

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 19, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held December 19, 2019 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with a pledge to the flag.

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

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

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

Nays: 0

Aaron Groom- Speaking in favor of the continued support from the Town of Ghent to the Morris Memorial.

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

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

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 2019 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR NOVEMBER made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE ZBA MINUTES FOR JUNE 19, 2019 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Broadband Committee reports pole permits are causing a bit of trouble, writing to State for more information. David Newman has been appointed to the CCEMC. Climate Smart reports RISE engineering has completed the project for the Town and has been paid.

MOTION # 8 TO ACCEPT THE HISTORIANS REPORT NOVEMBER made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 9 TO ACCEPT THE DOG CONTROL REPORT NOVEMBER made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been busy with the snow storms. We did pretty well with these storms with only one malfunction that put a truck down for 1/2 of this past storm, but we were once again able to adjust the operation and work together as a team to get the job done. We have been dealing with some ice flow issues. More than 95% of the areas we have worked on resolving our major water/ice flow areas we have not been having issues with which is great. We have started to do final tree and prep work for some roads we are going to be sealing next year. All Of the Chips paper work for this year has been summited and we are now waiting for reimbursement -While I was doing my paper work for Chips I noticed my numbers where not matching the numbers I was billed I had lower oil prices than I was billed so I contacted company and had them look into it they up graded the billing department and there was an issue that they thought they had fixed we received a check back for the over bill-age and it was deposited back into the account along with many apologies. County came along with Spectrum and hooked up our new computer system Lights that where taken down from the grant project are going to be on auction starting the 1st of January and I will have info for bids for next board meeting .

MOTION # 10 TO ACCEPT HIGHWAY REPORT made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #30 FOR THE YEAR 2019:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2019, WHICH SETS FORTH VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, CHAPTER 190 (ZONING), SECTIONS 190-2 THROUGH 190-15; 190-17 THROUGH 190-19; 190-21 THROUGH 190-27; 190-49; 190-57; 190-61; 190-67 THROUGH 190-69; 190-72; APPENDICES A, B, C, D AND E; AND ATTACHMENT 6, INTENDED TO BETTER ALIGN THE CODE WITH THE VISION AND GOALS OF THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN AND THE CURRENT ZONING NEEDS OF THE TOWN; 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 PROPOSED CHANGES ARE THE RESULT OF A MULTI-YEAR REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN ZONING CODE BY THE GHENT ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE; 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 FIRST PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD ON MAY 9, 2019, AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING ADOPTION OF THEN LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2019; WHEREAS, FOLLOWING THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING THE GHENT TOWN BOARD REFERRED THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW BACK TO THE GHENT ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND ANALYSIS TO ADDRESS VARIOUS ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC; WHEREAS, REVISIONS TO THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW WERE THEREAFTER RECOMMENDED BY THE GHENT ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE AND THE ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN WAS DIRECTED TO INCORPORATE THOSE REVISIONS INTO THE CURRENT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2019 NOW BEFORE THE BOARD; WHEREAS, A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD ON DECEMBER 19, 2019, AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2019, AS AMENDED; WHEREAS, PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2019, AS AMENDED, WAS REFERRED TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, WHICH DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED ACTION MAY RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT COUNTY- WIDE OR INTERCOMMUNITY IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD, AFTER REVIEWING THE RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, HAS DETERMINED THAT ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2019, AS AMENDED, WITHOUT FURTHER MODIFICATION 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 2019, AS AMENDED, IS HEREBY APPROVED AND SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 30 FOR THE YEAR 2019 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #12 TO APPROVE THE 2020 CONTRACT WITH THE MORRIS MEMORIAL made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS 31 AND 32 FOR THE YEAR 2019:

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 20, 2018 AT 6:50 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT"; WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2020 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2020, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE YEAR 2020 IS \$167,200.00.

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 19, 2019 AT 6:55 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2"; WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2020 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2020, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE YEAR 2019 IS \$26,020.00.

MOTION #13 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 31 AND 32 FOR THE YEAR 2019 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 14 TO REAPPOINT GEOFF FRENCH TO PLANNING BOARD AND BETH LENAHAN TO ZBA SEVEN AND FIVE YEARS RESPECTFULLY made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #15 TO APPOINT CHRIS KEEFE TO BUILDING INSPECTOR AND ZONING OFFICER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #16 TO SET ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR JANUARY 2, 2020 AT 5PM made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 17 TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEST GHENT FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR JANUARY 16, 2020 at 6:55 pm made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #18 TO APPROVE THE PILOT FOR ELP SOLAR PENDING PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort 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 \$61272.18

S.L. \$837.69

General B \$4192.34

Highway DB \$18604.38

TOTAL: \$84906.59

MOTION # 19 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

No Public Comment

Supervisor Benvenuto thank Town Board Member Peter Nelson for his over thirty years of service to the Town of Ghent. It was pleasure to serve with him, and wishes him luck for the future.

MOTION # 20 TO ADJOURN MEETING MADE AT 7:55PM made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Radley
Town Clerk