

Prospect Town Council
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
10-16-18

Vice-Chairman Stan Pilat called to order the regular meeting of the Prospect Town Council @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Prospect Town Hall, 36 Center Street and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was taped.

Members Present: Pat Geary, R. Blanc, S. Pilat, D. Merriman, M. Patchkofsky, C. Perugini-Erickson, T. Graveline and L. Fitzgerald

Members Absent: J. Slapikas

Also In Attendance: Mayor Robert Chatfield and Town Attorney Jennifer Yoxall

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Chatfield referenced the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Municipalities (42 Towns) and requested of the Council approval for the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board-Resolution that was tabled at the Town Council meeting of 10/2/18. **Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by R. Blanc to remove from table the 'Action on Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board – Resolution'. **Unanimous.** T. Graveline commented that she was fully supportive of approving this motion and asked the Mayor to provide a link from the Town's Website to this site as there are many programs available that may help residents. Discussion. **Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by R. Blanc to approve the 'Action on Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board – Resolution'. **Unanimous.**

Adoption of Ordinances:

Mayor Chatfield commented on the discussion that took place during the earlier Public Hearing on the amendment to the original ordinance #85-12-15-15 stating that if the Council chose not to amend the 'Ordinance concerning Prohibition on Blocking of Intersections' at this time, he would ask to wait until the 2nd meeting in November as the legal notice will be in the Prospect Pages at a lesser cost; the remaining two ordinances will go forward. Attorney Yoxall commented that she will look into an ordinance concerning this particular ordinance as it is not specifically in an intersection due to it is in front of the Firehouse on 26 New Haven Road. **Motion** made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by T. Graveline to table, for further review, the amendment to Ordinance #85-12-15-15 concerning Prohibition on Blocking of Intersections for '(2) the northbound lane of Waterbury Road (Rte 69) at 26 New Haven Road'. **Unanimous.** The Council asked to remove the proposed new Ordinance # of #88-10-16-18 and place it upon the Ordinance Prohibiting Waste Associated with Natural Gas and Oil Extraction. Discussion. **Motion** made by T. Graveline, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the Ordinance (Ordinance #88-10-16-18) Prohibiting Waste Associated with Natural Gas and Oil Extraction. T. Graveline commented that she was in favor of this ordinance, stating that a company would need to certify that they have not used these products with natural gas and oil extraction on roads, streets or other areas. Mayor Chatfield also commented that by adopting this Ordinance, it would be saving the water table. **Unanimous.** Discussion. **Motion** made by T. Graveline, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the Ordinance (Ordinance #89-10-16-18) Citation Hearing Procedure. T. Graveline stated that she is very happy to see the process standardized. **Unanimous.** S. Pilat thanked the Ordinance sub-committee.

The Council was in receipt of a letter received from the Chairman of the Anti-Blight Commission, Brenda Martin RE: 52 Williams Dr. S. Pilat commented that at this meeting the Council would be asked to vote to allow ABC to remediate 52 Williams Dr if needed. Mayor Chatfield advised that this is not the first time that the Town took a property owner to Housing Court. S. Pilat asked Chair, Brenda Martin to read into the record her letter dated 9/24/18 Re: Blighted Conditions at 52 Williams Dr, Prospect, CT. S. Pilat asked the Council for comments. L. Fitzgerald stated that he had no questions. T. Graveline requested pictures. Mayor Chatfield advised the Council

that the property owners, Mr. & Mrs. Meehan were in the audience. Property owner, Tim Meehan, commented that he received a letter from an Attorney advising that he was not to talk to the Anti-Blight Commission. B. Martin commented that she had pictures of the yard taken from the adjacent neighbors' yard. C. Perugini-Erickson cautioned the Council, stating that they were not the fact-finding body and the only requirement of the Council was to act on the 'remediation of the property by ABC company'. Attorney Yoxall advised that the ordinance states the Council would need to approve the remediation request. C. Perugini-Erickson questioned the role of the Council. Attorney Yoxall commented that the ordinance states the Council needs to approve, but it was not rubber stamped. Attorney Yoxall stated that the decision made is not the Council's, but the Anti-Blight Commissions. T. Meehan requested an answer to what was considered Blight as he had lawn furniture, grills and patio items on his back porch. Attorney Yoxall stated that the definition of Blight was described in the Ordinance. B. Martin explained the steps that were taken. Discussion. The property owner advised that a payment of fees was made. C. Perugini-Erickson questioned the appeal process. Attorney Yoxall explained it would be 30 days from the hearing, but the property owner had made no timely appeal. The property owner stated that he was not aware of the appeal process. S. Pilat advised that the Anti-Blight Commission followed the proper procedures. **Motion** made by D. Merriman, seconded by R. Blanc to allow ABC to remediate 52 Williams Drive if the need arises. T. Meehan questioned criminal trespass and theft; to which he was advised it was not. P. Geary questioned the cost for remediation. Mayor Chatfield advised that there will be a bid process for the remediation. M. Patchkofsky stated that she felt this was setting a precedence; The Council has a duty to everyone in town and not to publicly embarrass the residents. T. Meehan advised that his family had felt threatened in their own yard. M. Patchkofsky questioned if there had been any substantial change in items in the yard. T. Meehan commented that he had pictures showing that items had been removed. B. Martin commented that items had been removed to the back of the house and are under traps. Council members questioned the next Anti-Blight meeting which is the first Thursday in November. P. Geary commented that this situation is very serious, but she felt a little better knowing that if the Council approved the remediation, that the property owner still had time to remediate prior to the next Anti-Blight meeting. S. Pilat thanked the Anti-Blight Commission. C. Perugini- Erickson yielded the floor to Larry Rifkin. Larry Rifkin, Vice-Chairman of the Anti-Blight Commission commented that the neighbors had contacted the Anti-Blight Commission, the Anti-Blight Commission does not go out to look for issues. Discussion. 7 Approved/1 Opposed, M. Patchkofsky. **Motion carries.**

Chair's Report:

Cancellation of November 5, 2018 Town Council Meeting:

Motion made by L. Fitzgerald, seconded by M. Patchkofsky to approve the cancellation of the Town Council meeting on November 5, 2018. Discussion. 6 Approved/ 2 Opposed, T. Graveline, P. Geary **Motion carries.**

Calendar Dates Set for 2019:

Motion made by T. Graveline, seconded by P. Geary to approve and set the meeting dates for the 2019 calendar with the exception of Election Day, November 5, 2019 which will be excluded from the schedule. **Unanimous.**

Public Participation:

George Hughes, 8 Hughes Court commented that this is a continuing situation for the past 20 years. G. Hughes commented that 11 neighbors had complained about 52 Williams Dr and had contacted the Anti-Blight Commission. G. Hughes asked the Council move forward and not linger with this complaint as this has been an ongoing situation for over 20 years and that T. Meehan was a sick man.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** made by M. Patchkofsky, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of October 2, 2018. **Unanimous.**

Tax Refunds:

Motion made by P. Geary, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to approve the Tax Refunds dated 10/16/18 in the amount of \$1,598.00 **Unanimous.**

C. Perugini-Erickson questioned if the Council was in receipt of an email that was forwarded to J. Slapikas from Louis Nichole. S. Pilat advised that it was given to S. Pilat this evening; the Mayor's office had it and the Mayor will be responding to the email. P. Geary commented that it is important for the Council to acknowledge the emails that are sent to the Council. C. Perugini-Erickson commented on acknowledging an email and then giving that email to the Council to be added to Correspondence at their next meeting. M. Patchkofsky commented that responding straight away, saying thank you for reaching out to the Council would be the best way. Council members suggested one specific Council email. M. Patchkofsky questioned the maintenance of the Council's email, to which L. Fitzgerald replied the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Correspondence:

Town of Prospect Anti-Blight Commission Letter dated 9/24/18
Town of Prospect Amendment to Ordinance Concerning Prohibition on Blocking of Intersection (Ordinance #85-12-15-15)
Town of Prospect Ordinance – Prohibiting Waste Associated with Natural Gas and Oil Extraction
Town of Prospect Citation Hearing Procedure
Sheet showing new numbers for ordinances
Tax Refunds 10/16/18
Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Municipalities
Town of Prospect General Fund Expenditures dated August 2018
Tax Collector's report 9/2018
Zoning Inspector's Report dated 9/2018
Prospect Police Patrol Report 9/2018
Facts about Fracking 10/2/2018
Email from J. Slapikas – 52 Williams Dr. Timeline
2019 Calendar Dates request
Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by L. Fitzgerald to place correspondence on file. **Unanimous.**

New Business:

Refunds – Previously Acted Upon
Transfers- None
Resignations – None
Appointments – None
Bids/Grants – None

Old Business:

Subcommittee Reports:
Land Use & Acquisition – None
Ordinance: Review Amendment to Ordinance Concerning Prohibition on Blocking of Intersections (Ordinance #85-12-15-15)
Salary Review: Met this evening, Questionnaires to be given to Dept. Heads Re: hours & duties of various clerks
Public Works Maintenance: None
Sidewalk Task Force: None
Pension: None

Adjournment:

Motion made by D. Merriman, seconded by R. Blanc to adjourn the meeting. **Unanimous.** Meeting adjourned @ 8:13 p.m.

Stan Pilat, Vice - Chairman