



Stratford, Connecticut

MINUTES OF MEETING

THE STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL CONDUCTED A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, 2725 MAIN STREET, STRATFORD, CT PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY POSTED.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Council Chairman Michael Henrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Michael Julian, Mr. Alvin O'Neal, Mr. Gavin Forrester, Ms. Emma Brooks, Mr. John Dempsey, Mr. William Stroomer, Mr. Thomas Moore, Mr. Joseph Kubic, Mr. Michael Henrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Amy Wanamaker

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town Attorney Richard Buturla

INVOCATION PRESENTED BY SEVENTH DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAM STROOMER FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF FRED BIEBEL.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Minutes of: Public Forum and Regularly scheduled meeting of October 13 and special meeting of October 26, 2009.

RESOLVED: That the reading of the foregoing minutes be dispensed with as copies thereof have been previously provided to each Council Member and the same be and are hereby approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER NTO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Julian — re: Fire on North Peters Lane

Mr. O'Neal — re: Fire on North Peters Lane

Mr. Stroomer — re: Fire on North Peters Lane, Aquarian Water company's statement

Mr. Kubic — re: Fire on North Peters Lane

3. COMMUNICATIONS — None.

4. MAYOR’S REPORT, COMMITTEE REPORTS, TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORTS

4.1 MAYOR’S REPORT — NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

WAIVER OF COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MOORE SECONDED BY MR. DEMPSEY TO WAIVE THE COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER FOR INCLUSION OF THE RESOLUTION BELOW TO THE AGENDA. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution authorizing Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Program-Radio Tower and Generator Earmark through the Department of Justice in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 — Referred to Public Safety Committee during Council Meeting of October 13, 2009.

WHEREAS, the *Town of Stratford* has been awarded a grant from the *U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Grant Program* in an amount not to exceed \$325,000; and

WHEREAS, grant funding will be used to enhance local communication by between the Town agencies involved in public safety preparedness and response, State Emergency Management Regions One and Two and with the surrounding cities of Bridgeport and Milford, and to create a reliable secondary location for Stratford’s Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the *Town of Stratford* enter into a grant agreement with the *U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Grant Program*.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Town Council:

1. That it is cognizant of the Town’s application and subsequent contract with the *U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Technology Grant Program* for funding to support improved communications and power generation in an amount not to exceed \$325,000; and,
2. That it hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the Mayor or his designee to execute and file such application with the *U.S. Department of Justice*, to provide such additional information, to implement the program once the award is secured, and to execute such other contracts and documents as maybe necessary under this program.

The Chair recognized grants writer Ms. Kazanas for a question-answer segment. Mr. Moore stated that the Public Safety committee discussed the foregoing resolution and favorably referred it back to Council. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MOORE SECONDED BY MR. O’NEAL TO ACCEPT THE FOREGOING GRANT. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING PROCEEDED IN THE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

8.2 FIRE EQUIPMENT/APPARATUS

The Chair recognizes Fire Chief Cavanaugh, Deputy Fire Chief Moffett, and Assistant Chief Ross for a question-answer segment re: purchase of 2 side mount pumpers and other apparatus.

RESOLVED: that, pending James Miron declaring an emergency pursuant to our purchasing order, that 2 demo fire trucks as presented this evening, be purchased for a total of \$805,000 and the additional \$5,000 above the amount currently allocated be appropriated from Council contingency account with the understanding that the additional understanding to fit out these trucks will be appropriated by this Council in 2 weeks.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. KUBIC SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2 COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.2.1 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE —The Ordinance Committee conducted the regularly scheduled meeting of October 26, 2009 at which time the following was unfavorably referred to Council:

AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION (#09-02)

Sponsored by: Hon. Emma Brooks, 4th District Council Member

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. BROOKS SECONDED BY MR. O'NEAL TO STRIKE THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE FROM THE AGENDA. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.3 TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

4.3.1 AIRPORT PURCHASE — continuing item — NO BUSINESS FURNISHED.

4.3.2 Efrain Colon v Town of Stratford, et al

Attorney Buturla requests taking the foregoing item into executive session for the purpose of discussion regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or litigation toward the town or a member thereof as a party. Mr. Buturla would like that motion to include members of the Stratford Town Council and himself.

Efrain Colon v Town of Stratford, et al — continued

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. KUBIC, SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO DISCUSS THE FOREGOING CASE FOR THE REASON STATED ABOVE WITH EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INCLUDE THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUALS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Stratford Town Council meeting recessed: 8:38 p.m.

Stratford Town Council meeting reconvened: 8:46 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. O'NEAL TO ACCEPT THE TOWN ATTORNEY'S RECOMMENDATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING CASE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.3.3 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Henrick — re: Animal control Facility contract

5. QUESTIONS TO MAYOR OR STAFF — Mayor not in attendance at meeting.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.2 TABLED ITEMS — All items remained on the table.

6.3 TABLED ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS — All tabled Ordinance and resolution remained on the table.

6.4 TABLED APPOINTMENTS — All tabled appointments remained on the table.

7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS — None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 LIST OF ALL CASES INCLUDING LITIGATION, WORKERS COMP BEING HANDLED BY TOWN ATTORNEYS OFFICE — Mr. Kubic requested the list. Mr. Buturla agreed.

8.3 APPOINTMENTS

8.3.1 HOUSING AUTHORITY — 5-year term, appointed by Town Council.

RESOLVED: that EVELYN B. GAROFOLO of 86 LEEWARD DRIVE be and is hereby appointed a member of the Stratford Housing Authority. (unexpired term of Jackie Cooper ends June 30, 2013) — DECEASED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO APPOINT EVELYN B. GAROFOLO OF 86 LEEWARD DRIVE TO THE FOREGOING POSITION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 8 IN FAVOR AND ONE, MR. O’NEAL, OPPOSED.

WAIVER OF COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER

A. RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE ORIGINAL FRANKLIN MILESTONE HISTORICAL LANDMARK. — Resolution appended as page 10.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO WAIVE THE COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER TO INCLUDE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION ON THE AGENDA. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Julian read the resolution into the record. He stated that a student at Stratford Academy, Kenneth Sorrentino, performed the research for the resolution. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. RESOLUTION. APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE OF TRANSITION PLANNING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER TO WAIVE THE COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER TO INCLUDE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION ON THE AGENDA. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Council adopted a resolution to create an Office of Transition Planning in 2005 in connection with our change in the form of government from a Town Manager – Council form to a Mayor-Council form; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford elected a new mayor and Town Council who will be sworn in December 14, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.; and,

WHEREAS, the Charter contemplates a brief period of time between Election Day and the Oath of Office for the new Mayor-Elect, John Harkins, to organize, appoint and plan a new government for the Town of Stratford; and,

RESOLUTION. APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE OF TRANSITION PLANNING — continued

WHEREAS, the need for transition planning is present now for the newly elected Mayor of Stratford; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor-Elect must be informed and briefed on the many important issues facing the Town in order to effectively create a new government in the best interests of the People of Stratford; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that to effectuate the orderly transition of government, the Town Council created the Office of Transition Planning which will be held by mayor-Elect, John Harkins, from the date of his appointment by the Town Council until he takes the oath of Office of Mayor. The Office of Transition Planning shall appoint the Mayor-Elect John Harkins, as an officer of the Town of Stratford and provide to him the authority to access all Town government offices and documents and to be briefed and receive information, including but not limited to: all communications and documents privileged by the attorney-client relationship, all communications and documents otherwise exempt from disclosure by the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act and any other information and materials deemed necessary to insure the effective and efficient transfer of power. The Mayor-Elect shall receive no compensation during his interim appointment to the Office of Transition Planning; however, the Town Council may provide resources to the Mayor-elect to undertake the duties of that office.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JULIAN SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. RESOLUTION WAIVING REPAYMENT OF LOAN TO STRATFORD BRAKETTE'S SOFTBALL TEAM

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO WAIVE THE COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER TO INCLUDE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION ON THE AGENDA. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WHEREAS the Town Council has previously authorized a loan to the Stratford Brakettes in the amount of \$25,000 and;

WHEREAS the Town council recognizes the unique cultural asset and positive public perception that the Brakettes generate for the Town of Stratford and;

WHEREAS the recent national Tournament that was undertaken by the Stratford Brakettes was both a sporting and economic success to Stratford businesses, be it now resolved that;

The loan is deemed a grant from the Town of Stratford to the Stratford Brakettes and that the repayment of both principal and interest is hereby waived.

RESOLUTION WAIVING REPAYMENT ... BRAKETTE'S SOFTBALL TEAM — cont'd

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 REVIEW/DISCUSSION ITEM — list of outstanding building and facilities maintenance tasks re: Board of Education as forwarded from the Building Needs Committee. — NO DISCUSSION.

9.2 JUSTIN LoSCHIAVO ACCIDENT COST TO TOWN — *DISCUSSION ITEM* — NO DISCUSSION.

9.3 STATUS OF REVALUATION OF REAL ESTATE — NO BUSINESS FURNISHED.

9.4 ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY — *DISCUSSION ITEM* — NO DISCUSSION.

10. ADJOURNMENT — Hearing no further discussion in connection with the above agenda items or further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. ON A MOTION MADE BY MR. FORRESTER, SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN, IT WAS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:09 P.M.

ATTESTED BY:

Carol Cabral
Carol Cabral, Council Clerk

RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE ORIGINAL FRANKLIN MILESTONE HISTORICAL LANDMARK

Be it resolved that pursuant to the diligent request of town resident Kenneth Sorrentino of Washington Parkway, of Stratford, CT, this town council authorizes the protection of a historical landmark at the intersection of Ferry Boulevard and East Broadway.

Due to the faithful observance and active research of this 6th grader, it is hereby recognized that Ben Franklin's milestone monument be preserved and maintained for posterity.

The monument has the wording "14 Miles to NH" inscribed on the front. This milestone was installed when Ben Franklin was the country's very first postmaster of the United States Post Office to help and guide mail delivery in the 1760's.

"Fees for delivering mail were assessed according to the miles it traveled, the recipient paying the tariff. Benjamin Franklin, the country's first postmaster in 1767, devised a precise method to levy postage fees. He ordered brownstone markers placed each mile along the route between Boston and New York City, so mail carriers could charge the correct postage. These mileposts gave birth to the historic "Boston Post Road"... (See footnote).

Therefore this council requests that the Mayor instruct the Public Works department to maintain and preserve this legendary Milestone monument and maintain the surrounding location in a manicured park like condition.

Note: Wording taken from the West Brookfield Historical Commission, Brookfield, MA