

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2017 at 6:30 PM
Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

(1) Interviews for Boards and Commissions

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

Town Staff Present: L. Carney

6:30 p.m. ~ Anthony DiBella for Cove Management Commission

Candidate was interviewed. Discussion ensued.

6:45 p.m. ~ Gregory Dubell for Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission

Candidate was interviewed. Discussion ensued.

(2) 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

Town Staff Present: G. Corrigan, D.D'Agostino (arrived @ 7:10pm), L. Dykeman, L. Carney, M. Antunes, L. Bourbonnais, C. Bradley, E. McAndrew, J. Duarte, R. McGillivray, S. Brown

Others: C. Malaga

President Cienki called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

(3) Acknowledgements

- (a) Edward and Marilyn Oliver for serving two years on the Senior and Community Center Advisory Council

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(4) Town Council Minutes

- (a) June 15, 2017 (Special and Executive Sessions)
- (b) June 19, 2017 (Special and Executive Sessions)
- (c) September 25, 2017 (Regular and Executive Sessions)
- (d) October 2, 2017 (Regular Session)

Item was tabled

(5) Public Hearing

- (a) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 260 Zoning (as amended) to add Article XX "SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES" AND TO AMEND SECTION 260-62, PLAN REVIEW, SUBSECTION (A) TO INCLUDE AS SECTION 4: SOLAR SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS." [SECOND READING]

Motion to close the public hearing and move to third reading on November 6 made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero.

Ms. Bourbonnais said the Planning Department has a few minor changes which will be presented at third reading. Restrictions do apply in the historic district. The ordinance helps regulate commercial projects from a land development perspective. Discussion followed on financing, development standards, farmland permissiveness, project proportions and Planning Board input.

Elizabeth McNamara, 18 Prospect Street, asked about installation on homes in the historic district. All such projects would be heard by the Historic District Commission.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(6) Consent Calendar

- (a) Application for Class F Alcoholic Beverage License for Varnum Continentals to host Beer Tasting and Museum tours on November 18, 2017 at the Varnum Armory, 6 Main Street.

Approved together with Item 6b

- (b) Application for Class F Alcoholic Beverage License for Northern RI Conservation to host their Annual Dinner on November 11, 2017 at the Varnum Armory, 6 Main Street.

Motion to approve items 6a and 6b made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Councilor Granatiero recused himself from both Items 6a and 6b

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (c) Payment of claim by Anthony Perretta for tire damage sustained on Cora Street in the amount of \$159.43.

Motion to approve items 6c, 6e and 6f made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Sean Todd.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (d) Payment of claims by Russell and Amanda Conway for tire damage sustained on Shippeetown Road on July 12, 2017 and July 15, 2017 in the amount of \$729.21.

Motion to push claim to contractor made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Mr. Duarte addressed the claim and recommended sending the claim to the contractor.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (e) Payment of claim by Donald Mong for tire damage sustained on Cora Street in the amount of \$49.07.

Approved together with items 6c and 6f

- (f) Payment of claim to Rossi Auto Body for repairs to vehicle window sustained on Town property by a Town employee in the amount of \$200.00.

Approved together with items 6c and 6e

(7) Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Review of Town Council Rules and Guidelines

Council discussed more changes to the draft version. Solicitor D'Agostino took notes and will prepare a newly revised draft for approval at the next meeting.

(8) New Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Extension of time for completion of Fry Brook Condominium Project Performance Bonded Improvements

Motion to make an extension until December 15th made by Sean Todd, seconded by Mark Schwager.

Thomas Primeau was sworn in by Ms. Malaga. He explained that KCWA preferred a new method to protect water lines which required new plans to be submitted. The plans were forwarded to Mr. Duarte and their approval is expected by KCWA early next week. \$110,000 cash was advanced as security to the Town and the culvert was paid for. Traffic plans were submitted to Police. He requested another extension no later than December 15th. Mr. Duarte confirmed that all the bond money has been received by the Town. He has no inclination to start the project in the winter if the bond needs to be pulled. Mr. Duarte confirmed that the amount of cash received as security is sufficient.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (b) Award of Bid and Authorization of Town Manager to sign a contract for \$40,000 with Tischler Bise, Inc., to update the Town's Impact Fee Study and Needs Assessment.

Motion to award the bid made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero.

Ms. Bourbonnais explained the bidding process.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (c) Town Manager Search

Councilor Granatiero provided an overview of the search process including screening candidates, creating an Advisory Group, interviewing and making a decision. Council discussion ensued on the goal of the Advisory Group, creating a job description, administrative support for the process, scheduling work sessions with the Personnel Board and a public forum to review final candidates. President Cienki will coordinate meetings with the Personnel Board and Councilor Granatiero will rough out a job description.

- (d) Appointment of Tax Assessor

Motion to appoint Anthony Davey as the Tax Assessor made by Sean Todd, seconded by Mark Schwager.

Ms. Corrigan explained that Ms. Peixinho is retiring at the end of November after a 48 year career in the field and 14 years with the Town. Eight applicants applied and four were interviewed by Ms. Corrigan, Ms. Dykeman and Ms. Peixinho. Based on their unanimous decision, she recommended the appointment of Mr. Anthony Davey. Mr. Davey thanked Council for the opportunity to work in East Greenwich.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (e) Appointment of Sean Todd to the Coastal Resources Management Council

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero.

VP Todd recused himself.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion Carried

- (9) Reports and Communications

- (a) 2018 Town Council Meeting Dates

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(b) Finance Report as of September 30, 2017

Ms. Dykeman provided an overview of the FY 2018 budget to actual report highlighting the following areas: surplus, tax collection, contingency fund, IT Department encumbrances, Fire Department overtime and capital items. Additional MUNIS modules are to be implemented for fixed assets, personnel actions and position control. Council discussion ensued and she addressed questions and concerns related to Rescue Billing, Fire Department overtime, claims reserve, municipal court, GASB 45 contribution, capital items, total expenses, cost savings/avoidance reporting and a cap-x schedule for next quarter.

(10) Town Manager's Report

(a) FY 2019 Budget Schedule

Ms. Corrigan provided a detailed explanation of the schedule which is driven by state law and provisions in the Town's Charter. The process begins on November 1st with the exchange of expenditures and revenues between the Town and School Committee. Meeting dates were disclosed and Council discussion ensued.

(b) FY 2018 Budget Update (One Town MOA)

Ms. Corrigan advised that the School Committee chose to remove the One Town language because the salaries and expenses taken over by Town were untethered to consolidation. She recommended shelving the agreement and focusing on defining the concept of "documented need" to assist the School Committee when requesting supplemental funds from the Town. A letter will be provided to Dr. Mercurio.

A lengthy discussion followed addressing issues of expenses the Town is already paying for and identifying a mechanism for Council to review the School Committee's ask for supplemental appropriations. Concerns were raised about flaws in the consolidation process and the correlation between 'documented needs' and Special Education versus other line items. It was clarified that the Superintendent asked for money to hire a Curriculum Director and that the decision to keep a French teacher and not a librarian was not the Town's. The MOA does provide for funding for additional line items to be considered on a case by case basis. It was suggested that more than two months into the school year was needed to determine needs. Those needs shall be presented to the Town Manager with a recommendation to the Council. The Town's Finance Department and DPW provide many consolidated services and the area of IT will be further explored for possible improvements on both sides.

(c) FY 2018 Goals

Ms. Corrigan explained that her major goals are tied to section C-85 of the Town's Charter and will

be posted on the website. Goal one is annual budget preparation including preparing a three year budget, reaching out to NEIT and reviewing the CDBG program. Goal two is reporting on where we are, where we are going and how we are going to get there as it relates to providing services, meeting contractual obligations, salaries and benefits, overtime and realign labor relations. Goal three is to achieve maximum efficiency of operations in each department. Goal four is to do performance reviews for Department Heads by calendar year end, review salaries and use the Personnel Board to review personnel policies. Goal five is to address the sewer infrastructure by the end of the fiscal year and look at improvements for the DPW facility,

(11) Council Comments

Councilor Schwager was concerned about a statement posted on the Town's website by the Town Manager regarding the labor contract with the Fire Department. He asked that The Town Council and Town Manager discuss sensitive matters and approve them before they are distributed to the community.

Councilor Deutsch mentioned that Council had no control over removing the Curriculum Director position from the school's budget. He was disappointed that the contingency fund idea for the school's was dismissed.

President Cienki added that the Town's annual Halloween festivities take place Saturday and that the Senior and Human Services Department is adopting families for the holidays.

VP Todd thanked Ms. Antunes for coordinating meetings to address valet parking issues and drafting a social media policy. He requested to see the MOA's from 2014 and 2017.

(12) Public Comments (15 minute time limit)

Andrea Hamlin, 55 Oakwood Drive, advocated for her daughter and for special education early intervention programs at Meadowbrook school.

Patricia Harwood, 56 Allen Drive and Nicole Bucka spoke at length about the effects the level funded school appropriations had on student services, the shelving of the MOA and the scope of the needs of all East Greenwich school children.

Matt Leathers, 228 Spring Street, member of the Personnel Board, would like to be considered for the Advisory Group for the Town Manager search.

Olin Thompson, 615 Shippeetown Road, Chair of Juvenile Hearing Board, took issue with the Town Manager's message regarding the unsustainability of the Fire Department's CBA as it related to the Walker report.

Robert Vespia, Shippeetown Road, commented on the public's participation in meetings, the frequency of financial reports and overtime spending.

Eugene Quinn, 260 Middle Road, noted that he provided tax information to Council and provided statistics on the percentage of parcels with a tax increase or decrease.

Elizabeth McNamara, 18 Prospect Street, asked about the tenure of the current Town Manager and if Council had considered hiring staff to help with analyzing Firefighter staffing. She questioned a discrepancy with the budget line items for Town Manager and Staff salaries.

Christian Roos, 6 Brayton Meadow, voiced his frustration with the lack of communication from the Council and was concerned about neglecting the schools.

Elizabeth Wiens, 43 Fifth Street, disputed that the consultant who was hired to do the fiscal analysis of the Fire Department's contracts was private.

(13) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss the matter, Gendron v. Peixinho, KC-2016-0027, including, but not limited to the ratification of a settlement agreement reached in said matter.
- (b) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss the matter, IAFF Local 3328 and James Perry v. East Greenwich, KC-2017-0898.
- (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.
- (d) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1), discussions concerning the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person in the employ of the Town of East Greenwich, provided that such person affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Motion to return to Open Session made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Motion to seal the Executive Session minutes made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Nino Granatiero.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:

(pending)

AUDIO FILE OF OPEN SESSION AVAILABLE IN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE