

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the second day of January 2024 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Michael Geary at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Michael Geary, Scott Bill Hirst, Sharon Davis, Stephen Moffitt, Jr., Robert Burns; Town Clerk Marita Murray. Town Manager Brian Rosso and Solicitor Stephen Sypole attended via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Hirst, Davis, Moffitt, Burns, and Geary announced they were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road stated that he had sent the Council information regarding the Beaver River Valley Association. In there was a very nice article by Cynthia Drummond regarding the Town of Richmond which listed by month some of the actions that had taken place in that town. He went on to state that on December 28, 2023, there was an article in the Westerly Sun regarding the Town of Hopkinton, and this was the exact opposite of what he has heard about Richmond. We had a very positive year in review on what the town had accomplished, and he wished to thank everyone for he knew this was a team effort.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

There were no changes to the agenda order.

CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BURNS TO APPROVE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2023, WITH CORRECTION.

IN FAVOR: Hirst, Davis, Moffitt, Burns, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

HEARINGS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Geary, Hirst, Davis, Moffitt, Burns

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CAMPGROUND LICENSE RENEWALS

The Council opened a hearing on the renewal of the following campground licenses:

Frontier Camper Park, Inc.– Dorothy Watson, 180A Maxson Hill Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 225 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Greenwood Hill Campground Association, Inc. – Robert Van Zandt, 13 Newberry Lane, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 80 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Holly Tree Campground, Inc. – Marie Patrizzo, 109 Ashaway Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 158 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Whispering Pines Campground – Cameron May/WP Management Group, LLC, 41 Saw Mill Road, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 213 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Ashaway Pines RV Resort, LLC – Jennifer Smith, License Coordinator, 225 Ashaway Road licensed for 260 Campsites. There are no Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

The Town Clerk reported all filing fees were paid and notice had been posted including notice to abutters.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS THAT ALL CAMPGROUND LICENSES BE RENEWED SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT, PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Hirst, Davis, Burns, Moffitt, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN AS A LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL.

IN FAVOR: Hirst, Davis, Burns, Moffitt, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to set a date for a public hearing to amend the fines as listed in the Animal Control Ordinance.

Mr. Rosso updated the Council on the status of the fines in the Animal Control ordinance, noting that he had reached out to Representative Kennedy asking him to sponsor this proposal. Our fines, compared to other municipalities, are still extremely low. Mr. Rosso shared an excel spreadsheet of the fines that other municipalities in the state have in their ordinance. The fines before the ordinance was changed were \$10 for the first offense, \$15 for the second offense, and \$25 for the third offense. The amended ordinance changed those fines to \$25, \$50 and \$75, respectively. Because it takes such an effort to get these bills passed and they have to have a sponsor and it has to go to the House and the Senate for approval, he felt it would be prudent for the Council to discuss this now and decide if he should continue to move forward with this process.

The Council discussed a date for a public hearing and decided on February 20, 2024.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR MOFFITT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BURNS TO SET FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AS THE DATE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE FINES AS LISTED IN THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE.

IN FAVOR: Hirst, Davis, Burns, Moffitt, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Councilor Davis wished to remind residents that the Council would be attending a community vision meeting scheduled for January 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Chariho High School library.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MOFFITT TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF JOHN ALLEN REKOWSKI, FRANK H. BLIVEN JR. AND MAUREEN F. COX.

SO VOTED

Marita D. Murray

Town Clerk

Sydney Fernandes

Deputy Town Clerk