

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Meeting
July 10, 2017 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 Present (5/5): S. Cienki, S. Todd, A. Deutsch, N. Granatiero, M. Schwager

School Committee Present (6/7): M. Winters, M. Plain, J. Dronzek, M. Fain, Y. Sun, L. McEwen,
(C.Mark - absent)

Town Staff Present: G. Corrigan, D. D'Agostino, L. Dykeman, D. Potter, J. Duarte, W. Schmidle,
C. Bradley, E. McAndrew, S. Brown, R. McGillivray, M. Antunes

President Cienki called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

(2) Acknowledgements

(a) Stephen Brusini for serving six years on the Planning Board

(b) Rob Hamlin for serving eight years on the Board of Assessment Review.

(c) Barbara Brusini for serving over four years on the Cove Management Commission

Rob Hamlin was congratulated by Council.

Stephen and Barbara Brusini were not in attendance.

Motion to approve

Sean Todd/Andrew Deutsch/Motion Carried

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

(3) Reports and Communications

(a) Public Comment (15-minute time limit for items NOT on the agenda)

Caryn Corenthal, 5 Brookfield Court, commented that it seemed like Council is operating on the premise of asking for forgiveness rather than asking for permission but was pleased a joint meeting was being conducted. She felt the decisions about Municipal Court were negligent and lacked due diligence. Regarding valet parking, she advocated for Frank & John's to have a dedicated spot and suggested that although valet is a good service, they should only be allowed in Town if they have their own lot. VP Todd added a meeting is taking place next week to try to resolve issues with valet parking.

William Higgins commented that several items Ms. Corrigan was quoted as saying would be on the

agenda are not; specifically related to the three newly created positions and the search process for seeking and hiring a new Town Manager. He questioned why votes that were taken in Executive Session on June 26th (as reported in the Providence Journal, June 30th) pertaining to current and potentially future employees were not disclosed and why proper notice was not given to those employees. Also, the hiring of Ms. Dykeman as the Finance Director to both the Town and the Schools which violates Section C-18 of the Town Charter. He made specific references to the Personnel section of the Town's Charter regarding hiring, firing and adding or amending positions which he stated were not adhered to. He asked if the Personnel Board was consulted on the matters of firing and hiring as required by Charter and if not, why. Furthermore, he made reference to a quote by Ms. Corrigan about not needing an assistant to answer phones or do typing and that the Chief of Staff position was of a broader position. He thought it proper that Ms. Corrigan should apologize to Ms. Aveyard for that demeaning characterization.

President Cienki deferred to Solicitor D'Agostino who tried to address the issues raised but was interrupted by loud audience demands to move the meeting to a larger venue since the Council Chambers was filled to capacity with many in the hallways. President Cienki stated the meeting could not be moved because it was not posted that way.

Roberta Anderson, 32 Atherton Road, commented that as an older resident she is very upset by the ways things have transpired in Town. She was concerned about a possible conflict of interest with Ms. Corrigan being paid as an outside consultant and now being hired as the Town Manager. She asked that the Financial Town Meeting is added to a referendum.

Solicitor D'Agostino explained that matters related to a particular person are not appropriate for discussion during the public comment portion of an open meeting. He acknowledged the capacity and safety issues and noted the meeting could continue with respectful discourse. Council is not required by law to allow public comments, only observation of public bodies doing business.

President Cienki suggested clearing the chambers and allowing for re-entry of residents until capacity was met. She was met with loud audience demands to move the meeting.

Motion to adjourn

Sean Todd/Andrew Deutsch/Motion

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

(4) Public Hearing

- (a) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich to ADD a new Chapter entitled "Fire Department" (SECOND READING).

(5) Consent Calendar

- (a) Release of Fry Brook Condominium Project Performance Bond

(6) Unfinished Business

- (a) Municipal Court Restructuring

- (b) Discussion for search process for Town Manager

(7) New Business

- (a) Application for a NEW Virtualing License for Guruhari LLC. d/b/a Sunny Hill Convenience Store, 1002 Main Street (formerly Sunnybrook Farms).
- (b) Joint meeting of the East Greenwich Town Council and East Greenwich School Committee to review Town Consolidation proposal and One Town.
- (c) Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement between the Town Council and School Committee to further and implement One Town Plan.
- (d) Council authorization to allow Main Street Association of East Greenwich to use Town properties for an outdoor movie screening on August 12 (rain date of August 13), to include coverage under the Town's insurance policy. Discussion and request for Council to waive overtime fees, building rental fees and insurance requirements for the Main Street Association's Outdoor Movie.
- (e) Discussion and request for Council to waive overtime, detail costs and miscellaneous Town fees (i.e. liquor license, amplified music permit, etc.) for Summer's End.
- (f) Discussion and request for Council to waive the insurance requirement for the Farmer's Market and to authorize use of Town property for said Farmer's Market.

(8) JOINT MEETING WITH EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(9) Town Manager's Report

(10) Council Comments

(11) Public Comments (15 minute time limit)

(12) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1), sessions pertaining to discussion of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of persons in the employ of the Town of East Greenwich. The Council affirmatively asserts that such 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.
- (b) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss the matter, Pawtucket Credit Union, et al. v. East Greenwich, KC-2017-0084.
- (c) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss with the Solicitor matters pertaining to employment matters, including but not limited to, collective bargaining obligations as it pertains to a Fire Department clerk position.

Submitted By:
Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council