

MINUTES  
Town Council  
Town of East Greenwich  
Special Meeting  
April 25, 2019 at 6:15 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 (arrived at 6:43 pm); Caryn Corenthall, Renu Englehart and Michael Zarrella (arrived at 6:28 pm).

Town Staff: Joseph Duarte, Acting Town Manager/Director of Public Works; Leigh Carney, Town Clerk; Andrew Teitz, Solicitor; Catherine Bradley, Director of Community Services and Parks; Col. Stephen Brown, Chief of Police; Bernard Patenaude, Fire Chief

President Schwager called the meeting to order at 6:22pm.

(2) Interviews for Boards and Commissions

(a) 6:15 pm ~ Eric Jautais for Planning Board

Mr. Jautais was interviewed.

(b) 6:30 pm ~ Muhammad Akhtar for Planning Board

Mr. Akhtar was interviewed.

Following introductions, President Schwager led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

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

None

(4) New Business (Discussion/Action)

(a) Appointment to the Personnel Board for a three (3) year term to expire March 31, 2022.

Motion to appoint Matthew Leathers to the Personnel Board for a three (3) year term to expire March 31, 2022 made by Michael Donegan, seconded by Michael Zarrella

Ayes: Corenthall, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

- (b) Appointment to the Personnel Board for a three (3) year term to expire March 31, 2022.

Motion to appoint Deepak Vishnu to the Personnel Board for a three (3) year term to expire March 31, 2022 made by Michael Donegan, seconded by Caryn Corenthall

Ayes: Corenthall, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

- (c) Appointment to the Kent County Water Authority to fill a vacancy for the remainder of a 7-year term to expire July 27, 2019 and to re-appoint for a subsequent 7-year term to expire July 27, 2026.

Councilor Zarrella recused himself and left the chambers.

Motion to appoint Brian Kortz to the Kent County Water Authority to fill a vacancy for the remainder of a 7-year term to expire July 27, 2019 and to re-appoint for a subsequent 7-year term to expire July 27, 2026 made by Caryn Corenthall, seconded by Renu Englehart

Ayes: Corenthall, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager

Motion carried 4 – 0 with Michael Zarrella recused

Councilor Zarrella returned.

- (d) Appointment to the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)

President Schwager and Solicitor Teitz explained the charge of the Council.

VP Donegan recused himself and left the chambers.

Motion to appoint Mark Schwager to the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) as an alternate member for one year term made by Renu Englehart, seconded by Caryn Corenthall

Ayes: Corenthall, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 4 – 0 with VP Donegan recused

VP Donegan returned.

- (e) Social Media Policy

Solicitor Teitz introduced the item and explained the Town had an existing policy that was reviewed by his firm. It was tailored to respect first amendment rights and

be less stringent. He recommended adding elected officials and encouraged the use of a general disclaimer. Discussion ensued on the different facets of the policy. Police and Fire Department employees are covered under separate policies. Solicitor Teitz recommended revisions to some overly broad sections. Discussion ensued. Chief Brown noted the Police policy is reviewed annually and acknowledged by each employee. Chief Patenaude will review the Fire policy in the near future. After further discussion, Solicitor Teitz addressed specific proposed changes and disciplinary actions.

Motion to approve the amendments to the Social Media Policy made by Renu Englehart, seconded by Michael Zarrella

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

(f) Social Media Posting Policy

Solicitor Teitz explained the intent of the proposed amendments.

Motion to approve the amendments to the Social Media Posting Policy made by Renu Englehart, seconded by Caryn Corenthal

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

(g) Town Council Rules and Guidelines

Solicitor Teitz addressed the context of the proposed amendments. Rule 10 (d) and (e) require further revision.

Motion to table the proposed amendments to the Town Council Rules and Guidelines made by Michael Zarrella, seconded by Michael Donegan

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

(h) Town Manager Recruitment Process

Council discussed the options of using an outside agency or keeping the search in house. The consensus was to retain it in house. Council then discussed a process to create an administrative selection group. President Schwager volunteered to work with the Solicitor and Acting Town Manager in that capacity. Discussion followed on the timeline and target date. It was suggested to open the application period for three weeks from publication and target July 1<sup>st</sup>. Media outlets were discussed.

Two documents used during previous recruitments were presented and Councilors were encouraged to forward their comments to the Town Clerk. Solicitor Teitz noted that the Town Manager may reach out to a retired Town Manager for input. Salary ranges were visited. VP Donegan was added to the selection group. Applications will be sent to Councilors for ranking and the interviewing process is to be determined.

(5) Public Comments (30 minute time limit)

None

(6) Council Comments

Councilor Zarrella commented on improving transparency through video-streaming.

Motion to add to the agenda for discussion purposes only video-taping of Council meetings made by Michael Donegan, seconded by Renu Englehart

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

Mr. Duarte explained that progress is being made and the target date is May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion followed on the challenges surrounding implementation.

VP Donegan commented that the Town's resolution on a tiered-tax structure is moving through the legislature.

(7) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) pursuant to collective bargaining for discussion related to the IAFF Local 3328 contract.

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

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

(8) Adjournment

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

Ayes: Corenthal, Donegan, Englehart, Schwager, Zarrella

Motion carried 5 – 0

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC  
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:  
(PENDING)

DRAFT