

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 16, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held June 16, 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
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Also present- about 6 audience members.

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

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

Nays: 0

Keith Kanaga- Thank Superintendent Perry for his work on Link Road. Asked Supervisor Benvenuto if a resolution had been regarding the status of a Zoning Board member.

Supervisor Benvenuto replied the Board is working on it.

Koethi Zan- Asked the Board if it is ready to proceed with a grant application to hire a consultant for the Zoning Review Committee?

Supervisor Benvenuto suggested the Board revisit this during the Zoning portion of the agenda.

Koethi- Any update regarding the sewage issue in the Commerce Park.

Supervisor Benvenuto- A plan will be submitted to DEC in August by the County. DEC is monitoring the situation.

Koethi- Any update on the Ginsberg site?

Supervisor Benvenuto- Ginsberg's still has an existing building permit and the currently still own the land.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON MAY 19, 2016 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Food Pantry numbers for May 2016- Families- 80, Children 72, Adults 142, Seniors 25, New Clients 0 and 2927 pounds of food.

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

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

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

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

Nays: 0

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

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING AND ZONING:

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINTUES OF APRIL 6, 2016 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT THE ZONING BOARD MINTUES OF APRIL 13, 2016 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #10 TO ACCEPT THE GHENT ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE MINTUES OF MAY 23, 2016 made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #11 TO APPROVE THE GHENT ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT MONEY THROUGH GREENWAY made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

YOUTH, PARKS AND RECREATION:

Supervisor Benvenuto reported to the Board that camp inspections were done with Ed Coons from the CC Department of health and the water tests were completed in West Ghent. He thanked the highway department for placing all new mulch on both playgrounds.

DCO REPORT:

MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR MAY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

Attended highway school once again the beginning of the month at Ithaca Collage with about 700 other Highway Supt across NY. We are getting ready to chip seal roads all over town next week which is a very busy time. We have started some projects road reclamation prep work for upcoming jobs. I have decided to upgrade our town limits signage at each road that you come from an adjacent town into the Town of Ghent you will be seeing new town limit signs we are required to post certain info on these signs and they have become old out dated and the poles can't have any more signs put on them so I have new consolidated signs.

MOTION #13 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR MAY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Matheney reports that postcards have been mailed to Ghent residents giving them a option to discontinue delivery of the free paper "Shop and Find". There is also a number on the Town's website to call to discontinue as well.

Councilwoman Matheney reported the Broadband committee Chairman David Berman met with the State Broadband Office and the County does qualify for the second half of funds offered by the State. The committee has received the maps from Charter. The next County Broadband meeting is on June 20, 2016 at 4:30 pm in Hudson.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #22 FOR THE YEAR 2016:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT FROM TIME TO TIME HAS THE NEED TO CONTRACT FOR CERTAIN MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE, INCLUDING DIESEL FUEL, #2 FUEL OIL, KEROSENE, GASOLINE, AND LIQUID PROPANE; AND WHEREAS, GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, SECTION 103, SUBDIVISION 3, AUTHORIZES A MUNICIPALITY TO CONTRACT FOR SUCH SERVICES THROUGH THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED; AND WHEREAS, THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA HAS RECEIVED BIDS FOR DIESEL FUEL, #2 FUEL OIL, KEROSENE, GASOLINE, AND LIQUID PROPANE, WHICH ARE COMPETITIVE AND WILL PROVIDE GOOD VALUE TO THE TOWN OF GHENT; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT HAS REQUESTED THAT THE TOWN ACCEPT THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA BIDS FOR DIESEL FUEL, #2 FUEL OIL, KEROSENE, GASOLINE, AND LIQUID PROPANE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD AGREES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN TO DO SO. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT HEREBY ACCEPTS THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BID #16-009 FOR DIESEL FUEL, #2 FUEL OIL, AND KEROSENE MADE BY VALLEY ENERGY, WHICH WAS AWARDED BY THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA TO SAID COMPANY BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION #255-2016.

MOTION # 14 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 22 FOR THE YEAR 2016 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #15 TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE GHENT TENNIS COURTS TO THE COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION ON SEPTEMBER 17TH AND 18TH, 2016 made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Recusal: 1 Matheney

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society requests the use of the West Ghent Rec Facility on September 17, 2016. This request will be tabled until July to make sure it does not conflict with CMHF use of the tennis courts.

MOTION # 16 TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR BENVENUTO TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GHENT AND VLAITIE RESCUE SQUAD FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Supervisor Benvenuto read aloud a prepared statement regarding the Old Ghent Talarico Landfill.

It has recently come to the attention of the Board that the Old Ghent Talarico Landfill has not been officially closed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC"), despite the fact that it was voluntarily capped by Columbia County in 1997. The Board has learned the DEC recently asked the County to approach the landowners in order to obtain deed restrictions desired by DEC and has further asked the County to produce a management plan for the site. We understand the County is currently reviewing and addressing these matters with DEC. In the meantime, this Board will request the DEC and / or Columbia County perform testing of the wells in the vicinity of the landfill, to include testing for PFOAs. Furthermore, the Board intends to closely monitor the efforts of DEC and Columbia County towards closing the site and has directed the attorney for the Town to further investigate the situation.

MOTION # 17 TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR BENVENUTO TO REQUEST WATER TESTING TO BE DONE BY DEC AND /OR COLUMBIA COUNTY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$10759.06
S.L.	\$787.46
General B	\$994.50
Highway DB	\$30174.68
TOTAL:	\$42715.70

MOTION# 18 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 #19 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

Rich Coon- Like the new signs Superintendent Perry had done for the Town, but is it necessary to include "Zoning Enforced"?

Koethi Zan- Regarding the landfill issue, should residents be alerted via a letter or press release?

Attorney Cabral- We are in the beginning stages of the investigation at this point. More research needs to be gathered and reviewed.

MOTION #20 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT made by Supervisor Benvenuto seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #21 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:25 PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney, approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley