

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 18, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held May 18, 2017 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a 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- 4 audience members.

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

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

Nays: 0

Elizabeth Depalma- Questioned if the slow children sign on Connacher/ Leggett road could be moved closer to her house where there are children. Speeding has become an issue on this road.

Superintendent Perry- will adjust signs and for speed issues you must start with a letter/ petition from the public.

MOTION #2 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN MEETING made by Councilman Mort 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 ON APRIL 20, 2017 AND THE PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 11, 2017 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from NYSDPS regarding a Public meeting May 31, 2017 about the Fairpoint transfer. The Ghent VFW Post 5933 invited the Town Officials to participate in the Memorial Day parade and service. Grazin Angus Acres, LLC notified the town of their intent of opening a small farm distillery. A letter of support from Supervisor Benvenuto regarding the change of operator of Whittier Place to GALR Operating LLC. Food Pantry numbers for April 2017 Families- 90, Children 92, Adults 138, Seniors 31, New Clients 5 and 3285 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 Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman 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 Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort 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 Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE ZONING MINUTES FROM MARCH 8, 2017 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Moving on to the next phase (3) next week.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE:

Dave Berman reports NYS has begun to launch Phase three of money distribution for Broadband. Still a December 31, 2018 deadline.

MOTION #9 TO APPOINT DAN BARUFALDI TO THE OPEN PLANNING BOARD POSITION BEGINNING MAY 18, 2017 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2024 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CLIMATE SMART COMMITTEE:

The grant money for the charging station has been approved. Next step is a formal agreement with the Village of Chatham. The Energy Code Enforcement will take a place at a new project in Hillsdale.

MOTION #10 TO APPOINT PETER COAN AS A MEMBER OF THE GZRC made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DOG CONTROL:

MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR APRIL made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

Has been busy ditching roads. We had a pretty good wind storm two weeks ago and had around 40 trees down, we were able with help from NYSEG & FAIRPOINT open all roads in 4hrs to allow traffic to flow safely there were 7 main live wires down. We have started final shim process of roads which we will be resealing this season. I will be attending Highway school in Ithaca once again next month which I always enjoy and benefit from with a great wealth of knowledge to bring back to our operations. We hosted the 7 annual trade show this month and with many people letting me know what a great facility we have and how organized we keep it we had around 200 people attended this year. We have been using our tractor trailer which on the first day with working out some quirks we are already saving on time and money 7 loads equaling 241ton would have cost us with the two ten wheelers over 15 loads. The wheel loader made heavy lifting easy. We had around 7 inquiries regarding the load which I am very pleased to say we did have a bidder offer us \$66,900 for the 13year old unit which we paid for in 2004 \$91,006 difference of \$24,106 which equals out to about \$2,008 a year.

RESOLUTION #21 FOR THE YEAR 2017:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS HAS INDICATED TO THE TOWN BOARD THAT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NO LONGER NEEDS A CERTAIN 2004 CATERPILLAR WHEEL LOADER, MODEL 938G, SERIES 2, WITH 4780 HOURS, AND WOULD LIKE TO SELL SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT;
WHEREAS, THE TOWN HAS PLACED A BID ADVERTISEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF SAID WHEEL LOADER; WHEREAS, BURFEIND & SONS CONTRACTING LLC, 1330 HARLEMVILLE ROAD, GHENT, NEW YORK 12075 WAS THE HIGHEST BIDDER MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BID ADVERTISEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,900.00; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED HIGHEST BID AND SELL THE WHEEL LOADER DESCRIBED HEREIN.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED BID FOR THE SALE OF THE WHEEL LOADER DESCRIBED HEREIN, AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE SALE OF SAID WHEEL LOADER, AS SPECIFIED IN THE BID APPROVED AND ACCEPTED HEREBY, PURSUANT TO A BILL OF SALE TO BE PREPARED BY THE ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN.

MOTION #12 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 21 FOR THE YEAR 2017 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 22 FOR THE YEAR 2017- LOCAL LAW #1 FOR THE YEAR 2017

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2017, WHICH SETS FORTH VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, CHAPTER 190 (ZONING) INTENDED TO BETTER ALIGN THE CODE WITH THE VISION AND GOALS OF THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN BY, INTER ALIA, CLARIFYING DEFINITIONS, IMPROVING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL USES, AND IMPROVING THE SITE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA; WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE GHENT ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE, APPOINTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT AND TASKED WITH REVIEWING, ANALYZING, AND RECOMMENDING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN ZONING CODE CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD, AFTER CONSIDERING THE MOST RECENT PROPOSALS OF SAID COMMITTEE, DIRECTED THE ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN TO PREPARE A LOCAL LAW FILING FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES; WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD ON MAY 11, 2017, AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2017; WHEREAS, PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2017 WAS REFERRED TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, WHICH REVIEWED THE MATTER AND INDICATED THAT ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2017 IS A "LOCAL DECISION"; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2017, IF ADOPTED, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT AND DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW WOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION BE ISSUED. 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 2017 IS HEREBY APPROVED AND SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

MOTION #13 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 22 FOR THE YEAR 2017 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #14 TO RENEW LAWN MOWING CONTRACT WITH NORTHERN COLUMBIA LAWN CARE FOR WGCC AND CEMETERIES made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION # 15 TO APPROVE THE TOWN OF GHENT DWI/CDL POLICY FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort
Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$23638.93
S.L.	\$807.62
General B	\$7548.85
Highway DB	\$47552.51
TOTAL:	\$79547.91

MOTION# 16 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS, ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS BUDGET made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Wood, Matheney, Mort
Nays: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT WAIVED

MOTION #17 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson, approved unanimously.
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort
Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley
Town Clerk