

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 17, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held November 17, 2016 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
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Also present- about 8 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

Judy Rusk- Are there plans for building another structure at the CC airport and if so how does this benefit the citizens of Ghent?

Supervisor Benvenuto- Attended a meeting today with the FAA regarding capital improvements at the airport and funding. A wildlife study will be conducted which will take up to 12 months to complete.

Beth- Is there a strategic plan and will financial disclosures be made available to the public? Is there a long term plan on the impact the airport has on the community and can residents participate?

Supervisor Benvenuto – Information is being gathered on financial information and will be made available on the November airport subcommittee meeting on the 28th. There are 3 top priorities right now, the wildlife study, fencing and lighting and pavement.

Councilwoman Matheney- The Town has received 10 letters regarding the airport. Talking to the community and neighbors regarding their concerns and transparency regarding the financial benefit of the airport vs burden to the residents.

Catherine Gallo- Works for Richmore Aviation and states they have never received complaints on their current operations at the airport.

Supervisor Benvenuto asked residents to please write the Town Board to express any concerns or questions regarding the airport.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON OCTOBER 20, 2016 AND THE PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 2, 2016 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

COORESPONDENCE:

A letter was received by Hudson Valley Greenway congratulating the Town of Ghent on its award of \$10,000.00 grant money for Ghent Zoning and Code revisions. The Office of the Aging will now be providing transportation from Chatham Manor to Price Chopper. Food Pantry numbers for October 2016- Families- 115 Children 118, Adults 184, Seniors 33, New Clients 5 and 4990 pounds of food.

MOTION #4 TO APPROVE SUPERVISOR BENVNEUTO TO SIGN THE GRANT AGREEMENT made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES

MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT THE ZONING BOARD MINTUES FROM AUGUST 10, 2016, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 AND OCTOBER 12, 2016 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Councilman Mort reported the Zoning review committee is a work in progress.

Councilwoman Matheney- the Ghent Broadband committee has letter of support for Fairpoint's application to the State BPO for the 2nd round of funding. We had been informed by Fairpoint they would not be applying, so this is a change of course and excellent news for those covered by Fairpoint in Ghent. Also note that Fairpoint reached out to us requesting the letter. We recommended to the county broadband subcommittee they send support letters to all of the providers in the county applying for Round 2, including Fairpoint, G-tel, and Mid-Hudson and they agreed. Connect Columbia will also send letters for each provider.

MOTION #10 TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT OF FAIRPOINTS APPLICATION made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Councilman Mort reported the Climate Smart Committee sent in the Benchmarking resolution to be given to the State, the Unified Solar permit will be done at the end of the week and Code enforcement training is being scheduled for December.

DOG CONTROL:

MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR OCTOBER made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

Busy doing ditch work, putting up snow fence which helps greatly with knocking down blowing snow in open field areas reducing the amount of time we have to keep fighting the snow in the road. Have hauled a good deal of stone in for next year's road projects. Doing our annual mowing back over growth with the boom mower which increases and knocks bushes from growing out in to sight lines also reducing out time doing hand cutting of over growth. I finally was able to get the company that put our building up to come and look at the roof leaks. It appears that the wrong hardware was used on roof along with not enough screws in the ridge cap, the ridge cap was not sealed properly and the gutter braces have issues they are pulling out off the roof line the company is going to contact the manufacturer to make sure we were sent the correct braces. They are ordering the correct hardware to make things right and will reseal the ridge cap.

MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR OCTOBER made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BUDGET:

MOTION# 13 TO APPROVE THE FINAL TOWN OF GHENT 2017 BUDGET made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

FIRE CONTRACTS:

Art Sherman of the West Ghent Fire Department will be attending the Town Board workshop on December 8, 2016 to address the board. Public hearings for the Chatham and Ghent fire contracts will be held on December 15, 2016 before the monthly meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESCUE SQUAD CONTRACTS:

MOTION# 14 TO APPROVE THE RESCUE SQUAD CONTRACTS FOR VALATIE AND CHATHAM made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

The annual tree lighting ceremony will be held on December 4, 2016 at the Town Hall at 5PM.

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$31354.93
S.L.	\$787.62
General B	\$21.22
Highway DB	\$38482.71
TOTAL:	\$70506.48

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

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

Judy Rusk- Regarding Broadband committee, is this for the whole area or just Ghent?

Councilwoman Matheny- The whole area they service.

MOTION #17 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT made by Supervisor Benvenuto seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

MOTION #18 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:10pm made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley