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Stacy Gravino, CTC
TOWN CLERK

East Haven Town Council Minutes

The East Haven Town Council held its Regularly Scheduled Meeting Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call -13 Present 2 Absent (Capotorto and Ruggiero)

Staff Present: Stacy Gravino Town Clerk, Matt Marcarelli Fire Chief, and Town Attorney Michael Luzzi.

Chairman Deko read the current order from Governor Lamont as it relates to "in person meetings." He further asked for a moment of silence for all first responders, teachers, and all those on the front lines of the pandemic.

Item #1

Councilwoman Hennessey moved to approve the Minutes of June 6th and 14th.
Councilman Santino second the motion.

Donna Richo 67 Charnes Drive indicated that her statement was incorrect.

Councilman Balter moved to amend the minutes with Ms. Richo's changes.

Ms. Richo indicated that the June, 2021, Item #6 she said "of the previous Capital appropriation, how much has been completed and how much remains undone-referring to October 19, 2019."

Councilman Santino second the motion.

Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion carried

Item #2

Correspondence

Chairman Deko read a letter from Mayor Joseph Carfora to the council. (see attached)

Item #3

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building
Councilwoman Parlato indicated the Board of Education is hiring 22 support staff, and 8 teachers. The contract for the Assistant and the Superintendent's contracts have been extended.
Councilman Balter asked if these are newly created positions or are they vacant positions
The library is starting their summer program and the numbers are higher than expected.

Councilwoman Parlato indicated on the BOE website it does outline the open positions, but she does believe they are vacant positions.

b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

Councilwoman Parlato indicated that the Fire Department had 3 retirees and the Police Department had one retirement.

The police department is currently requesting a test for police officers through Civil Service.

There was some discussion on policies at the police department but their meetings are at the end of the month.

The American's with Disabilities Act Commission did not hold a meeting this past month.

c. Finance

The Board of Finance meeting was cancelled for the June 2021 meeting.

d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation

Councilman Santino stated that the public works staff is being trained on the new piece of equipment to paint lines and will be out on the road soon.

Chairman Deko indicated that the signage along the town beach area is moving along.

Councilman Balter indicated that the new playscape at Kennedy Field (The Pit) should be installed by the end of the month. The current playscape is unsafe and could cause a trip to the emergency room.

e. Urban Renewal/Housing

No report.

f. Blight

Councilman Balter asked if the Blight Committee could be better identified on the website so that the public knows they exist.

Chairman Deko doesn't think that is the purpose of the committee; it is to be a liaison between the council and the Zoning Board of Appeals; not to be going out looking for blight.

Councilman Balter stated that is not what he meant; he meant how does the public know they are available as liaisons to the zoning office to report blight on the public's behalf.

Councilman Santino asked the council members when submitting a blight complaint to please do it in writing.

Attorney Luzzi informed the council that the Assistant Zoning Official job description has been finalized and we anticipate having someone in that position within 30 to 40 days.

Councilman Santino asked if the wait time for action after being cited for blight be shortened.

Attorney Luzzi indicated that blight is a difficult issue in some instances we would be dealing with mental illness, so we want to give people ample time to remedy a situation.

The 30 day window is a meaningful time as long as it's followed.

Councilman Santino indicated that if work has started within the 30 days the clock resets and that is a problem.

Attorney Luzzi indicated after discussion with the lawyers shortening the time will not work out.

Councilman Santino is concerned about the neighbor next door.

Councilman Ranfone wanted clarification in the event he would get a complaint he would put it in writing with his name.

Chairman Deko confirmed his statement.

Item #4

Councilwoman Hennessey read the following resolution approving and authorizing Mayor Joseph Carfora, or his designee to enter into a user license agreement for an online vital records request applications between the East Haven and Permittium, LLC

Councilman Santino moved to approve.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Town Clerk Stacy Gravino who explained that this is an online platform that offers the opportunity to the public to order vital records online and pay online. They will fill out the information on the website and pay online and the request will be mailed. It alleviates the public from having to come into town hall. If you are out of state it shortens the wait period. There is a \$20 fee that the town charges, \$4 for Permittium charge, and \$2-3 for credit card use, about \$27 in total. No charge to the town for this platform.

Councilman Balter stated to the Town Clerk Stacy Gravino “great job” this increases town services and there is no cost to the town. Also, does the town need any special software or does it simply run off the town clerks current system.

Ms. Gravino stated it simply runs off of the town’s system and it will mimic our website.

Chairman Deko indicated that during Administrative Services she indicated that there are other towns that offer this system.

Ms. Gravino agreed the other towns are using this for birth, death, and marriage certificates; Newington, Derby, Plainville, and Groton.

Councilman Santino asked if the site is secure.

Ms. Gravino stated yes.

Chairman Deko recognized Donna Richo, 67 Charnes Drive, and asked if the public would have access to the town’s database.

Ms. Gravino stated that there is no access to the town's database; the request comes from them and it is fulfilled by the office.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion carried.

Approved

Item #5

Councilwoman resolution approving and authorizing Mayor Joseph Carfora, or his designee to sign a “Memorandum of Agreement with regard to the use of State of Connecticut Emergency Management Performance Grant Funds between the Town of East Haven and the State of Connecticut Emergency Management and Homeland Security.”

Councilman Santino moved to approve the resolution.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Fire Chief Marcarelli who explained that this is the same grant the town brings before the council every year. It allows the use of emergency equipment and funding in an emergency situation. It had to be submitted under Mayor Carfora; it is a standard grant.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion carried.

Approved

Item #6

Councilman Balter moved to add the following item to the agenda.

Councilwoman Parlato second the motion.

The appointment of Kevin Coyle as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a of 2/1/21 – 1/31/2024.

Councilman Santino moved to approve the appointment of Kevin Coyle as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the former position of Mr. Letteri.

Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion carried.

Approved

Chairman Deko recognized Bob Schumitz, 173 Borrmann Road who asked when and if a certain canine officer would be recognized and memorialized; because he should be.

Chairman Deko stated that at last month's meeting it was relayed that the stone is backlog 3 to 4 months and the canine officer is on the new stone, which is being donated by East Haven Memorial Funeral Home.

Councilwoman Cesare asked about the town owned farm land on North High Street and if it is a liability.

Attorney Luzzi stated that he is of the same opinion of the former town attorney and there is discussion with regard to a lease agreement. There will be signage at the site soon.

Councilman Balter indicated the start of a community garden is in the works.

Councilwoman Parlato moved to adjourn.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca

Town Council Clerk