

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Meeting
December 4, 2017 at 6:00 PM
Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

(1) Call to Order

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

Town Staff Present: L. Carney

President Cienki called the work session to order at 6:00 pm.

(2) 6:00 PM Work Session on Town Manager Search

Councilor Granatiero advised the job has been posted and he explained what steps are next in the process. Discussion ensued on who should do the initial screening, the role of the Advisory Group and confidentiality. Twenty six resumes have been received to date. Council discussed at what level the Personnel Board should be involved based on the scope of their duties in the Charter. Further guidance is needed from the Solicitor. Community input to be determined. The scope of the Advisory Group must be very clear. Process will be revised and the Personnel Board will be contacted. Advisory Group candidates will be introduced by Council.

Council recessed at 6:32 pm.

DRAFT TM Search Update

(3) 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, L. Carney, J. Duarte, W. Schmidle, E. McAndrew, C. Olsen, S. Brown, S. Cirella, M. Antunes, D. D'Agostino (arrived at 7:48 pm)

Others: C.Malaga

President Cienki called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

(4) Acknowledgements

- (a) Lucy Amat Day November 11, 2017
- (b) Daniel Tagliatela for serving three years on the Planning Board
- (c) Stefanie Murphy for serving over four years on the Juvenile Hearing Board

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

Stefanie Murphy was present to accept her commendation.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(5) Town Council Minutes

- (a) October 23, 2017 (Executive Session)
- (b) November 6, 2017 (Regular and Executive Sessions)
- (c) November 20, 2017 (Special Session)
- (d) November 27, 2017 (Regular Session)

Motion to approve made by Sean Todd, seconded by Mark Schwager.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(6) Public Hearing

- (a) Transfer of Ownership for Class A Alcoholic Beverage License FROM The Savory Grape Inc. d/b/a Savory Grape Wine Shop TO SG Retail LLC d/b/a The Savory Grape, 1000 Division Street.

Motion to approve subject to clearance from the State Division of Taxation made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Councilor Granatiero recused himself and moved off the dais.

Attorney Nicholas Denise appeared for SG Retail, LLC and introduced the transferee Michelle Collie. She is the current CEO/President of Performance Physical Therapy and looking forward to investing in Town and expanding the store.

No public comments.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(7) Consent Calendar

- (a) Ratification of application for NEW Holiday Sales License for The Troll Shop, 88 Main Street.

Combined with Item 7b

- (b) Re-appointments to Juvenile Hearing Board:
 - Olin Thompson as a regular member for a three year term to expire December 1, 2020
 - Leanne Zarrella as a regular member for a three year term to expire December 1, 2020

- Tricia Colgan as a regular member for a three year term to expire December 1, 2020
- Brian Warburton as an alternate member for a one year term to expire December 1, 2018

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(8) Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action)

- Annual Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses with Victualing, Entertainment, Outdoor Sidewalk Service and New Year's Eve Extended Hours (as applicable) for the period December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018 (continued from November 27, 2017)

Motion to extend the annual renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses for 401 Kitchen and Wine Bar, Fitzzy's Pub, Grille on Main, Kai Bar, Raku Sakura, Rocco's Bistro, Feast Sandwich and Greenwich Odeum to January 8, 2018 with authorization to renew if any/all administrative requirements are met before that date made by Sean Todd, seconded by Mark Schwager.

Robert Rainville, EG Golf Club/401 Kitchen and Wine Bar, said the restaurant renovations are nearing completion and waiting for final inspections to be done.

Linda Fraunfelter, Fitzzy's Pub, will clear up tomorrow with State Division of Taxation.

Maria Chienese, Grille on Main, is aware of issues with the State and working to resolve them.

Marshal Muir, Kai Bar, executed missing paperwork today required by State.

Yun Hua Yang, Raku Sakura, said a balance due the State was paid this morning.

Alexandra Roke, Rocco's Bistro, advised partnership was dissolved and sole owner addressing issues with filings at the State.

John Sepulveda, Feast Sandwich, has reached out to the State and received no call back.

Jeffrey Gladstone, Greenwich Odeum, advised all payments have been made.

Councilor Deutsch recused himself.

Ayes: Cienki, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- Annual renewal of Victualing Licenses for period December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018 (Continued from November 27, 2017)

Motion to approve the annual renewal of victualing licenses for Raw Bob's and Wild

Harvest made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Raw Bob's and Wild Harvest are now current on Town taxes.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

- (c) Update on Town Manager Search

Councilor Granatiero provided details on the discussion that took place in the work session. It was suggested that using a search firm could be beneficial. Estimated cost is \$25-35K.

