

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – August 1, 2016

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the first day of August 2016 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Barbara Capalbo, Sylvia Thompson, David Husband, Thomas Buck; Town Solicitor Kevin McAllister, Town Manager William McGarry; Deputy Town Clerk Lorraine Tarket-Arruda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER RIGL 42-46-(a) (2) & (a) (5) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL ADVICE/POTENTIAL LITIGATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS, AND POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO CONVENE AS A TOWN COUNCIL AND SEAL THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

Council President Landolfi announced there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2016; Executive Session Minutes of July 18, 2016; Set August 15, 2016 as a hearing date for a Special Event Permit filed by Foster Parrots; Approve abatements due to correction/adjustments to motor vehicles submitted by the Tax Assessor.

Councilor Capalbo wanted the July 18, 2016 Town Council Meeting Minutes removed for corrections. She questioned page 2 of those minutes, the standard rate was “\$5,000.00 per kilowatt hour.” Council President stated it should be “\$500.00 per kilowatt hour.” Councilor Capalbo pointed out on page 13, the fourth sentence stated “when it goes go to,” it should state, “when she passes who would the property go to.” Councilor Husband pointed out on page 14, it read “Council President” when it should state “Council President Landolfi.”

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH CORRECTIONS.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during the first Public Forum.

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Council President Landolfi stated he had received a phone call from Senator Algieri congratulating the Town Council for the decision to take a stand against the Transit Hub/Travel Center and hoped in November the citizens would also follow suit. He added the Town Council received letters from Representative Kennedy and Senator Elaine Morgan in support of our decision.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. McGarry stated on July 21, 2016, a meeting was held in the Town Council Chambers to discuss the progress of the Langworthy Field project.

He stated he met with James Lamphere, Sean Henry, Mary Sawyer, Geoffrey Marchant and Joe Gencarelli, the Principal at Hope Valley School. He stated the group reviewed the proposed plans and agreed to move forward with Phase I of the project.

Mr. McGarry met with Charlestown Council President Tom Gentz in his office on July 26, 2016 and discussed the options, steps and timetable for the future in anticipation of the purchase of streetlights from National Grid. He explained there had been a delay because National Grid had not yet provided PRISM with Hopkinton's inventory of streetlight's nor the quote. He added it would be a while for PRISM to start work in Hopkinton because they were working in other cities and towns at the present. Mr. McGarry stated on July 31, 2016 an advertisement for the Water Meter Plumbing Installation Services RFP was placed in the Providence Journal and the Westerly Sun, with a pre-bid meeting on August 4th, a bid opening on August 18th and a bid award on September 6th.

Mr. McGarry stated he spoke to National Grid and there were 38 double utility poles left to replace, adding last August there were 108 poles to replace and would continue to work with National Grid, Verizon, Cox Communications and local fire districts to reduce the rest of the double poles.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of potential for use of suitable municipal and/or Hopkinton Land Trust properties for solar PV facilities thereby generating potential tax credits and revenues.

Council Thompson stated she had met with an investor who had a solar panel company and had built many solar farms in Massachusetts. She explained the company recently built on a landfill and the company preferred to build on fifteen acres or more. She felt the Town had several locations that could be built on, one of which was Municipal Land. She explained the company had to install a dedicated line and needed to be as close to a substation as possible. She felt one possibility was the acreage behind the town hall, which was approximately fifteen acres and could generate enough money to offset the expenses of the Recreation Department, which was approximately \$150,000.00. She stated the company would take responsibility for the maintenance of the solar panels and surrounding area. She stated to make that happen the company would have to get

approvals from the state. Councilor Thompson stated she was interested in whether or not the Land Trust could legally use a portion of their land, and have an opportunity for revenue. Councilor Capalbo felt 15 acres was a large amount of land and felt the Land Trust should not use that large of a portion of land. She felt these could be built in landfills and gravel banks because these facilities were too large and extremely ugly. She did not feel the project would bring in as much money as anticipated and should be studied further. Councilor Buck asked how much electricity the town used per a year. Councilor Thompson stated 356,000 kilowatts. Councilor Buck stated the studies he had read indicated the Town would not get paid anywhere near that number, asking who would pay for the clearing of the land. He asked if the company would lease the land. Councilor Thompson replied yes there would be lease amount per acre. She explained there were two revenue sources, the lease amount per acre and tax credits. Council President Landolfi asked if solar panels would conflict with the PRISM program. Councilor Buck replied it would not. Council President Landolfi suggested a workshop with the Land Trust concerning the issue, whether this was an avenue they want to pursue and decide whether the project on Land Trust land was legal.

Proposed LED Ordinance – Discuss and consider an updated draft LED Ordinance

Councilor Capalbo stated the proposed draft amendment for the LED Electronic signs was as precise as it could be. She explained she had taken parts from a number of sign ordinances from different towns and had been working with Attorney McAllister to make the ordinance as clear as possible. She stated she welcomed suggestions if anyone felt there needed to be changes. She explained the issue was not with the sign, it was the LED lights that were placed into the sign. Councilor Husband questioned signs being 200 feet from a residential property line, because some businesses were spot zoned in residential areas. Councilor Capalbo stated this type of sign does not belong in a residential or historic zone. Councilor Buck pointed out that in the future, plasma screens would replace the LED lights. Councilor Capalbo felt she did not want those type of signs, then it becomes a television. Councilor Buck stated it could just be eliminated. Attorney McAllister suggested striking it which would be acceptable. Councilor Husband noted on the second page under “d” third sentence down read “no shall such sign” it should read “nor shall such sign”

Council President Landolfi questioned the time change in section “e” and felt there should be a shorter time period for the sign to be allowed to change. It was the consensus of the Town Council to change the time frame from 12 hours to 8 hours.

Councilor Capalbo explained on the last page of the ordinance under “p” the allowed digital colors were, blue, green or amber for signs in all Commercial, Retail, Industrial or Manufacturing Zones; Red for Emergency Fire/Ambulance; White for Hospital, Healthcare Facilities and Police.

Councilor Thompson suggested the ordinance go through staff for any suggestions or changes and have a hearing on it.

Planning Board Alternate

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO APPOINT JOSHUA BEDOYA AS A PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Husband, Buck, Thompson

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

John Pennypacker, Hope Valley, wanted to thank Councilor Thompson for the effort to bring solar to Hopkinton, but had a few concerns. He felt the twenty five acre offer that was made to Gary Marsh would saturate the town’s grid capacity and also take opportunity away from other farmers who also wanted to install solar panels. He felt solar panels should be installed next to I95 or somewhere industrial.

Council President Landolfi called for a motion to adjourn.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO ADJOURN.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Husband, Buck, Thompson

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Lorraine Tarket-Arruda

Deputy Town Clerk