

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2012

Attending:

Mayor Janet Hughes
Councilor Jean Lawlis
Councilor Kristen Hornbrook
Councilor Shelby Wright (left at 6:15 p.m.)
Councilor Tom Brann
Town Manager Sue Lessard (5:45 p.m.)
Interested residents

The meeting was opened at 5:40 p.m. by Mayor Hughes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Vote 4 -0 – 1 abstention (Hornbrook).

Item 4 –a. The review of the Code of Ethics was skipped on the agenda because the Town Attorney is still in the process of reviewing the draft and developing language related to the political activities section.

Item 4 –b. The Committee discussed the draft of Council Rules presented. Councilor Hornbrook was not in favor of the language presented that put restrictions on texting or emailing during Council or Committee meetings. She considered such rules as an infringement on first amendment rights. Other committee members cited examples, such as classrooms, or courts, where such rules were in place. The Committee did not make a decision on including or excluding the language.

A suggestion was made that the time limit for participation in the Freedom of Information Act training be consistent with the State standard at 90 or 120 days instead of the 30 proposed in the draft.

It was suggested that the words, 'if possible' be added to the end of the sentence under Item 6 to accommodate the possibility that an Elected Officials training session may not be held in a location or on a time/date in the first year of office of a councilor that it is possible for that Councilor to attend.

The section related to excused absences was discussed, and whether or not it was necessary to list a specific set of 'acceptable' excuses.

In Item 10, the word Council in the second sentence was changed to Councilor.

Councilor Hornbrook asked for further clarification of Item 13, 'avoid personalities'.

Item 17 Council Committees – Mayor Hughes asked the Communications Committee to discuss whether or not it should be recombined with the Services Committee and make a recommendation back to the full Council.

Under Item 16, language on time limitations on public comments and speaking on agenda items was suggested to be changed to include “unless circumstances arise that require further time limitations so that all interested persons may participate”.

The idea was discussed of having an item in Council Rules that set an ending time for Council/Committee meetings unless the Council/Committee took an affirmative vote at a meeting to extend that time.

Item 4-c. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full council to fund the Route 1A sidewalk from R & K Variety to Mountainview Drive as part of the Route 1A north reconstruction from Host Community Benefit funds. Vote 3-1 (Hornbrook)

Item 4-d. No draft FOAA policy was provided for review by the Committee.

Item 5-a. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full council that the fees ordinance be amended to include library copy costs at .25 per page.

Item 2. The town manager explained the January Financial Statements that were provided as part of the packet.

Item 3. Warrants for the payment of bills were reviewed and signed.

Item 6 - There were no Public Comments.

Item 7. – Committee Member Comments

Mayor Hughes asked about the availability of Councilors for a special council meeting to discuss the Town Manager position. It was the consensus of those present that Monday, March 12th or Wednesday March 14th would be days when the majority of the Council would be available.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05. Mayor Hughes announced that there would not be a Council meeting following the Finance Committee meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lessard
Town Manager