

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 19, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held May 19, 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
Theodore Guterman	Attorney for Town

Also present- about 10 audience members.

MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Steve Pechacek- Resident of Church Street/ County Route 21 informed the Town Board of his intention of presenting a speed reduction request and petition for this road at the June 2, 2016 Town Board workshop.

Keith Kanaga- asked Superintendent Perry a question regarding site lines and hedge lines on Link Road.

Koethi Zan- Asked for an update on the new Ginsberg property. Are they still intending to build, if not, will the property be restored to original status if not built on? What happens to the land sale?

Attorney Guterman- Understands land can be returned to CEDC, or purchased for full market value. He will have definite answers and will advise Supervisor Benvenuto.

Koethi Zan- Any update on the Commerce Park waste water sewer issues?

Tana Strom- Wrote letter to Chairman Matt Murell regarding waste water treatment issues.

Koethi Zan- Will the new committees formed be giving reports at the Town Board meetings?

Chris Jones – reported she attended the sewer meeting the County and asked about the Ginsberg land for clarification.

Rich Coon- updated the Town Board on the finances spent by the Town on his litigation case.

Attorney Guterman- Town has a duty when the law is violated to uphold the law and work to a fair result for all.

Conrad Coon- Have the new zoning laws been implemented?

Supervisor Benvenuto- yes, they were passed on April 7, 2016.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ON APRIL 7, 2016 APRIL 20, 2016 AND MAY 10, 2016 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from the Bartlett House Café LLC notifying the Town Board of their application for a liquor license for the location on Route 66 in the hamlet. A letter from the Ghent VFW Post 5933 inviting the Town Board to the annual Memorial Day parade held on Monday May 30, 2016 at 9am. Food Pantry numbers for April 2016- Families- 81, Children 73, Adults 146, Seniors 20, New Clients 2 and 3089 pounds of food.

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

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING AND ZONING:

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE GHENT ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE MINTUES OF APRIL 25, 2016 made by, Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort
Nays: 0

YOUTH, PARKS AND RECREATION:

MOTION #9 TO ADJUST THE TOWN OF GHENT CAMP FEES FOR RESIDENTS \$50 PER CHILD, \$100 PER FAMILY AND NONRESIDENTS FLAT RATE OF \$175.00 A CHILD made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort
Nays: 0

Superintendent Perry reported that Berkshire Fence has been to both parks and fixed the chain link fences where necessary. Supervisor Benvenuto appointed Councilman Mort and Councilwoman Matheney to the recreation committee.

DCO REPORT:

MOTION #10 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR APRIL made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood
Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

Superintendent Perry reported we are currently doing the final prepping of the roads that we will be sealing this year. We are looking at sealing around 34 miles of road this year. Last year we Motor Paved 4 roads after this winter I was very unpleased with the way that they had weathered with the very mild winter so I took it up with the president of the paving company. I made them do an analysis core sample test of the roads and found that the bonding of the roads wasn't passing on 3 out of the 4 one was borderline the company has decided to do a special process to these roads to better insure the longevity of these roads and they also have given me a signed 5 year warranty on these roads which is unheard off We are also getting ready for another mowing season and we held for the 4th annual highway superintendent equipment trade show at our garage which is always a really good reason to do a deep spring cleaning we also sealed the floor in the big shop.

MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR APRIL made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood
Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION #12 TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE WEST GHENT BALL FIELDS TO THE CHATHAM REDS BASEBALL TEAM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 21 FOR THE YEAR 2016:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT BELIEVES THAT CLIMATE CHANGE POSES A REAL AND INCREASING THREAT TO OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTS, WHICH IS PRIMARILY DUE TO THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS; WHEREAS, WE BELIEVE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE WILL ENDANGER OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMY AND LIVELIHOODS;

WHEREAS, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROVIDES US WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES AND SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS BY TAKING ACTIONS TO PREPARE FOR THE IMPACTS OF LIVING IN A WARMER WORLD AND AT THE SAME TIME PROMOTE COMMUNITY GOALS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY, AFFORDABILITY, ECONOMIC VITALITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE; WHEREAS, WE BELIEVE THE SCALE OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS REQUIRED FOR CLIMATE STABILIZATION WILL REQUIRE SUSTAINED AND SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS; AND WHEREAS, WE BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF EMISSIONS WERE DRAMATICALLY REDUCED TODAY, COMMUNITIES WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED TO ADAPT TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR DECADES TO COME.

NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT IS RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT IN ORDER TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ADAPT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE THE TOWN OF GHENT WILL:

1. PLEDGE TO BE A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY.
2. SET GOALS, INVENTORY EMISSIONS, PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION.
3. DECREASE COMMUNITY ENERGY USE.
4. INCREASE COMMUNITY USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY.
5. REALIZE BENEFITS OF RECYCLING AND OTHER CLIMATE-SMART SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.
6. REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH USE OF CLIMATE-SMART LAND-USE TOOLS.
7. ENHANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND PREPARE FOR THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.
8. SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN INNOVATION ECONOMY.
9. INFORM AND INSPIRE THE PUBLIC.
10. COMMIT TO AN EVOLVING PROCESS OF CLIMATE ACTION.

MOTION # 13 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 21 FOR THE YEAR 2016 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 14 TO APPROVE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE COLUMBIA LAND CONSERVANCY REGARDING WILLOWS CREEK FARM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Councilwoman Matheney reported next week the Register Star has offered to send a post card to Ghent residents giving them the option of not receiving the Shop and Find paper. The information is also found on the Town's website.

Supervisor Benvenuto reported that Jen Stoner will be heading up the Bicentennial committee. Anyone interested in participating on that committee should contact Jen. Members of the local community groups will also be asked to have a member on the committee.

Councilwoman Matheney gave a brief summary of the Broadband Committee. They have set up a Facebook page Connect Columbia to keep residents informed of their progress.

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$42708.26
S.L.	\$787.46
General B	\$9156.12
Highway DB	\$39650.24
TOTAL:	\$92302.08

MOTION# 15 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS made by Councilman Nelson, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

MOTION #16 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT LIMITED TO THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT MEETING made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Koethi Zan- are the financial reports available to the public.

Supervisor Benvenuto- they are posted monthly on the Town's website.

Gunner Wordon- the Village of Chatham is having the same issues with the shop and find. Is there an ordinance that can be passed to stop it from getting delivered?

Conrad Coon- What is the budget of the summer program?

Councilman Mort- approximately \$28, 000.00.

Chris Jones- May we have an update on Ginsberg project by next meeting?

MOTION #17 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AT 8:23PM made by Supervisor Benvenuto seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #18 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:17 PM made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0

MOTION #19 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:18 PM made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley