

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Meeting
June 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

(1) Roll Call

Town Council Present (4/5): S. Cienki, S. Todd, A. Deutsch, M. Schwager, (N. Granatiero - absent)

Town Staff Present: L. Carney, G. Corrigan

(2) Interviews for Boards and Commissions

- (a) Kathleen (Katie) Keefe for Planning Board

Candidate was interviewed. Discussion ensued.

- (b) Matthew Leathers for Personnel Board, Planning Board, or Affordable Housing Commission

Candidate was interviewed. Discussion ensued.

(3) Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Town Council Present (4/5): S. Cienki, S. Todd, A. Deutsch, M. Schwager, (N. Granatiero - absent)

Town Staff Present: L. Carney, G. Corrigan, D. D'Agostino, S. Brown, S. Cirella, R. McGillivray, L. Bourbonnais, C. Bradley, J. Duarte, D. Bazar

President Cienki called the meeting to order at 7:07pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

(4) Acknowledgements

- (a) Stuart D. Hallagan IV for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout

Motion to approve made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(5) Town Council Minutes

- (a) May 15, 2017 Special Session and Joint Session with School Committee
- (b) May 22, 2017 Executive and Regular Sessions
- (c) June 5, 2017 Special Session

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(6) Reports and Communications

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

David Caldwell, 8 Aurora Road, spoke against the process of hiring the Town Manager and demanded more transparency.

Elizabeth Wiens, 43 Fifth Street, provided some general observations about recent changes in management and voiced her concern over a possible conflict of interest.

Justine Caldwell, 8 Aurora Road, commented on the conduct of elected officials.

Jon Polis, 43 Fifth Street, asked about the Town's fiscal health and how surpluses relate to State laws.

Mark Chace with Sun Run advised they work with National Grid to provide solar programs and will begin soliciting.

Caryn Corenthall, 5 Brookfield Court, relayed that people are angry with Council and she asked them to look at the State of Kansas.

Gene Quinn disputed statements in the Town mailer and the validity of the annual report figures on the Town's website. Councilor Deutsch offered to have him sit with Finance to review the numbers.

(7) 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).

Item was tabled

(8) Consent Calendar

- (a) Application for Laundry License Renewals 2017/2018

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (b) Application for Holiday Sales License Renewals 2017/2018

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (c) Award of bid to Specialty Diving Services, Inc., 192 Smith Street, North

Kingstown, RI 02852 for the installation of 4 piles at the old town dock in the amount of \$27,774.00.

Motion to award the bid to Specialty Diving Services made by Sean Todd, seconded by Mark Schwager.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (d) Award of bid to Access Associates Inc., 470 Coral Creek Drive, Cape Haze, FL 33946 for the purchase of an ADA Compliant Kayak Dock in the amount of \$34,617.00.

Motion to approve subject to CRMC approval made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (9) Unfinished Business

None

- (10) New Business

- (a) Resolution opposing House Bill 6172, An Act Relating to Agriculture and Forestry - Right to Farm.

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (b) Municipal Court Restructuring

Ms. Corrigan explained that in order to be in compliance with the DMV, the Town must purchase and install new software by July 1st. She disseminated a handout showing an estimated deficit for FY 2018 and noted other costs still need to be considered. Compliance was discussed. She proposed moving traffic violations to the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and housing violations to district court effective August 1, 2017. Discussion ensued.

The Honorable David Bazar, 43 Cindy Ann Drive and Judge of the Municipal Court, disputed the loss of revenue and the residency of violators as previously presented. He explained the process of pretrial settlements and how it could impact costs if court is dissolved. He advocated that it is a valuable service to the Town.

President Cienki asked Judge Bazar to consider a proposal to move traffic violations to the traffic tribunal and keeping other municipal violations in Town. After reviewing the cost of the software, he argued that removing traffic would result in a loss of income. Fees were discussed.

Kelly McDonald, Municipal Court Clerk, clarified that she is covered by the Town's health insurance

policy but will not be effective July 1.

Discussion continued on reviewing revenues and expenditures and the Safe Driver Initiative that benefits young East Greenwich drivers.

Robert Vespia commented that the effort is ridiculous.

Mike Zarrella, an attorney of 40 River Farm Drive, commented that the Town will spend much more money if court is removed and hurt the Town's residents. He begged Council to maintain local control for the good of the people.

It was decided that a cost benefit analysis is needed and Ms. Schmidle suggested suspending court sessions for July which would allow the software to be installed while the DMV is going through a phase in process. Judge Bazar asked to keep the July 6th session as tickets were already written.

(c) Discussion for search process for Town Manager

Councilors discussed the creation of a process to search for a new Town Manager including criteria and timeline. A discussion about the Town's relationship with Mr. Corrigan was deferred to Executive Session. Item to be added to next agenda.

(d) Award of municipal Audit Services contract, based on updated responses received after solicitation of service providers was amended following meeting with RI Auditor General.

Motion to approve the award of bid to Baxter, Dansereau and Associates as the Town's auditor for the next three years made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ms. Corrigan explained the results of the bid opening and recommended awarding the bid to Baxter, Dansereau and Associates in the amount of \$179,105 which is subject to approval by the Auditor General.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(e) Implementation of One Town initiative and ratification of waiver of Fire Marshal plan review fee(s) and waiver of police/fire detail assignment fees for East Greenwich School Department.

Motion to approve ratification of initiation and waiver made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

The Town will no longer be charging the School Department for police and fire details or plan review fees.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(11) Town Manager's Report

Ms. Corrigan thanked the Department Heads for their support and warm welcome. She will be working on the 30/60/90 day plan.

(12) Council Comments

Councilor Deutsch commented on the separation of the former Town Manager and explained his vote was a tough decision.

Councilor Schwager noted that the Cole Middle School baseball team is now State Champions. He addressed concerns about financial challenges and risks associated with not having an open government.

VP Todd commented respectfully about the former Town Manager. He spoke highly about Ms. Corrigan's initiatives going forward. He is still working through valet issues.

President Cienki commented on managing change, increasing transparency and the emerging structural deficit.

(13) Public Comments (15 minute time limit)

Robert Vespia, Shippeetown Road, requested more details on tax levy increases and questioned the hiring process and salary of the Town Manager.

Dave Caldwell, 8 Aurora Road, questioned who is legally the Town Manager based on the Town's charter. President Cienki replied Gayle Corrigan.

Chris Suellentrop, 55 Princess Pine, commented on the reduced level of services for his children in school now despite what has been presented.

Mary Ward, 40 Cavalier Drive, suggested expanding the criteria for Town Manager and thinking outside the box for revenues.

(14) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss updates on Pawtucket Credit Union, et al. v. Town of East Greenwich, KC-2017-0084.
- (b) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss legal implications related to municipal collective bargaining agreement obligations and common-law/statutory obligations of the Town.

Motion to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) for sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Mark Schwager.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Motion to return to Open Session and seal the Executive Session minutes made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Motion to adjourn made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Submitted By:
Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:

(Pending)

AUDIO AVAILABLE IN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE