

COUNCIL MEETING

August 10, 2015

The regular meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date with Council members Dias, DeBenedictis, Carrow, and Fletcher present with Mayor Letterman presiding. Recording Secretary Sue Muncey, Town Foreman Hurlock, Chief Hill, Town Solicitor Chambers, Sandy Delane, Mr. Patel, and Wayne Stover were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Letterman at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Hill.

1. Approve Minutes:

- *Street Committee Minutes dated June 23, 2015, Economic Development Committee Minutes dated June 30, 2015, Electric Committee Minutes dated July 8, 2015, and Council Minutes dated July 13, 2015 – Motion made by Mr. Carrow and seconded by Mr. Dias to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

2. Treasurer's Report:

- *Motion made by Ms. DeBenedictis and seconded by Mr. Dias to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

3. Communications:

- No Report

4. Police:

- Chief Hill reported he has received calls from Huntington Mills regarding speeders and traffic issues. He is going to use Smyrna's SCAT trailer for a week to week and a half and then do enforcement. Mr. Fletcher asked if there was any street in particular. Chief Hill responded the main streets. Ms. DeBenedictis asked about signs. Chief Hill responded Trey Paradee was going to help. Mayor Letterman stated initially the streets were not accepted. Mr. Carrow stated radar was being run in Wheatley's Pond. Chief Hill stated it was the same situation as Huntington Mills. He wants to have the stop signs erected first. It will be easier to enforce. Mayor Letterman stated he has received a request for police presence on Route 300.

5. Public Works:

- Town Foreman Hurlock stated the gas company is doing work in town. It is causing some inconvenience, but we have to look at it as a public safety concern. They are replacing pipes. They started working on Main Street today. Mayor Letterman asked if they were mapping the lines. Town Foreman Hurlock stated yes. Mayor Letterman asked where they were working next. Town Foreman Hurlock stated Main Street. Mayor Letterman asked about replacement of grass. Town Foreman Hurlock stated they will be seeding.

6. Town Solicitor:

- Mr. Chambers had no report.

7. Inspections/Enforcement:

- Town Foreman Hurlock addressed Mr. Stover's issues. He stated we are waiting due to the Downtown Development Grant. We have issued quite a few permits.

8. Electric:

- Ms. DeBenedictis stated on August 3rd a fuse blew at 112 Main Street causing an outage after hours. Mr. Fletcher stated the outage was only about 40 minutes.

9. Street:

- Mr. Fletcher had no report.
- Town Foreman Hurlock stated the bidding for the East Street project was held August 4th. This is being paid for by the legislators. The bid for West Street from Clayton Avenue to Highland Avenue also went out to bid on August 4th. We will start on the East Street project first. Bids are due on August 19th. Everything will be going through our consultant.

10. Water/Sewer:

- Mr. Fletcher had no report.
- Town Foreman Hurlock stated we have only had minor leaks.

11. Equipment:

- Mr. Dias had no report.

12. Personnel:

- Mr. Carrow had no report.

13. Police:

- Mr. Dias had no report.

14. Budget:

- Mayor Letterman stated we will start the budget process in September.

15. Economic Development Committee:

- Ms. DeBenedictis stated she met with Dave Hugg from the Town of Smyrna. He supplied handouts for the Council. Ms. DeBenedictis stated we need to have a meeting once a month preferably during the day. Sue will send an email out to all members. The next meeting will be held at the Young Bean. Ms. DeBenedictis stated there is money out there. We just need to find it.

16. DEMEC:

- Ms. DeBenedictis stated there will be no meeting in August. A letter needs to be sent from Council for removing or adding Directors and/or Alternates. The annual meeting will be held at Dover Downs on September 23rd. The meeting starts at 4:00 p.m. A tour of the Calpine Plant on White Oak Road will be held on October 13th at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Carrow asked if the solar panels on the firehouse are producing. Ms. DeBenedictis stated yes. DEMEC has a website where you can track it.

17. Board of Adjustments:

- Town Foreman Hurlock had no report.

18. Planning & Zoning:

- Town Foreman Hurlock stated we are updating our Comprehensive Plan. The Plus Committee had a couple of adjustments.
- A meeting is being scheduled to discuss the sign at the Clayton Tavern.

19. Appeals Board:

- Town Foreman Hurlock had no report.

20. Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business to discuss.

21. New Business:

- April Hodgeman – switch the utility bill into their name. Not in attendance.
- Discuss and Vote on adding stop signs in Wheatley’s Pond at Holden Court and Preston Lane. Mr. Fletcher stated a meeting was held to discuss stop signs at Holden Court and Preston Lane. It was determined that speed bumps would be an issue with emergency vehicles.

Mr. Fletcher made a motion to put stop signs at Holden Court and Preston Lane. Motion was seconded by Ms. DeBenedictis. Motion carried unanimously.

- Grass cutting at Liberty Knoll – Homeowner’s Association. Town Foreman Hurlock stated it is the Homeowner Association’s responsibility for grass cutting. A notice has been sent. He noticed the grass has been cut. Mr. Carrow asked if the open space falls under the Homeowner’s Association. Town Foreman Hurlock responded yes. The development went bankrupt. Mayor Letterman asked if a Homeowner’s Association is in place. Town Foreman Hurlock responded yes. If we cut, we charge. Mr. Carrow asked if the Town is notified when a Homeowner’s Association is formed. Mr. Chambers stated it is very difficult. Mr. Carrow asked if there was anything we can do. Mr. Chambers stated it rests with the owner. It is a very difficult situation. Mayor Letterman asked what the space consisted of. Town Foreman Hurlock stated a retention pond area and a

little bit of open space. Mayor Letterman asked if the grass is cut and billed at some point does it become ours. Mr. Chambers stated the ability by statute to assess a municipal lien. It would have to go through bankruptcy court, etc.

- First Reading of the Ordinance to the Absentee Voting Procedures. Ms. DeBenedictis read the Ordinance for Absentee Voting Procedures in its entirety. Mayor Letterman stated the second reading and adoption would be put on the September agenda. Mr. Fletcher asked if we had an ordinance on this already. Mayor Letterman stated it is in the Town's Charter. Mr. Chambers stated we need to follow the State Law – harmonizing everything.

22. Adjournment:

- Motion was made by Mr. Dias and seconded by Mr. Carrow to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recording Secretary,

Sue Muncey

Public Forum
August 10, 2015

Mayor Letterman opened the Public Forum at 7:15 p.m. He stated each citizen will have a limit of three minutes to voice their opinion.

Wayne Stover –His first concern are the buildings downtown. They are run down. Is there a time limit on restoration? Second the new academy – traffic in the area when the school opens. He is concerned about traffic on Clayton Avenue. Mayor Letterman asked what would be the problems. Mr. Stover stated the volume of traffic in the area. Chief Hill stated there will only be eight school buses – 120 children. The majority of the students are being bussed in. They only have 15 local children attending.

Sandy Delane – Street signs – are you going to go by the ordinance? There are people parking on the yellow lines on Tracer Avenue. The violators not receiving tickets. They are parking in the fire hydrant area. Chief Hill said he will address this issue. There is a “For Sale” sign on the house on Tracer Drive. Renters should be responsible for homes. They are keeping the homes in disarray. Houses need to be kept presentable.

Mr. Patel – He is the new owner of the Clayton Tavern. There was a complaint about his sign. If I have no sign, how do I bring business into the Town? Mr. Carrow asked what sign. Mr. Patel said the sign on the building is secured for safety. Town Foreman Hurlock stated the size is violating the ordinance. Mayor Letterman stated this is being sent to the Planning & Zoning Committee to schedule a meeting and discuss. Mr. Carrow asked if Mr. Patel was aware of the ordinance. Mayor Letterman stated we are going through the process to get it resolved.