

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the third day of October 2016 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council Vice President Barbara Capalbo at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02832.

PRESENT: Barbara Capalbo, David Husband; Thomas Buck; Town Solicitor Kevin McAllister; Town Manager William McGarry; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin. Absent: Frank Landolfi, Sylvia Thompson.

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

HEARINGS

PROPOSED DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE

The proposed Digital Sign Ordinance had been scheduled for the Town Council to render a decision on an amendment to Code of Ordinances, Chapter 134 – Appendix A “Zoning” Section 27. Signs, to add a proposed new section entitled “Digital Sign Ordinance” which shall also include replacement language for Section T introduced and sponsored by Councilor Barbara Capalbo and heard on September 19, 2016.

Council Vice President Capalbo read from the ordinance that it will establish definitions for Digital Signs, including definitions for Light Emitting Diodes (LED); Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLED); Monument Sign; Free Standing Sign; Static_Message and Nit - a unit measurement of luminance. Replacement language for Section T will describe and define self-illuminated outdoor signs, billboards and digital media displays allowing the use of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) or Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLED) panels, collectively referred to in this subsection T as “Digital signs” for the purposes of advertisement in public display, provided specific terms and conditions are met and adhered to. Section T will specify where they are allowed, requires digital signs display only static messages, governs the size of the sign, its brightness, the size of the text or

graphic, addresses display time and lists the colors that will be allowed in specific zones and colors to be used by specific agencies. It was noted that all other Sections of Chapter 134, Section 27 to remain in full force and effect. The amendment shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Councilor Buck was satisfied with the ordinance and made a motion to adopt the ordinance as read. He rescinded his motion as there was no second, because the agenda had identified this matter under the heading of a hearing and, in an abundance of caution based on Solicitor advice that the decision could be a challenged, the Council proceeded accordingly as a hearing. Councilor Husband felt the ordinance was fine. There were no comments from the public.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO CLOSE HEARING AND SET A DATE TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE.

IN FAVOR: Capalbo, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The decision on the Digital Sign Ordinance will be made on October 17, 2016 and will be listed under Old Business as recommended by Solicitor McAllister.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2016 were removed from the Consent Agenda for correction and to vote on them separately. Councilor Husband asked about the Holiday Sales License hearing as the Council had changed the term of the license to ten years. The Town Clerk acknowledged this. She noted the Town Council is the Licensing Board and that there had been a change in ownership to a local business; that situation required the new owners Holiday Sales License to be approved by the Council.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BUCK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Set December 5, 2016 for renewal of Holiday Sales Licenses; Set

January 2, 2017 for renewal of Campground Licenses; Set January 17, 2017 as the second Town Council Meeting in January due to Martin Luther King Day Holiday; Set January 17, 2017 as hearing date for renewal of Commercial Haulers Licenses; Approve abatements due to corrections/adjustments to motor vehicles submitted by the Tax Assessor.

IN FAVOR: Capalbo, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A correction was made to the September 19, 2016 Town Council Meeting Minutes on page 13, second paragraph, five lines up from the bottom, to amend the sentence so it would read “Mr. McGarry explained it would commence after his assistant was back from vacation and after the October 7, 2016 water line committee meeting”.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 WITH CORRECTIONS.

IN FAVOR: Capalbo, Buck

OPPOSED: None

ABSTAIN: Husband

SO VOTED

Councilor Husband had abstained as he had not been present.

PUBLIC FORUM

Evelyn Wheeler, member of the RI Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries was present. She submitted information to the Council relative to legislation approved in 2011 by the General Assembly that would allow the Town to adopt an ordinance that could give an abatement of taxes to property owners who have a cemetery on their property. The information included an ordinance adopted by the Town of Narragansett.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager William McGarry reported the Town received notice from RIDEM that they have awarded the Town two grants. The first grant is for

\$400,000.00 for Langworthy Field improvements and the second is for \$100,000.00 for Depot Square Park. The former grant application was submitted by Town Planner James Lamphere and the latter by Land Trust members. On September 22, 2016, he and Deputy Planning Clerk Sean Henry, along with several members of the Land Trust, attended the RIDEM Award Ceremony held in Merino Park, Providence. He was currently awaiting formal documents from the RIDEM to the Town. He reported on September 23, 2016 at the request of Westerly Town Manager Derrick Kennedy, he joined three other town managers on a selection committee to evaluate several candidates for the position of police chief in the Town of Westerly. He reported during September, he continued to work with Finance Director Brian Rosso and Assistant Courtney Hyland to develop a Waterline System Ordinance, along with numerous related documents, i.e.: user notification letters, employee policy, current rate structure, new user applications, transfer of ownership forms, etc. in anticipation of the upcoming Waterline Review Committee meeting on October 7, 2016. Once reviewed and approved by the committee, the process of notifying the users, scheduling the removal of old meters and the installation of new ones will begin. They will also work closely with Leon Millis, our Water Manager, and Finance Director Brian Rosso to insure the accuracy of the readings at the time of transfer. Tax Collector Rita Deane, Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin and Mr. Rosso have familiarized themselves with the new application and ownership transfer forms, along with proposed future changes in the Town's billing system. The Town has already purchased the 50 meters and have gone out to bid for the plumbing services. Council Vice President Capalbo questioned the status of the meter installation. Mr. McGarry explained the 50 meters have been delivered and were being stored in a secure location at the Police Station. He noted the bid for plumbing services has been awarded but work cannot begin until after October 7, 2016, then the contractor will have thirty days to start installation and sixty days to finish installation.

NEW BUSINESS

DPW ELECTRICAL SERVICE UPGRADE & FIRE ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLATION

This matter had been scheduled to discuss and consider and possibly vote on awarding a bid for the DPW Electrical Service Upgrade and Fire Alarm System Installation to Commercial Electric, Inc. of East Providence, RI, the low bidder, in the amount of \$33,675.00, funded through the 2015-16 Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilor Buck had no questions, Councilor Husband asked how much had been budgeted for this project in the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. McGarry responded \$45,000.00 had been budgeted. The total bid price for the electrical service upgrade and fire alarm system installation including the \$4,990.00 paid to Crossman Engineering for the engineering services necessary for the project was \$38,665.00. The total project cost came in under what had been budgeted.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BUCK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND THAT THE HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL AWARDS THE BID FOR DPW ELECTRICAL SERVICE UPGRADE AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLTION TO COMMERCIAL ELECTRIC, INC. THE LOWE BIDDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,675.00.

IN FAVOR: Capalbo, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and vote the reappointment of Harvey Buford to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Buford submitted his renewal application and would like to continue serving on the Conservation Commission. Councilor Husband is the Council liaison to the Conservation Commission. He noted the Conservation Commission is Harvey Buford and Harvey Buford is the Conservation Commission. He supported Mr. Buford's reappointment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO REAPPOINT HARVEY BUFORD TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

IN FAVOR: Capalbo, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during the second public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF KENNETH NORTHRUP.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk