

HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – March 6, 2023
BUSINESS AGENDA
Town Hall, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833

**NOTICE
HYBRID MEETING BEING HELD IN PERSON AND REMOTE**

Understanding the people have a vested interest in the operation of their government, the Hopkinton Town Council intends to include the public on March 6, 2023. However, due to the COVID-19 virus, the Council wants to be sure that everyone can do so safely from their own homes. Therefore, this hybrid meeting will be held in person and remotely using Zoom.

To get the most out of the hybrid meeting technology, participants can join by computer when possible. Joining by computer allows you to see the Town Council members on-screen and makes it easier to use the functions for indicating you wish to speak and muting/un-muting yourself.

To attend the meeting remotely, please connect in by 7:00 PM. **Note:** Participants will not be able to connect before the host begins the session, and anyone trying to connect who are unable to do so should try again after 7:00 PM.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: March 6, 2023, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Town Council Meeting – March 6, 2023 - Hybrid

REMOTE MEETING ACCESS:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610695470?pwd=SkhDQU8vN3RucWdrbnIxWjhhRnJ3QT09>

Meeting ID: 826 1069 5470

Passcode: 357483

Dial-In: 1-301-715-8592

****Citizens wishing to speak during public forum:**

Any participants wishing to speak during the public forum should indicate so as early as possible. The Zoom meeting has a ‘Raise your hand’ indicator that you enable to let the host know you wish to speak.

To ‘Raise your hand’ in Zoom:

By Computer:

Click “raise hand” from the Zoom menu bar and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, press “unmute” to unmute and speak.

By Phone:

Dial *9 to “raise your hand” and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, dial *6 to unmute and speak.

"Please remember when making a public comment to state your name and address before speaking."

Please note: Because of ever-changing regulations due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be cancelled. Please check the Town of Hopkinton website www.hopkintonri.org for updates on these meetings and other important Town or COVID-19 information.

Marita D. Murray, CMC
Council Clerk/Town Clerk

"Please remember when making comments to state your name before speaking."

6:45 P.M. Recess to Executive Session under:

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(5) - Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

Reconvene in Open Session.

Statement by the Council President that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Consider and vote on Motion to Seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

7:00 P.M. Call to Order – Moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

HEARINGS

1. PROPOSED ORDINANCE RE: VETERAN’S SERVICES AGENT

Open a hearing on an amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 “Administration” to add a proposed new ordinance entitled “VETERAN’S SERVICES AGENT” introduced and sponsored by Councilors Geary and Hirst.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a position to be known as Veteran’s Services Agent. See attached.

Council discussion/public comment.

Motion to continue hearing or close hearing and set date to consider adoption of the ordinance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023; Approve Town Council Meeting Executive Session Minutes of February 6, 2023; Approve two Town Council Meeting Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2023; Approve Town Council Minutes of February 21, 2023; Approve Town Council Budget Workshop Minutes of February 22, 2023; Approve Town Council Budget Workshop Minutes of February 27, 2023; Approve Town Council Budget Workshop Minutes of February 28, 2023; Accept the following monthly financial/activity report: Town Clerk; Approve refunds of Tax Collector for overpayment; Approve ratification of Police Dispatcher’s contract; Approve additional opioid settlements; Set March 20, 2023 as a hearing date for a transfer of a Class A Liquor License filed by M2 Wines, LLC/Village Wine & Spirits.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to appoint Linda DiOrio to the Tax Board of Review.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to join a coalition formed by Senator Gordon Rogers with other area towns. Senator Rogers will discuss the State’s position on LMI housing for our area; sponsored by Council President Geary.

2. Discuss, consider and possibly vote to form a Tri-Town Council/ School Committee Subcommittee or working group with all three towns and the district working together on issues such as requiring the state to provide funding for "unfunded mandates" and other areas of mutual concern; sponsored by Council President Geary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discuss, consider and possibly vote on potential uses of the Clinton estate donation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation by any person, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 377-7777 (V) or 377-7773 (TDD) at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Posting Details: Town Hall, Hopkinton Post Office, Hopkinton Website, Secretary of State Website.
Posting date: March 2, 2023

Town of Hopkinton Code of Ordinances
Chapter 2 – Administration
Division 1 – Generally
Section 2-138 – Veteran’s Services Agent

- (a) There shall be established a temporary position within the Hopkinton town government to be referred to as the Veteran’s Services Agent.
- (b) The Veteran’s Services Agent shall be appointed by majority vote of the Town Council for an initial two (2) year term. The Veteran’s Services Agent shall report to the Town Council periodically during his or her term and, at the conclusion of the initial two (2) year term, the Town Council may vote to make the Veteran’s Services Agent a permanent position and/or to make any other changes to this Section as deemed appropriate.
- (c) The Veteran’s Services Agent shall serve in a volunteer capacity without compensation.
- (d) The Veteran’s Services Agent shall be a resident of the Town of Hopkinton and, in appointing the Veteran’s Services Agent, preference shall be given to applicants that have served in the United States Armed Forces and/or that have relevant experience in the administration of veteran’s services and benefits.
- (e) The duties of the Veteran’s Services Agent shall include:
 - (1) Meeting with veterans, spouses, and their dependents in an office or home setting to assist with determining eligibility for or qualifications for financial, medical and administrative assistance.
 - (2) Assisting veterans, spouses, and their dependents with completing and submitting applications for benefits or services to any appropriate State or Federal agencies or not-for-profit organizations.
 - (3) Working with veterans, spouses, and their dependents to identify alternative resources that may be available such as may be provided by any State or Federal government programs or not-for-profit agencies.
 - (4) Communicating and coordinating his or her activities, as necessary, with the Town Manager and Town Clerk.
 - (5) Working with veterans in the community and providing assistance to find housing, furniture, food, transportation and other needs as necessary and serve as a liaison to any government or not-for-profit agency providing such services and assistance.
 - (6) Maintaining knowledge of pertinent State and Federal regulations, benefits programs, and other programs or services that may be available to veterans in the community and keeping abreast of changes in any such regulations, programs, or services.
 - (7) Coordinating, planning and/or participating in community activities to honor veterans such as Memorial Day and/or Veteran’s Day activities.
 - (8) Ensuring compliance with any and all applicable State and Federal laws related to the confidentiality of persons’ medical and/or personal information.
 - (9) Reporting periodically to the Town Council about the activities of the Veteran’s Services Agent and providing recommendations to the Town Council about the nature of this position and any appropriate amendments to this Section.