

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2009

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Monday, February 2, 2009. The meeting was held at the municipal building council chambers and was called to order by Mayor Arnett at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Councilors: Mayor Matthew Arnett, Shannon Cox, Andre Cushing, Thomas Brann, William Shakespeare, Jean Lawlis and Janet Hughes

Town Manager: Susan Lessard

Town Counsel: Thomas Russell

Department Heads/Staff: None

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Treasurer's Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Finance Committee at its meeting earlier in the evening. Motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Cushing to accept the balance of the Consent Agenda – unanimous vote in favor.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A VICTUALER'S LICENSE RECEIVED FROM WANG & LO, INC. d/b/a FRESH GINGER AT 64 MAIN ROAD NORTH

Mayor Arnett explained the procedure for the public hearing and then opened the hearing.

Proponents – none; Opponents – none; General Questions or Comments – None. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to approve the application – unanimous vote in favor.

b. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A LIQUOR LICENSE RECEIVED FROM WANG & LO, INC. d/b/a FRESH GINGER AT 64 MAIN ROAD NORTH

Proponents – none; Opponents – none: General Questions or Comments – None. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Shakespeare to approve the application – unanimous vote in favor.

2. NOMINATIONS-APPOINTMENTS-ELECTIONS

There were none.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – REVIEW & FINAL APPROVAL

The Council reviewed a memo prepared by Manager Lessard outlining the Council committee structure, members and current work items as discussed by the Council at its special meeting on January 26th. Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Lawlis to adopt the committee structure as discussed at the last meeting, for a 6-month period – unanimous vote in favor.

b. GOALS & OBJECTIVES – REVIEW OF 1/20/09 LIST

Manager Lessard had prepared a summary of the goals and objectives identified by the Council at its workshop on January 20th. After reviewing the list, it was the consensus of the Council that another meeting is necessary for a more expansive discussion. Councilor Hughes felt that there is a need to review and compare the Comprehensive Plan and immediate strategies with the goals and objectives. Councilor Cox commented that in the writing of goals and objectives, they should be measurable and should have action steps attached to them. It was decided that another meeting will be scheduled subsequent to the Comprehensive Plan review meeting of February 4th.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. BACKYARD COMPOSTING PROGRAM 2009

Manager Lessard reminded the Council that for the last four years the Town has participated in this program and the Council has voted to subsidize the cost of the composters to allow Hampden residents to purchase them at a reduced cost of \$16.00. She asked if the Council was interested in participating at the same level this year.

Motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Cushing to continue with the program again this year – unanimous vote in favor.

b. DEBIT CARD FEE INCREASE

The Town has been advised by Maine Savings Federal Credit Union that the debit card per-transaction fee will be increasing to \$1.35 as of March 1st. Manager Lessard recommended that the Town continue with the program and requested that the Council authorize increasing the convenience fee to customers from \$1.00 to \$1.50 to recoup the bank fee.

Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Hughes to approve the fee increase proposed by the Town Manager – unanimous vote in favor.

c. SEWER COMMITMENT – 10/1/08 TO 12/31/08 BILLS

Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Cox to approve and sign the commitment – unanimous vote in favor.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Arnett reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed and signed the Treasurer's Warrants. The Committee also entertained a request from AFLAC to make a presentation to the Finance Committee; looked at ambulance charges and voted to forward a recommendation to the Council to abate certain charges; and heard a proposal from Councilor Brann regarding financial incentives for business park lot sales and referred that idea to the Planning & Development Committee. Additionally, Manager Lessard reported on the results of the annual audit. The Town received a clean audit report, with no reportable findings.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT

A copy of the Manager's Report is attached hereto.

F. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

Councilor Shakespeare asked Manager Lessard whether there had been any resolution to the problem at the Mayo Road pump station. Manager Lessard said the problem has improved since the installation of new blades on the rotors, but there is still something being flushed into the system. She said they are still investigating the issue and are looking at the idea of installing a grinder pump. Councilor Shakespeare commented that it is a pleasure to work with the other Councilor members and noted that there is a great diversity of opinions, but all can agree to disagree at times.

Councilor Lawlis congratulated Manager Lessard and staff for the results of the audit and the surprise Department of Labor inspection. She said this confirms what a well-run town we have.

Councilor Cushing commented that he went on a tour of Southern Maine with other members of the Legislature and saw a display at the Portland Wastewater Treatment

System. He said they are having the same problem with their system on a much larger scale with a variety of things – chewing gum, cloths and other items. He said it is a growing problem among wastewater treatment facilities, particularly with the disposable materials that have recently come onto the market.

Councilor Cox reported that the Services Committee will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 9th. She also reminded Councilors that they still need to develop a policy for handling requests for funding from outside agencies. She noted that there needs to be a level of fairness and suggested looking at what other communities are doing. It was decided that this would be placed on the agenda for the next Finance Committee meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk

MANAGER'S REPORT

February 2, 2009

Department of Labor Inspection – We are in the middle of a surprise inspection from the Department of Labor for health and safety of our workforce. The inspector arrived on Friday, had an entrance interview with me and then moved on to Public Works and the Library. He was back today for public safety and did the administration building and had the exit interview with me. Overall, he was very impressed with our operation and had very good things to say about every department.

Memorandum of Understanding SAD #22 – The Town Attorney and I met with the School Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the school's attorney about finalizing language for the Memorandum of Understanding that allows the town access across the MDOT access and school property related to the new High School Project. I am in hopes to have language for the Council to consider for approval on the meeting of February 17th.

Municipal Review Presentation – At the meeting on January 28th I received a lovely plaque from the Board of the Municipal Review Committee in thanks for my membership on that board for the past five years. The MRC provides a stable and affordable means of solid waste disposal for the Town and has for many years. The \$45 per ton rate is guaranteed through 2018 and the Board is considering future options for communities beyond that time frame.

Hampden Business Association – The HBA meeting for February will be held tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m. at Maine Savings. I will be speaking at that meeting as will Mayor Arnett.

Wellness Program – This month's employee wellness session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd at 11:30 a.m. and the topic of the discussion is financial fiscal fitness.

Ambulance – Our ambulance is back in service after being repaired from the fire. We are keeping the loaner until we have had a chance to make sure that everything is operating correctly with ours.

Infrastructure Meeting Reminder – A reminder that the Infrastructure Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 3rd at 6 p.m. The agenda for the meeting is posted online. The Town Clerk has set up new folders on the website for agendas and minutes of the new committees.