

MEETING of the Ordinance Subcommittee of the Town Council held Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 4:02 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 accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 12, 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) Consider and act on requests for stop signs; and the recommendations of Colonel Bernard E. Gannon, Chief of Police:

a) At the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Hamlet Street

VOTED to open discussion.

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.

Discussion: Colonel Bernard E. Gannon, Chief of Police, had recommended stop signs be placed at Hamlet Street, Frederick Street and Fairbanks Avenue at the intersections with Roosevelt Avenue.

VOTED to put stop signs at Hamlet Street, Frederick Street and Fairbanks Avenue at their intersections with Roosevelt Avenue.

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.

b) On Ross Road at the intersection of Eagle Peak Road

VOTED to open discussion.

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.

Discussion: It was noted that Colonel Gannon had recommended against placement of a stop sign on Ross Road at the intersection with Eagle Peak Road. The difficulties associated with the configuration of the intersection were reviewed.

VOTED to table.

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) Consider and act on proposed amendments to the tax exemption/credit ordinance(s).

Note: Councilor Margaret L. Dudley recused from discussion and action. Councilor Kevin D. Heitke sat as chair for the item.

VOTED to open discussion of proposed amendments to the tax exemption/credit ordinance(s).

Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion carried, two in favor, one recusal.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Kevin D. Heitke. Councilors Margaret L. Dudley recused.

a) Tax Exemptions/Credit – for persons 62 years of age or over

Discussion: The purpose of the proposal was to discuss possible amendments that would eliminate the requirement that taxpayers own, for a five-year period, the same residential property on which they claimed the exemption. This would allow a taxpayer who had moved from one residential property in town to another (for example: down-sized) to claim the exemption if all other requirements were met. This change would require a change in state law (Chapter 22 of the Public Laws of 1973).

b) Tax Exemptions/Credit – for disabled

Discussion: The original legislation provided tax relief for only those disabled taxpayers who owned single-family residential property. The purpose of the proposal was to discuss possible amendments that would extend the relief to disabled taxpayers owning residential property other than single-family.

This change would first require amendments to RIGL 44-3-35, eliminating the term “single-family”. Details of the ultimate change would have to be addressed by ordinance after enabling legislation was passed.

The first draft of the ordinance provided that the tax relief would extend to two-family residential property if there were no income from the second dwelling unit, which is occupied by immediate family member(s).

VOTED to forward the resolution requesting an amendments to

Chapter 22 (of the public laws of 1973) to the council for approval and forwarding to our legislators; and to send to Council a resolution to amend §44-3-35, Real estate tax exemptions for persons who are disabled.

Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The motion carried, two in favor, one recusal. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Kevin D. Heitke. Councilors Margaret L. Dudley recused.

c) Sec. 25-43. Disabled persons.

The Subcommittee agreed to continue discussion of proposed changes to the code of ordinance until after the enabling legislation had been approved by the general assembly.

Councilor Margaret L. Dudley resumed participation in the meeting.

4) Review and discuss the items proposed for future meetings

There was discussion of possible need for the Town Council to consider a municipal subsidy ordinance, as set forth in the affordable housing chapter of the comprehensive plan.

5) VOTED to adjourn at 4:27 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.