



Town of Hermon
Public Safety Meeting Room
Town Council Meeting
7:00 PM
MINUTES

*** Televised live on Cable Channel 97.2 ***

Council Meetings may be viewed live online and are archived after the meeting
has taken place – check hermon.net for link.

ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE COUNCIL ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Thomas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Anne Freeman, Donna Ellis, Steve Thomas, Doug Sinclair, Jeanne Jacques, John Snyder and Steve Watson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Town Manager Howard Kroll, Town Clerk Ruth A. Nickerson, Economic Development Director Scott Perkins, Sgt. Pelletier, Chief Roma, Donna Pulver, Dana Hills, Josh Berry, Nicolas Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Bill Scott, Eric Pelletier and Alden Brown

IV. REVIEW CONSENT CALENDAR: REGULAR BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, SIGNATURES, And APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MINUTES. -APPROVE

WARRANTS. -SIGN Warrants – 04/21/2017

Councilor Snyder moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The motion carries.



V. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chair Thomas told how he and Manager Kroll attended the School Board Meeting on Monday evening. The meeting was held to discuss the 2017-2018 School Budget. Mr. Thomas told how the school has worked very hard putting this budget together. He informed the Council that they will be asked to help cover a \$633,000 budget shortfall. Mr. Thomas shared statistical information regarding the amount of money spent statewide for each pupil. The Town of Hermon spends \$1,000.00 less per pupil than the state average. He shared this to emphasize that the Hermon schools are not overspending. Chair Thomas asked the Council to please be aware of the challenges presented to the School and to be prepared to participate in conversation regarding this budget at the next Council Meeting.

VI. PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENTS *(Items Not Already on Agenda)*

None

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

A. OLD BUSINESS

#1. Consider reaffirming Council Vote re: Marketing with WABI

***Councilor Snyder abstained from participating in this agenda item.**

Manager Kroll told how on March 16, 2017 the Council approved the participation and funding of a marketing program with WABI TV. This marketing campaign includes a video that tells about doing business in Hermon. The business featured in the video is owned by Councilor Snyder. Councilor Snyder was not at the meeting on March 16, 2017. Councilor Snyder was not on the Council when the video was made. Manager Kroll asked for a legal opinion from the Town's Attorney regarding the possibility of a conflict of interest. The Attorney stated that there is no conflict. Snyder clearly is promoting the Town of Hermon not Hermon Meadows Golf Club. The Attorney suggested the Council reaffirm their vote to participate in the marketing program with WABI, closing the door to any more questions. Councilor Jacques asked if there had been a complaint and if that was why this came up for discussion again. The Manger responded that there were some individuals who reached out to him with concern. He reaffirmed that the message in the videos is a good message and it is his intent to protect the Town and to protect the Office of Economic and Community Development while staying clear and transparent with our intentions.



Councilor Jacques moved to approve R16-17-22. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Councilor Snyder abstained. The motion carries.

***(R16-17-22 is attached for review.)**

B. NEW BUSINESS

None

C. WORKSHOPS

#2. Hold Workshop 2017-2018 FY Budget

Manager Kroll informed the Council that tonight's budget topics include Police, Fire, Economic Development, Solid Waste, Public Works, Special Assessments, CIP and General Assistance.

Police Department budget is up \$30,493 or 7.94%.

Deputy York will attend MCJA for 12 weeks in the fall. Tuition costs for the Academy are \$2,600. We will need to cover his shifts while he is out. This budget includes overtime for our FT Deputies and monies needed to hire extra PT coverage. Conversation took place regarding the differences between the Counties pay scale and ours as well as the rate for PT deputies.

Fire Department budget is up \$20,859 or 6.47%.

\$8,000 of the increase is for training for EMT certification in the department. Additionally, it is time to replace our turn out gear. Chief Roma informed the Council that once turn out gear is 10 years old it is trash. He told how every member of the department should have at least 2 sets of gear. The goal is to replace a quarter of the gear every two to three years. Conversation took place about manning the station and adding additional coverage. We currently have one full-time firefighter.

Public Safety Building budget is up \$3,650 or \$58.81%.

Additional funds have been added to the budget in order to properly maintain our generators, electrical system, and the heating system. We have been acting reactively to problems in this building. Increasing the funds in this account will allow us to be in a position to act proactively with regard to the maintenance of the Public Safety Building.

Economic Development budget is up \$44,536 or 82.46%.

The Economic Development Budget is funded with TIF monies. Scott Perkins currently serves as PT Public Works Director and PT Economic Development Director. The Council has approved a Strategic Plan that includes a full time Economic Development Director. The Manager pointed out the valuation growth does not happen by itself and that this position is an integral part of the growth of our community. He then recommended to the Council approve the creation of a new full time position for the Director of Economic Development. Scott Perkins passed out a packet to the Council that included a job description for the proposed FT position and shared details of the 5 year strategic plan the Economic Development Committee developed.



Public Works budget is up \$17,112 or 1.95%.

Manager Kroll explained that we will remove the PT Public Works Director from this budget and promote Ralph Shaw to Foreman. Additionally, we will be giving some miles back to the Snowplow Contractor so that our crew will be responsible for one area of town instead of being so spread out. Additionally, care and maintenance of the sidewalks and Hermon Corner (the triangle) will take place by the Snow Plow Contractor. We were able to decrease the amount spent on cemetery mowing by combining some of the other mowing activities. In response to Chair Thomas, the Manager affirmed that 3.14 miles on Stage Road and Wendy Acres will be returned to the Snow Plow Contractor for winter snow removal.

Solid Waste budget is down \$6300 or -1.12%.

We were able to decrease this account because the Household Hazardous Waste program is no longer. The sewers were televised and tested last year and do not need to be done again this year.

Special Assessment budget is up \$57,299 or 7.26%.

Special Assessments include the County Tax and our Tax Increment Financing Payouts. \$44,099 of the increase is due to the increase in our valuation.

General Assistance budget is down \$4,500 or -36%.

The Manager informed the Council that while we do have a good number of applicants. The majority of those applicants who qualify continues to significantly decrease; while the number of applicants who participate in our workfare program has increased.

Capital Improvement Plan budget is up \$200 or .04%.

The Capital Improvement Plan has been previously discussed at length and approved by the Council.

D. OTHER ITEMS (from Table Package)

None

X. APPOINTMENTS

None

XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

Manager Kroll thanked the staff who helped him put the budget together. He then thanked Roger Raymond for laying a solid foundation to build the budget on.

XII. FINAL PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENT (Items Not Already on Agenda)

None



XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

None

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Freeman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm. Councilor Ellis seconded the motion. With no objection the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Ruth A. Nickerson, CCM
Town Clerk**