

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 30, 2018 at 7:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

(1) Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Town Council (4/5): Suzanne Cienki, President; Sean Todd, Vice President; Nino Granatiero, Councilor; Mark Schwager, Councilor (Andrew Deutsch, Councilor-absent)

Town Staff: Gayle Corrigan, David D'Agostino, Leigh Carney, Lisa Bourbonnais, Wendy Schmidle, Joseph Duarte, Capt. Stanley Cirella, Linda Dykeman and Catherine Bradley

Others: Carole Malaga and Michael Donegan

President Cienki called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

(2) Acknowledgements

(a) Sophia Patti for winning First Place in Congressman Langevin's Art Competition

(b) Hallie Comer for winning Second Place in Congressman Langevin's Art Competition

(c) Frederick (Jerry) Holmquist for serving 42 years on the Board of Canvassers

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

Ms. Comer and Mr. Holmquist were present to receive their acknowledgements.

(3) Town Council Minutes

(a) Reporting of Executive Session votes related to salary increases for Department Heads and non-union employees.

Reported by Town Clerk Carney

(b) May 7, 2018 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

Motion to approve 3b and 3c made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

(c) May 22, 2018 (Executive Session)

(4) Public Hearing

- (a) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich to add Chapter 100 Section 100-27, Fire Prevention, Inspection and Investigation (Fire Marshal) to allow the Town Fire Department, under the authority of the Rhode Island State Fire Marshall to enforce and perform all attendant duties required by the Comprehensive Fire Safety Act and all other provisions of the general and public laws pertaining thereto. (SECOND READING).

Solicitor D'Agostino explained passage will codify legislation to allow the Town and Fire Department to assess and impose fees for inspections which will be inclusive of the new e-Permitting software. Once approved, the ordinance will be forwarded to the consultant reviewing the Town's comprehensive plan to review fee structure.

No public comments.

Motion to approve and schedule for Third Reading on June 4, 2018 made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

(5) Consent Calendar

- (a) Ratification of TRANSFER of Victualing License from Sandra Morton d/b/a Subway to Kenzies Place d/b/a Subway, 5687 Post Road

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

- (b) Approval of Performance Bond and Inspection Fee for Whispering Woods Subdivision

Director Duarte provided a brief explanation of the project.

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

(6) Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) FY 2019 Budget Discussion

Town Manager Corrigan gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Review and Analysis which included revisions from May 14, 2018.

Amendments were made by the Tax Assessor to the tax levy/rate. Increases were made to

the Police Department clothing allowance resulting in a decrease to School appropriations. Public Hearing scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>. A cost comparison was provided between the East Greenwich Fire Department and both Barrington and Warwick. Town Manager Corrigan noted that even with maximizing the tax cap to 4%, Town needs are still not being met. Examples of the compounding effect of 4% tax increases were given. Final analysis conveyed that deficits are projected for both Town and School for FY18, tax revenue does not cover all contractual obligations, Town debt has climbed to 10% of total budget, there is potential for bond rating downgrade, all major contracts are up for negotiation in FY19 and structural changes are needed. A 2% tax increase would require pulling \$1.1 million from either the budget or fund balance.

Town Manager Corrigan then took questions and had discussion with Council regarding: OPEB contributions, capital expenses, school department appropriations and discretionary spending, options to reduce staff in Police Department and any potential impact on services, reduced revenue projections and non-contractual areas to draw from.

Councilor Granatiero engaged Councilor Schwager in a discussion about a letter from General Treasurer Seth Magaziner which addressed municipal retirement funding at the local level. Town Manager Corrigan was tasked with inviting General Treasurer Magaziner to a meeting to explain his views on the financial stability of the Town as well as The Trust.

Discussion followed on identifying and fixing spending problems. The Town Manager was asked to produce a proposed budget with 0% and 2% levy increases with a list of cost cutting options.

(7) New Business (Discussion/Action)

(a) Discussion of an increase of sanitary sewer flows from Frenchtown Commons.

Director Duarte explained that four years ago this same project went through the Planning Department as a commercial development requesting a connection to the Town's sewer system and flow capacity of 25,000 gallons per day (approved by Council on January 27, 2014 with conditions). The developer has since modified the project to include residential development and an increase in flow capacity to 90,000 gallons per day. Current and future flow capacity levels at the treatment plant were quantified. It was noted that historically, previous Councils have not extended sewers to adjoining communities. Director Duarte recommended Council review the remaining capacity at the plant and start to consider safeguarding the remaining capacity for expansion within the Town. DEM will put the Town on notice once capacity reaches 80%. He further recommended that the new project be vetted through the Planning Board again to address concerns about impacts on the community. Sewer bonds were discussed. Future projects will consume some of available capacity.

Attorney John C. Revens, Jr. spoke on behalf of Paul Mihailides and the Frenchtown Commons development. He explained how the initial project stalled and that his client wishes to tweak the plan changing office buildings to residential apartments. They are seeking assurance to have the increased sewer capacity before initiating the process of revised Master Plan approval from both North Kingstown and East Greenwich Planning

Boards. Attorney Revens disputed the inclusion of Infiltration/Inflow gallons per day cited in Table 3 of the 2018 Capacity Assessment claiming it was a high rate that was not sewage but run-off. Capacity could actually be less than requested. He asked Council to consider approving a modified capacity and possibly adding a sunset provision. It was noted that the system would run down Post Road and the Town's pipes and pump station would be upgraded at the applicant's expense.

Council discussion followed. President Cienki preferred to defer to the Planning Board. Councilor Granatiero inquired about tax revenue and sewer assessment fees. Decreasing capacity to 60,000 gallons per day was deliberated. Director Duarte added that the pipes shall be maintained by East Greenwich residents in perpetuity. DEM compliance and infiltration issues were addressed by Director Duarte. Director Bourbonnais felt the Potential Future Flow rates in the report were too low and does not reflect current land use developments in queue. Michael Donegan, Chair of the Planning Board, provided a comprehensive review of the Planning Board's review of the initial project and subsequent approval process. He spoke to Director Bourbonnais's point about the amount of projects currently being considered by the Planning Board and recommended the new project be vetted by the Planning Board first. Collective discussion ensued about the financial impacts and the perpetuity of the previously approved 25,000 gallons per day. Director Duarte offered to revisit the study and gather new numbers for future consideration. Attorney Revens commented on the grueling process of development. He suggested the Town consider resolving the infiltration issue and start collecting a sewer use surcharge for new users. Councilor Schwager questioned the overall community impact of the project. Final discussions centered on the planning process and traffic. Director Duarte was tasked with meeting with the developer and Director Bourbonnais to establish more accurate figures related to capacity and surcharges. Final comments pertained to the expansion at NEIT and what projects to evaluate and include in the next presentation.

(b) Appointment of Gene Dumas to Board of Canvassers

Motion to appoint retroactive to March 5, 2018 by operation of state statute made by Sean Todd, seconded by Mark Schwager

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

(8) Public Comments (30 minute time limit)

John Taylor, 20 London Street, suggested increasing ticket prices for parking violations in crosswalks.

Rob Vespia, 155 Shippeetown Road, commented on the lack of financial analysis prior to appearing in court.

Carla Swanson, 38 Greene Street #3, commented on the Town Manager's budget presentation, Councilor Granatiero's comments about feedback from residents and Treasurer Magaziner's letter to Councilor Schwager. Councilors engaged in discussion about OPEB.

Caryn Corenthal, 5 Brookfield Court, reported on some research she did on the 56 hour work week model from other Rhode Island communities and questioned what fiscal analysis was done by the Town. She commented on General Treasurer Magaziner's healthy local pension act and budget cuts to the schools. President Cienki engaged in discussion.

(9) Council Comments

Councilor Granatiero provided an update on the Town Manager search.

President Cienki recently met with The Trust members to discuss contributions to OPEB and an aggressive long term growth strategy.

(10) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) and (2), for a discussion on the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons in the employ of the Town of East Greenwich, provided that such person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting. Also, closed for sessions related to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to address employment action(s) status of someone represented by NEARI.
- (b) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically, to discuss the matter, East Greenwich v. IAFF Local 3328, KC 2017-1276.
- (c) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss on going labor relations matters concerning East Greenwich Firefighters Local 3328, IAFF.

Motion to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) and (2) made by Sean Todd, seconded by Mark Schwager

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

Motion to reconvene to Open Session and seal the Executive Session minutes made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 4 – 0

(11) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 P.M. made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC  
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:  
(PENDING)

**AUDIO FILE AVAILABLE IN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

DRAFT