

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY 16, 2007

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Monday, July 16, 2007. The meeting was held at the municipal building council chambers and was called to order by Mayor Briggs at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: **Councilors:** Mayor Rick Briggs, Robert Gilberti, Andrew Colford, Matthew Arnett, Edward Murphy, and Shannon Cox. Thomas Brann was absent.

Town Manager: Susan Lessard

Town Counsel: Thomas Russell

Department Heads/Staff: None

Pine Tree Landfill Representatives, Frank Jewell and citizens

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Treasurer's Warrants were circulated for approval and signatures of the Finance Committee. The balance of the Consent Agenda was accepted without objection.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Jewell of 20 Jewell Drive briefed the Council on the community flag project that is being proposed by Richard Newcomb and The Friends of Hamlin. This item is at the end of the New Business section of the agenda. The proposal is for American flags to be flown from lighted utility poles. They already have a match from Galen Cole for 24 flags and Bangor Hydro has no objection to the flags being affixed to their poles. Mr. Jewell indicated that there is enough support to match Mr. Cole's contribution and the group is looking for a minimum of 60 flags for poles on Western Avenue from Route 202 to Route 1A and on Route 1A from Western Avenue to Kennebec Road. It would take approximately 90 flags to continue to the Winterport line. Mr. Jewell hoped that the Town would go along with this project and perhaps offer some monetary help. If the group can procure the flags, Mr. Jewell would like to see the flags hung before Children's Day and taken down after Veterans' Day. They would then be flown from Memorial Day to Veterans' Day in the future. Councilor Colford asked Mr. Jewell how many flags would be required to go from the Newburgh line on Western Avenue to Route 1A. Mr. Jewell will get back to the Council with that number.

Councilor Arnett commented that this is a worthy project but wanted further exploration of the total cost to determine what would be appropriate for the Town to fund.

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

2. NOMINATIONS-APPOINTMENTS-ELECTIONS

There were none.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT re: PRIVATE PUMP STATIONS – INTRODUCTION FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Councilor Arnett introduced this item for public hearing at the next meeting.

- b. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – SET DATE FOR DISCUSSION – COUNCILOR ARNETT

A special meeting to discuss and set goals and objectives was scheduled for Monday, August 27th at 6:00 pm.

- c. POSITION DESCRIPTION REVIEW – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Manager Lessard prepared a draft job description for the newly created position of Community Development Director for the Council's review. It was the consensus of the Council that there be more emphasis on economic development activities and marketing the business park and to omit the term "Community Services Department". There was also discussion about changing the position's title. Manager Lessard will prepare another draft for discussion at the next meeting.

- d. RATIFICATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF SALE OF LOT 3 IN HAMPDEN BUSINESS AND COMMERCE PARK

Manager Lessard explained that this is a housekeeping item. When the Council authorized the sale, the motion did not include an authorization for her to sign the deed and closing documents on behalf of the Town. Motion by Councilor Arnett, seconded by Councilor Gilberti to ratify and reaffirm the sale of Lot 3 in the Hampden Business and Commerce Park to HEC-Hampden, LLC, and to ratify and reaffirm the execution of the deed and other closing documentation by the Town Manager – unanimous vote in favor.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. COOL BROOK ACRES – ACCEPTANCE OF JAY'S WAY

All documentation and deeds have been received and this road is ready for acceptance. Motion by Councilor Colford, seconded by Councilor Gilberti to accept Jay's Way – unanimous vote in favor.

b. URIP FUNDS - AUTHORIZATION

Motion by Councilor Colford, seconded by Councilor Cox to authorize Manager Lessard to sign the URIP certification – unanimous vote in favor.

c. COMMUNITY FLAG PROJECT

This item was discussed under the public comments portion of the agenda. Manager Lessard indicated that in her discussions with Sharon Newcomb and Frank Jewell, they did not have a specific monetary request from the Town. It was the consensus of the Council to wait until further information comes in before committing to any funding.

Councilor Cox commented that although she thinks this is a worthwhile project in concept, she has some concern about the visual impact. She said there is a certain aesthetic value in not having something en masse when you come into a community and when you are talking about 90 poles there will be a visual impact. She feels that this is something that needs to be discussed. She also expressed concern about who will assume maintenance of the flags.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Murphy reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting with the Pool Director to discuss some needs at the pool and the Committee will also discuss the tank truck funding and other housekeeping matters.

Councilor Arnett reported that the Communications Committee has been very busy. Brandon Gassett, the summer intern in communications has done some nice work on the sound issues in the Council chambers and cable TV Channel 7. He has done some video productions and is working on the website and newsletter. The next newsletter will be coming out next week and will feature the front office staff and SAD #22.

Councilor Arnett further reported that the Charter & Ordinance Committee held a joint meeting with the Planning Board's Ordinance Committee to discuss the mineral extraction ordinance.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Lessard reported that 30-day notices for unpaid taxes were mailed on Friday July 13th. She noted that over 98% of the 2006/2007 tax commitment was collected prior to those notices going out. She commended Tax Collector Cheryl Johnson for doing an amazing job at getting the tax collections to an enviable amount.

She noted that another of Brandon Gassett's accomplishments was getting the third camera fixed. His work on the storm water video with the interns has gained us statewide recognition in the storm water program.

The Town will be participating in the storm water booth at the Folk Festival. Manager Lessard, Gretchen Heldmann and Councilor Cox will all be taking shifts to help man the booth.

New sewer bills will be going out at the end of July.

Manager Lessard noted she is serving on the Board of Environmental Protection and that at the BEP's hearing in August they will be discussing wood-fired boiler regulations.

She has authorized the front office to be closed this Friday from 12 noon to 1:00 pm so that the staff can attend the annual Kid's Kamp Kafe at the Kiwanis Hall.

Manager Lessard is back this evening from attending LNG hearings in Calais in her role on the BEP and she will be out all this week for those hearings.

She also reported that the Public Works transition is going very well.

F. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

Councilor Arnett commented that he was remiss not to mention during the Communications report that there is a new program called "News Magazine" that has come about from an idea that Andre Cushing put forward. Andre is serving as the host and the programs have been playing on Channel 7. Copies of the DVD's will be available at the Town Office and the Library for those who do not have access to cable TV. Councilor Arnett also confessed that he was stopped by the Hampden Police and cited for failure to have a current inspection sticker. He has paid his fine, but wondered if the Town got any portion of the fine. Manager Lessard informed him that we do not.

Councilor Gilberti commented that he was reading an article in the newspaper about the Town of Hermon signing a contract with a cable company to provide cable services for internet access and he noted that the cost was substantially less than Time-Warner. He asked Manager Lessard if she has heard anything about this service. Manager Lessard explained that the Town of Hermon has provided internet access to its residents at no cost for a number of years. She said they have contracted with a provider for high-speed connection for internet service only – it is not a cable TV provider.

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk