

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

(1) Call to Order

Town Council (4/5): VP Sean Todd, Andrew Deutsch, Nino Granatiero and Mark Schwager (President Suzanne Cienki – absent)

Town Staff: Leigh Carney

VP Todd called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Motion to go in to Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Councilor Schwager

Ayes: Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 4-0

(2) 6:00 PM Executive Session

Town Council (4/5): VP Sean Todd, Andrew Deutsch, Nino Granatiero, Mark Schwager (President Suzanne Cienki – absent)

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

Others: Mary McBurney, Esq.

- (a) 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.
- (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 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 proposed litigation concerning the national, state and local opioid epidemic.

Motion to seal the Executive Session minutes and reconvene to Open Session and made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried: 4 – 0

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

Town Council (5/5): Sean Todd, Andrew Deutsch, Nino Granatiero and Mark Schwager
(Suzanne Cienki arrived @ 8:35 pm)

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

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

(4) Town Council Minutes

(a) February 12, 2018 (Joint Session, Regular Session, Executive Session)

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

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4-0

(5) Reports and Communications

(a) Overview of East Greenwich Municipal Bonds

Ms. Dykeman gave a slide presentation addressing East Greenwich's bond rating, existing debt service, ways in which to measure debt and the basics of issuing bonds. She added that after July 1, 2019, the Town could issue \$12.7 million in bonds and keep debt service level. Discussion followed on the analysis done by Hilltop Securities of the debt service schedule capacity and road bonds. It was noted that sewer bonds are separate and not reflected in the tax rate. Council made brief comments.

(6) 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.

Joseph Rotella, Esq. spoke on behalf of the applicant. He stated that the principles of the business have been meeting and talking with a revenue officer at the State Division of Taxation. Resolution is pending. An opportunity to clear the matter with the State was requested before any further action was taken by the Council. He added that all Town taxes will be made current. Town Clerk Carney confirmed that communications are taken place between the State and the applicant.

Motion to table to March 26th made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by VP Todd

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4-0

(7) New Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Resolution recognizing March 19, 2018 as East Greenwich Celebrating Women in Public Office Day.

VP Todd recognized Lisa Bourbonnais, Leigh Carney, Erin McAndrew, Carolyn Mark, Suzanne Cienki, Gayle Corrigan, Linda Dykeman, Wendy Schmidle and Catherine Bradley.

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

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4-0

- (b) Consideration of RIGL 45-15-5 claim by James Perry filed by Chip Muller, Esq. and communicated in his February 22, 2018 correspondence to the Council.

No action taken.

- (c) Restructuring of Senior and Human Services Department, Parks and Recreation Department and Substance Abuse Prevention.

Town Manager Corrigan outlined a proposal to reorganize and consolidate services for three Town departments to increase resources and improve the quality of life for all residents. The model is based on best practices that currently exist in Narragansett and South Kingstown. The plan provides for the addition of one new full-time employee. She spoke about the structure of staff positions and that a coordinated effort would be made to integrate services for all ages and abilities. An organizational chart and job descriptions were referenced for consideration. Council discussion followed.

Councilor Granatiero spoke in favor of the plan but had some concerns with the additional position of Community Resource Manager and the scope of the job description. Town Manager Corrigan explained the need was based on community outreach and communications. The Recreation Manager position was discussed and will be posted.

Councilor Schwager was advised that the NEARI position of Program Clerk was being eliminated. Town Manager Corrigan explained how two positions were created out of one as a result of interviewing for former employee Erin McAndrew's position of Director of Senior and Human Services. Solicitor D'Agostino stated that re-advertising was not necessary because duties remained the same and are only being reallocated. It was noted that Recreation Manager's position would be posted. All are non-union positions with full benefits. He voiced his concerns about the Community Resource Manager position, the chain of command for the Parks and Grounds Superintendent and the duties of the Case Worker. Town Manager Corrigan addressed his concerns and specifically those related to improvements in communication. He remained concerned with the addition of a full-time employee and suggested reallocating services using existing staff.

Councilor Granatiero and Town Manager Corrigan discussed the cost analysis of the consolidation taking into consideration the elimination of the CDBG program and employment benefits. He concurred with Councilor Schwager on moving forward but holding back on the Community Resource Manager position for now. Duties for that position were reiterated.

Director Bradley spoke in favor of the position.

Councilors discussed not filling the Recreation Manager position as an option and dispersing operational duties. Salary range for all three positions is between \$45K and \$55K as approved by the Personnel Board. A lengthy discussion followed on costs associated with implementing the plan without the Community Resource Manager position. Town Manager Corrigan defended her vision on the Town's need for an expanded scope of services and better access and advocated for the Community Resources Manager position rather than the Recreation Manager position.

Following additional Council comments, a motion to accept the restructuring of Senior and Human Services Department, Parks and Recreation Department and Substance Abuse Prevention as noted minus the Community Resources Manager position was made by Mark Schwager, seconded by Andrew Deutsch.

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

- (d) Approval of Cathy Bradley as Director of Community Services and Parks Department.

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

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 -0

- (e) Adoption of updated Standard Pay Schedule as recommended by the Personnel Board.

Town Manager Corrigan reported that the Personnel Board unanimously approved the schedule.

Motion to adopt made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Mark Schwager

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 -0

- (f) Determination and setting of salary for Rachel-Lyn Longo as Community Resource Manager and Charlotte Markey as Senior Center Manager, as required by Town Charter Section C-67 (i).

There was no discussion about Ms. Longo. Town Manager Corrigan provided highlights from Ms. Markey's resume. Director Bradley spoke in favor of Ms. Markey and recommended a mid-range salary. Councilors discussed her qualifications.

Motion to set the salary for the Senior Center Manager at \$50,000 made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Mark Schwager

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

- (g) Appointment of Rachel-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 table made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Mark Schwager

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 4 – 0

(8) Town Manager's Report

- (a) Update on School/Town Consolidation

The School Committee discussed and subsequently tabled the proposal as presented by Town Manager Corrigan. The proposed organizational chart was incorporated and Attorney Oliverio drafted a Memorandum of Agreement that outlined the relationship between the Town Council and School Committee. The compensation and benefits for the consolidated position of Finance Director/Director of Administration will be apportioned during the Town's budget process. The Town Manager and Superintendent would not interfere with each other's side. Human Resources position shall be consolidated.

Council discussion followed. Councilor Granatiero was pleased with the outcome. Councilor Schwager was reassured that the MOA addresses all of the School Committee's concerns. They are meeting on March 22nd to reconsider. Physical relocation of departments would take place over the summer. Town Manager Corrigan explained the relocation plan and use of space. It was noted that the School's would not need to budget for upgrades at the Central Office if the consolidation is approved.

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

Item was tabled by the Town Manager. Councilor Schwager had requested more information on the last report.

- (c) Update on Opioid Task Force (continued from February 26, 2018)

Town Manager Corrigan stated that the task force's charge will be presented on March 26th along with procedures to implement the new board.

(President Cienki arrived at 8:35pm.)

(9) Public Comments (30 minute time limit)

Robert Vespia, Shippeetown Road, questioned why the Ad Hoc Town Manager Search Advisory Board has six members and why one member is not a resident per Charter Section C-16. He asked the Council repeatedly to follow the Charter. Town Manager Corrigan asked the Solicitor to clarify the Charter as it relates to creating new boards. Solicitor D'Agostino agreed to provide a legal opinion and address the creation of the Opioid Task Force. Mr. Vespia asked how increasing personnel at Town Hall will affect meeting spaces and parking.

Gene Dumas, Marion Street, commented on the Town's response to recent storm damages. He was reassured that all situations are assessed and procedures are in place to ensure all necessary Town departments as well as State and Federal agencies are alerted. He thanked several Town DPW employees (Mary, Carl, Dave, Kenny, Jay and George) for their help.

Thomas Bailey of 524 Williams Crossing Road, Coventry and the Town's Safety Officer for the Fire Department was concerned that the Community Center was not open during the last two storms. He stated that the safety in Town is being disregarded and made comments about the Chain of Command at the Fire Department. He remained troubled about the way the Town was being operated and felt the Town was at risk.

Elizabeth McNamara, Prospect Street, suggested the Town invest in a comprehensive look at the Fire Department in terms of geography, service calls, and number of residents due to a significant increase in calls with no increases in staff over the past decade. Town Manager Corrigan added she will provide an analysis and report back on her next report.

(10) Council Comments

Councilor Granatiero commented that interviews are scheduled for April 14th for round one candidates for the position of Town Manager.

VP Todd commented on the 50th Anniversary of Frenchtown Pack 4 Cub Scouts and invited everyone to their event on March 20th at 7pm at OLM.

(11) 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 go in to Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) made at 8:55pm by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by President Cienki

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager, Todd

Motion Carried 5 - 0

Motion to reconvene to open session made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Sean Todd

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 5-0

Motion to seal the executive session minutes made by Sean Todd, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 5-0

The Town Clerk revealed the votes:

Motion to augment Direct Duarte's pay to \$110,500 effective January 1, 2018 made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Sean Todd

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 5-0

Motion to amend Director Duarte's salary of \$110,500 retroactive to July 1, 2017 made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Sean Todd

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 5-0

Motion to increase Director Bradley's salary to \$77,700 retroactive to July 1, 2017 through March 10, 2018 made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Sean Todd

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 5-0

Motion to set Director Bradley's new salary effective March 11, 2018 at \$95,000 made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Suzanne Cienki

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 5-0

Motion to increase Director Schmidle's salary to \$85,000 retroactive to July 1, 2017 with a review in June made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Mark Schwager

Discussion followed.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Nays: Todd

Motion carried 4 – 1

(12) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Mark Schwager

Ayes: Cienki, Todd, Deutsch, Granatiero, Schwager

Motion carried 5 – 0

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:

(Pending)

DRAFT