

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2007

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Monday, April 2, 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: Rick Briggs, Robert Gilberti, Thomas Brann, Andrew Colford, Edward Murphy, Matthew Arnett and Shannon Cox.

Town Manager: Susan Lessard

Town Counsel: Thomas Russell

Department Heads/Staff: Public Safety Director Joseph Rogers and Economic Development Director Bion Foster

Pine Tree Landfill representatives, William and Rachel Shakespeare 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

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE – NEIGHBORHOOD DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMPLAINT

William Shakespeare addressed the Council to present a complaint about Town Officials. A copy of Mr. Shakespeare's comments are attached hereto.

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

2. NOMINATIONS-APPOINTMENTS-ELECTIONS

There were none.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING DATES –
COUNCILOR MURPHY

School Budget Committee meetings are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on April 4th and April 11th at Reed's Brook Middle School.

b. BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE – 07/08

The proposed 2008 Budget Workshop schedule (copy attached) was approved with one change – the first meeting will be held on Tuesday May 1st at 7:00 pm.

c. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE / DISCUSSION

Manager Lessard noted that the Comprehensive Plan review process has begun through the Community Services Committee and there has been some concern about representation on that committee. She asked the Council for input regarding what types of groups should have representation in the Comprehensive Planning process. During discussion, it was suggested that some specific groups to focus on are affordable housing, school district representatives, the Hampden Historical Society, the healthcare community, and stakeholders that might have an interest in what might be happening in their area.

Councilor Brann, as chair of the Community Services Committee, had asked a staff member to lead the Comp Plan meetings to allow him to take a strong advocacy role in this process. Councilor Arnett asked Councilor Brann to consider asking someone rather than a staff member to facilitate the Comp Plan meetings. Following discussion, it was decided that Councilor Cox will take that role.

Councilor Brann noted that the current Comp Plan is written in a “soft voice” and uses words like “the Town should” and “the Town may”. He feels that the Plan should use stronger language like “the Town will”, which would make a more aggressive statement. It was the consensus of the Council that the Comp Plan should have declarative language in certain sections.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. POLICE VEHICLE BID RESULTS – 06/07 BUDGET
AUTHORIZATION

Public Safety Director Joe Rogers asked the Council to postpone this item because he is still in the process of reviewing the bids. Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Brann to postpone this item until the next meeting – unanimous vote in favor.

b. STORMWATER DISCHARGE ORDINANCE – REFERRAL TO
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Manager Lessard asked the Council to refer this subject to the Charter and Ordinance Committee. A model ordinance, which governs the monitoring of stormwater discharge facilities in the community, has been developed by Maine Municipal Association. Councilor Brann so moved; Councilor Cox seconded the motion and vote was unanimously in favor.

c. GRANT RECEIVED – THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA – FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Public Safety Director Joe Rogers informed the Council that the Fire Department has received a grant for a thermal imaging camera. Included in the grant are funds to send a member of the Department to New Orleans to be trained on the camera. Firefighter Lundstrom wrote the grant so he will be the one to attend the training. Manager Lessard took this opportunity to recognize and commend the efforts of Public Safety personnel who are routinely writing grant proposals to try to get equipment for the community that does not require tax dollar expenditures. Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Colford to accept the grant – unanimous vote in favor.

d. COUNCIL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES – EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Manager Lessard withdrew the request to go into Executive Session. The request was made based on the fact that there had been some individual interaction with Councilors discussing roles, responsibilities and goal setting and it is not legal to enter into Executive Session for that purpose. Manager Lessard did request that the Council consider scheduling a meeting to do some goal setting. A special workshop was scheduled for Monday, April 30th.

It was decided that the Council would enter Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the items provided under Public Comments.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Arnett reported that the Charter and Ordinance Committee met earlier and continues work on the Mineral Extraction Ordinance and the private sewer ordinance. The Committee has also taken up the Deputy Mayor request and in that process will be looking at the entire Charter first and then will deal with the Deputy Mayor proposal.

Councilor Arnett further reported that the Communications Committee is currently working on the newsletter, which will be going out the week of April 16th. The newsletter will highlight Edna Bragg who just turned 102 years old on April 1st.

The Website Committee continues to make progress on the new website and will be conducting a slogan contest. The winning slogan will be placed on the new site.

Councilor Brann reported that the Community Services Committee/ Comprehensive Plan Committee will be meeting tomorrow night and will begin the review process of the map segments that have been prepared by EMDC. They will also begin in-depth discussion of the natural resources portion of the Plan.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

F. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

Councilor Colford asked that the next agenda include a proclamation for Edna Bragg on her 102nd birthday.

Councilor Arnett requested that the Public Works Committee meet to look at ways to reduce solid waste disposal costs and that this year's budget include alternatives relating to the various ways to reduce those costs, including any consequences of those options.

Councilor Brann commented that the Hampden Business Association has brought back the Welcome Wagon program for new residents and asked for an endorsement from the Council for that group and reaffirm to them that the Council is authorizing the Town Manager to participate. It was the unanimous consent of the Council to endorse this program.

Councilor Murphy commented that the Council should come up with something in addition to the Boston Cane to present to the Town's oldest resident.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Councilor Gilberti, seconded by Councilor Arnett to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) to include the Town Manager, Public Safety Director and Town Attorney to discuss the complaints made against the Town Manager and Public Safety Director during public comments – unanimous vote in favor.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Gilberti to re-enter regular session – unanimous vote in favor.

Manager Lessard requested that the Council review the file on Shakespeare issues at the Town Office for discussion at the next Council meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilor Brann moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Councilor Gilberti seconded the motion and vote was unanimously in favor.

Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk