

**MEETING of the Ordinance Subcommittee of the Town Council held Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 4:03 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 March 16, 2010, and dispense with the reading of said minutes.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The vote 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 proposed amendments to Chapter 26, Traffic and Vehicles, to allow for handicap parking at the intersection of Bridge Way and Sayles Avenue**

**Councilor Margaret L. Dudley, Ordinance Subcommittee Chair, recommended that the matter be continued until Mr. Casale was available.**

**VOTED to table at the call of the chair.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The vote 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 an ordinance restricting off-road vehicles on town property**

**VOTED to open.**

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

**Discussion: Discussion included proposal to amend §16.5-1(c) to prohibit the use of off-road vehicles on all town property rather than only in parks and recreational areas and a proposal to extend the prohibition to private property.**

**Timothy F. Kane, Town Solicitor, proposed the following language: The use by the public is forbidden on all town property, including but not limited to parks, mini-parks, recreational areas and recreational facilities.**

**Councilor Margaret L. Dudley suggested establishing “no parking – tow zone” areas where the problem exists.**

**VOTED to refer to solicitor to craft an amendment to include all town properties.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The vote 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 a discussion of establishing a no parking area in the Gazza Road area (on Peach Orchard Road) to address the problem with ATV riders unloading and parking vehicles, then riding ATV’s on private property. Lee Fiske provided advice related to residents’ needs.**

**MOTION that the police department be requested to investigate the area of Peach Orchard Road in the area of the sand bank to determine area for no parking.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke.**

**Residents Greg Murray of 416 Gazza Road and Bruce Bosko of 139 Gazza Road addressed the Subcommittee about the issue.**

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

**Gary Duval of 351 Rockland Road, Scituate and Pete Tanner of 387 Hammet Road, Coventry, RI addressed the Subcommittee. Mr. Duval and Mr. Tanner suggested that establishing an Off-Road Riding Park would eliminate the problem, provide a location for riders, and support the local economy. Councilor Margaret L. Dudley noted that the proposal was not appropriate for the Subcommittee and suggested that Mr. Duval and Mr. Tanner might submit a proposal to the full Council.**

**4. Consider and act on an ordinance relating to historical cemeteries.**

**VOTED to open.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke. The vote 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 the Historic Society's concerns with historic cemeteries and of the possibility of incorporating the town's responsibility for perpetual care into an ordinance.**

**VOTED to refer to the Administration and Solicitor to further study this issue, to address the questions listed by Mr. Waterman, and look into crafting an ordinance that would help to protect those historic cemeteries.**

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

**5. Consider and act on an ordinance establishing (policy for burial on private property) a private cemetery.**

**VOTED to open.**

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

**Discussion: There was discussion of prohibiting burial on private property and of circumstances when burial on private property might be appropriate. Councilor Dudley supported an ordinance prohibiting burial on private property. Council President Nancy F. Binns supported leaving the matter discretionary, as it is now (§10-1 of the Code of Ordinance).**

**VOTED to table this item to the next meeting.**

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

**6. Consider and act on compensation for members of appointed and/or elected boards, commissions and committees.**

**VOTED to open.**

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

**Council President Nancy F. Binns explained that she had asked that this be brought to Subcommittee, given the Charter Review Commissions' recommendations. Council President Binns supported considering action by ordinance.**

**There was discussion that changes would not be effective until after the next election.**

**The recommendation was to eliminate all paid benefits, to establish a**

**stipend of \$6,500 per year for Councilors, \$4,500 per year for School Committee members, with an additional payment of \$500 per year for the Town Council President and School Committee Chair. The proposal allowed for the purchase of health insurance and life insurance. Out-of-pocket expenses related to town business would be compensable.**

**There was discussion of the reasons to support the proposal, issues related to extending the discussion, the appropriate means of enacting change, and the role of elected officials. The proposal was put forth as a reasonable alternative. The advantages of enacting the changes by ordinance were reviewed.**

**VOTED that this matter be referred to the Solicitor to craft a potential ordinance that could be forwarded to the Council with the provisions listed; and also that the Solicitor undertake a question with ethics commission with regard to whether we can vote.**

**Motion by Council President Nancy F. Binns. Seconded by Councilor Kevin D. Heitke.**

**Councilor Margaret L. Dudley reviewed her earlier proposal on the issue.**

**The vote 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 proposals to reduce the stipend offered to members of the appointed boards and commissions, as recommended by the Budget Board. Repealing or modifying the April 2004 resolution was discussed. Councilor Kevin D. Heitke suggested that the reduction would have little financial impact on the budget. Council President Nancy F. Binns concurred. It was suggested that some committee members might want to voluntarily give up part of the stipend. Council President Nancy F. Binns withdrew her request to discuss the matter and indicated that she would bring it back at a later date, if necessary.**

**7. Review and discuss the items proposed for future meetings: None**

**VOTED to adjourn at 5:21 P.M.**

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

**Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, commented on item #2, proposed amendments to Chapter 26, Traffic and Vehicles, to allow for handicap parking at the intersection of Bridge Way and Sayles Avenue. Mr. Wood said that Joe Casale was working on a proposal**

**and that he would keep the Subcommittee informed and might request a special meeting, if necessary.**

**The meeting was recorded.**