

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2017

Planning Office, 114 Main Street

6:15 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by President Allis.

President Allis stated this meeting was being recorded. If any other person present was doing the same, they must notify the chairperson at this time. It was noted the Town Council was audio recording and GCTV-15 was video recording the meeting for future broadcast. Mr. Chris Collins was also audio recording the meeting.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Roll Call was taken. Councilors Renaud and Wainstein were absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor William Martin; Town Clerk Deborah J. Tuttle; Finance Director/Town Auditor/Town Accountant Elizabeth Braccia; Chief Assessor Audrey Murphy; Director of Administration Mark Smith; Town Attorney Gordon Quinn; Greenfield Business Association Coordinator Caitlin von Schmidt; GCTV-15 staff; Aviva Luttrell, the Recorder; and members of the public.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was unanimously, **VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS.**

President Allis reviewed:

- The recent votes taken by the Town Council on November 15, 2017 and November 29, 2017.
- The subsequent vetoes by the Mayor.
- Legal opinions submitted by Attorney Quinn.

Attorney Quinn summarized tonight's meeting for the consideration of the Mayor's vetoes of the Town Council votes taken on November 15, 2017. He further discussed the additional Town Council votes from November 29, 2017.

Those attending discussed:

- How votes from both meetings regarding the same topic could be legal.
- Consideration of the vetoes tonight could clarify the issue if the vetoes were allowed to stand.
- The meeting held on November 29, 2017 was held based upon the information had at the time.
- Votes relating to the Commercial Exemption were not legal because there was no percentage placed on the exemption.
- Votes taken on November 29, 2017 had not yet been sent to the Mayor's office for consideration.
- Tax classification votes could occur at different meetings.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 17-045 A

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Burge, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE "FISCAL YEAR 2018 TAX CLASSIFICATION ORDER NO. FY 18-041 A: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT A MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF 1.5 (ONE POINT FIVE), RESULTING IN A SPLIT TAX RATE FOR ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018." PREVIOUSLY VOTED ON BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 15, 2017 AND VETOED BY THE MAYOR ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017 IS HEREBY APPROVED.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Mass explained a yes vote by the Council would override the Mayor's veto and put into effect a split rate of 1.5. A no vote would uphold the Mayor's veto. He urged Town Councilors to vote no.

It was unanimously,

DEFEATED: ORDER NO. FY 17 -045 A.

Order no. FY 17-045 B

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Burge, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE “FISCAL YEAR 2018 TAX CLASSIFICATION ORDER NO. FY 18-041 B: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTES THAT NO RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.” PREVIOUSLY VOTED ON BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 15, 2017 AND VETOED BY THE MAYOR ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017 IS HEREBY APPROVED.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Mass explained a yes vote by Councilors would leave no residential exemption. A no vote would uphold the Mayor's veto. It was further noted that if the “no” votes prevailed the item could not be brought back up for a term of nine months causing additional issues with the setting of the tax rate. Councilor Mass urged Town Councilors to vote yes.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 17 -045B.

Order no. FY 17-045 C

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Burge, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE “FISCAL YEAR 2018 TAX CLASSIFICATION ORDER NO. FY 18-041 C: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTES THAT A SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018. ” PREVIOUSLY VOTED ON BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 15, 2017 AND VETOED BY THE MAYOR ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017 IS HEREBY APPROVED.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Mass stated this initial vote was not legal because a percentage was needed for an exemption. For clarity and ease of reconsideration he urged Councilors to vote no.

It was unanimously, 1 abstention,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 17 -045 C.

Councilor Mass clarified votes relating to the Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Classification were as follows:

- No residential factor had been adopted.
- A split tare of 1.0808 had been voted
- No small business exemption had been adopted.

President Allis stated the votes being held by the Clerk, voted by the Town Council on November 29, 2017 would be sent to the Mayor for consideration tomorrow morning.

Order no. FY 17-046

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Sund, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT “ORDER NO. FY 18-038, THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 0030 – MAYOR, SECTION, 30-2. COMPENSATION,

AS ATTACHED HERETO AS "EXHIBIT A" AND FURTHER AMENDS THE INDEX OF THE CODE AND FURTHER THAT NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE NUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCE BE PERMITTED IN ORDER THAT IT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NUMBERING FORMAT OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD." PREVIOUSLY VOTED ON BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 19, 2003 AND VETOED BY THE MAYOR ON DECEMBER 5, 2003 IS HEREBY APPROVED.

Handed out at the Aug 9 2017 A&O Meeting

Exhibit A

§ 30-2. Compensation.

- A. The Mayor shall initially receive an annual base salary of \$80,000 dollars as set forth in section 3-1 of the Greenfield Home Rule Charter.
- B. Salary Review –
 - 1. The Mayor may request in his/her annual budget submission to the City Council, an increase in his/her salary.
 - 2. The increase shall not exceed 5% annually.
 - 3. No less than every three (3) years, a review of salaries of mayors and/administrators of cities/towns of comparable size and/or complexity shall be conducted and submitted to City Council with the annual budget.
 - 4. The City Council shall take up the request to increase the Mayor's salary only in the annual budget, unless the Mayor includes in writing at the time of the annual budget that as part of his/her overall budget plan he/she plans to wait to ask for the increase until the supplemental budget process.
 - 5. Any increase voted by City Council in any year shall then become the new base for any future increase request.

2017 SEP 5 PM 1:40:00

DISCUSSION: Councilor Mass noted a yes vote would override the Mayor's veto and the ordinance would be amended. A no vote would uphold the veto and the Town Council could not consider an amendment of this for nine months.

It was unanimously,
DEFEATED: ORDER NO. FY 17 -046

President Allis discussed proposed outcomes if the Mayor were to veto the Town Council tax classification votes taken on November 29, 2017. It was noted that the Town Council would possibly hold an additional special meeting if needed on December 29th.

Ms. Braccia explained the timelines in which tax bills would be sent out to residents.

President Allis and Ms. Braccia stated they would get answers to Ms. Desorgher abatement questions.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Pyfrom, it was unanimously

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:06 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Deborah J. Tuttle, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Planning Office,
Special Meeting
December 5, 2017

Attendance

1. Sund, Verne	Y					
2. Lobik, John	Y					
3. Allis, Brickett	Y					
4. Muzyka-Pyfrom, Wanda	Y					
5. Wainstein, Robert	N					
6. Burge, Maria	Y					
7. Childs, William	Y					
8. Vacant	---					
9. Leonovich, Daniel	Y					
10. Mass, Isaac	Y					
11. Renaud, Karen	N					
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y					
13. Maloni, Mark	Y					