

REPORT OF THE
GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 2, 2017

Chairman Phinney opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were 24 members of the Public in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Roll Call: Chairman Phinney, Councilors Benner, Shepard, Smith, Hartwell, Hager and Stelk. Also present, Town Manager David Cole and Deputy Town Clerk Paula Nystrom.

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Stelk and VOTED to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting and the April 13, 2017 Special Town Council Meetings. VOTED 7 YEAS

Open Public Communications

Brenda Caldwell of Ridgefield Drive spoke about the Town Clerk's Office and concerns over the lack of hours budgeted for 2017-2018.

Julie Springer of Quincy Drive spoke on behalf of many concerned parents in attendance for the Town Council to pass the School Budget as it was presented.

Tina Ruel of Joseph Drive commented on the amount of trash and litter along to roadways after the winter and wanted to know who is responsible for picking that up. Town Manager Cole indicated that Public Works is not responsible but citizens should be responsible for clean up in front of their homes. It was suggested about Community Clean Up Days empowering all residents to take part. Darryl Wright from the School Committee added that there will be a "We Love Gorham" day June 17, 2017 through the schools for clean up that maybe more can be coordinated to involve the residents.

Councilor Communications – None

Town Manager Report

David Cole updated residents on the status of the extensive construction project for Main Street which the bids from DOT came in higher than was budgeted. Going back to DOT for a review of the bid pushes this project off further this year and possibly into 2018.

University of Maine is in the process of updating their Master Plan. David Cole has been appointed to the Steering Committee in which updates will come as meetings are held.

School Committee Report

Darryl Wright thanked School Committee member Tim Burns for his service as well as the countless hours devoted to betterment of the District, Community and Students from the School Committee. He has resigned effective in June. Currently in the hiring process for a permanent Assistant Principal for GHS. There will be a joint Town Council and School Committee Budget

workshop May 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Oak Point Associates are working to complete the feasibility study on the GHS capital renovations. GHS was named as one of the top ten high schools in the State of Maine by US News & World Report. Our Special Olympics teams competed April 28, 2017 bringing home lots of “gold”. Congratulations to all our Olympians. The end of the year is fast approaching so check the website for all upcoming events. Spring sports have started so check the District Athletics website for dates and times of all events. Good luck to all participants and GO RAMS! Our next School Committee regular meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2017 in the Council Chambers at 7:00 pm.

Old Business

- Item # 9144 Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to postpone the proposed moratorium of retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs until August 1, 2017. VOTED 7 yeas
- Public Hearing #1 Public Hearing on the referendum to authorize the Town to borrow and expend up to \$500,000 for the Town’s share of a road project on South Street to include pavement overlay, replace traffic signal loop detectors and widen shoulders where needed with an estimated project cost of \$1,628,148.
- Item #9213 Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Smith and ORDERED that the Town Council, pursuant to a request from Tim Devine, Ossipee Trail Motors, ask Staff to draft a Contract Zone for 135 Dingley Springs Road, to allow both buildings to be used as a body shop, and Be It Further Ordered, that the proposal be forwarded to the Planning Board for Public Hearing and their recommendations.

Mr. Devine spoke on his behalf indicating he is looking for a contact zone of the buildings to utilize both buildings for auto body repair and not just for storage. Tom Porier, Town Planner said that the contract zone is not compatible with the Comprehensive Plan that was updated 2016 and that the prior use was a Non-Conforming Use which was grandfathered in however when the property was vacated and has been for over a year from use it reverts back to the new Comprehensive Plan guidelines. The one year timeline is set by the Code Office and is stated in the Land Use and Development Code.

Public Comment

Dana Lampron of Dingley Springs Road questioned the expansion of a Non-Conforming Use and why it would not apply to this item.

John Emerson of Dingley Springs Road spoke on the history of the property as they are abutters. Felt that Mr. Devine is a responsible property owner and would be a good asset to the neighborhood with his auto body shop.

Michael Thurlow from Scarborough spoke on behalf of the current owner, his uncle Mike D’Amico. Felt that Mr. D’Amico is not at fault for the lapse in renters of the property after the last renter left over a year ago. He wants to move forward and get a new tenant and Mr. Devine

would be a perfect fit however the timeframe of the contact zone expiring is impeding the progress.

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Benner to table this item until the staff from Planning and Code can meet and come up with a plan to make it beneficial for all parties. Chairman Phinney asked Town Manager Cole to contact Legal for guidance on the expansion of this non-conforming use as well. VOTED 7 yeas

Item # 9214 Moved by Councilor Benner, seconded by Councilor Shephard and ORDERED that the Town Council ask Staff to draft an amendment of Section 2 of the Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance, that would require a permit for large events that may result in congested parking and congested traffic on public roads in Gorham, and Be It Further Ordered, that the said permit requires appropriate traffic control measures to minimize congested parking and traffic and to include no-parking on one side of the road to allow room for emergency vehicles.

Councilor Benner gave background for putting this on the agenda as she heard from several parties affected from when Governor LaPage held his Town Hall meeting at Spire 29 recently where parking and large groups of people were a problem.

Public Comment

Tina Ruel of Joseph Drive commented that holding an event such as the Governor visiting Gorham should dictate a larger venue with ample parking such as the high school.

Susie Phillips commented that she spearheads the Annual Taste Walk and they too have to contend with traffic issues however they let Public Safety know when the event is and officers are provided to help with crossing streets.

After discussion it was suggested to send this item to the Ordinance Committee for further clarification on the Ordinance. VOTED 2 Yeas (Smith and Stelk), 5 Nays. Item fails.

Item #9215 Moved by Councilor Shepard, Seconded by Councilor Benner and ORDERED that the Town Council approve a memorandum of understanding for a reciprocal borrowing agreement between Baxter Memorial Library, Scarborough Public Library Corporation, South Portland Public Library, Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth and Walker Memorial Library in Westbrook. VOTED 7 yeas

Item #9216 Moved by Councilor Hager, Seconded by Councilor Stelk and ORDERED that the Town Council authorize the Town Clerk to issue the warrant for the June 13, 2017 School Budget Validation/Referendum/Portland Water District Election; and, Be It Further Ordered, that the polls be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm; and, Be it Further Ordered, that the Town Council appoint the following persons for the designated voting districts and if any of the following should fail to serve the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to appoint substitutes:

District 1-1- Susan Emerson, Warden and Laurel Smith, Ward Clerk
District 1-2 – Katherine Corbett, Warden and Marie Plummer, Ward Clerk

District 2 – Martha Towle, Warden and Nancy Kenty Ward Clerk
Central –Paula Nystrom, Warden and Teresa Sanborn, Ward Clerk

Be It Further Ordered, that the Registrar of Voters be in session during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Tuesday June 6, 2017 and Wednesday June 7, 2017; between the hours of 8:00 and 7:00 pm on Thursday June 8, 2017, between the hours of 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on Friday June 9, 2017 and between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm on Monday June 12, 2017, and

Be It Further Ordered, that the Town Clerk be authorized to process absentee ballots on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 12:00 pm, 5:00pm and 8:00pm.

VOTED 7 yeas

Item #9217 Moved by Councilor Stelk, Seconded by Councilor Benner and ORDERED that the Town Council accept a deed for a parcel of land located in Glenwater Village Subdivision for open space and trail use, and Be It Furthered Ordered, that the Town Council accept an easement access Lot 21 for access to the open space lot. VOTED 7 yeas

Item #9218 Moved by Councilor Hager, Seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED that the Town Council go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (D) to discuss labor negotiations. VOTED 7 yeas

Moved by Councilor Stelk, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to come out of Executive Session. 7 yeas

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Stelk and VOTED to adjourn. 7 yeas

Time of Adjournment 8:14 pm

A True Record of Meeting

ATTEST _____
Paula Nystrom, Deputy Town Clerk