

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the twenty-first day of November 2022 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Stephen Moffitt, Jr. at 6:30 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 Solicitor Stephen Sypole attended remotely; Town Manager Brian Rosso; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin; Deputy Town Clerk Marita Murray. Absent: Robert Marvel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER: RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Council President Moffitt reported that any votes taken in executive session will not be disclosed at this time in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4(b) which states “All votes taken in closed sessions shall be disclosed once the session is reopened; provided, however, a vote taken in a closed session need not be disclosed for the period of time during which its disclosure would jeopardize any strategy, negotiation or investigation undertaken pursuant to discussions conducted under § 42-46-5(a).”

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag at 7:25 PM.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Davis, Hirst, Moffitt and Geary announced they were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Moreau of Old Depot Road congratulated all newly elected officials and wished them luck. He also wished to thank Bob Marvel for all he has done for the last two years and hoped he would consider volunteering to be on a Board or Commission. Mr. Moreau noted that he has followed the town's budgeting process and CIP for five years regarding the town hall expansion project. He believed that in the past, the estimated cost was Two Million Dollars and currently there was 1.6 Million Dollars in the CIP. Mr. Rosso noted there was currently 1.7 Million Dollars in the CIP for the town hall expansion but the architect has updated the quote to 2.7 Million Dollars due to inflation. Mr. Moreau hoped that between the ARPA funds and gift from Velma Clinton this expansion could finally be realized for it will have a big impact on the residents as well as employees. Mr. Moreau noted that he had been reviewing the Town Charter and Section 4000, which starts on page 36, discusses the role of the Town Manager and how they can be involved in Boards, Commissions and committees. He suggested that a Building Committee be formed with regard to the town hall expansion and he volunteered to be on that committee. Councilor Moffitt explained that at their last meeting they did approve having the engineers start this process. Mr. Rosso also noted that there was a Building Committee when the project was in the preliminary design phase and the Planning Department, Building and Zoning Department, Finance and Town Manager were heavily

involved. The Committee was in charge of forming the layout. The design phase is complete and they will be moving forward with construction and soliciting bids for construction. Mr. Moreau asked if the Recreation Department would stay at the Crandall House and Mr. Rosso indicated that if they were able to obtain state funding for the community center, there would be two office spaces and a computer lab for public use built on the second floor. Mr. Moreau wished all town buildings to be ADA compliant.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

There were no concerns voiced over the agenda order.

CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2022; Approve the following Executive Session Minutes as sealed by the Council: December 7, 2020; December 14, 2020; December 20, 2020; December 28, 2020; February 8, 2021; February 16, 2021; March 1, 2021; June 7, 2021; June 21, 2021; July 19, 2021; August 2, 2021; August 16, 2021; September 7, 2021; September 20, 2021; October 4, 2021; October 25, 2021; November 2, 2021 (2); November 15, 2021; December 6, 2021; December 20, 2021; January 3, 2022; January 18, 2022; February 7, 2022; March 21, 2022; April 4, 2022; June 20, 2022; July 5, 2022; August 15, 2022; September 19, 2022; October 17, 2022; November 7, 2022; Accept the following monthly financial/activity report: Town Clerk; Set December 5, 2022 as a hearing date for a Multi-Event Permit for 2023 events filed by Little Rhody Lobster.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

HEARING:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL

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

Class B: Brick Oven Restaurant – Pamela Grills Naccarato, President, Brick & Grills Restaurant - 209 Main Street, Ashaway, RI 02804.

Peter Naccarato was present and Pamela Grills Naccarato attended remotely.

Filing fees were paid and notices posted.

Councilor Hirst noted that he was in favor of the approval of this license and was looking forward to the opening of the restaurant. Councilor Moffitt wished to thank the applicants for all of the work they were doing to this building.

Councilor Geary was also very happy with the work being done to the restaurant and asked if there was a tentative opening date to which Mr. Naccarato advised that they hoped to be open by the middle of December.

No one spoke in opposition to the license renewal.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO GRANT RENEWAL TO THE LIQUOR LICENSE SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPT GIFT FROM ESTATE OF VELMA CLINTON

This matter had been scheduled to discuss consider and possibly vote to accept the gift from the Estate of Velma Clinton and authorize the Town manager to sign the release and accept payment on the Town's behalf.

Solicitor Sypole asked the Town Clerk to provide an update of the status of the estate. Clerk Cook-Martin noted that at the November 9, 2022 Probate Court session, Attorney Baruti submitted an account which the Judge reviewed.

Attorney Baruti wished to submit an Affidavit of Complete Administration to close the estate; however, Judge Urso wanted him to file a First and Final Account. This matter was continued to December 14, 2022 for the final paperwork which will include the releases. Solicitor Sypole noted that Attorney Baruti has done an excellent job handling this estate. Councilor Moffitt wished to state that Velma Clinton's gift to the town was incredible and extremely thoughtful. He wished this gift to have an effect on all residents of the town.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO ACCEPT THE GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF VELMA CLINTON AND AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE RELEASE AND ACCEPT PAYMENT ON THE TOWN'S BEHALF.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Geary, Hirst

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Moreau of Old Depot Road advised that he used to see Velma Clinton walking her dog on Highview Avenue almost every day. He questioned whether there were any stipulations placed on her bequest to the town, but he felt possibly using some of her gift towards the town hall expansion may be appropriate for it would benefit the residents. Councilor Moffitt asked the Town Clerk if there had ever been a gift of this proportion given to the town and she indicated not to her knowledge. Clerk Cook-Martin felt that it may be appropriate to direct some of those funds towards things that Mrs. Clinton favored, such as libraries and animal control. Councilor Moffitt also noted that Mrs. Clinton would bring cancer

patients to their appointments and she received an award from the American Cancer Society in that regard. Solicitor Sypole noted that there were no stipulations in Mrs. Clinton's Will regarding how the town should spend that money; it was given to the town for the Council to spend as it saw fit.

Robert Burns of Main Street wished to thank the Town Clerk's office for their assistance in getting him all of the information needed to be on the Town Council and he looked forward to working with everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF VELMA CLINTON AND HAROLD W. WEST SR.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk