

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2008

Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. 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, Thomas Brann, Andrew Colford, Edward Murphy, Matthew Arnett, Shannon Cox and Andre Cushing (until 9:00 pm)

Town Manager: Susan Lessard

Town Counsel: Thomas Russell

Department Heads/Staff: Economic Development Director Bion Foster and Public Works Director Chip Swan

Victoria Burpee of Eastern Maine Development Corporation and citizens

A. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Treasurer's Warrants for signatures of the Finance Committee. Councilor Arnett requested that Item A.4.b. be set aside. The balance of the Consent Agenda was accepted without objection.

A.4.b. AMBULANCE COLLECTION WORKSHEET – 12/31/07

Councilor Arnett asked Manager Lessard to explain what this report means. Manager Lessard explained that this allows the Council to know how this service is working and gives a monthly breakdown of the amount billed, amount allowed by insurance companies and the amount outstanding. She explained that the amount outstanding is generally the amount that insurance will not pay and/or is payable by the individual. This has already been referred to the Finance Committee for determination of action necessary to either actively pursue collection or write off the older accounts. Motion by Councilor Arnett, seconded by Councilor Cushing to accept Item A.4.b – unanimous vote in favor.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING APPLICATION – HEC-HAMPDEN, LLC

Economic Development Director Bion Foster noted that when Haverlock, Estey & Curran made the proposal for the purchase of Lot #3 in the business park, they indicated that it would be their intent to submit an application for tax increment financing. He called upon Victoria Burpee of Eastern Maine Development Corporation to explain the details of the application. She explained this application meets the criteria of public purpose and the term is for ten years, during which 50% of the new assessed value will be returned to HEC-Hampden to assist with the debt service on the new building and 50% will go into the Town's general fund. Bion confirmed that the application also meets the criteria of the Town's Tax Increment Financing Policy.

Mayor Briggs 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 Arnett, seconded by Councilor Brann to approve the TIF as outlined in the application. By roll call, vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

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

Mayor Briggs opened the hearing.

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

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

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

Mayor Briggs opened the hearing.

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

Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Colford to approve the application – unanimous vote in favor.

2. NOMINATIONS-APPOINTMENTS-ELECTIONS

There were none.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. BACKYARD COMPOSTER PROGRAM

Manager Lessard asked if the Council wished to participate in the composter program again this year in the same manner as past years. The last three years, the Council, together with Pine Tree Landfill has subsidized the cost of the composters so residents only paid 50% of the total cost.

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

b. OUTDOOR GRADUATION – COUNCILOR COX

Councilor Cox had some general comments in reference to an article that appeared in the *Bangor Daily News* on January 14, 2008 regarding the request to help fund an outdoor graduation. She said in reading the article, she was a bit distressed because she feels it was not an accurate portrayal of what actually happened in the Council chambers that night. She wished the article had been more reflective of the nature of the discussion that evening and that it had been a 4-3 vote.

Manager Lessard said it is her understanding that the outcome of the meeting between the Administration and the Senior Class is that the Senior Class was instructed to do some fundraising to see what they could raise. They will then go back to the Administration, which will work with them to supplement it in order for the graduation to go forward. Manager Lessard agreed with Councilor Cox and noted that the headline set the tone of the article. She summarized the outcome of the last meeting – that the Council overall was supportive, that she was going to meet with the Superintendent and look for a way to resolve this – it wasn't that the Town did not care.

Councilor Cox expressed the need for a written policy on how the Council handles donation requests from various student groups. Councilor Brann said he would like any policy to also address the annual requests from non-profit organizations at budget time. Councilor Colford said he would agree with a policy as long as it does not set a fixed dollar amount for certain types of groups. He believes the determination needs to be made on a case-by-case basis.

Motion by Councilor Arnett, seconded by Councilor Cox that the issue of discretionary fund use by the Town Council and requests received from outside agencies be referred to the Finance Committee for recommendation of a process – unanimous vote in favor.

c. TRANSFER STATION DECAL POLICY

Manager Lessard informed the Council that there have been many problems related to the issuance of transfer station stickers and requested that this be referred to the Public Works Committee for development of a list of regulations that govern who is eligible for a sticker.

Motion by Councilor Arnett, seconded by Councilor Cushing to refer this item to the Public Works Committee – unanimous vote in favor.

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was scheduled for 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 24th.

d. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Committee assignments were made at the Council's workshop held at 6:00 pm. The Council also received a list of outstanding items that each Committee is working on.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were none.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

F. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

Councilor Arnett commented that during the Council's workshop regarding committee assignments, the Council discussed the status of the Communications Committee and it seemed to be the consensus that it become a regular Town Council Committee. He requested that it be placed on the agenda for consideration and potential adoption of that status at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Brann commented that the list of outstanding items for the Finance Committee should also include establishment of a plan for reserve fund use.

MANAGER'S REPORT

January 22, 2008

WATER DISTRICT RATE INCREASE PUBLIC HEARING REMINDER – Tomorrow evening, January 23, 2008, the Public Utilities Commission will hold a hearing in Hampden for testimony regarding the rate increase proposal for the Hampden Water District. It is being held at 6 p.m. at Reed's Brook Middle School. Anyone interested in this issue should attend.

SPECIAL MEETING – GOALS & OBJECTIVES REVIEW – A reminder that the Town Council has scheduled a special Council meeting on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 7 p.m. to review Goals and Objectives that were developed at the end of 2007. In addition, I am hoping that the Council will also take this opportunity to discuss the 'next step' in going forward with our Economic Development process. Now that we have the Economic & Community Development Specialist on board and Bion has spent nearly a month with him in getting up to speed on ongoing projects, we need to talk about what the Council wishes to proceed. The contractual relationship with Bion is changing to one that is project specific and the definition of those projects needs to occur along with a timetable and budget.

COMMUNITY VISIONING MEETING – HAMPDEN ACADEMY RE-USE – SAD 22 is sponsoring a session on January 29th 2008 from 6-8 p.m. at the Old Gym at the High School. All interested persons are encouraged to attend and contribute input.

COMMUNICATIONS MEETING - A Communications Committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 24th at the Town Office for the purpose of discussing goals for the coming year. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Municipal Review Committee Meeting – The next meeting of the Municipal Review Committee is on January 30th at 10 a.m. at Eastern Maine Development Corporation. EcoMaine will be doing a presentation at the meeting on Single Stream Recycling.

Councilor Arnett commented that the list of outstanding committee items did not include the Economic Development Committee and he recalled that the Council took some action at the point where the comprehensive planning process had gone forward enough to get an independent assessment of what our potential for economic development might be. Councilor Brann said he thought that the Economic Development Committee was also going to look into the TIF program to see if we want to reallocate that and whether we want to change our designation in terms of Pine Tree Zones.

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Hodsdon".

Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk