

**MINUTES of the REGULAR
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

32 WEST AVENUE

January 9, 2023 @ 3:00PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Reddington called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Present: Council Members Colleen Twardzik, Jay Tyminski, Don Walsh, and Steve Cobb, Police Chief Ken McLaughlin, Finance Director Dawn Parks, Planning, Zoning & Development Director Ken Cimino, Town Manager Carol Houck, Town Solicitor Veronica Faust, and Town Clerk Donna Schwartz were also present.

2. ADOPTION of Agenda

A motion was made by Council Member Walsh, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously 5/0.

3. APPROVAL of the Town Council Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member Cobb, seconded by Council Member Tyminski, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 14, 2023. The motion was carried unanimously 5/0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Reddington read a Proclamation for Helen Rathbun who was celebrating her 100th birthday.

5. REPORTS

- A. **Financial (Dawn Parks)**
Report received and filed.
- B. **Public Safety (Chief McLaughlin)**
Report received and filed.
- C. **Planning, Zoning and Development (Ken Cimino)**
Report received and filed.
- D. **Town Manager (Carol Houck)**
Report received and filed.
- E. **Public Works (Carol Houck)**
Report received and filed.
- F. **MVFC Report (Mayor Reddington)**
Report received and filed.

6. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Introduction of Ordinance(s)**
- B. **Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Voting on a Recommendation Regarding the Direction for the FY25 Budget Discussion.**

The Town Council agreed with the following for the revenue budget: a discount on prompt payment of property taxes and to continue with no reliance on Transfer Tax in the operating budget. On the expense side, for health, dental, and vision insurance the Council agreed that they need more information, which Mrs. Parks will supply. The council agreed with using the annual CPI for wage increases and supported the annual buyback of sick leave. In other expenses, they supported the purchase of a new police vehicle. After a lengthy discussion, the council is considering the costs of events in John West Park, and the 10% contingency for the Capital Budget. There were no issues with the water budget.

C. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Voting on the Proposed 2024 Election Calendar.

There was a noted change on the timeline for notifying the State Election Committee with a request for voting machines to 2/13/2024.

A motion was made by Council Member Cobb, seconded by Council Member Walsh, to approve the election calendar with the change of date to February 13, 2024. The motion was carried unanimously 5/0.

D. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Voting on a Recommendation to Request Reconsideration of Path Forward for 8 Oakwood Avenue.

Mrs. Houck led the discussion on this item, asking for reconsideration of her plan to move forward with 8 Oakwood Avenue. She stated that the best use of this property would be for additional parking for the park. Mrs. Houck believes that the property can be developed in a manner that would use only grant money, ORPT monies and leftover ARPA funds. Council Member Tyminski asked if there was a possibility of combining two uses for that property. Mrs. Houck replied yes, but we must be careful with the noise that might be generated by any activities. It is not the right place for a pickleball or basketball court. Council Member Walsh said they are trying to create remedies for the pickleball noise. He said growth and noise are tough things, it needs to be controlled somehow. Council Member Cobb inquired whether the house could be moved instead of destroyed. He suggested checking it out with house movers.

A motion was made by Council Member Cobb, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, authorizing Mrs. Houck to proceed with the recommendation of a parking lot using funds from grant money, ORPT and ARPA, if possible, give the house away. The motion was carried unanimously 5/0.

9. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE – None

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Twardzik, seconded by Council Member Walsh, to adjourn the meeting at 4:26pm. The motion was carried unanimously 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Schwartz, MMC,
Town Clerk