

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the seventeenth day of March 2008 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Vincenzo Cordone at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

PRESENT: Vincenzo Cordone, Beverly Kenney, Sylvia Thompson, Thomas Buck; Town Solicitor Patricia Buckley; Town Manager William DiLiberio; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin.

Absent: Barbara Capalbo.

The meeting opened with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

HEARINGS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

COMMERCIAL HAULERS LICENSE RENEWAL

The Council opened a hearing on renewal of the following Commercial Haulers License:

RPKK, INC. d/b/a RPE Waste Services, Kyle Roode, 9 King's Factory Road, Richmond, RI. The application and renewal fee had been received. There was no one present representing RPE Waste Services. The Council requested the Town Manager to contact the Chief of Police to inform him that RPE Waste Services was operating without a valid license.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO ADJOURN AS LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

RESOLUTION RE: MARCH 29, 2008 LIGHTS OUT AMERICA DAY

Council President Vincenzo Cordone noted this House Resolution had been introduced by Representatives Savage, Rose, Malik, Dennigan and Melo. The Town Clerk read the House Resolution declaring March 29, 2008 as “Lights Out America Day” as follows:

“WHEREAS, “Lights Out America” is a nationwide conservation event which will occur on March 29, 2008 between the hours of 7-8 PM. On this night, all of America will be asked to turn off all non-essential lighting for an hour, and to install at least one compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) which will promote long lasting energy savings; and

WHEREAS, Our nation’s growing appetite for energy must be controlled to protect our planet from the effects of the climate crisis. It is estimated that turning lights out in America for even one hour could save as much as 15 percent of the energy consumed on an average Saturday night, and the ongoing benefits of installing CFL’s in your house are also significant energy savings; and

WHEREAS, By participating in “lights Out America Day” Rhode Islanders will reduce carbon emissions into our air, preserve the natural resources used to produce this energy, set a positive precedent for the rest of our nation, and result in ongoing reduced costs for the cities, taxpayers, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, In a similar event recently held in Sydney, Australia called “Earth Hour”, 2.2 million people participated. Their one hour of lights out meant that 24. 86 tons of carbon dioxide were not released into the air, the equivalent of taking 48,613 cars off the road for one hour;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby strongly promotes and encourages the entire State to turn off all non-essential lights between 7 PM and 8 PM on March 29, 2008, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be, and he hereby is authorized and directed to submit a duly certified copy of this resolution to all City and Town Councils of the State of Rhode Island”.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO ADOPT THE HOUSE RESOLUTION DECLARING MARCH 29, 2008 AS LIGHTS OUT AMERICA DAY.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Kenney removed the February 19, 2008 Executive Session Minutes from the Consent Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

Accept the following reports: Animal Control Official, Town Clerk, Meal Site Manager, Chief of Police.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

Council President Cordone reported that a physician who had his practice in Hope Valley, Dr. Celestino had recently passed and requested the Council adjourn in his memory.

TOWN SOLICITOR REPORT

Town Solicitor Patricia Buckley reported she would be attending a comp time grievance hearing on March 18, 2008 and had been dealing with a number of other pending legal matters.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Council President Cordone reported he had attended the budget workshops held on March 10 and 13, 2008 involving roughly six hours time and that only one resident had attended. He stated another was scheduled for March 31, 2008 at 7:00 PM and hoped more individuals attended. He stated he would expect more individuals would attend the budget hearing. He reported the Council had taken some bold moves, cutting a detective position from the Police Department and hoped the public recognized the Council's efforts with keeping spending in check. He noted the Chariho School Committee had approved their proposed budget and had done nothing the Town Council, nor what some school committee members, had requested.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager William DiLbero reported he had attended a human rights violation hearing; reported there had been a dry run of the municipal court; had been working with budget matters; that he had met with the developers regarding the proposal for Exit 2; met with the developers for a village-type development in the Exit 1 area; met with the Recreation Director and Mealsite/Senior Program head regarding the development of senior programs; attended a meeting with RI League of Cities and Towns; that he would be preparing articles for a newsletter

for distribution in May. Mr. DiLibero passed out a written recommendation to the Council regarding awarding the bid for auditing services to Bacon & Company. He stated both he and the Finance Director felt that it would be in the Town's best interest to continue with this firm and noted the lowest bidder was out of Maine. Mr. DiLibero passed out a leaflet to the Council from GrowSmart RI involving three upcoming seminars for Town Officials; passed out information from the RI League of Cities & Towns on renewable energy which costs approximately one cent more per kilowatt hour than non-renewable energy. The handout listed kilowatt usage by Town and Mr. DiLibero noted Hopkinton had been left off the list. He stated he would address the omission.

In regards to the auditing services bid, Scott Bill Hirst of Maple Court commented there had been a recommendation about auditing services dating back a number of years. Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin noted former Town Treasurer Kenneth Finch had recommended a policy of not staying longer than two contract cycles with any one auditor. She stated this would be the second, three year contract with Bacon & Company.

OLD BUSINESS

TOWN BILLS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO PAY THE TOWN BILLS WITH NO ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

INTERVIEWS – APPOINTMENTS – RESIGNATIONS

Interviews for Boards and Commissions were conducted at 6:45 PM.

FUEL MONITORING

The discussion on fuel monitoring was continued to the April 7, 2008 Town Council Meeting. A memorandum will be prepared for the DPW Director informing him that the Council was looking to learn more about the checks and

balances that were in place relating to the use of the Town's fuel. Councilor Thompson reported that there was new video monitoring equipment in place at the Public Works Department.

REQUESTS FOR STREET LIGHTS:

Two requests for street lights had been received by the Public Works Director. He provided a street light investigation report and recommended they both be approved as the locations of the proposed light were 300 feet or more from an existing light, the locations were at street intersections and were on an existing power company poles. One street light was requested by Ronald Levesque at the intersections with Main Street at Wheeler Lane and the second street light was requested by residents at the intersection of North Drive and Lynn Lane.

Councilor Thompson reported in 1993 a study had been conducted for every street and every light pole with findings that there were that some street lights were not necessary and were turned off, that a light located on a church property that had been charged to the Town was turned back over to the church. She stated often times people who do not have a street light, do not want a street light. Mr. DiLibero stated the Public Works Director was working on a street light inventory.

Main Street/Wheeler Lane Street Light Request

No input was provided by any adjacent property owners supporting or opposing this street light request.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE STREET LIGHT REQUEST AT MAIN STREET AND WHEELER LANE, RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

North Drive/Lynn Lane Street Light Request

The adjacent property owners supported this street light request.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE STREET LIGHT REQUEST AT NORTH DRIVE AND LYNN LANE, RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was brought forward.

PUBLIC FORUM

Scott Bill Hirst of Maple Court stated he would be voting against the proposed Chariho budget as no management study was planned. He applauded this Town Council, even though he was on opposite sides of the political spectrum, for their involvement with the Chariho budget process. He commented that Richmond had two finance committee members involved and with the existing building problems in the district, he felt the school committee had missed an opportunity to do something positive for the kids.

Finance Department employee Agnes Hall stated the next cash requirement report would include descriptions.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF DR. CELESTINO.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk