

Members Present: James A. DeLisle, Wayne R. Walker, Heather M. Billings

Others Present: Karen Murphy, Stephanie Lahtinen, Steve Wallace, Jon Wyman, Keith Harding, ML Altobelli, Tom Connell, Marcus Moran, Aubuchon Hardware; Ned LaFortune, Wachusett Brewery; Mina Corpuz, Sentinel and Enterprise

CALL TO ORDER

J. DeLisle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in room 205 of the Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being recorded by Ashburnham/Westminster Community Access TV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. DeLisle announced that the third Annual Cracker Festival will be held on Saturday October 20th from 10a-5p in downtown Westminster.

The Town Clerk's office will be open for Early Voting for all registered voters, prior to the November 6th Election.

Early Voting will begin October 22nd, 2018 and run through Friday, November 2nd, 2018. Early Voting can be done in person at the Westminster Town Hall during regular hours of operation, which is Monday through Thursday 8 AM to 4:30 PM and Friday 8 AM to 1 PM.

All the hours, as well as information on how to request a ballot by mail are on the Town Website and will be posted in area newspapers. You can also call the Clerk's Office at 978-874-7406 if you have any questions. The last day to register to vote for the November Election is October 17, 2018. You may register to vote in person, by mail or online at www.registertovotema.com.

APPROVALS

WARRANTS

W. Walker made a motion to approve the following warrants.

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|--------------------|------------------|--------|----------------|
| September 5, 2018 | Accounts Payable | 19-15A | \$1,093,405.92 |
| September 10, 2018 | Payroll | 19-16B | \$184,436.35 |
| September 10, 2018 | Deduction | 19-16C | \$97,266.22 |

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2018. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

FIRE CHIEF APPOINTMENT/CONTRACT APPROVAL

This item will be taken up at the next meeting.

CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT AGREEMENT

W. Walker made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract with MA Cultural Council for \$5000. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – DISPATCHER/PART TIME POLICE OFFICER

W. Walker made a motion to approve the payroll authorization for Nicholas McLaughlin, as part time police officer and dispatcher. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT

Tom Connell of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment requested the use of the Town Common and Gazebo to hold a Civil War Reenactment running the weekend the Cracker Festival. He indicated that he has spoken with the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Board of Health and received their approvals.

W. Walker made a motion to approve the use of the Town Common and Gazebo for the Civil War Reenactment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CRACKER FESTIVAL – REQUEST TO WAIVE TEN FEE

W. Walker made a motion to waive the \$50 tent fee for the Cracker Festival. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NOVEMBER 6, 2018 ELECTION WARRANT

W. Walker made a motion to approve the November 6, 2018 Annual Election warrant. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

ONGOING BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS

DISCUSSION: RE PROPOSED MARIJUANA BYLAWS

Ned LaFortune discussed the proposed marijuana bylaws with the Selectmen. He indicated that he would like the bylaws to be more business friendly and less restrictive of this upcoming industry.

The Board indicated that they reached out to residents with a non-binding question on the Annual Town Election warrant this past April, and that's the basis of how the bylaws were written.

S. Wallace indicated will be a Public Hearing on the proposed zoning amendments held on October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. where this issue can be discussed further.

NEW BUSINESS

SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATION

W. Walker made a motion to accept the proposal from Commonwealth Community Developers of Cambridge, MA - based on the recommendation of the Senior Housing Development Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Heather M. Billings, Clerk
(Prepared by S. Lahtinen)