State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the first day of June 2026 A.D. said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Michael Geary at 6:45 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Michael Geary, Robert Burns, Sharon Davis, Jasmin Roy, Philip Scalise; Town Manager Brian Rosso, Town Clerk Marita Murray and Solicitor Stephen Sypole.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER:

RIGL SEC. 42-46-5(A)(2) - Discussion regarding potential litigation proposed in the Town of Portsmouth's Affordable Housing Resolution.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Roy, Davis, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Statement by the Council President that pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4(b) any vote were taken in executive session will not be disclosed at this time.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SCALISE TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

ROLL CALL

Councilors Scalise, Roy, Davis, Burns and Geary announced they were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

There were no changes to the agenda order.

CHIEF MARK CARRIER

Chief Mark Carrier wished to report that the Hopkinton Police Department should be at full staff with the swearing in of Officer Desjardin. In late January the Town Manager swore in Officer Jacob Dennis but the Chief indicated that he would like to bring him back before the Council with his family so he can be sworn in by the Town Clerk. Tonight they were swearing in Officer Keith Desjardin, who is 37 years old, married father of two, who lives here in town. Officer Desjardin recently completed a twenty-week program at Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy. He is a graduate of the Beacon Charter School in Woonsocket; earned the distinction of Eagle Scout; and, holds the rank of a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army Reserves.

Officer Desjardin was sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Officer Desjardin thanked his wife and family for their support.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Williams of Wich Way wished to comment regarding the potential Resolution Opposing HB7632 Relating to Age-Appropriate Design Code which he felt was legislation aimed at improving online safety for children, establishing new safeguards designed to reduce risks such as exposure to harmful content, exploitation and adverse mental health impacts among young users, and holding technology companies accountable for the products they design and deploy. He noted that this bill was introduced on February 11, 2026, and he wondered why this was coming before them tonight and not earlier. On April 8th this bill was sent to the House Innovation, Internet and Technology Committee for further study. This Committee is made up of fifteen members, one of which is Brian Patrick Kennedy. Mr. Williams thought it would be appropriate to hear from Representative Kennedy about this bill before any vote was taken on this Resolution. Mr. Williams indicated that he reads this bill in a different way and he did not see where this is excluding parents or guardians from being involved in this whole process. This legislation to protect kids online is already existing in three New England States. This bill was introduced by ten House representatives, several of which are parents and Megan

Cotter is one of the co-sponsors. He wondered if this bill will be revised once it comes out of committee and he would like to hear from our representatives.

Maryanne McNamara of North Road asked the Council if any members planned on attending the Planning Board special meeting of June 10, 2026, regarding the Clarks Falls proposed development. Councilor Geary believed several member of the Council may be in attendance. Ms. McNamara asked if they were going to ask questions and Councilor Geary indicated they may and they have previously asked several questions. Ms. McNamara also asked about the ground water impact and if there had been a discussion about that. Councilor Geary informed Ms. McNamara that all of these matters were before the Planning Board and not the Council.

Ronald Prellwitz, Planning Board Chair, recommended that all questions should be brought up at Wednesday night's meeting of June 3, 2026. Mr. Prellwitz also informed Ms. McNamara that she could also speak at the June 10, 2026, meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO APPROVE FINANCIAL TOWN ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2026.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2026; APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2026.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Geary

ABSTAIN: Scalise

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

HEARINGS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SCALISE TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Special Event Permit – Good Days

This matter was scheduled to open a hearing on an application for a Special Event Permit filed by Chelsea Berry for Good Days located at 209 Main Street in Ashaway for a barbeque with music to include electric roots, instrumental and acoustic on Sunday, June 28, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Chelsea Berry was present on behalf of Good Days and noted that they are planning another pop-up event with friends and the community. They are hoping to hold this event outdoors in their seating area. They will have some barbeque food and music. Councilor Burns asked if there had been any complaints from any of the neighbors. The Town Clerk noted that notice letters were sent to all abutters within two hundred feet.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BURNS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR GOOD DAYS.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Class F Liquor License – Good Days

This matter was scheduled to open a hearing on an application for a Class F Liquor License filed by Chelsea Berry for Good Days located at 209 Main Street in Ashaway to hold a barbeque with music event on Sunday, June 28, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BURNS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE THE CLASS F LIQUOR LICENSE FOR GOOD DAYS.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SCALISE TO ADJOURN AS LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

Tri-Town Council Subcommittee

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote on whether the entire Hopkinton Town Council should participate in the Tri-Town Council Subcommittee.

Councilor Geary advised that the Council had previously discussed this matter and chosen two members to attend a Tri-Town Council Subcommittee meeting; however, the Charlestown Town Council then decided that they wanted their entire Council to attend, which Richmond agreed with. Councilor Geary asked Councilor Scalise if he would rather see the whole Town Council attend or just the two members previously chosen. Councilor Scalise felt that Councilors Davis and roy could adequately represent the town and should there be anything that they felt needed to be addressed by the entire Council they could bring that back to a meeting for discussion. Councilor Davis agreed. It was noted that the Charlestown Town Clerk had indicated that either June 29th or 30th in the evening would work for them. Both Councilor Davis and Councilor Roy indicated that Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. would work for them and the Town Clerk indicated that she would send a letter in that regard.

Resolution Opposing House Bill 7632 Relating to Age-Appropriate Design Code

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt a Resolution Opposing House Bill 7632 Relating to Age-Appropriate Design Code.

Councilor Roy noted that she understood how some people may feel about this; however, in reading through this bill it was supposed to be about protecting children

from graphic content and predators. She noted that this was bring brought up now because it was recently called to her attention and in reading this, Section (8) under Covered entity prohibitions specifies that a covered entity that provides an online product or feature to known children shall not allow a known child's parent or any other consumer to monitor the child's online activity or track the child's location, without providing a conspicuous signal to the child when the child is being monitored or tracked. Councilor Burns agreed with Councilor Roy's assessment as to parental rights.

Councilor Roy read this Resolution.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR ROY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SCALISE TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 7632 RELATING TO AGE-APPROPRIATE DESIGN CODE.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Scalise, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RI
RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 7632
RELATING TO AGE-APPROPRIATE DESIGN CODE

WHEREAS, Rhode Island House Bill 7632 (HB 7632), known as the Age-Appropriate Design Code, seeks to regulate online services that are reasonably likely to be accessed by children; and

WHEREAS, the bill includes a provision prohibiting covered online services from allowing a known child's parent or guardian to monitor the child's online activity or track the child's location unless the child receives a "conspicuous signal" that such monitoring is taking place; and

WHEREAS, this provision would significantly restrict a parent or guardian's ability to exercise their fundamental responsibility to safeguard their child's wellbeing, particularly in situations involving online exploitation, grooming, cyberbullying, or other digital threats that often rely on secrecy to persist; and

WHEREAS, children—especially younger minors—may not fully understand the risks associated with online interactions, nor possess the maturity to consent meaningfully to the disclosure of parental monitoring; and

WHEREAS, requiring a conspicuous signal that monitoring is occurring may unintentionally alert potential bad actors who have gained access to a child's device or accounts, thereby undermining the protective purpose of parental oversight; and

WHEREAS, parents and guardians are legally and morally responsible for the safety of their children, and state policy should not impede their ability to fulfill that duty; and

WHEREAS, the bill's monitoring-notification requirement may conflict with existing child-protection practices, including those recommended by law enforcement, child-safety organizations, and cybersecurity experts, who emphasize discreet parental supervision as a critical tool for preventing harm; and

WHEREAS, the bill risks creating legal uncertainty for parents, educators, and service providers by imposing ambiguous obligations that could discourage the use of widely accepted parental-control tools; and

WHEREAS, while the goal of protecting children online is essential and widely supported, HB 7632's approach may unintentionally weaken child safety rather than strengthen it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned expresses strong opposition to Rhode Island HB 7632 in its current form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any legislation addressing children's online safety should affirm and preserve the ability of parents and guardians to monitor their children's digital activity without mandatory disclosure that could compromise protective efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that lawmakers are urged to revise HB 7632 to ensure that child-safety measures empower families, align with best practices in digital protection, and avoid creating barriers to effective parental oversight; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the members of the Rhode Island General Assembly as a formal expression of opposition to HB 7632 and a call for more balanced, parent-affirming child-safety legislation.

Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 2239 regarding Local Authority Over Unfunded Education Mandates

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt a Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 2239 regarding Local Authority Over Unfunded Education Mandates.

Councilor Roy noted that if the state imposed unfunded mandates on the schools, it was up to the towns to pay for that. She felt that if the state was mandating something then they should be paying for it. Senator Morgan was one of the individuals who introduced this bill and she felt they should support it. Councilor Roy read this Resolution.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR ROY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SCALISE TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2239.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Roy, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND SENATE BILL 2239 REGARDING LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER UNFUNDED EDUCATION MANDATES

WHEREAS, Rhode Island school districts are responsible for providing high-quality educational opportunities to all students, and must do so within the financial constraints placed upon them by state law, local appropriations, and taxpayer capacity; and

WHEREAS, over time, numerous state-imposed education mandates have required school districts to implement programs, services, reporting requirements, and operational changes without providing the full funding necessary to carry them out; and

WHEREAS, unfunded or underfunded mandates place significant strain on local school budgets, often forcing districts to divert resources away from core instructional needs, student services, and locally determined priorities; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Senate Bill 2239 seeks to restore local decision-making authority by allowing school districts to elect **not** to expend local funds on any state mandate that is **not fully funded** through the state education aid formula or through other state funding administered by the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2239 promotes fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability by ensuring that the State of Rhode Island fully funds the mandates it imposes, rather than shifting the financial burden to municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, granting school districts the ability to decline unfunded mandates will help preserve educational quality, protect local budgets, and support long-term financial sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the principles embodied in Senate Bill 2239 align with the longstanding position of many Rhode Island municipalities and school committees that state mandates should be accompanied by adequate state funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council hereby expresses its **strong support** for Rhode Island Senate Bill 2239 and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact this legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Governor of Rhode Island, and the members of the General Assembly representing the Town of Hopkinton.

Resolution in Support of H8334/S3143 regarding RI Voter Rights Act

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt a Resolution in Support of H8334/S3143 regarding the Rhode Island Voter Rights Act.

Councilor Davis advised that on Thursday, May 21, 2026, the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act campaign hosted a lobby day at the state house to promote the RI Voting Rights Act, H8334 and S3143 and its ten amendments. It was said that passing this legislation is not symbolic or performative, it is a necessary safeguard at a moment when voting rights are disappearing at the federal level. She noted that this was an op-ed from Steve Almquist, a blogger. Councilor Burns noted that this bill would let someone register to vote and vote on the same day, waving the current thirty-day waiting period. Councilor Roy wondered if someone could not speak or read the English language how did they know what they were voting for and who was supposed to pay for them to have an interpreter.

Councilor Davis read the Resolution.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H8334/S3143 REGARDING RHODE ISLAND VOTER RIGHTS ACT. This motion was not seconded.

MOTION FAILS

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Resignation of EMA Director

Mr. Rosso wished to take a moment to thank Ron MacDonald, who has recently submitted his letter of resignation for his position as the Hopkinton Emergency Management Agency Director. For the past fourteen years Mr. MacDonald has dedicated himself to protecting our community and ensuring that the town was prepared when emergencies arose, especially during the COVID pandemic. He wished Mr. MacDonald well.

Mr. MacDonald noted that he was resigning because he was promoted to Fire Chief in his full-time job. He indicated that he would assist whoever was appointed to fill this position in an orderly transition.

The Council thanked Mr. MacDonald for his hard work over the years and wished him well in his future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Moreau of Old Depot Road wished to speak about the town's flag policy. Councilor Geary stated that on Memorial Day, it is an honored tradition to put the flags at half-staff from sunrise to sunset. He wished to thank Mr. Moreau for going out and taking care of the town's flags on Memorial Day. It meant a lot to Councilor Geary and all veterans. Mr. Moreau stated that he was disappointed when he noticed that the post office flag was at half-staff, but the town's flags were not. He advised the Town Manager who is going to work on this. He also wished Councilor Burns a happy birthday on June 2nd. Lastly, he noted that he and his wife moved to Hopkinton in 2000 from western Coventry. In 2018, he first started coming to town meetings because of a proposed solar project near his home. He and others rounded up support to stop this project and many other projects for solar in the town. They raised funds; hired an attorney; and started a group called HCRP (Hopkinton Citizens for Responsible Planning). The town's comprehensive plan talks about protecting the farms, wildlife and natural habitat. A lot of these solar meetings had to be held at the schools because of the number of people that attended. A few weeks back Revity requested a zone change from RFR80. They indicated that they did not even know what they were going to do with the property, which he found odd. The zone change to Economic Growth District was granted. Now Revity is

asking for another new zone, a floating zone for large scale solar at Brushy Brook. For twenty years they have talked about Brushy Brook and that they were going to build houses, but for twenty years they have not. They were approved recently but have not started building because it is too expensive. In 2021, the Town Council passed sweeping amendments to the zoning ordinance to allow solar facilities only on contaminated sites. Hopkinton residents do not want any more solar. He asked the Town Council to stop this proposal now; listen to the residents. Revity is not doing the town any favors.

Maryanne McNamara of North Road wished to ask Councilor Davis about her proposed Resolution and what strengthening access to the ballot entailed. Councilor Davis suggested that if you had an interpreter, they could then read the ballot for them. Ms. McNamara asked how that person would know what to vote for; how would they know what politicians were promising them what and who was paying for this. She also wondered what constituted a qualified resident.

Councilor Geary advised that this weekend there would be two events at Crandall Field put on by the 250th Commission, as well as Huck Finn Day on Sunday. Also on Friday, June 5, 2026, was the Chariho High School graduation at the Ryan Center and he wished to congratulate the Class of 2026.

Councilor Davis provided an update on the Wood River Village noting that they now had fifteen members and thirty-two volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR ROY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Marita D. Murray

Town Clerk

A full audio and video transcript of this meeting can be found at:
https://www.youtube.com/@HopkintonRI/streams