

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the first day of April 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, Stephen Moffitt, Jr., Sharon Davis, Robert Burns; Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Clerk Marita Murray. 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, Moffitt, Burns, Davis and Geary announced they were present.

Oath of Office - swearing-in of Glenn A. Ahern as Police Captain

Chief Mark Carrier stated that Captain Glenn Ahern is a lifelong resident of Hopkinton. It is noted in Town Council Minutes that Glenn was the youngest resident to attend a meeting at just ten days old. His father, Ralph, was a Hopkinton Police Reserve Officer and also the Superintendent of the Hopkinton Public Works. His mother Marjorie, worked for the Town of Hopkinton as a sealer of weights and measures. Glenn has been married to his wife Maria for 28 years and they have three children, one of whom is Hopkinton Police Officer, Ryan Ahern. Glenn has been involved in law enforcement since 1995 in various roles and has worked in Charlestown, Westerly and Hopkinton. In 2003 he joined the Hopkinton Police Department as a full-time patrolman and thereafter completed many certifications and was named Detective in 2012.

Town Clerk, Marita Murray, swore in Captain Glenn Ahern.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

There were no changes to the agenda order.

CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2024; SET APRIL 15, 2024, AS A PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR A MULTI EVENT PERMIT FILED BY P&EE CONSULTING INC. DBA PVD FOOD TRUCK EVENTS FOR MULTIPLE FOOD TRUCK EVENTS.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

Green Bond

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to send a letter in support of the proposed \$10,000,000 Green Bond.

Councilor Geary read the proposed letter:

“I am writing on behalf of the Town of Hopkinton in support of the Municipal Resilience Program from the RI Infrastructure Bank. This financial assistance is a critical resource for our cities and town’s ability to address the mounting challenges presented by climate change.

Recurring extreme weather events have severely impacted our residents, businesses, and essential public infrastructure. More than ever, resources are needed to combat the rising threats to our community’s basic infrastructure and well-being.

We strongly support the proposed \$10MM Green Bond, which will continue to finance resilient infrastructure improvements that safeguard public health, public safety, and private property.

On behalf of the Town of Hopkinton thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express our views.”

Mr. Rosso noted that this was sent to him from the RI Infrastructure Bank for their Municipal Resilience Program. They provide a round of funding every year where they give out grants to municipalities for roads, culverts and infrastructure type work. Hopkinton just received a \$1.3 Million Dollar grant through this program to replace two culverts and replace a single lane bridge. Mr. Rosso advised that he had met with Public Works Director, Dave Caswell, and they came up with a list of bridges and culverts in Town that were the most vulnerable. Councilor Moffitt noted that he had testified at the Finance Committee on March 1, 2024, in support of this bill. Councilor Hirst asked what the potential amount

Hopkinton might receive was and Mr. Rosso noted that in the last round of this grant, Hopkinton had received the largest grant in the state. He also noted that there is a grant that alternates every year from open space to recreation and the Land Trust and Hopkinton Recreation have been able to capitalize on these funds.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR MOFFITT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BURNS TO SEND A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED \$10,000,000 GREEN BOND.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Final Budget Workshop

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to schedule a final budget workshop.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BURNS TO SCHEDULE A FINAL BUDGET WORKSHOP ON APRIL 15, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Cleaner, Greener, Rhode Island Resolution

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt a Resolution in support of a cleaner, greener Rhode Island.

Councilor Geary read the Resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is known for its natural beauty, including its pristine beaches, vibrant cities, and rural towns. Specifically, the TOWN of HOPKINTON enjoys its public parks, and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders in all thirty-nine cities and towns should be able to live in clean, litter-free and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, as municipal officials, we are the stewards of such; and

WHEREAS, we must make a commitment to investing in environmental protection and educating residents on its importance and connection to improving our state's overall health; and

WHEREAS, we will work with our state partners to advance these goals, such as hosting community cleanups, passing local litter-related ordinances, or working on shifting community culture around littering.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the TOWN of HOPKINTON

- (1) Formally pledges to Keep Rhody Litter Free by supporting Governor Daniel J. McKee’s Litter Free Rhode Island campaign; and
- (2) Encourages each of the residents of the TOWN of HOPKINTON to join us in taking this pledge by visiting litterfree.ri.gov; and
- (3) Commits to fulfil our pledge through coordinating various events such as community cleanups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon passage of this Resolution it be sent to His Excellency, the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island, Daniel J. McKee.

Mr. Rosso explained that he has been working with Public Works and the Recreation Department to hold an Earth Day. They are still working out the details, but trash bags and grabbers will be provided. The Land Trust is also involved and has obtained a grant of \$750 and the Town is also applying for this grant. With the grant money they hoped to be able to pay for the trash removal, supplies and possibly refreshments. The details will be posted on the Town’s website soon.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR MOFFITT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CLEANER, GREENER RHODE ISLAND.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Resolutions for Proposed Legislation

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt Resolutions regarding proposed legislation.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF BILL H7958 RELATING TO THE MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING ACT.

IN FAVOR: Hirst, Davis, Burns, Geary

OPPOSED: Moffitt

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF BILL H7978 RELATING TO SUBDIVISION OF LAND.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF BILL H7951 RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES – RI COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE ACT.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF BILL H7986 RELATING TO ABANDONED PROPERTY.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF BILL H7382 RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THAT MAY RESIDE IN A HOUSEHOLD.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF BILL H7324 RELATING TO THE REMOVAL OF THE FLOOR RATIO AS A TOOL FOR MANAGING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BILL S2016 RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES LOW AND MODERATE INCOMING HOUSING REQUIREMENTS.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and vote on a motion to either approve or reject the amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12 - Peddlers and Solicitors to change the fees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12 - PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS FEE.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Rosso announced that the spring road work will begin on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning on Chase Hill Road. They will be putting information on the town's website regarding the road work. Public Works Director, David Caswell, was present and explained that there will be little disruption to traffic for they will be using a rubber chipseal application. He explained that this was a two-step process where they will first apply a thin layer of asphalt and then apply chip seal which is made from recycled tires. Thereafter they will be working on Maxson Hill Road, Diamond Hill Road, Fairview Avenue and Skunk Hill Road. Mr. Caswell added that rubber chipseal is thicker than what was previously used. This chip seal uses recycled scrap tire inventories, which is more durable than conventional hot-mix overlays, and has a life expectancy of eight to twelve years. Mr. Rosso explained that they wanted to geographically spread out the roads that

need repair, so they did not focus on just one area of town. Councilor Geary asked if there would be notice to residents and Mr. Rosso noted there would be notice on the town's website. Mr. Caswell explained that the chip seal dries almost instantly, and any debris is swept up immediately. Councilor Burns questioned if the police reader board would be beneficial to use to notify residents and Mr. Caswell noted that it was currently out of service but if it is fixed in time, they would do that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilor Davis noted that there will be a Hopkinton Eclipse Carnival at the Crandall House on Monday, April 8th, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. where there will be free eclipse glasses provided, a bounce house, mini golf, bubbles, an Alaina's food truck and kid friendly activities.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN IN HONOR OF HOPKINTON'S NEW CHIEF OF POLICE MARK CARRIER AND NEW POLICE CAPTAIN GLENN AHERN.

SO VOTED

Marita D. Murray

Town Clerk

Sydney Fernandes

Deputy Town Clerk

A full audio and video transcript of this meeting can be found at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@HopkintonRI/streams>