

Palmer Town Council

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2014

1. Roll Call

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, August 11, 2014 was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Acting Town Manager Andrew Golas, Phil Hebert, Robert Lavoie, Jason Polonsky, Barbara Barry, Mary Salzmann, and Donald Blais. Matt Lovell was not present for roll call.

2. Consent of the Agenda Order

Motion to accept the agenda as amended by P. Hebert, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2014 – Motion to accept the minutes of June 16, 2014 as submitted by P. Hebert, seconded by M. Salzmann. Motion passed 6-0.

June 23, 2014 – Motion to accept the minutes of June 23, 2014 as amended by M. Salzmann, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 6-0

July 14, 2014 – Motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2014 as amended by J. Polonsky, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0

4. Visitors Comments (for items not on the agenda)

None

5. New Business

1. Open Space and Recreation Plan

Conservation Agent Angela Panaccione addressed the Council regarding the proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). She stated that she would be looking for a letter of support from the Council for the OSRP. A. Panaccione stated that the OSRP is an advisory document that will open the town up for additional grant opportunities. She stated that a letter of support would be needed by the council to seek state approval on the plan. The recommendations of the OSRP included investigating an area for a dog park and renovating Burleigh Park. R. Lavoie asked if any fundraising had taken place to offset costs outlined in the OSRP. Recreation Director Jim Ostrout stated that the committee has yet to take any action on raising funds. D. Blais explained that the council should consider pushing for the adoption of the Community Preservation Act. M. Salzmann asked that the receiving grants be given a high priority given the cost of new park equipment.

B. Barry asked how the committee would approach trying to pass the Community Preservation Act. J. Ostrout stated that the committee would try to push a grassroots campaign to help spread the word on the Community Preservation Act. J. Polonsky

asked how many households participated in the OSRP questionnaire. A. Panaccione stated that 224 households participated in the study. Motion to draft a letter of support for the proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan by P. Hebert, seconded by J. Polonsky. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Recreation Update

Recreation Director Jim Ostrout provided the council with an update on ongoing activities of the Recreation Department. He stated that the summer camp had been successful and the department had conducted its first summer concert in what he hopes to become a summer concert series. J. Ostrout stated that there has been buzz around town since the refurbishing of the Depot Park. He stated that he would like to continue with the rehabilitation of Burleigh Park including building a recreational building to support programs and establishing a swimming area. He asked the council for their support in pursuing a bathroom facility at the park. J. Ostrout proposed establishing a subcommittee to make a recommendation on how Burleigh Park should be restructured.

J. Polonsky stated that he agreed the formation of a subcommittee would be the most beneficial step moving forward. R. Lavoie asked if the proposal would be for one building or multiple buildings. J. Ostrout stated that he would like a facility which housed a bathroom, a common room and an office. M. Salzmann stated that any new construction would need to be ADA compliant. P. Hebert stated that he believes the Mohegan Sun funds would be the most beneficial to use for the reconstruction of Burleigh Park. Motion to establish a subcommittee to study the rehabilitation of Burleigh Park by P. Hebert, seconded by B. Barry. Motion passed 6-0.

P. Hebert asked when the next outdoor concert would be. J. Ostrout stated the next concert would be September 12th at 6:00.

3. 1st Reading - Medical Marijuana Zoning Ordinance

The proposed Medical Marijuana Zoning Ordinance was summarized by M. Salzmann. Planning & Economic Development Director Linda Leduc gave the council an overview of the proposed ordinance.

4. 1366-1368 Park Street Zoning Change Request

Motion to refer the proposed zoning change of 1366-1368 Park Street from Industrial A to General Business to the Planning Board by P. Hebert, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Adoption of Primary Warrant

Motion to accept the warrant for the September 9th primary election by D. Blais, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0.

6. Adoption of K9 Gift Account

Motion to authorize the police department to expend from the newly created K9 Gift Account by J. Polonsky, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0.

