

**MEETING of the Ordinance Subcommittee of the Town Council held Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. in the Town Building, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, RI 02830.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilors Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: None**

**1) VOTED to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the Ordinance Subcommittee held on August 13, 2009 and dispense with the reading of said minutes.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**2) VOTED to open consideration and action on amending the Capital Ordinance, Section §2-112(b)**

**Motion by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. Seconded by Council President Nancy F. Binns. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**Town Manager Michael C. Wood explained that as our current Ocean State Power agreement stands, this capital improvement funding will end by fiscal 2013. He stated that his recommendation will reduce capital funds over the next three years due to anticipated revenue loss from Ocean State Power.**

**There was discussion of a new Ocean State Power agreement currently being negotiated and the cost criteria of major capital vs. capital projects. The Town Manager stated that he has spoken with the school administration and will forward any feedback to the Council.**

**VOTED to reduce the amounts for the funding of major capital projects.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**3) VOTED to open consideration and action on proposed amendments to Chapter 4, Animals**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors**

**Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**Town Manager Michael C. Wood explained that the purpose of the amendments is to update parts of the ordinance. Kerry Courtemanche, Deputy Animal Control Officer, was present to answer questions. Town Solicitor Timothy F. Kane advised that special legislation would be required for any fine increases above what the statute allows. There was discussion of requesting special legislation for Municipal Court to handle repeat offenders. Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, suggested the committee could amend fines within what the statute allows then request special legislation to further refine fees.**

**There was discussion of:**

- Current Impoundment fees and actual cost of housing and feeding an animal**
- Creating a relief mechanism for owners who must pay impound fees for a dog that needs to be quarantined long-term**
- Eliminating the exemption of veterinarians from leash requirements**
- Increasing fines for cruelty; the possibility of utilizing municipal court instead of district court for cruelty cases**
- Increasing fines for unpermitted exotic animals from \$100 to \$500**
- Types of exotic animals that are legal**
- Exotic animal permits issued by DEM**
- Requiring insurance for owners of certain dog breeds**
- Limiting the number of dogs allowed in multi-family homes to two**

- **Requiring a kennel license for non-profit private animal rescue organizations which provide dog adoption services from their homes**

**VOTED to table this agenda item so that further work can be done and then review it at the next or the following meeting after that.**

**Motion by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. Seconded by Council President Nancy F. Binns. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**4) VOTED to open correspondence from Councilor Peggy Dudley regarding her proposal to consider an ordinance related to motorcycle noise.**

**Motion by Councilor Margaret L. Dudley. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**There was discussion of a recent emergency ordinance adopted by East Greenwich. Town Solicitor Timothy F. Kane suggested waiting until spring to see if the ordinance is challenged in court.**

**VOTED to table pending a review of East Greenwich and other**

**communities to see what their result is regarding noise ordinances for motorcycles.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**5) Review and discuss the items proposed for future meetings: None**

**6) VOTED to adjourn at 5:09 p.m.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Margaret L. Dudley and Kevin D. Heitke.**

**The meeting was recorded.**

**Christine Mulligan, Administrative Aide**