



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting Minutes: Town Council
2024 January 22
7:00 pm Eastern Time
WCAT Studio – 24 Hemlock Road | Via Zoom

Call to Order: Jonathan P. Chines called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Jonathan P. Chines led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Council: Mehreen N. Butt, Jonathan P. Chines, Chair; Anne P. Danehy; Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. (remote); Michael J. McLane, Vice Chair; Julie Smith-Galvin; and Robert E. Vincent II.

Administration: Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator; Sherri A. Dalton, Executive Assistant, and Town Council Clerk.

Town Counsel: Thomas A. Mullen.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budgets: Evan Kenney, Chair of the Finance Committee Town Hall Subcommittee, recommended favorable action on the following budgets presented by Town Accountant Gill. Michael J. McLane moved to approve the following Fiscal Year 2025 budgets: Budget #4 Treasury Department for \$237,756.00; Budget #18 Fire Alarm / Traffic Signals for \$72,511.00; Budget #19 Emergency Management Department for \$92,253.00; Budget #20 Inspectional Services Department for \$482,638.00; Budget #36 Street Lights for \$188,131.00; Budget #38 Historical Commission for \$2,000.00; Budget #41 Unemployment for \$75,000.00; Budget #42 Reserve Fund for \$400,000.00; Budget #44 Professional Medical for \$15,300.00. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Members of the Conservation Commission advocated to increase the budget to fund additional conservation agent hours. After a lengthy discussion Michael J. McLane moved to approve Budget #13 Conservation Commission for \$61,078.00. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 4-3-0 by roll call vote with Mehreen N. Butt, Edward F. Dombroski, Jr., Julie Smith-Galvin, and Jonathan P. Chines voting in favor of the motion. Michael J. McLane, Anne P. Danehy, and Robert E. Vincent II voting against the motion. Budget #28 Veteran Services was tabled.

Presentations / Updates: Planning Board Referral: Planning Board Chair Noell and Planning Board member Hogan presented the proposed MBTA Communities Overlay District Bylaw. Michael J. McLane moved to refer the proposed MBTA Communities Overlay District Bylaw to the Planning Board. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 6-0-1 with Mehreen N. Butt, Anne P. Danehy, Edward F. Dombroski, Jr., Julie Smith-Galvin, Robert E. Vincent II, and



Jonathan P. Chines voting in favor of the motion. Michael J. McLane abstained. This referral allows the Planning Board to hold public hearings on the proposed bylaw before the bylaw warrant article goes to Town Meeting for consideration.

Division 2 Regulation: Town Counsel Mullen recommended the Town Council refer the Traffic Rules and Orders regulation in Division 2 of the Town's code to the Traffic Advisory Committee for review and updates. Town Counsel Mullen will also review the Alcoholic Beverages regulations. **Tree and Vegetation Policy:** The Department of Public Works provided an update on trees and vegetation policies in which they have continued to plant more public shade trees over the past several years replacing trees that have been lost due to disease, aging, and damage. The department is in the process of developing a digital database of all public shade trees.

Appointments: Permanent Building Committee: License: Michael J. McLane moved to appoint Jason Cohen and Wayne Hardacker to the Permanent Building Committee for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Donations: Michael J. McLane moved to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the Library for \$600.00 from various donors with thanks. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The donation was approved by acclamation.

Approval of Minutes: Michael J. McLane moved to approve the January 8, 2024 Town Council meeting minutes. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Adjournment: Michael J. McLane motioned to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri A. Dalton,
Town Council Clerk