7. Council Subcommittees

The proposed subcommittees were summarized by B. Barry. P. Hebert asked that he be appointed as a liaison to Pathfinder. B. Barry confirmed that P. Hebert shall be the council liaison to Pathfinder. M. Salzmann stated her concern over the lack of council representation for the Library. B. Barry stated that she created a Council Rules subcommittee to review the current set of rules.

8. Appointment Recommendations

A. Golas recommended that Nelson Pease be appointed to the 300th Anniversary Committee. Motion to appoint Nelson Pease to the 300th Anniversary Committee by J. Polonsky, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0.

A. Golas recommended that Dennis Cote be reappointed to the Conservation Commission for a three year term. Motion to reappoint Dennis Cote to the Conservation Commission by M. Salzmann, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 6-0.

A. Golas recommended that Sarah Brodeur be appointed to the Conservation Commission for a three year term. Motion to appoint Sarah Brodeur to the Conservation Commission by P. Hebert, seconded by M. Salzmann. Motion passed 6-0.

9. Animal Control Officer Agreement

Police Chief Robert Frydryk addressed the council regarding the proposed agreement between Palmer and Monson for a joint Animal Control Officer. R. Frydryk explained that under the agreement, Monson would reimburse Palmer for the costs to fund the Animal Control Officer. Motion to adopt the Memorandum of Agreement with Monson for shared Animal Control Officer services by J. Polonsky, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 6-0.

6. Old Business

1. Capital Improvements Recommendation

Motion to transfer \$20,000.00 from the FY15 Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund for the replacement of a freezer, steamer and gym bleacher wheels for Palmer High School to the School Department Budget by M. Salzmann, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Emergency Telecommunication's Contract

Motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Palmer and the United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Local 1459 representing the Emergency Telecommunicators' bargaining Unit, for the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016, and to authorize the Town Manager to implement the Agreement by M. Salzmann, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0.

7. Subcommittee Reports

D. Blais reported that as part of the Police Station Construction Project, the new doors had been installed on Town Hall.

B. Barry stated that the Town Manager Review committee is currently working on a new review document for the next review period.

8. Town Manager's Report

A. Golas recommended that the council appropriate \$10,930.00 from the Mohegan Sun Gift Account to replace the front section of the Four Corners Cemetery fence. Motion to appropriate \$10,930.00 from the Mohegan Sun Gift Account to fund the replacement of the Four Corners Cemetery Fence by M. Salzman, seconded by J. Polonsky. P. Hebert questioned if the DPW could remove the old fence and scrap it to save on costs. M. Salzman amended the motion to state the intent of the council was to have the DPW take down and scrap the old fence, seconded by D. Blais. The amended motion passed 6-0.

9. Miscellaneous Correspondence

The council acknowledged receipt of the letter from Mr. Kowalczyk of 44 Chudy Street regarding excessive noise from Pulaski Park on August 2, 2014. B. Barry requested that a response letter be sent to Mr. Kowalczyk and a copy be given to the council.

The Council acknowledged receipt of the Community Open House for J.P. McCarthy & Sons bus company and the open house for the new North Brookfield Savings Bank location on Main Street Three Rivers.

M. Salzman stated her concern over the fact there was no response to the Bussell's request for the Town to do additional mitigation work to prevent baseballs from hitting their house next to Legion Field. She requested that a response be drafted and copied to the council.

10. Councilor Roundtable

D. Blais thanked everyone who attended the National Night Out event at the PHCC.

R. Lavoie thanked everyone who attended the Polish Picnic at Divine Mercy Parish.

M. Salzman thanked the Recreation Department for putting on a good concert at Depot Park. She stated that she is currently organizing the 9/11 Ceremony at Converse Middle School.

J. Polonsky reminded residents that there would be a movie on the Three Rivers Common on Friday, August 15th at 8:30pm. He also thanked P. Hebert for his service as Town Council President and wished good luck to B. Barry in the next year.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by J. Polonsky, seconded by B. Barry. Motion passed 6-0 at 7:55 pm.