(9) New Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Renewal of maintenance contract for the Cisco telecommunications system

Ms. Corrigan recommended tabling the item. She explained that the Town and School share the system and an agreement still needs to be reached on the distribution of costs between both parties over the next three years. Discussion will continue on December 18th during joint meeting with the School Committee. Some hardware will not be supported at the end of 2018 which could increase costs at the end of year one. Previously, the School absorbed 78% of the costs and the Town absorbed 22% of costs and all maintenance.

(10) Reports and Communications

- (a) Update on Fire Department from Interim Chief Olsen

Councilor Schwager requested that an opportunity is given to review materials before meetings.

Interim Chief Olsen spoke at length about several activities and observances over the last month. He provided extensive details on monthly activities, personnel, apparatus, maintenance to Station 1 and 2, dispatch problems and documentation of records and reports. Overtime, capital expenses, training and improving quality controls were discussed. Council discussion ensued throughout the presentation and the Chief addressed all of Council's questions and concerns.

(11) Town Manager's Report

- (a) Notice of nunc pro tunc memo to Council

Solicitor D'Agostino explained that the term nunc pro tunc means 'now for then' and the premise is to bring decisions into compliance after a court ruling; specifically IAFF v. Town of East Greenwich. This action addresses decisions purely taken under the purview of the Town Manager pursuant to the Charter. No Council action required. Ms. Corrigan added the memo identifies administrative actions made by her between June 19 through November 20, 2017 as provided for by Article XIII of the Town Charter and do not require Council's approval.

- (b) Update on meeting with Personnel Board

The Board met on November 30th. They discussed draft versions of the Employee Confidentiality Policy and Social Media/Cell Phone Policies. Previous attempts at updating the Personnel System/Manual failed. The Board agreed to attempt to create a new manual addressing the most important issues first. Documents will be presented to Council in January for approval. Salary structure for Department Heads and non-union employees was also discussed.

- (c) Recommendation for salary structure for Department Heads and Non-union employees

Motion to approve the recommendation from the Town Manager for a salary structure for Department Heads and non-union employees made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Sean Todd.

The Town Charter authorizes the Town Manager to recommend a standard pay schedule with a range. Currently, salaries are based on steps and longevity. The Personnel Board unanimously approved a new concept to revise the schedule based upon merit, the Municipal Salary Survey 2017 and comparisons to like-sized communities. Ms. Corrigan explained how some positions do not appear in the Municipal Salary Survey. Merit increases would be based on an objective scoring sheet which will be shared with Council for review. Most salaries are aligned accordingly. Charter provisions C-85 (E) and C-119 (C) were referenced. Evaluations are point based and initial increases may take into account adjustments based on comparable market data.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(12) Public Comments (30 minute time limit)

Mary Ward, 40 Cavalier Drive, asked questions related to severance package costs, litigation costs and projections, number of lawsuits filed against the Town, detailed costs savings since Ms. Corrigan's appointment and publicizing the nunc pro tunc memo. She suggested an open dialogue with the Fire Department to resolve issues and asked for a pledge to act in such a way as to minimize litigation.

William Perry, 5 Pardon Woods Lane, asked Council to hold a public forum with the Fire Department to answer any questions. He disputed overtime costs and addressed many Fire Department relates issues such as pension and life insurance payments, chief officer availability, savings in budget and IOD/FMLA reporting. He acknowledged overtime increases and suggested private insurance to help cover costs. Actions of previous HR Director's were noted in regard to personnel files. Probationary officers receive reviews. He reiterated the willingness to meet with the Town.

Robert Vespia, Shippeetown Road, commented about a transition period.

Caryn Corenthal, 5 Brookfield Court, disputed the context of overtime numbers. She spoke about research she had done on local, good government and questioned Council's covenant with the Town's people. She asked for the reinstatement of two public comment sections on the agenda. She addressed the Solicitor about his responsibilities to Council and accountability to residents.

Tracie Truesdell, 163 Spring Street, commented on discipline and respect for people talking during

public comment.

Tom Bailey, 564 Williams Crossing Road, Coventry, a Town employee, voiced his concerns about the content in the Interim Fire Chief's report.

(13) Council Comments

Councilor Deutsch stated that his questions directed to the Interim Fire Chief were due to receiving the report prior to the meeting and would be available afterwards to discuss further.

President Cienki commented that she had many questions for the Interim Chief based on just receiving the report. The Solicitor receives a flat fee for litigation. Incremental cost savings in Finance will be provided and public documents will be posted as requested. The Town Manager is meeting with the Fire Department tomorrow.

(14) Executive Session

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.

Motion to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

(15) Adjournment

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:

(pending)

AUDIO FILE AVAILABLE IN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE