



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

TOWN COUNCIL

(413) 525-5400 ext. 1001

Ralph E. Page, President,
Marilyn M. Richards, Vice President
Matthew Boucher, Kathleen G. Hill, Anna T. Jones
Michael J. Kane and Connor J. O’Shea

MINUTES- Draft
Town Council Meeting
Council on Aging Media Room, 328 North Main Street
East Longmeadow MA 01028
And Via –Zoom
January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Page, Vice President Richards, Councilor Hill, Councilor Jones, Councilor Kane, Councilor Boucher and Councilor O’Shea.

Council President Page opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence. Announcements were made in accordance with Mass General Law, and it was noted that ELCAT was taping the meeting.

Public Comments: None

Council Comments: None

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

Ms. McNally also reported the following:

- There was a very long WestComm board of directors meeting and the executive director is talking about adding the sheriff’s department and other communities to the dispatch center. There is concern that the growth may happen at a pace that we cannot sustain and support. The issues with the radios have also been discussed in the meetings; these issues will be discussed further in upcoming meetings.

- Ms. McNally and Deputy Town Manager Tom Christensen met with the director of Western Mass Development, Jeff Daley. Mr. Daley has many business development ideas; his nonprofit group has done a lot of development in Western Massachusetts. He connected them to another representative who is working for Westfield Gas and Electric on the fiber optic project, Brian Sullivan, and they are hoping to meet with him next week and get some information from Westfield's experience in the hopes of making our broadband process a little smoother.

President Page asked if the dispatch center was all moved in to the Salter building. Ms. McNally informed him that they have moved in. There is still other construction going on but it is moving along.

Councilor Richards commented that she has not heard any complaints regarding Westcomm. The assumption is that the people are being appropriately assisted when there is an emergency.

Ms. McNally stated the issues she is referring to have to do with the radios and the frequency. The major issue is the vendor for the radios which is based in Arizona and there are no local representative to handle emergency requests. They have spoken to the director about having the vendor Horizon give them a list of subcontractor's locally that we can get service from. Ms. McNally believes that will get a resolution to this soon.

Approval of Minutes:

- A. Approve December 13, 2022 Open Session Minutes
*Councilor Hill made a motion to approve the December 13, 2022 Open Session Minutes. Councilor O'Shea seconded the motion. **The vote was 7-0.***
- B. Approve December 13, 2022 Executive Session Minutes
*Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the December 13, 2022 Executive Session minutes. Councilor Kane seconded the motion. **The vote was 7-0.***

*Councilor Richards made a motion to take item 9.D.1. out of order, and once that is complete we move back to the Public Hearing. Councilor O'Shea seconded the motion. **The vote was 7-0.***

New Business:

1. Petition for Zone Change for 312 Parker Street from Residential AA to Residential A – Attorney Joshua Levine

Attorney Levine explained that 312 Parker Street is an oddly shaped lot in residential AA. His client owns 312 and 322 Parker Street, 322 Parker is residential A. His client would like to do an ANR plan, which would append some of 312 Parker Street, the back part of it, to his daughter who lives on Rollins and then reconfigure 322 and 312 to make non-conforming lots.

*Councilor Hill made a motion to refer the Petition for a Zone Change for 312 Parker Street from Residential AA to Residential A, to the Planning Board for review and recommendation. Councilor O'Shea seconded the motion. **The vote was 7-0.***

Public Hearings:

- A. 6:15 p.m. – Approve a liquor license Transfer/Change of Ownership Interest/Change of DBA, of an All Alcohol Beverages on premises license, at 53 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, to Mess, LLC dba East Village Tavern.

President Page opened the Public Hearing. Town Clerk/Clerk of the Council Jeanne Quaglietti read the legal notice into the record.

Attorney Daniel Kelly and applicant John Sullivan were present. Attorney Kelly introduced John Sullivan, one of the two proposed owners and the proposed new manager. Joseph Sullivan, the second proposed owner, was not present as he is traveling. John and Joseph Sullivan are co-owners of Nathan Bill's in Springfield.

Attorney Kelly gave the Council some background information on John Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan's life work is working in the adult food industry. Most recently, he has been part owner of Nathan Bill's in Springfield, which has been a very successful business in the East Forest Park neighborhood. The East Forest Park Community has endorsed them every time they have had to come in front of the liquor board. All employees will be TIPS certified as a condition of employment. John Sullivan and his wife Jessie have been employees at Craft 32 for a few months now. They have changed the cook and the menu and have cleaned the place from top to bottom. Attorney Kelly told the Council how important charity work is for John and Joseph Sullivan; they would look to continue their charitable work here in East Longmeadow.

Councilor Richards commented that because the town does not allow taverns and the name has the word tavern in it, even though they know it is a restaurant, would they consider adding something to the name of the restaurant or changing it. Attorney Kelly stated that after reading the Zoning regulations the town's definition of tavern is a place that only serves alcohol. The owners believed tavern to mean a place that serves food and alcoholic beverages. Attorney Kelly will speak to his client about that.

Councilor Kane suggested that they amend the motion to approve the manager as well as the liquor license transfer.

Public Comments:

Paul Federici of 19 Hampden Rd. East Longmeadow spoke in favor of the transfer. Mr. Federici knows the charitable work that they do because he has been involved in some of the golf tournaments. Mr. Federici stated that John has put his heart and soul into Craft 32 and has really turned the place around and it would behoove the town to welcome him.

Frank Ryan, President of the East Forest Park Civic Association, stated he has been a resident of East Forest Park since 1968. He has been active in the association for 33 years. Mr. Ryan commented that he knows this family and they are remarkable; there are innumerable times that they have assisted very needy families and contributed to wonderful causes throughout the city. Mr. Ryan feels they would be a credit to your community.

Chris Caputo of 219 Abbot Street in Springfield was President of the East Forest Park Civic Association when John Sullivan petitioned the city to open Nathan Bill's. They made several promises not to be a problem and they have not been in the nine years since they have been there. They have gotten very involved in the neighborhood and have been very charitable to the neighborhood including the two charities that they control Jessie's fight and Gunnery Sergeant Tommy Sullivan's charity. There are so many other charities that they participate in that are too numerous to count. Mr. Caputo would highly recommend approving' they are very good neighbors and East Longmeadow would be lucky to have them.

Pete Sygnator of Springfield informed the Council that he moved to the East Forest Park section of Springfield in 1982 and has been a license commissioner in Springfield since 2003. Over the years, John Sullivan has expanded the kitchen and the serving area and has turned, what was a moderately successful restaurant, into Springfield's version of Cheers. The food is delicious and the beer is ice cold. Mr. Sygnator is amazed when he visits how many people he runs into that he knows. Mr. Sygnator is proud to recommend that Craft 32 license be transferred to Mr. Sullivan.

Diane Sullivan Caron, Joe Sullivan's sister, commented that she owns a business in town and they are planning to do charities together here in town. Ms. Sullivan Caron looks forward to having East Village Tavern as an asset here in town.

Sid Starks of 28 Elm St. East Longmeadow stated he is an abutter to Craft 32 currently. Over the years they have had challenges, not just with Craft 32 but other businesses throughout the community as well. Mr. Sullivan has come forward and addressed any concerns that Mr. Starks has had. Mr. Starks would whole-heartedly encourage the Council to welcome Mr. Sullivan to East Longmeadow.

Barry Kriger of 57 Gibson Way West Springfield commented that he has known both Sullivan's for about 7 years. Mr. Kriger has never seen such a commitment to the community, the neighborhood and the employees. Mr. Kriger thinks that East Longmeadow would be lucky to have them doing business in this community, they pay a lot of attention to the menu and hire serious chefs. It is not just a bar it is a serious restaurant stated Mr. Kriger.

Kerri Sullivan of 99 Eddy is the former president of the Springfield St Patrick's Committee. She is no relation to the applicants, and informed the Council this year Nathan Bill's has been honored with the Caron award. This award is given annually to a business or person in the community who go above and beyond to help support the committee. John Sullivan and Joe Sullivan and the family of Nathan Bill's have done just that. Ms. Sullivan stated that they are an asset to the East Forest Park community and do a lot for the teacher's community.

MaryKate Caron of Glendale Rd. Wilbraham commented that she had the amazing opportunity to have John Sullivan as her boss for over five years. Ms. Caron believes that Mr. Sullivan's mentorship and him teaching her how to run events and charities helped her to have the opportunities that she has today as a female in business.

President Page commented that on the application there are going to be some minor adjustments that will have to be made; having the seating capacity match the Special Permit and adjusting the description to match the Special Permit.

*Councilor O'Shea made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote- Councilor Jones – Yes, Councilor Boucher- Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, President Page- Yes, Councilor Richards – Yes, Councilor O'Shea – Yes and Councilor Kane- Yes.***

Councilor Richards made a Motion to approve a liquor license Transfer/Change of Ownership Interest/Change of DBA, and Manager John Sullivan of an All Alcohol Beverages on premises license, at 53 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, to Mess, LLC dba East Village Tavern, contingent on the approval of a successful special permit and a state review of the application. Councilor Boucher seconded the motion.

Councilor O'Shea made a motion to amend the motion to change the occupancy stated on the application along with the description on the application as presented to match the special permit. Councilor Jones seconded the motion. The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.

*Roll Call vote on the original motion as amended. **Roll Call Vote- Councilor Jones – Yes, Councilor Boucher- Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, President Page- Yes, Councilor Richards – Yes, Councilor O'Shea – Yes and Councilor Kane- Yes.***

- B. 6:30 p.m. – Approve \$40,000.00 from the Community Preservation Act Historical fund account for a maps and plans preservation project for \$40,000.00.

President Page opened the Public Hearing – Town Clerk/Clerk of the Council Jeanne Quaglietti read the legal notice into the record.

Community Preservation Committee Chair Jonathan Torcia informed the Council that the CPC has recommended the maps project. This will be updating and preserving records and maps that are in the basement. This project will mirror the project that was approved last year.

Ms. Quaglietti, applicant, explained that King Information Systems would be doing this project. The basement project was done last year and this project for the maps and plans would be piggybacking the first project.

Mr. Torcia stated that the Historical Commission, the Planning Director and Town Manager have all recommended this project. Mr. Torcia commended Ms. Quaglietti for a very thorough application.

Chris Chartrand from King Information was present to answer questions. This project would be the next component in putting together what was a chaotic situation in the basement. Mr. Chartrand explained how the maps would be stored.

There were no public comments.

*Councilor O'Shea made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote Councilor Jones – Yes, Councilor Boucher- Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, President Page- Yes, Councilor Richards – Yes, Councilor O'Shea – Yes and Councilor Kane- Yes.***

Councilor O'Shea made a motion to approve \$40,000.00 from the Community Preservation Act Historical fund account for a maps and plans preservation project. Councilor Hill seconded the motion.

- C. 6:45 p.m. – Approve \$160,000.00 from the Community Preservation Act Housing fund account for the third and final phase of window replacements at Quarry Hill

President Page opened the Public Hearing. Town Clerk/Clerk of the Council Jeanne Quaglietti read the legal notice into the record.

Mr. Torcia explained that two phases of this project have been completed and this will be the final and third phase. This falls under the affordable housing category that we have in Community Preservation. The Housing Account is our largest account which has \$303,885.51 in it and there have been no major bills in it, stated Mr. Torcia. Housing Director Lynn Booth was also present for any questions.

There were no public comments.

Council Comments: President Page asked Lynn Booth if they receive the funds tonight will that take it off the FY25-26 Capital Improvement. Ms. Booth informed him that was correct.

*Councilor Hill made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

*Councilor Kane made a motion to approve \$160,000.00 from the Community Preservation Act Housing fund account for the third and final phase of window replacements at Quarry Hill. Councilor Jones seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote- Councilor Jones-Yes,, Councilor Boucher-Yes, Councilor Hill – Yes, President Page- Yes, Councilor Richards-Yes, Councilor O’Shea- Yes and Councilor Kane-Yes.***

Orders of the Day

A. Licensing Matters

1. Approve one day liquor license for St. Paul the Apostle Church, 235 Dwight Road, for a Vietnamese New Year Celebration on January 15, 2023

Councilor Boucher made a motion to approve a one-day liquor license for St. Paul the Apostle Church, 235 Dwight Road, for a Vietnamese New Year Celebration on January 15, 2023.

Councilor Richards seconded the motion. The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.

B. Financial Matters

1. Approve donation to the Town per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A \$1,000.00 from Wilbraham Funeral Home for Leahy Field Improvements and maintenance.

*Councilor Hill made a Motion to approve a \$1,000.00 donation from Wilbraham Funeral Home for Leahy Field improvements and maintenance, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

2. \$1,000.00 donation from the Springfield Cemetery for Leahy Field improvements and maintenance.

*Councilor Jones made a motion to approve a \$1,000.00 donation from the Springfield Cemetery for Leahy Field improvements and maintenance, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A. Councilor Kane seconded the motion. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

3. \$1,000.00 donation from Bay Path University to fund a special piece of equipment or professional development opportunity for the Police Department.

*Councilor Richards made a motion to approve a \$1,000.00 donation from Bay Path University to fund a special piece of equipment or professional development opportunity for the Police Department, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A. Councilor Boucher seconded the motion. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

4. \$1,000.00 donation from Bay Path University to fund a special piece of equipment or professional development opportunity for the Fire Department

*Councilor O'Shea made a motion to approve a \$1,000.00 donation from Bay Path University to fund a special piece of equipment or professional development opportunity for the Fire Department, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

Old Business

1. Proposed new bylaw adding the Human Resources Department Chapter 78- first reading
Councilor O'Shea read the bylaw into the record.

*Councilor Kane made a motion to refer a proposed new bylaw adding the Human Resources Department to Chapter 78, to the Bylaw Review Committee for recommendation. Councilor Jones seconded the motion. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

2. Proposed removal of Chapter 335 Firearms bylaw-first reading.
Councilor Hill read the bylaw into the record.

*Councilor Boucher made a motion to refer the proposed removal of the Chapter 335 Firearms bylaw to the Bylaw Review Committee for recommendation. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

New Business

2. Approve the adoption of a Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy for the Town Green Communities Designation – Planning Director Bailey Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell explained that they have brought the same policy back tonight that was in front of the Council in September of 2022. The policy was approved by the School Committee and it also needs to be approved by the Town Council. The Council also has the vehicle inventory list that was submitted in October of 2022.

President Page asked about exempt vehicles and non-exempt vehicles; there are a number of vehicles on the list that are listed as non-exempt that he had the DPW inspect the tags on them and he has gone to the state fuelconomy.gov to research them. Out of 24 vehicles that were listed as non-exempt he has 15 that should be. President Page is concerned about dump trucks that have 14,000 pound GVW that we are saying are non-exempt. President Page does not know where the inventory came from and how it was figured out.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the list was created prior to his employment with the town. Mr. Mitchell believes that it was created by the Department Heads and PVPC went through it. We can go through the list again but Mr. Mitchell does not believe the policy does not necessarily rely on the inventory, the inventory is not adopted with the policy.

Ms. McNally believes that the inventory list that was used was created for insurance purposes, which would explain how a lawnmower ended up on the list.

Catherine Ratte of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission informed the Council that this policy does not require electric vehicles. The policy is about fuel efficient vehicles and it not a very aggressive fuel efficient vehicle requirement. We have three months to get the last two of the five

criteria adopted. The deadline for certification for green communities is at the end of March. Once you become a certified Green Community you receive your designation grant. It opens the town up to a funding stream to make your buildings and vehicles more energy efficient. Ms. Ratte apologized for the vehicle inventory. They took the inventory from the insurance and should have done their due diligence. They will be happy to do that and make sure that it accurately reflects the vehicles the town is responsible for. Adopting the policy tonight does not tie you to the vehicle inventory list.

There was further discussion and concerns from some of the Councilors about the stretch energy code changing and whether or not the state would vote to change the fuel efficient vehicle policies. There was also some concern that the state would require electric vehicles.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Council that the Green Community designation will open the town up to several things. One, the energy reduction plan that we are going to bring to the Council hopefully at the next meeting will allow the town to review the energy audit that was done last year and hopefully meet those goals that we are going to include into the reduction plan. We will also be allowed the opportunity to apply for additional grant funds through the program. There are additional benefits outside of the energy efficiency of our buildings. As a town we have the opportunity to make the overhead cost less every time we replace a vehicle or make our buildings more energy efficient.

*Councilor Jones made a motion to table the fuel efficient vehicle policy until the next meeting on February 14, 2023. Councilor Kane seconded the motion. **The vote was 6 in and favor and 1 opposed.***

*Councilor Richards made a motion to adjourn the Open Session Meeting. Councilor Boucher seconded the motion. **The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.***

Open Session was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next Town Council meeting will be February 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Sullivan
Assistant Town Clerk

Documents: Agenda, Town Manager Report, December 13, 2022 Open Session draft minutes, December 13, 2022 Executive Session draft minutes, Letter from Wilbraham Funeral Home donations, Transfer of license application for Craft 32, CPC Maps –Plans project, CPC Quarry Hill window project, Fuel efficient Vehicle Policy, Firearms bylaw removal, HR Department bylaw, One day liquor license application St. Paul's, Zone change 313 Parker Street and Quarry Hill Annual plan.



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

January 10, 2023

Good evening:

Refurbishing of the Vietnam Monument is complete, thanks in large part to Bruce Moore. Please stop by and take a look at the new stone, it is quite impressive.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans Board hired a new Veterans Service Officer as of January 3, 2023. He is Gerard Rathe, an East Longmeadow resident, who will soon re-establish office hours and be in position to serve the Veterans in our community on a regular basis within a week or so.

Tom Christensen and I (with the participation of Steve Lonergan) have interviewed candidates for the position of Municipal Finance Director. We have chosen our new Director, Kim Collins, who will begin her employment on February 1, 2023. We also spent significant time over two days in December, interviewing candidates for the position of Deputy Fire Chief. After a rigorous, fire-scenario based process as well as in person oral interviews, the position was offered to current Fire Captain Christopher Beecher. He has accepted and contract negotiations are underway.

Planning Director Bailey Mitchell has an update tonight on the Town's fuel efficient vehicle policy which is another necessary component to achieve Green Community status. Catherine Ratte, a Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) staff member, is also present to answer any questions you may have. Bailey continues to work on completing the Town's Energy Reduction Plan which is the last of the criteria required to qualify for Green Committee designation.

Additional negotiation sessions continue with the Town's Fire Department Union. The next meeting will be on January 24, 2023. The Fire and Police Departments have received their annual \$1000 grants for equipment or professional development purposes from Bay Path University.

The COA enrolled 619 new members in 2022 and is working to promote education regarding dementia issues and support for patients and their caregivers. Our COA Director, Erin Koebler, is the Chair of the Commission on Disability and a notice requesting applicants for the commission is about to be published.

Meetings of the School Building Committee continue on a regular basis, including January 5, 2023. Please attend these meetings in person or online to learn about this major development for the Town if your schedules allow.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager