

DRAFT  
TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
February 18, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held February 18, 2016 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag.

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Present were: Michael Benvenuto | Supervisor             |
| Charles Wood                    | Councilman             |
| Peter Nelson                    | Councilman             |
| Patti Matheney                  | Councilwoman           |
| Mallory Mort                    | Councilman             |
| Ben Perry                       | Highway Superintendent |
| Matthew Cabral                  | Attorney for Town      |

Also present- about 15 audience members.

**MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Mort, Matheney

Nays: 0

Chris Jones- There were two articles regarding the West Ghent Fire Department in the Register Star this week. Could you please address the articles?

Supervisor Benvenuto – We will and expect contract to be signed very soon. Full coverage will continue by WGFD, and we are currently operating under the stipulations of the old contract. Contrary to reports, WGFD has not signed a contract with the Town of Claverack.

**MOTION #2 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN MEETING** made by Councilman Nelson seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

**MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING JANUARY 15, 2016** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort, Nelson

Nays: 0

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Food Pantry numbers for January- Families-101, Children 167, Adults 181, Seniors 31, New Clients, 4 and ordered 4265 pounds of food.

**MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort, Nelson

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

**MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

**MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

PLANNING AND ZONING:

**MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT ZONING BOARD CHAIRMAN MARK HUSTON REQUEST FOR RETIREMENT FROM THE ZONING BOARD EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2016** made by Councilman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

Supervisor Benvenuto thanked Mr. Huston for his years of service to the Town of Ghent. Lew Streeter has been made Chairman of the Zoning Board for 2016. There is currently one seat open on the Planning Board and one on the Zoning Board.

**MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING BOARD FROM JANUARY 6, 2016** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

DCO REPORT:

**MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR JANUARY** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been all over the place with machines trying to better the water drainage across the town. We have hauled a great deal more stone for this year's upcoming road resurfacing projects.

I have been looking for over two years for a 4 way broom for our skid steer and not wanting to spend the money for a new unit so I have had my feelers out and I have found a used unit with very little use on it from a company that went out of business saving about \$5,000 on unit. This will greatly improve our Efficiency cleaning up the roads when we make a mess leaving us a much cleaner road system.

I will be attending Advocacy Day March the 9th to meet with New York State senators to lobby for the state added financial money we use each year to help better out local road systems.

**MOTION # 10 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT** made by Councilwoman Matheney and seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Mort, Matheney

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 15 FOR THE YEAR 2016

WHEREAS, RESIDENTS OF COUNTY ROUTE 21C IN THE TOWN OF GHENT HAVE SUBMITTED A PETITION REQUESTING A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR SAID ROADWAY FROM THE CURRENT MAXIMUM SPEED OF 45 MILES PER HOUR; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT A REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE SUBJECT ROADWAY WOULD IMPROVE SAFETY ON SAID ROADWAY; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION IS WARRANTED. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY REQUESTS A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR COUNTY ROUTE 21C IN THE TOWN OF GHENT; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD, WITH A REQUEST THAT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH REVIEWING THIS MATTER, TOWARD THE GOAL THAT THE SPEED LIMIT BE REDUCED AS REQUESTED HEREIN.

**MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #15** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays 0

NEW BUSINESS:

LOCAL LAW #1 FOR THE YEAR 2016:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2016, WHICH WOULD IMPOSE A THREE (3) MONTH MORATORIUM ON BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE TOWN OF GHENT WHILE THE TOWN BOARD REVIEWS THE CHANGES TO THE TOWN ZONING CODE RECENTLY RECOMMENDED BY THE ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE AND ADOPTS AS LOCAL LAW THOSE OF THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES DETERMINED TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN; WHEREAS, OVER A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, THE ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT IN AUGUST OF 2015 REVIEWED AND ANALYZED THE TOWN ZONING CODE, AS IT APPLIES TO BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE TOWN, CONSIDERED THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER

PLAN, AND DRAFTED PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ZONING CODE FOR REVIEW AND ENACTMENT BY THE TOWN BOARD; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING THE PROPOSALS OF SAID COMMITTEE AND TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ADOPT AS LOCAL LAW THOSE OF THE PROPOSALS IT DETERMINES TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT THIS THREE MONTH MORATORIUM IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN DUE TO THE IMMEDIATE POTENTIAL FOR IRREVERSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER IF ANY FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL AND/OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OCCURS WITHIN THE TOWN PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TOWN BOARD'S REVIEW AND ENACTMENT OF THE CHANGES TO THE ZONING CODE PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE; WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD REGARDING THIS PROPOSED LOCAL LAW BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD, ON FEBRUARY 18, 2016 AT 6:45 P.M. AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING; AND WHEREAS, NO REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT ARE REQUIRED IN THAT THIS IS A TYPE II ACTION. NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED IT IS RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2016 IS HEREBY APPROVED AND SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Councilwoman Matheny stated the Board would be negligent to not approve Local Law # 1. It's the boards duty to do due diligence to serve their best for the community. Doing the right thing. Councilman Nelson stated everything should be done right.

**MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #16** made by Councilwoman Matheny, seconded by Councilman Wood, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheny, Mort  
Nays 0

#### BROADBAND COMMITTEE:

A citizen broadband committee has been created and will start their meeting next month. The committee members are David Berman, Koethi Zan, Keith Kanaga, and Chris Bishop. Councilwoman Matheny will be the Town Board liaison.

#### PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

##### AUDITED BILLS:

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| General A  | \$58509.82  |
| S.L.       | \$382.10    |
| General B  | \$6370.76   |
| Highway DB | \$55740.22  |
| TOTAL:     | \$121002.90 |

**MOTION# 13 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS** made by Councilman Nelson, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Wood, Matheny, Mort  
Nays: 0

Luis Castro- made a brief comment on the future of our environment, and the strides that could be made if everyone did their share. Also commented on the need for sidewalks on Route 66 connecting Chatham and Ghent.

Tana Strome Thompson- Commended the highway department for all their hard work.

**MOTION #14 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:51 PM** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney, approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley