

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the third day of September 2019 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Scott Bill Hirst, Barbara Capalbo, Sylvia Thompson, Sharon Davis; Alternate Town Solicitor Ron Cascione, Esq.; Acting Town Manager Brian Rosso; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin.

### **HEARINGS**

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

### **SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT**

The Council opened a hearing on an application for a Special Event Permit filed by Karen Windsor on behalf of Foster Parrots, Ltd. for their Annual Fundraiser with tour, live music and buffet, scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Foster Parrots, Ltd. facility located at 87 Woodville Alton Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832.

Karen Windsor, the applicant was present. She explained that this was Foster Parrots ninth year hosting this event which was attended by a mature crowd.

Foster Parrots is a parrot rescue and sanctuary organization. Ms. Windsor stated that the cost was for this event was \$65.00 and all the money went to support the approximately 400 parrots and other exotic animals they care for.

Town Clerk Cook-Martin advised that the application was complete and there was a request to waive police presence. The applicant had paid the filing fee of \$100.00 which covered the \$82.00 cost of advertising and it would be up to the Council if they wished to waive any fees. Councilor Thompson asked that all fees

be waived, as well as the police presence, and the advertising cost be paid out of the Council contingency fund.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT, TO WAIVE ALL FEES, GRANT A WAIVER OF THE POLICE PRESENCE AND PAY THE COST OF ADVERTISING OUT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL CONTINGENCY FUND.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS

FOLLOWS: Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2019 with minor corrections; Executive Session Minutes of August 19, 2019; Executive Session Minutes of August 5, 2019; Set November 4, 2019 as hearing date for renewals of Liquor Licenses and Victualling Licenses; Set December 2, 2019 as a hearing date for renewals/approvals of Holiday Sales Licenses; Approve refunds as a result of overpayments on 2018 & 2019 motor vehicle tax and veterans & service exemptions submitted by the Tax Collector.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Councilor Thompson wished to note that nice things do happen in town and noted that this past winter a tree had fallen on the home of a senior citizen. Her neighbor assisted and was able to get the tree off the roof; however, the tree had poked sixteen holes in the roof. They contacted a group called the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Group of Charlestown, RI and they are going to put a new roof on the house and they also found a local individual who will take down the remaining trees that are near the house. Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road spoke about a problem he has been having with his neighbor. He stated that he had tried to resolve the matter himself but eventually needed to contact the police, who responded quickly, listened to his complaints and asked why he had waited so long to contact them. Now, due to the police presence, things have quieted down. He thanked the police for their services. Mr. Moreau also thanked the Town Clerk's office for copying information he had put together for the Council and for reviewing the Town's website with the IT Director in order to make improvements. He stated that he, his wife and Carol Desrosiers went to a Land Trust meeting a few weeks ago and that they had no idea what the Land Trust did or that they are looking for volunteers to clean up trails. Lastly, he mentioned that there was a solar hearing scheduled for September 23, 2019 regarding an application which had been filed and date stamped May 9, 2019; and, that the solar ordinance went into effect on January 22, 2019. He stated that the current proposal is for a parcel which has 195 acres with 26 acres allotted for solar which equates to over 13% coverage. Mr. Moreau understood that the Council has to go ahead with the hearing, but he hoped it would be very limited as the solar ordinance only allows for 3% coverage. Sean Henry, who was the Planning Board clerk for about four years, advised that he recently accepted a position with the Town of North Kingstown and he wished to thank the Council for the opportunity he was afforded. Mr. Henry also noted that the last project he had worked on was the updates to the Zoning Ordinance. He stated that this was a project that was started several years ago by a consultant and then was put on hold. He advised that this was now going through the Planning Board for final review. He recommended to the Council that they keep the review of the Zoning Ordinance very high level and avoid getting caught up in wordsmithing issues;

that the Council trust their staff, Jim and Sherri; and, he did not recommend going through a document this size line by line which is less productive.

### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Council President Landolfi reported that last week Ron MacDonald, III, the Town's Emergency Management Agency Director, reported to our office that CodeRED Community Notification System representatives had asked the Town to run a test call to validate telephone numbers in Hopkinton's database. This test call would allow them to adjust system call speed and remove non-working phone numbers from the system. It will also alert citizens, who are not included in the emergency notification system, of the need to update their telephone numbers and contact information, so they can be contacted in an emergency situation. Overall, the test call will increase the efficiency of the system and speed at which notifications will be delivered during an actual emergency. The EMA Director reported that Hopkinton has not run a test since the Town originally started partnering with CodeRED, so he believes it is a worthwhile endeavor, particularly since hurricane season will soon be upon us. The test call is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>, starting around 10:00 a.m. Director MacDonald will place notices in the Westerly Sun, as well as on our webpage and social media pages, to alert as many people as possible to the upcoming test. He will record a test message and the CodeRED system will send out that message. Council President Landolfi stated that anyone wishing to update their numbers can contact the EMA Director through the EMA website, which is:

[www.hopkintonri.org/emergencymanagement](http://www.hopkintonri.org/emergencymanagement) or you can call (401) 377-2100.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **SET HEARING DATE RE: CENTRICA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS ZONE AMENDMENT & COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT – KAREN & JAMES CHERENZIA, 201 CHASE HILL ROAD**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss and consider setting a hearing date for Zone Amendment & Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment filed by Centrica Business Solutions for the following property: Karen & James Cherenzia, 201 Chase Hill Road; AP 2, Lot 32. Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin reported she had spoken with Attorney Steven Surdut who requested a

continuance on the scheduling of this hearing to the September 16, 2019 Town Council Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LOCATOR CARD POLICY DISCUSSION**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss and consider development of a formal town-wide policy that establishes specific criteria for the issuance of locator cards required for school enrollment purposes.

Council President Landolfi stated that the reason this item was on the agenda was because the Town Manager, William McGarry, received a call from the Superintendent of Schools, Barry Ricci, stating that he was aware of certain families that did not live in our town that are apparently seeking residency for school enrollment purposes. Council President Landolfi felt that what was missing from the required documents needed to obtain a locator card, was a site visit by the police to assure that the child is actually living in the premises. He felt that there should be a town policy with ramifications if someone obtains a locator card fraudulently. Councilor Thompson questioned how Charlestown and Richmond handled these matters and Council President Landolfi stated that the Town Manager will reach out to Charlestown's Administrator when he returns from vacation and that the Town Clerk had sent an email to the Charlestown Town Clerk, however, had not received a response. Councilor Capalbo felt that the Clerk's Office should call the police to do a check any time that it is a confusion, just to make it as clear as possible. Clerk Cook-Martin stated that should the town require that the police confirm residency, there be a standard practice in place before any locator card is issued and the procedure be posted on the town's website indicating that there may be a delay in issuing the locator card. Chief of Police David Palmer was present. Chief Palmer stated that the police department will be happy to perform these checks whenever they can, but usually the truancy officer is involved before they do. He suggested possibly asking to see any Court paperwork regarding residency of the child might be helpful. Council President Landolfi advised that they would see that the Solicitor's office starts working on this issue.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Carol Desrosiers of Pleasant View Drive spoke regarding the rescheduling of the solar hearings. She felt the public was becoming less and less engaged because of all the constant continuances and she felt this was a disservice to the public. Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road stated that he and his wife had come to tonight's meeting because of the solar matter being on the agenda. Tonight the Solicitor and Town Manager were not available to attend the meeting but there were replacements for them and he felt it should be the same way with the attorneys for the developers and solar companies. Mr. Moreau felt the developers should have a strict time line to follow much like the Town Council and Planning Board have. Councilor Thompson noted the matter on the agenda was strictly for scheduling and she did not feel the Council can limit them. Councilor Capalbo said that sometimes the extra time can be to the Council's advantage.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk