



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

June 22nd, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81987692807>

Council Members Present: Ann McGonigle Santos, Chair; Julie Smith-Galvin, Vice-Chair; Mehreen N. Butt; Jonathan P. Chines; Paul R. DiNocco and Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.

Council Member Absent: Peter J. May.

Administration Present: Sherri A. Dalton, Town Council Clerk; Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator.

Call to Order: Councilor Santos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilor Santos led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Engagement: There was no public engagement.

Approval of Minutes: Councilor DiNocco motioned to approve the June 08th, 2020 regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Deputy Fire Chief Appointment: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio introduced Thomas Purcell as his appointment to the Deputy Fire Chief position. Councilor DiNocco motioned to ratify the appointment. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Building Inspector Appointment: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio introduced Benjamin DeChristoforo as his appointment to the Building Inspector position. Councilor Smith-Galvin motioned to ratify the appointment. Councilor Dombroski seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Water and Sewer Rate Public Hearing: At 6:15 p.m. Councilor Dombroski motioned to open the Public Hearing. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote. Director of the Department of Public Works along with Town Engineer, Business Manager and Matthew Abrahams from the Abrahams Group who presented the new study results for the Fiscal Year 2021 Water and Sewer rates as approved by the Advisory Board of Public Works. The Council was concerned with the potential of residents not being able to pay their bills with the proposed rates and asked that they report back to the Council next year with an update. Councilor Smith-Galvin motioned to approve the following: Water Rate per 100 Cubic Feet – Including Service Charge Rate - Tier 1 from 1 to 1000 \$7.30; Tier 2 from 1001 to 2500 \$7.72; Tier 3 from 2501 to 6000 \$8.15; Tier 4 from 6001 + \$8.99. Water Service Charge – Meter Size (in) Charge Per Bill – 5/8 \$19.16; 3/4 \$19.16; 1 \$19.16; 1.5 \$63.87; 2 \$102.19; 3 \$191.61; 4 \$319.35. Sewer Rate per 100 Cubic Feet – Including Service Charge and Sewer Flat Rate – Tier 1 from 1 to 1000 \$11.20; Tier 2 from 1010 to 2500 \$11.70; Tier 3 from 2501 to 6000 \$12.21; Tier 4 from 6001 + \$13.22; Sewer Flat \$370.00 (per quarter). Sewer Service Charge – Meter Size (in) Charge Per Bill – 5/8 \$21.40; 3/4 \$21.40; 1 \$21.40; 1.5 \$71.33; 2 \$114.14; 3 \$214.00; 4 \$356.67. Manual Read Meter Fee - \$50.00 per quarter. Septic Disposal Rate – Facility Opening Fee \$110.00; Disposal



Cost per 100 Cubic Feet charged at current sewer rate; Off Hours disposal rate (additional) minimum 3 hours at current W-4 scale X 1.5. Councilor Butt seconded. Motion passed 5-1-0 by a roll call vote with Councilor Chines voting against the motion. There was no public comment. At 7:37 p.m. Councilor Dombroski motioned to close the Public Hearing. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0 by a roll call vote.

COVID-19 Updates: As of Saturday, there are 313 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wakefield. The Town received the first installment of monies from the CARES Act. The re-opening of Town Hall has gone very well.

The proposals for outdoor restaurant dining have worked very well. Town Administrator Maio requested restaurants that have been allowed to come out to the street be extended to seven (7) days a week and to also open the whole east side of Tuttle Street. He stated that the area for Sakura and Public Kitchen can be expanded a little with still having parking spaces in between. Councilor Dombroski motioned to extend outdoor dining to seven (7) days a week; expand the area for Sakura and Public Kitchen; and to open the whole east side of Tuttle Street. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Wakefield Community Partnership: John Ross, Vice-President of the Community Partnership discussed with the Town Council the idea for a multi organizational two-day event in the downtown with proposed dates of September 25th and 26th; October 16th and 17th or December 4th and 5th. With no specific plans being brought forward to the Town Council, the Council tabled the request until the Wakefield Community Partnership could speak with the Director's of Emergency Management and Health Department. Councilor Santos also suggested that they have conversations with the Wakefield Lynnfield Chamber of Commerce.

Economic Development Council: Presented to the Town Council, by Councilor Dombroski was the revised – final version of the Economic Development Council. The composition and structure of the Council shall be a nine (9) member body appointed by the Town Council from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. Terms shall be three (3) years, with terms initially staggered at inception to ensure continuity going forward. There will also be one or two Town Councilors annually assigned by the Town Council Chair as liaisons to the EDC as well as representatives from town administration as needed to participate in the EDC's meetings on an advisory basis. Councilor Dombroski thanked Councilor's Smith-Galvin and Chines for working with him on bringing forth the revised – final version to the Town Council. Councilor DiNocco stated that Councilor's Dombroski, Smith-Galvin and Chines did a great job restructuring the proposal. Councilor Dombroski motioned to create the Economic Development Council and to advertise at some point in the near future. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Appointments: Councilor Dombroski motioned to appoint F. James Luciani to the Conservation Commission to fill an un-expired term through April 30, 2023. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Council Smith-Galvin motioned to appoint Abigail Lane, Jordan Coccoluto and Jiovanni Luciani as non-voting student members to the Clean Lake Committee. Councilor Dombroski seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor DiNocco motioned to authorize the Clerk of the Town Council to advertise to fill an un-expired 5-year term on the Wakefield Housing Board of Commissioners through April 30, 2022. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0 by a roll call vote.

The Town Councilor tabled the request to advertise to fill a Town Council un-expired 3-year appointment term on the Human Rights Commission through April 30, 2021.

Fiscal Year 2020: The total amount of Reserve Fund Transfers as presented by the Town Administrator is \$174,100.00. The Town is going to end Fiscal Year 2020 in very good shape. Going forward for the months of July and August, the Department of Revenue is going to be forwarding the Town one twelfth of last year's budget of Chapter 70 funds and one twelfth of last year's budget of unrestricted local aid.

Donation: Councilor Chines motioned to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the Library in the amount of \$805.00 from various donors with thanks. Councilor Dombroski seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Town Warrants: Councilor's were updated on Warrant 41 dated April 07th, 2020 through Warrant 47 dated May 19th, 2020.

Announcements: Councilor Chines commented that the Home Rule Petition for the Senior Property Tax Exemption was finally passed and approved by the Governor and thanked the legislation delegation as well as the Town Assessor.

Councilor DiNocco also acknowledged Paul Brodeur as he was the initiator of the Bill; asked that the School Department or the Town address an issue at the parking lot across from Landrigan Field and recommends closing the lot until school starts as that lot is being abused.

Councilor Butt thanked everyone involved for a successful Town Meeting and would like to talk about holding Town Meeting's on Saturday's going forward; excited about the Economic Development Director position; Farmer's Market had their grand opening on Saturday and they will be open again this Saturday with the approval to sell live orders; mentioned having a kiosk set up at Town Hall for drive through business; requested a Rail to Trail update at the next meeting; Community Gardens are open; members of the Youth Council attended Town Meeting to observe.

Councilor Smith-Galvin noted that Town Election is tomorrow and sent well wishes to colleagues that are running; would like to have diversity equity inclusion training; recognized Jody Sherman for her service to the Town and stated "Jody Sherman drove the book sale's growth for over 20 years, from its small origins to the massive events of recent years, fund raising on the order of \$200K for the Beebe. She stood at the helm, acting as caretaker, primary organizer and sage of the books (which were formerly stored in her garage), training numerous volunteers, tirelessly supervising during the long hours of setup and breakdown as well as managing the sale itself. Jody's energy and dedication were inspiring to generations of volunteers and will be sorely missed", "Jody has understandably decided to step back after her extended service "living" the book sale, and members of the Friends and community would like to express our gratitude and ask for her to be recognized by the Town Council".

Councilor Dombroski recognized Steve Maio in regards to the Home Rule Petition; recognized and thanked the members of the Public Safety Building Reassessment Committee for their hard work and the vote at Town Meeting reflected that; reminded everyone that tomorrow is the Town Election and mentioned that this ends his first term as a Town Councilor. He extended his sincere thanks to the Town of Wakefield for giving him this opportunity these last three years as he has done everything in his power to earn the trust and confidence of the residents.

Town Administrator Maio recognized and thanked Tom Walsh, Ruth Clay, WCAT and DPW for making Town Meeting happen as the turn out was one of the largest ones in three or four years with 252 people in attendance.

Councilor Santos agreed with Councilor Butt about holding Town Meeting's on a Saturday's; noted with regret the death of Elizabeth DeFelice; announced the following liaison appointments: Councilor Butt – Police Department, Board of Health, Library and Human Right Commisison; Councilor Dombroski – Economic Development Council; Councilor Chines – Albion Cultural Exchange Committee, School Department, Planning Board; Councilor Smith-Galvin – Committees, Environmental Sustainability Committee, WMGLD; Councilor Santos – Fire Department; Councilor May – DPW. She noted that she forgot to assign Councilor DiNocco as a liaison and asked him to contact her so they can discuss. Councilor Chines continues to be the Warrant signer.

Matters Not Anticipated: There were no matters unanticipated.

Adjournment: At 8:51 p.m. Councilor Chines motioned to adjourn. Councilor Dombroski seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Next Council Meeting: The next regular Town Council meeting is July 13th, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton
Town Council Clerk