

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the seventh day of March 2022 A.D. the said hybrid meeting (in person and remote) was called to order by Town Council President Stephen Moffitt, Jr. at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Stephen Moffitt, Jr., Sharon Davis, Scott Bill Hirst, Michael Geary; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin; and, Robert Marvel, Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Solicitor Stephen Sypole participated remotely.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Hirst asked to remove the Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022 and Councilor Davis disagreed, noting that there were no corrections to be made, and felt it should be voted on.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2022; TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022; BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022; BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2022; APPROVE REFUND AS RESULT OF DUPLICATE PAYMENT ON REAL PROPERTY TAX SUBMITTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: Hirst

MOTION PASSED

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Councilor Davis reported that this week she received a phone call from a Hopkinton resident who wished to compliment Hopkinton for the town services that she received. The last snow/ice storm left so much ice on her steps and driveway that the resident felt that she could not safely get out to her car to obtain

groceries, etc. After falling on the ice, she crawled back to her house and called the Recreation Department at Crandall House for help. Mary Sawyer and Kim Wheeler personally went to her house to check on her and Justin Nutting of the Hopkinton Police Department went to her house to do a wellness check. Once he saw the ice, he used the resident's shovel to clear the steps and a pathway to her car. The resident was so impressed that she called Councilor Davis to tell her of the quality, care and kindness shown by Hopkinton's town employees to make her feel safe. Councilor Davis noted that she promised to tell this resident's story at the next Town Council meeting; noting that it makes her feel good to be able to report that Hopkinton's taxes are well spent and our town employees are doing an exceptional job taking care of the residents. Councilor Davis went on to state that the Council was in the midst of the Town budgeting process with the public hearing on the Town budget being May 3, 2022 and the budget referendum vote scheduled for June 14, 2022. The above story is an example of how the Town government cares about and responds to its residents. Therefore, she was asking all voters to please vote yes on the Town budget this year. Councilor Geary felt that the three town employees should be given letters of recognition.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote on an appointment to the Board of Canvassers nominated by the Council President from the list of names of submitted by the Hopkinton Democratic Town Committee and the Republican Town Committee.

Councilor Davis read the following statement:

A Rhode Island resident since 1999, Cynthia F. Davidson has spent about half of her life overseas. This has given her an unusual perspective on US politics. As an American expatriate, she has lived and worked in eight countries. These experiences inspired her to become a pioneer in the field of cross-cultural training and global management development for over twenty years. After receiving a degree in Journalism from New York University, Cynthia worked for CBS News. She is currently a full-time author and teaches memoir writing. Her 2019

memoir, *The Importance of Paris*, won a coveted IPPY award. Cynthia went canvassing with me during my 2018 campaign as a way of getting to know her neighbors and determining what their concerns were. The experience excited her and instilled a desire to contribute in a non-partisan way to the electoral process. Cynthia would be honored to serve the Hopkinton community as a member of the Board of Canvassers and I am excited to nominate her for this important position.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPOINT CYNTHIA DAVIDSON TO THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS. Discussion on the motion:

Councilor Geary indicated that regardless of party, this was a position that should be neutral and since there were no interviews conducted he would have to vote no. Councilor Hirst also indicated that he would vote no for pursuant to Rhode Island law, the Town Council President was the only individual allowed to make the nomination so procedurally this appointment was not done correctly. He also felt they should have interviewed the candidates. Discussion ended.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Marvel

OPPOSED: Hirst, Geary

MOTION PASSED

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to reappoint Theresa Prescott to the Historic District Commission.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR GEARY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO REAPPOINT THERESA PRESCOTT TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

Chief Palmer wished to thank Councilor Davis for recognizing the Recreation Department and Patrolman Nutting. He indicated that a true professional is one that acts professional when no one is looking and here was an example of that.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk