



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW  
60 CENTER SQUARE  
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028

**TOWN COUNCIL**

(413) 525-5400 ext. 1001

Michael J. Kane, President,
Thomas C. O'Connor, Vice President
Donald J. Anderson, R. Patrick Henry, Kathleen G. Hill
Ralph E. Page, Marilyn M. Richards

Approved 2/9/2021

MINUTES  
Town Council Meeting  
January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
East Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01028

**Present:** President Michael Kane, Pat Henry, Ralph Page, Marilyn Richards, Don Anderson and Kathleen Hill

**Absent:** Vice President Tom O'Connor

Council President Kane opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Moment of Silence. The meeting was conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020. Announcements were made in accordance with Mass General Law, and it was noted that the meeting was being audio taped as well as in a virtual remote format.

President Kane noted that all votes taken would be roll call votes.

**Public Comments:** None

**Council Comments:** Councilor Anderson announced that nomination papers will be available on February 4, 2021 for the June 8, 2021 Annual Town Election. Councilor Anderson also announced that his position is up for reelection this year and he will not be running for a third term. Councilor Anderson stated that he made a promise in 2016 when he first ran for the Council that he would not be making this a second political career. Councilor Anderson ran to offer the first ever Town Council and new form of government some experience. Councilor Anderson stated he has had the privilege of serving the people of East Longmeadow as an elected official since April of 1988, and he is blessed and humbled in our citizen's confidence in him throughout these decades.

President Kane thanked Councilor Anderson for all he has done over the years.

President Kane reminded everyone that there are numerous vacancies on different Boards and Committees. If anyone is interested they can reach out to Council members, the Clerk of the Council or the Town Manager.

President Kane announced at the next Council Meeting Steve Lonergan will be there and they will touch on the budget and Capital and believes it would be a good idea to pass any questions we may have to Steve prior to the meeting.

President Kane also stated that similar to what he just mentioned; they generally have the minutes prior to Council meetings to review and if people see changes we might not have to wait until the next Council Meeting. If those changes could be passed along to himself then he could forward those to Assistant Town Clerk Jackie Sullivan and maybe some of the minutes could be revised prior to the next Council meeting. This could improve the efficiency of the Council's time.

President Kane reached out to the Chair of the School Committee and extended an invitation to them to join the Council meeting on February 9, 2021.

### **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Mary McNally gave her report as shown in Attachment A.

Ms. McNally stated that the report has an attachment of the 2020 recap that she offered for the Council's reflection. Ms. McNally stated her intention for this report was to improve our efficiencies. By looking back at 2020 and trying to identify some of the issues and projects that came up over the course of the year that she thought were handled well and others that she thought could have been handled better. The purpose of the recap was just to try and identify areas where we can improve our performance.

- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the outdoor skating rink at 4:00 pm on Wednesday January 13, 2020. The enthusiasm that this rink has generated is remarkable.
- Ms. McNally had the pleasure of attending her first Master Plan Steering Committee meeting. At that meeting there was significant planning and introductions to the consultant that the Planning Commission has hired. There will a planning session, a vision session and chapter captains. The grant that Planning Director Bethany Yeo applied for and received in order to facilitate the Master Plan is paying for this consultant, as well as some of the outreach that is going to be done. On Saturday February 13, 2021 there will be an outreach where the opinions and the position of the community are going to be solicited.
- There was great news from the Friends of the Library; last year they were asked to contribute to the carpeting project in the library and they voted to do so and contracted with Dimauro Carpet to replace carpet in two areas of the library. Ms. McNally recently had an email from Diane Tiago wanting to know what was left to do. Ms. Tiago informed Ms. McNally that The Friends of the Library voted to contract with Dimauro for an additional \$45,000.00 to finish the carpeting project. This has been on the Capital Plan for years; this project will now be completed due to the generosity of The Friends of the Library.
- Ms. McNally received communication from the auditor and they have finished the audit in compliance with bylaw 3.020 d regarding the examination of the Town Clerk's books and records from when the former Town Clerk Tom Florence left. There were no unusual transactions or activities to warrant a further investigation. Ms. McNally stated that they still have to resolve the issue of the former Finance Director's departure and believes that will be resolved with the Fiscal 20 audit.
- The Recreation Department submitted a bullet point of all of the activities that are going on to try and keep the youth and toddlers in the community physically and socially active during Covid. Ms. McNally cannot praise Recreation Director Donna Prather and Deputy Director Geordie Emmanuel enough. Their imaginations and enthusiasm is boundless. Ms. McNally also reported that Tim Larocca has resigned, and his last day will be January 22, 2021. This will be the second vacancy in that department and despite the short staff situations it is remarkable what they have accomplished.

- Bethany Yeo received a petition from the Pioneer Valley to participate in a grant application to expand rail trails throughout Western Mass. We would like to do that and hopefully expand on the bike trail, depending on how many hurdles there are.
- There was a Board of Directors meeting this morning with Westcomm and the new radios for the Police and Fire will be in service hopefully within 60 days.

Councilor Henry would like to point out that not only did Ms. McNally do many things she also does the things that she says she is going to do. Councilor Henry feels this is something that is really valued by everybody.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- A. Approval of December 8, 2020, Open Session Minutes  
*Councilor Anderson made a motion to approve the December 8, 2020 Open Session minutes. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote – Councilor Page – Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, Councilor Anderson – Yes, Councilor Henry – Yes, Councilor Richards –Yes and President Kane – Yes. Councilor O’Connor – absent.*
- B. Approval of December 15, 2020, Open Session Minutes  
*Councilor Hill made a motion to approve the December 15, 2020 Open Session minutes. Councilor Henry seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote – Councilor Page – Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, Councilor Anderson – Yes, Councilor Henry – Yes, Councilor Richards –Yes and President Kane – Yes. Councilor O’Connor – absent.*
- C. Approval of December 23, 2020, Open Session Minutes  
*Councilor Page made a motion to approve the December 23, 2020 Open Session Minutes. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Councilor Henry suggested they change the wording to say consider waiving the remainder of the time granted by the Town Council. Roll Call Vote to approve the December 23, 2020 Open Session minutes with the above mentioned change. Councilor Page – Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, Councilor Anderson – Yes, Councilor Henry – Yes, Councilor Richards –Yes and President Kane – Yes. Councilor O’Connor – absent.*

**Communications, Correspondence and Announcements:** None

**Public Hearings:** None

### **Orders of the Day:**

- A. Licensing Matters- Councilor Hill stated that they will be meeting tomorrow January 13, 2021 to consider an extension of outdoor dining. They will make a full report at the February 9, 2021 meeting. Councilor Henry asked if we know if there are any licenses that have not been approved. Councilor Hill stated there were two and one is in progress and the other one is unclear at this point.
- B. Financial Matters
1. Acceptance of donations for an ice rink, for the use of purchasing the rink and necessary supplies, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53A ½

Steve Lonergan reported on the ice rink and would like the Council to accept the donations. Mr. Lonergan read the list of donors as shown in Attachment B. Mr. Lonergan stated there was one person who asked not to be recognized.

*Councilor Richards made a motion to accept the donations for an ice rink, for the use of purchasing the rink and necessary supplies, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53A ½. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion.*

Councilor Henry commented that it is wonderful to see this kind of spirit.

Mary McNally commented that she would be remiss in not mentioning the Recreation Commission. They are all very dedicated and really great people, stated Ms. McNally and thanked them as well.

***Roll Call Vote - Councilor Page – Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, Councilor Anderson – Yes, Councilor Henry – Yes, Councilor Richards –Yes and President Kane – Yes. Councilor O’Connor- absent.***

C. Old Business

Councilor Anderson asked if they could get a status report on street takings. Ms. McNally stated they have discussed this at various intervals throughout the year and there are a lot of requirements since the last time we had taken a street. Ms. McNally spoke to the State Legislators as well; she believes there are some issues that require legislation in order to accept those streets. They will go through it again and will be happy to get that information to you.

D. New Business

Councilor Henry made a motion to adjourn the Open Session Meeting. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. ***Roll Call Vote – Councilor Page – Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, Councilor Anderson – Yes, Councilor Henry – Yes, Councilor Richards –Yes and President Kane – Yes. Councilor O’Connor – absent.***

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm. The next Town Council Meeting will be February 9, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Sullivan

Assistant Town Clerk

Documents: Agenda, Town Manager Report, Town Manager Year End Report, List of Donors for Skating Rink, December 8, 2020 Open Session Draft Minutes, December 15, 2020 Open Session Draft Minutes, December 23, 2020 Open Session Draft Minutes.