

**TOWN OF HOUSTON**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**June 7, 2016**

The special meeting of the Houston Town Council was held at the Houston Volunteer Fire Department, 143 Broad Street, Houston, DE on Thursday, June 7, 2018.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Angelo Abbate

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councilpersons Greg Gilmore, William B. Moore & James F. Aquilani.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Abbate called the special meeting, old business comp plan workshop, to order at 6:07 pm.

BJ, University of Delaware, submit draft to the state for review in early May 2018.

**Certification Comments**

There are two certification comments, required to be address prior to state certifying plan. There are also recommendation comments, not required. The state asked the town to clarified the town's position on annexation. The town of Houston map was modified by taking out grey shading and by modeling Kent County's land use. Other certification comment was to provide written documentation that Kent County has seen the plan. BJ sent the assistant director for a reply email stating has nothing further to say which he did. Certification comments are now completed.

**Recommendation Comments**

- The plan did not have a future land use table; copy and paste old table.
- Houston zoning map needed disclaimer stating that it is the town's or county's official zoning map.
- Department of Transportation would like to see bus service to town.
- Suggestion for histrict district of town; gave possible funding.
- Delaware Housing Authority says good job, happy to help if needed.
- Department of Agriculture would like to see preservation; suggests passing out brochures which they do not have. Instead, plan refers people to their website.
- DNREC corrected the excellent recharge area are now called excellent areas, excellent ground water recharge potential. Changes made to plan. DNREC offers a weatherization assistance program which is free.
- The town of Houston map was modified to match the Kent County map that was approved and certified by the state. The Paris Food and adjacent lot will be industrial.

The town of Houston wishes to have the ability to annex should the need be presented, the reason for certification of the plan. However, at this time does not wish to do so.

**Adjourn**

at 6:56pm.

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**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councilpersons Greg Gilmore, William B. Moore & James F. Aquilani.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Abbate called the second portion of special meeting, new business Ordinance 18-01 FY 2018-2019 Budget, to order at 7 pm.

**Ordinance 18-01 FY 2018-2019 Budget**

- Add \$7,500 for Christmas banners to Realty Estate Transfer
- Trash under General Account is the same for 18/19 as 17/18 due to same contract, although new company
- The matching fund preliminary application was received and an invitation was offered to apply for grant. Council motioned to table the park decision for a later time.
- Discussion to look into other options other than state police.

Motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 18-01 to adoption the FY 2018-2019 Budget and the fee schedule by Moore, second by Gilmore.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Aquilani, second by Moore.

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**PRESIDING:** Mayor Angelo Abbate

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councilpersons Greg Gilmore, Carroll B. Jester, William B. Moore & James F. Aquilani.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Abbate called the meeting to order at 7:27pm followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

May 2018 Minutes approved; motioned by Moore, seconded by Aquilani. Later noted that the treasurer pay is \$75 and the tax collector pay is \$225 which was incorrectly reported on May 2018 notes under bills paid.

**Monthly Reports**

Treasurer

April and May reconciliations provided by treasure McDonnell. The automatic charge had to be added into quickbooks in order to reconcile. The \$45 auto charge showed up again this month. The last charge was credited which is pending in account. As of May 31, \$67,447.40 in the General in Account, \$9,259.97 in Municipal Street Aid, and \$107,142.50 in Realty transfer tax. One payment made for the month, Ellerbauch payment plan. Justin King's checks are pending in account.

Bills Paid in May 2018

- Bonding through lawyer, \$125
- Local government dues, \$500
- Regular bills: power, blue hen and police when received
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Treasurer Report and bills motioned by Gilmore, seconded by Aquilani.

Tax Collector

McDonnell and Abbate met at lawyers to sign tax liens for Dietz, Rollison (3 properties), Schwan and Oronzio; filed and recorded. McDonnell received the Kent Count Assessment List. Also received packets from Core Logic, Wells Fargo and Loretta. Reviewing the assess list to verify tax IDs and amounts; will also review mortgage companies. Tax Collector will get bills out by end of the month.

Motion by Moore, seconded by Gilmore.

Planning & Zoning: Lane Use

No permits

### Code Enforcement Violations

Kent County condemned following properties:

- Rollison, 37 & 59 Maple Street- gave 90 days
- Jefferson, Pine Street- already vacant
  - Kent County will decide when they will take buildings down
  - If grass needs cutting, need to record bills in order to get reimbursed at sheriff sale of property
- Rals property on Railroad/Wharton corner property back yard is being piled with trash
  - Moore took pictures
  - Justin cut grass; would clean up property for \$1500
  - List all violations over to lawyer, will submit to court to decide outcome of fines to property owners
  - Moore to give last verbal warning prior to court action taken
- Abbate received phone call from Joan Surface on Richardson Street. Complaint about house on other side of 85. Restores cars for self, not business; although, starting to store auto parts. Would be satisfied if fence is put up. Ordinance does not allow junk yards. Moore will contact the property owner for discussion. Gilmore provided the definition of junk yard. Abbate decided to direct the complaintant to the town website to view ordinance which property owner is not in violation of.

### Correspondence

Received Penninsula/Blue Hen certificate liability insurance, good for a year; tax liens in from lawyer; and Greg witness signature for approve for electronic notification for DelDot. Needs notarize paperwork for Fire Company work, send to DelDot . The total is \$52,868; first check is 10%; balance when project completed.

### **Public Comment Section**

No one was in attendance

### **Old Business**

- Comprehensive Plan Plus changes were made. There were 2 required changes and the rest were recommendations. Motion by Moore, second by Aquilani to submit changes back to the comprehensive plan plus committee.
- Railroad Avenue street repair; Abbate did not send out draft letter; removed \$400 street repair. Levy Court Commission Eric Buckson reminded US Senator Carper sits on transportation committee. Eric made contact with Senator Carper's office. Abbate forward emails. Senator Carper's office took pictures is also working on repair. Abbate will revise letter to state if repairs are not made will seek legal action.
- 2nd reading of Ordinance 18-01, 2018-2019 Budget and Fee Schedule. Not changes were made in 1st reading. Council motion to approve made by Aquilani, second by Gilmore.
- Changes approved to submit to comprehensive plan plus committee, July 5 meeting will be moved to July 12 due to 4th of July holiday.
- Bulletin board enclosed possibly by Fire House door where lighting at night; also update website with previous meeting minutes.

### **New Business**

- Annual Town Yard Sale, Saturday June 23; suggestion to move to fall or spring for more participation

**Council Member Comments and Update Session**

None

**Adjourn**

A motion by Aquilani to adjourn, seconded by Gilmore and carried at 8:16 pm.