



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES

MONDAY

AUGUST 20, 2012

7:00 P.M.

Attending:

Mayor Janet Hughes *Town Manager Susan Lessard*
Councilor Andre Cushing *Citizens*
Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor Shelby Wright
Councilor Jeremy Williams

The meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Hughes.

Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Williams to excuse Councilors Hornbrook and Lawlis from attending the meeting. Vote 4-1. (Brann)

A. CONSENT AGENDA

1. SIGNATURES

2. SECRETARY'S REPORTS

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Department of Health & Human Services – General Assistance Audit
- b. Email – Councilor Hornbrook re Questions about Ordinances and Comp Plan

4. REPORTS

- a. Finance & Administration Committee Minutes – 8/6/2012

Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Wright to accept the consent agenda. Unanimous vote in favor.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS

NOTE: The Council will take a 5-minute recess at 8:00 pm.

- a. Mike Jellison – New Appointment to Lura Hoit Pool Board of Trustees – Services Committee Recommendation – *Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to approve. Unanimous vote in favor.*
- b. Victoria Levesque – New Appointment to Lura Hoit Pool Board of Trustees – Services Committee Recommendation– *Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to approve. Unanimous vote in favor.*
- c. Sarah McVeigh – New Appointment to Lura Hoit Pool Board of Trustees – Services Committee Recommendation – *Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to approve. Unanimous vote in favor.*
- d. Joshua Sargent – New Appointment to Lura Hoit Pool Board of Trustees – Services Committee Recommendation – *Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to approve. Unanimous vote in favor.*
- e. Nomination Papers available for Councilor At-Large; RSU #22 Board of Directors & Hampden Water District Board of Trustees – *This item was for informational purposes only. There are three Council seats available as well as two School Board seats and one Water District Trustee position.*

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Request to use GIS Reserve Funds for Digital Documents Scanning Project – *Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Cushing to approve the use of up to \$7500 of GIS Reserve funds for the Digital Documents Scanning Project. Unanimous vote in favor.*

Councilor Cushing asked if the Town had considered automating the permit application process by accepting all items via email/fillable forms. The Town does not do this at this time. He asked that this topic be referred to the Services Committee.

- b. Set Mil Rate – 2012/2013 Tax Year – *Public Comment – David Ryder, 315 Meadow Road, asked if the mil rate stayed the same would valuations be going up so that taxpayers would be paying more. The Manager replied that only those who had either done construction on their homes, had a property sale with a much higher value, lost a homestead exemption, or were part of the properties in town which had been taxed at only a partial value due to being incomplete in the prior tax year would see an increase.*

The Manager recommended a mil rate of \$15.90 with an overlay of .4% at \$38,704.41. Motion by Councilor Williams, seconded by Councilor Wright to set the 2012-2013 mil rate at \$15.90. Unanimous vote in favor.

- c. Draft TIF Agreement with Dennis Paper – *Councilor Brann explained that the Planning & Development Committee recommended a TIF for the Dennis Paper expansion of 77% for 5 years and 50% for 5 years. Part C of the application outlined that the use of the sheltered taxes would be 80% for economic development purposes and 20% for trails/recreation improvements.*

Town Attorney Tom Russell clarified that the Town would be approving the terms of the allocation, but that the TIF would not be enacted until after a public hearing, which will be introduced on 9/4/12 and held on 9/17/2012.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to approve the allocation of the TIF funds as proposed. Unanimous vote in favor.

- d. Schedule Site Visit – Old Hampden Academy – *A walk through of the old High School was scheduled for 4 p.m. on Monday, August 27th, followed by the grand opening ceremony at the new high school at 5:30 and an Infrastructure Committee meeting at 7 p.m.*
- e. Town Council Rules – Mayor Hughes – *Removed from the agenda by Mayor Hughes.*

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments – re Definition of Community Building – Referral to Planning Board – *Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to refer this item to the Planning Board for a recommendation. Unanimous vote in favor.*

D. COMMITTEE REPORT

Infrastructure – Councilor Wright reported that the next meeting will be on 8/27 at 7 p.m. after the grand opening ceremony for the new high school.

Planning & Development – Councilor Brann reported that the next meeting will discuss Hampden Academy re-use and comprehensive plan adoption.

Communications – Councilor Williams reported that the Communications Committee would be meeting on Tuesday, August 20th.

Services – Councilor Wright reported that discussion at the most recent meeting concerned the Papermill Road Recreation Area, and the future of Dorothea Dix Park. Open space connectivity was tabled until the next meeting.

- E. MANAGER'S REPORT – *The Manager reported that tax bills would be out by the end of August with the first half due the first Wednesday in October 2012 and the second half due the first Wednesday in April 2013.*

F. COUNCILORS' COMMENTS –

Councilor Williams thanked citizens for coming and is pleased to be able to keep the mil rate the same again this year. He indicated that he had heard from constituents who had received a visit from the Assessor.

Councilor Cushing – Thanked and congratulated the members of the Children’s Day Committee for a wonderful event. They do a lot for a totally volunteer organization. He also encouraged residents to consider volunteering for Town committees.

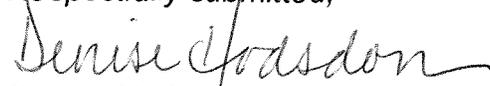
Councilor Wright – Thanked all who volunteered and participated in Children’s Day.

Mayor Hughes – Indicated that it was nice to see the community coming together and congratulated the Children’s Day Committee on their great work.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



*Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk*