

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Meeting
March 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

(1) Call to Order

Town Council: Suzanne Cienki, Sean Todd, Andrew Deutsch, Nino Granatiero and Mark Schwager

Town Staff: Gayle Corrigan, David D'Agostino and Leigh Carney

President Cienki called the meeting to order.

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

(2) 6:00 PM Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1), sessions pertaining to a discussion of the job performance, including performance reviews, of persons in the employ of the Town, provided 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.

Motion to reconvene to open session and seal the executive session minutes made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

(3) 7:00 PM Regular Session and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Town Council: Suzanne Cienki, Sean Todd, Andrew Deutsch, Nino Granatiero and Mark Schwager

Town Staff: Gayle Corrigan, David D'Agostino, Leigh Carney, Kevin Robinson, Linda Dykeman, Wendy Schmidle, Catherine Bradley, Joseph Duarte, Anthony Davey, Col. Steven Brown, Capt. Stanley Cirella and Michaela Antunes

President Cienki led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Solicitor D'Agostino reported the vote taken in Executive Session to increase the salary of the Town Clerk to \$80,600 effective July 1, 2017.

(4) Acknowledgements

- (a) Frenchtown Pack 4 Cub Scouts 50 Years

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

(5) Town Council Minutes

(a) February 26, 2018 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0 with Granatiero abstained

(6) Consent Calendar

(a) Re-appointments to Personnel Board

- Laurie Horridge Bissonette for a three-year term to expire March 31, 2021
- Vincent Ragosta, Jr. for a three-year term to expire March 31, 2021

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

(b) Abatements for 2016 and 2017 tax roll totaling \$20,177.41.

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

Moved to Item 8a

(7) Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Reconsideration of Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License with Victualing License and Outdoor Sidewalk Service for the period of December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018 for Main Street Restaurant Group, LLC d/b/a ROCCO'S BISTRO, 219 Main Street.

The Clerk explained that filings are missing at the State Division of Taxation and clearance is still pending.

Motion to continue to April 9th made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

- (b) Update on School/Town Consolidation, including ratification and execution of Memorandum of Agreement conditionally approved by the School Committee.

President Cienki commended Town Manager Corrigan, Superintendent Mercurio, Solicitor D'Agostino and Attorney Oliverio on their collaboration. The School Committee approved the plan last week. School personnel will be relocated to Town Hall.

Motion to approve the School/Town consolidation plan made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

At the request of Councilor Schwager, Town Manager Corrigan clarified the current and proposed salary structures for the Finance Director/Director of Administration position as well as the reporting arrangement for the HR Manager position. Retirement benefits were discussed.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

Moved to Item 8b

(8) New Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Formation of Opioid Response Task Force

Town Manager Corrigan commented on the task force's charge and identified the individuals she recommends for membership. Robert Houghtaling was recommended as the Chair of such board. All require Council's approval.

Motion to approve the formation of the Opioid Response Task Force made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Councilor Schwager discussed membership criteria with Town Manager Corrigan. He suggested appointing someone with public health training and experience to fill the vacancy of Distinctive Individual.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

Returned to Item 7A

- (b) Restructuring of Senior and Human Services Department, Parks and Recreation Department and Substance Abuse Prevention, adding Community Resource Manager position.

President Cienki commented that since the last meeting, Town Manager Corrigan was tasked with addressing concerns about increasing personnel, overall costs and ensuring services were available to Town residents with varying needs. She suggested putting off the hiring of the Recreation Manager so that the Community Resource Manager is in place first.

Director Bradley explained the job description was revised to incorporate more social services. Examples were provided. Marketing, education, partnerships, mental health first aid certification and seeking grants were also integrated into the position. The Senior Case Worker will report directly to the Community Resource Officer and indirectly to the Senior Center Manager.

Town Manager Corrigan explained that monies will be reallocated from Parks and Recreation Salaries, Continuing Education/Training and Unemployment to make the financial impact revenue neutral.

Motion to approve the restructuring of the Senior and Human Services and Parks and Recreation Departments made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Council discussion ensued. Councilor Granatiero was assured that fixed costs are paying for the increase and Ms. Bradley has approved the proposal. Councilor Schwager remained concerned that the duties of the Community Resource Manager could be handled by existing employees and community services and some overlap with the Director. He added that fixed costs could be allocated to capital needs. Town Manager Corrigan addressed his concerns. President Cienki commented that the restructuring will benefit disabled residents. Councilors Deutsch and Granatiero were assured by Ms. Bradley that the change was necessary.

Following additional discussion and comments, President Cienki called the question.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Todd

Nays: Schwager

Motion Carried 4 -1

- (c) Adoption of Standard Pay Schedule including Community Resource Manager position, as recommended by the Personnel Board.

Motion to adopt as per the recommendation from the Personnel Board made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Sean Todd

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Todd

Nays: Schwager

Motion Carried 4 – 1

- (d) Determination and setting of salary for Rachael-Lyn Longo as Community Resource Manager, as required by Town Charter Section C-67 (i).

Motion to set the salary for Rachael-Lyn Longo as Community Resource Manager at \$45,000 made by Sean Todd, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ms. Bradley spoke highly of Ms. Longo based on her interview. Councilor Schwager commented that Ms. Longo interviewed for this position before the criteria was changed and suggested re-posting and re-interviewing. Solicitor D'Agostino confirmed there were no constraints to hiring for this type of management position.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Todd

Nays: Schwager

Motion Carried 4 – 1

- (e) Appointment of Rachael-Lyn Longo to Westbay Community Action, Inc. to serve on the Board of Directors, representing East Greenwich, per Westbay Community Action, Inc. bylaws approved as amended on June 22, 2017.

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

Ms. Longo will replace Ms. McAndrew, the former Senior and Human Services Director.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Todd

Nays: Schwager

Motion Carried 4 – 1

- (f) Consideration of RIGL 45-15-5 claim by Ryan Grady, Edward Matola and Jonathan Szerlag filed by David Szerlag, Esq. and communicated in his correspondence to the Council.

No action taken.

- (g) Consideration of RIGL 45-15-5 claim (as amended) by Pamela Aveyard filed by Robert E. Savage, Esq. and communicated in his correspondence to the Council.

No action taken.

- (h) Ratification of tax appeal settlement agreement in the matter, Empire Acquisition Group, LLC v. Janice Peixinho, KC-2017-0159.

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

- (i) Ratification of tax appeal settlement agreement in the matter, William R. D'Amico, II, Trustee v. Anthony Davey, KC-2017-1234.

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

(9) Town Manager's Report

- (a) Review of Fire District merger's impact on Town (continued from February 26, 2018)

Town Manager Corrigan gave an in depth slide presentation which addressed some key points in the following areas: Fire District's assets and liabilities, Town's capacity for oversight, unsustainable collective bargaining agreements, improper hiring practices (discussion ensued), reclassification of incidents and modification of rescue billing rates (discussion ensued), training expenses (discussion ensued), impact of poor management and the development of the reorganization plan. Phase I of the plan to be presented to Council on April 9, 2018.

Discussion continued about comparable communities that have reorganized. Other alternatives were questioned as well as past practices. Town Manager Corrigan stated she will analyze overtime codes. She answered questions on capital reserves and noted that the fund requires more auditing. Capital expenses require definition.

(10) Public Comments (30 minute time limit)

John McKenna, 12 Clement Street, North Providence, former EG Fire Chief commented on rescue billing, impact fee funds, budget process, OPEB, plan review fees and training. Town Manager Corrigan replied.

Caryn Corenthal, 5 Brookfield Court, questioned the information presented by the Town Manager. She asked how many firefighters does East Greenwich need. President Cienki replied.

Carla Swanson, 38 Greene Street, commented on the terms and language used by the Town Manager, the addition of a new position and the lack of data in Town Manager's report. She requested a needs assessment on Town services and encouraged Council to defer to the School Committee's expertise on education.

Elizabeth McNamara, 18 Prospect Street, asked about the presentation of the audit and questioned the number of firefighters needed. President Cienki replied. The search for the new Fire Chief should begin May/June. She confirmed access to information on the Fire capital account.

Rob Vespia, Shippeetown Road, wanted an apology for being mocked following the last Council meeting. He was concerned about appointments to Boards and Commissions and rescue billing. President Cienki replied, followed by Town Manager Corrigan who addressed rescue billing.

William Perry, 5 Pardon Woods Lane, commented on rescue billing revenue resulting in discussion with President Cienki. Discussion continued on firefighter training, firefighter physical fitness and Council's outreach to other communities about reorganization. Comments were exchanged about the execution of previous agreements, prior negotiation sessions and information presented in the Town Manager's report. President Cienki continued to state that the Town Council was agreeable to meet with the fireman union at any time to continue discussions.

(11) Council Comments

Councilor Deutsch encouraged fellow Councilors to speak about previous agreements that are currently in place.

VP Todd commented that he had asked to be included in prior negotiations for the 2016 – 2019 contracts and was told it would do more harm than good. He added that all three individuals who presented the information to Council including the Town Manager, Town Solicitor and Fire Chief are no longer employed with the town.

President Cienki commended Mr. Perry on prior negotiations and agreed that no fault lies with the firefighters.

Councilor Schwager commented that language contained in the Town Manager's report was counter-productive. He has been meeting with residents and reported that school safety and road paving are concerns of many residents that need to be addressed in a public forum.

President Cienki added that the road paving schedule will be updated by Director Duarte and Town Manager Corrigan has met with Chief Brown and all school safety policies are sound and safety issues are regularly updated by the police department and given to the schools to implement any changes as necessary. She supported the data presented in the Town Manager's report and attributed existing issues to poor management. She welcomed negotiations with the Fire Department.

(12) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss litigation strategies, options and potential litigation related to East Greenwich, RI Series 2008 General Obligation ("GO") Bonds.
- (b) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss proposed litigation concerning the national, state and local opioid epidemic.
- (c) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically, to discuss the matter, East Greenwich v. IAFF Local 3328, KC 2017-1276.

- (d) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss the matter, Pawtucket Credit Union v. East Greenwich, KC-2017-0084.
- (e) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss authorization to negotiate terms of MOA with NEARI.

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

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 – 0

Motion to reconvene to open session and seal the executive session minutes made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Mark Schwager

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion Carried 4 -1 with Todd absent

Solicitor D'Agostino revealed a unanimous vote in the affirmative was taken on Item 12b to join the lawsuit pending confirmation there will be no costs made. Motion carried 5 – 0.

(13) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:45 pm made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion Carried 4 – 0 with Todd absent

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:
(PENDING)