

MINUTES  
Town Council  
Town of East Greenwich  
Special Meeting  
March 4, 2019 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 (5/5): Mark Schwager, President; Michael Donegan, Vice President: Caryn Corenthall, Renu Englehart and Michael Zarrella

Town Staff: Joseph Duarte, Acting Town Manager/Director of Public Works; Andrew Teitz, Town Solicitor; Leigh Carney, Town Clerk; Wendy Schmidle, Director of IT; Catherine Bradley, Director of Community Services and Park; Col. Stephen Brown, Chief of Police; Capt. Stanley Cirella, Deputy Chief of Police

President Schwager called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Following introductions, he led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

(2) Council President Announcements

President Schwager announced that the EGHS Boys Basketball won the State championship for Division II and that residents can sign up for Town-wide notifications on the website through Notify Me.

(3) Public Comments (15 minute time limit for items NOT on the agenda)

Eric Jautaikis, 184 Hemlock Drive, encouraged Councilors to attend the play Crazy for You at Cole Middle School. He suggested having a parade for the EGHS Boys Basketball team. He advocated for non-partisan elections.

(4) New Business (Discussion/Action)

(a) Discussion on noise complaints from residents of the Harbor/Waterfront area

Councilor Englehart opened the discussion by acknowledging the issues that currently exist and wanted to allow time for all voices to be heard. Councilor Donegan spoke about taking action to revive a new working group and that residents should be allowed to enjoy their property. Solicitor Teitz addressed how the Town manages noise outdoors beginning with ambient which is unusual. Seasonal allowances, zoning and creating a formal committee by ordinance was discussed. Councilors continued to deliberate on enforcement, indoor and outdoor entertainment, amplification and sound measuring methods. There was consideration given to reducing hours on the weekend and imposing regulations through the issuance of liquor licenses.

The floor was opened for Public Comments.

Attorney Stephen Litwin, 116 Orange Street, Providence, RI representing the Gelineau's at 88 King Street commented that the situation has got worse over the past 6-7 years and that the Gelineau's have made significant investments in their home. His concerns included base noise levels, meal service ending at 10pm, state tax on both food and alcohol and the sound barriers removed by restaurant owners.

Joe Gelineau, 88 King Street, handed out pictures of his home and two police reports (marked as Exhibit A). He commented on the sound curtain removed by Blu, readings taken by police at their home, prior meetings with property owners and petitioning neighbors. He pleaded for Councils help.

Scott Hubbard, 2 Castle Street, commented the lack of a sound barrier, caring for small children, losing tenants and observing obscene behaviors.

David Agronick, 25 Water Street, commented on observing despicable behavior, time limits, police patrols and the need for stronger enforcement.

Discussion ensued on police details being hired by waterfront establishments, parking violations, show cause hearings and the license renewal process.

Elisha Ellis, 98 Long Street, commented that live entertainment began in 1995. He spoke about acoustic bombardment, anxiety induced events and pleaded for help.

Martin Blanchard, 67 Queen Street, commented on illegal parking on Queen Street, indecent behaviors and requested to have one police car with lights on at top of his street at closing time. He added that previously a Harborside employee would clean up the street. He suggested moving bands indoors.

Discussion ensued on establishing local parking areas. Chief Brown recommended focusing on the type entertainment, hours of operation, sound levels and that the ordinance parameters could be based on certain days of the week.

Michael Zarrella recused himself.

Jerry Zarrella, Jr., 815 South Road, advocated for establishments hiring their own police details and cleaning up the neighborhood. He questioned potential revenue with an additional alcohol tax.

Michael Zarrella returned.

Aimee Heru, 24 Exchange Street, suggested new parking signage with restrictions and having collective areas for business parking.

Additional discussion ensued of traffic and parking options.

Elijah Ellis spoke again on installing more stop signs, tow companies working with police and suggested repealing outdoor music.

Jerry Zarrella, Jr. suggested using Scalloptown Park for parking with a launch to bars.

Joe Gelineau spoke again about parking areas closed in the past and speeding traffic.

Robert Black, 40 King Street, recommended one-way streets and expressed his frustration with obscene behaviors.

President Schwager acknowledged an email received from April Cambre at 17 Bicknell Avenue expressing her concerns with reckless traffic from valets. He also received support from Representative Caldwell.

Lengthy discussion followed on the process and creation of a formal subcommittee of the Council, alternative measures and proposed revisions to the draft ordinance which could include year-round limits.

Joe Gelineau spoke again about the detrimental effects of sound on the water.

David Agronick spoke again about the changing times to prohibit entertainment.

- (b) An ORDINANCE to amend the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 152 thereof, entitled "NOISE", Section 152-4 "AMBIENT BASE NOISE LEVEL" related to sound level decibels (FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION).

Motion to continue on First Reading/Introduction to March 11th made by Renu Englehart, seconded by Michael Donegan

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion Carried 5 – 0

- (c) Town Council Rules and Guidelines

Motion to continue all items (c), (d) and (e) made by Michael Zarrella, seconded by Michael Donegan

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion Carried 5 – 0

- (d) Social Media Policy

- (e) Social Media Posting Policy

- (5) Public Comments (30 minute time limit)

Director Bradley reminded everyone about the Community Health Fair on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

- (6) Council Comments

Councilor Zarrella acknowledged the success of the EGHS Boys Basketball Team.

VP Donegan commented on his recent visit to the State House with members of the School Committee and will provide further updates at the next joint meeting.

Councilor Corenthal commented that the final meeting of the Ad Hoc Consolidated Work Group is Friday.

(7) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1), pertaining to litigation; specifically related to the following tax appeal cases:
  - Claudio Marasco v. Janice Peixinho, KC-2008-0808
  - Ahmad Garakani v. East Greenwich, KC-2013-0434
  - Jeffrey Gemma v. East Greenwich, KC-2010-0239
- (b) Closed to pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) pertaining to litigation; specifically to discuss Pamela Aveyard v. Town of EG, Case No. KC-2017-1304.
- (c) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1), to discuss the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons, with regard to selecting a Fire Chief (notice provided).

Motion to convene into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) pertaining to litigation; specifically related to the following tax appeal cases: Claudio Marasco v. Janice Peixinho, KC-2018-0808, Ahmad Garakani v. East Greenwich, KC-2013-0434, Jeffrey Gemma v. East Greenwich, KC-2010-0239; and remain in Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) pertaining to litigation; specifically to discuss Pamela Aveyard v. Town of East Greenwich, Case No. KC-2017-1304; and remain in Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) to discuss the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons, with regard to selecting a Fire Chief (notice provided). made by Michael Zarrella, seconded by Michael Donegan

Ayes: Corenthall, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion Carried 5 – 0

Following the Executive Session, Council reconvened into Open Session.

Action was taken. Council voted on items (a) and (c).

Motion to seal the Executive Session minutes and made by Michael Donegan, seconded by Michael Zarrella

Ayes: Corenthall, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

(8) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Michael Zarrella, seconded by Michael Donegan

Ayes: Corenthall, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion Carried 5 – 0

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC  
Town Clerk

Approved by Town Council:  
(PENDING)

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

DRAFT