Motion carried unanimously.

Parking Lot Curb/Barrier

G. Longfellow suggested placing parking curbs or barrier at the Town Hall parking lot to prevent people from driving into the field by accident.

Dale Hemeon, Public Works Director would work on this with the Town Administrator's approval.

Perambulation

G. Longfellow asked if any of the Councilors would like to attend the meeting on Perambulation to be held on Wednesday, April 28th at 6:30 pm at the Council Chambers.

P Loiselle will attend the meeting.

Boy Scouts Signs

P. Loiselle moved to allow the Boy Scouts to place signs at four designated places (Donati Field, Public Library, Transfer Station and corner of Route 3A and Main Street) and to waive the fees. Motion seconded by D. Boutin. Motion carried unanimously.

DOT Project on Route 3

The Town Administrator drafted a letter, on behalf of the Council, to be sent to NHDOT urging them to proceed with the Route 3 project proposal. This roadwork will significantly improve the flooding issues in the area.

Council consensus was to authorize the Chair to sign the letter.

Councilor D. Boutin will hand deliver the letter at the meeting tomorrow.

Police Commission

The Town received legal opinions regarding the Police Commission from LGC and the Town's Legal Counsel. The Chair asked for a consensus to release the letters of opinion to the Police Commission and also to request for a copy of legal opinion from the Police Commission's Legal Counsel. The purpose is to have a better understanding on how to work with the Police Commission in a collaborative manner.

Council consensus was to release the legal opinions.

Gambling Legislation

D. Boutin informed everyone that the Gambling Legislation was "killed" in the house today.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Town Hall Preservation Committee

They have a meeting next Wednesday with Russ Pelletier of the Facility Advisory Committee who met with the Police Department and Code Enforcement Officer to discuss what could be done with the building. They will also discuss Heritage Day celebration.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The board is discussing how to improve the storage facilities. They are looking at a temporary ice rink for next winter. They are also working on mapping the trails.

Planning Board

The subdivision being split into five (5) properties was completed. They will bring the plan to the board for approval.

D. Ross left the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Police Commission

The Police Commission is looking for ways to save money and would like to have vehicle maintenance done in-house instead of having an outside vendor. Public Works will have to hire a certified mechanic to take care of the Police vehicles. They are asking for the Council's approval for Public Works to hire an additional mechanic.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

Chairman W. Gahara suggested adding this item to the next agenda to be discussed.

The Police Commission would like to know who should be in charge of Animal Control. The State RSA refers to the Town but not the Police Department, in particular to take care of stray animals. This has always been within the Police Department's jurisdiction but the line item was cut from the Police Commission's budget. They are required to quarantine and take care of animals before moving them to an animal shelter facility.

Note: The Police Department used to have an Animal Control officer several years ago.

The Police Commission also has some questions about deficit spending. In case of emergency, can they overspend their budget?

P. Loiselle explained that any department can request to overspend their budget at end of fiscal year but the funds have to come out of Administration or other departments' budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Nancy VanScoy
Town Council Secretary