

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Session
October 14, 2015 @ 6:20pm
Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:20pm~Interviews for Boards and Commissions

Town Council Present: M. Isaacs, S. Cienki, W. Stone, S. Todd

Town Staff Present: T. Coyle, L. Botello

- Susan Aitcheson for the Affordable Housing Commission

Ms. Aitcheson has previously served on the Historic District Commission and the Building Committee for the Swift Community Center. She is a licensed architect and recently retired as the former president of the Women's Development Center. She attends all of the meetings of the Affordable Housing Commission and makes presentations as needed to both the AHC and the Planning Board. She is an advocate for helping people understand what it is all about. She is familiar with the Housing Authority and has met with the Board trying to give them new ideas. Her goal is to provide good opportunities for all families of all income levels. There was more discussion on the difference between both boards and where she may be best utilized.

- Susan Curado for the Historic District Commission

Ms. Curado has been a resident for 38 years and lives in a home on Cedar Avenue that was built in 1712. She and her husband consistently work on their home to maintain its historic character. She is a retired nurse and although she has no experience, she does have a personal interest. The charge of the board and what is expected when reviewing an application was discussed.

7:00pm ~ Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Town Council Present: M. Isaacs, S. Cienki, W. Stone, S. Todd

Town Staff Present: T. Coyle, L. Botello, P. Clarkin, J. Duarte, K. Benoit, R. McGillivray, M. Sullivan, E. McAndrew, S. Brown, S. Cirella

Others: C. Malaga

At 7:00pm, President Isaacs called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Acknowledgments

- Proclamation designating October as National Community Planning Month

Councilor Stone moved to approve the acknowledgments, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-0 all

in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Bourbonnais accepted the proclamation on behalf of her staff in the Planning Department and she acknowledged the many dedicated volunteers that offer their time on Boards and Commissions.

1) Town Council Minutes

- a) September 28, 2015 (Regular Session)
- b) October 1, 2015 (Executive Session)

Councilor Stone moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

2) Reports and Communications

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

None

- b) Preservation of a historical document entitled “List of Inhabitants, Production of Agriculture and Industry 1870” through a grant awarded by the Rhode Island Foundation.

Ms. Botello gave a brief presentation on the document and provided a few details on its contents.

3) Public Hearing

- a) Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 93 Fees, Article III Affordable Housing Development Fees and Chapter 260 Zoning, Article XVII Affordable Housing, Section 260-99 (B), eliminating both in total (SECOND READING).

Mr. Clarkin explained that the Supreme Court ruled that the Town is not authorized to impose a fee in lieu of construction of affordable housing units which makes the provisions of this ordinance null and void and therefore they should be removed.

There were no public comments; however, a letter of objection received from William R. Landry with Blish and Cavanaugh was discussed and entered into the record.

Councilor Todd moved to close the public hearing and move to third reading on October 26, 2015, seconded by Councilor Stone.

Ms. Bourbonnais provided her interpretation on the intent of the letter and added that the Planning Board voted unanimously to support and proceed with the removal of the language. The Affordable Housing Commission also supports its removal. She added that as the state law on allowable fee in lieu payments is written, it depletes municipal governments’ role and does

not define terms clearly enough. Discussion continued about who manages the money that may be collected and the lack of a viable process at the local level. Affordable housing requirements in Town were also explained by Ms. Bourbonnais.

Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Approval of application for Class F Alcoholic Beverage License for The Varnum Continentals, Beer Tasting Fundraiser at Varnum Armory, 6 Main Street on 11/14/15.

Councilor Todd moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

5) Unfinished Business

None

6) New Business

- a) Discussion and vote regarding authorization of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for sewer system improvements by means of a special financial town meeting or a local election.

The sewer bond and debt service is being budgeted in FY 2019 and a discussion followed on the burden on the sewer rate payers. Mr. Duarte explained a draw down schedule for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. Financing begins one year after the project is completed and the approximate amount of debt service is \$385,000. There was more discussion on the percent increase on the sewer rate. The amount is inclusive of all work to be done and authorizes Council to borrow what they need up to that amount. There is no deadline to draw down on the full amount of the bond. A video will be produced and uploaded to the Town's website to educate the residents on the importance of the project. A new memo shall be created to identify several aspects of the project such as the potential consequences to the environment and fines. The Cove Commission will be asked to comment on the situation. If the problem is not addressed by the Town, the DEM will come in to remediate the problem and the Town will be responsible for paying for it. Council discussed dates to hold a special financial town meeting and decided to look at the first two Tuesdays in December. Mr. Clarkin will amend the language in the resolutions and Council will discuss and possibly vote on it at their next meeting on October 26, 2015.

7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle reported that scaffolding has been erected around St. Luke's church in anticipation of repairs to the steeple. He will be attending an Executive Session meeting with Ms. Benoit and the School Committee on October 20 to discuss to the Town's healthcare plan with Blue Cross.

8) Council Comments

Councilor Todd reported that the Town is hosting a spelling bee to benefit the East Greenwich Education Foundation on November 8 and NEIT donated some audio video equipment for the event. Teams were formed by the School Committee, GOP, Democrats, Fire and Police. Also, a demonstration on the iPhone app SeeClickFix will be scheduled for Council.

President Isaacs attended a meeting of municipal leaders for a presentation by the RIRRC on the new tipping fees which are anticipated to double for the next budget. Also, a representative is still needed for the Wood Pawtucket Wild and Scenic Study Committee. Ms. Bourbonnais will ask around for any volunteers.

9) Public Comment (15-minute time limit)

None

10) Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation and (5) discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

a) Update on any pending or previous settled litigation cases

b) 333 Main Street

VP Cienki moved to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation and (5) discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public, seconded by Councilor Stone. Roll call vote 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Following the Executive Session, Councilor Stone moved to return to Open Session, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to seal the Executive Session minutes, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to adjourn at 8:50pm, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC

Town Clerk

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL OCTOBER 26, 2015