

Town Council Meeting Minutes July 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

All Councilors were present and answering roll call.

Item 1 Introduction of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to change the organizational structure of the Harbor/Waterfront Committee.

Chair Farber explained that the Harbor Committee has recommended a change to the membership of their committee. The current Code of Ordinances specifies that Harbor/Waterfront Committee shall consist of seven residents, with one representing Handy Boat and one representing Portland Yacht Club (PYC). The proposed amendment removes the residency restriction for the Handy Boat and PYC representatives, but they would become non-voting members. The Committee would still have seven resident members.

Councilor Anderson observed that Handy Boat and PYC currently have standing seats on the committee; he wondered how and why that came about and why the committee thinks it is no longer necessary.

Chair Farber said there was a time when that committee needed to pull together; since then things have been going well. She has spoken with the representatives of both Handy Boat and PYC; while they are not enthusiastic about the change, they were acceptable to it as long as the entities were treated the same.

Councilor Anderson felt it was strange to remove standing representation for those two organizations from the committee, given how large and influential they are on the waterfront.

Councilor King said there would now be more residents that would be voting members; she wondered if that was the objective.

Councilor Farber agreed that the change was also intended to free up more seats for residents, to accommodate a long-term member who was no longer employed at Handy Boat but still wanted to serve.

Councilor Goldberg said the other issue was that one of the organizations wanted the ability to nominate a representative who was not a Falmouth resident.

Chair Farber said committee members are often members of one of the two organizations as well. She said the committee and the organizations were both notified of the proposed change.

A public hearing was scheduled for August 11.

Item 2 Discussion about the possible development of a shopping bag ordinance to limit the use of plastic bags.

Chair Farber said the Council received an email from a resident asking them to investigate an ordinance similar to what Portland has passed and Freeport is considering.

Councilor Mahoney said he has been contacted by several residents who are very interested in this type of ordinance.

The Council discussed who should work on a possible ordinance, REAC or the Ordinance Committee.

The majority of the Council agreed to ask REAC to do research on the issue of plastic bags and develop recommendations for the Council to consider. They requested a report back from the committee in January 2015.

Item 3 Order to vote for MMA Legislative Policy Committee Members.

Public comment period opened. No public comment.

The Council voted 7-0 for Claudia King to represent District 25 on MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

Item 4 Discussion about future Council agendas.

Town Manager Nathan Poore discussed items scheduled for upcoming Council agendas.

Adjourn

Councilor Mahoney moved to adjourn; Councilor Anderson seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Tryon
Recording Secretary