

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Regular Session**  
**December 21, 2015 @ 7:00pm**  
**Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

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

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

Town Staff Present: T. Coyle, III, L. Botello, J. Duarte, W. Schmidle,

Others: Senator Mark Gee, Representative Antonio Giarrusso, C. Malaga

At 7:06pm, President Isaacs called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Acknowledgments

- EGHS Football Team for an undefeated season and for winning the Division III Super Bowl
- Nick Andreozzi for being named the Gatorade Rhode Island Football Player of the Year

VP Cienki moved to approve the acknowledgments, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Nick Andreozzi was congratulated for his achievement and all members of the EGHS Football Team who were present received commendations from Council, Representative Giarrusso and Senator Gee for their accomplishments as well.

1) Town Council Minutes

- a) November 17, 2015 (Joint/Regular and Executive Sessions)
- b) December 7, 2015 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

Councilor Stone moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

2) Reports and Communications

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

There were no public comments.

3) Public Hearing

- a) Zoning amendment and concurrent Comprehensive Plan amendment for a petition to rezone the property known as Assessor's Map 67, Plat 13, Lot 34 located on New London Turnpike from Mixed Use Planned Development (MUPD) to Light Industry/Office (LI/O) to accommodate industrial use of a land-locked property abutting Interstate 95 (SECOND READING).

Attorney Joseph Shekarchi appeared on behalf of the applicant seeking a zone and comprehensive map change as advised by the Planning Board. He added that no objections from anyone in Town have been received and the agreement with West Greenwich has been memorialized and will be recorded in both Towns. The business is relocating from Warwick and the property abuts Interstate 95. He expects final approval from DOT the first week of January. With him were the applicant Mr. Ross and Mr. Pimento. The scope of the project is unchanged.

Discussion followed on DOT's approval of the physical alteration permit and an easement over state land for accessing the parcel. Ms. Bourbonnais explained how the revisions will go back to the State but she doesn't anticipate any problems.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Stone moved to close the Public Hearing and move to Third Reading on January 25, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Moved to Item 3c

- b) Application for the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program for inclusion of local transportation infrastructure projects within the FY 2017 – 2025 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and authorizing the Town Manager to submit said application.

Mr. Duarte explained the application process, the project prioritization list and the addition of three other projects related to Main Street improvements. He spoke briefly about specific projects such as the Maskerchugg River Bridge for a bike path connecting to Forge Road, the Route 4 and I-95 Interchange, resurfacing and sidewalk rehabilitation on Main Street and bridges.

Discussion followed on how projects are prioritized, looking to other communities for support and the time frame when applications are reviewed which is every four years.

There were no public comments.

VP Cienki moved to authorize the Town Manager to submit the application as amended for the TIP program, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Moved to the Consent Calendar.

- c) Application for an Entertainment License for 564 Main Street, LLC d/b/a HILL AND HARBOR CIGAR LOUNGE, 564 Main Street.

Louis Fiorenzano advised that the entertainer is one person with only a piano and no drums. He will be playing on Saturday nights only from 9:00pm to 12:45am.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Todd moved to approve, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Moved to Item 3b

#### 4) Consent Calendar

- a) Recommendation from the Tax Assessor for Additions to the 2015 Real Estate tax roll in the amount of \$544.66.
- b) Recommendation from the Tax Assessor for Abatements to the 2015 Real Estate and 2009 Motor Vehicle tax rolls in the amount of \$15,511.34.
- c) Re-appointment of Michael Schreffler as the Tree Warden for 2016.

Councilor Stone moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

#### 5) Unfinished Business

- a) Approval of ANNUAL RENEWAL of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses with Victualing including those with Entertainment and Extended Hours for New Year's Eve from December 1, 2015 through November 30, 2016. (continued from 12/7)
  - i. Di Mare Seafood

Katie Leonard advised that the property owner has made some payments and is working with Santander Bank to secure a small business loan to pay off the balance on sewer and real estate. She is asking for another extension to mid-January.

Councilor Stone moved to extend the license to January 25<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilor Todd. A brief discussion followed on the balances due. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- ii. Bistro 9

The applicant was not present. The Clerk advised that they have received clearance from the State and the creditor who had previously objected to the renewal has been paid; however, tangible taxes are delinquent in the amount of \$408 and they still owe for the NSF check.

Discussion followed on the options Council could take.

Councilor Stone moved to renew the license conditional upon payment by December 31<sup>st</sup> of all outstanding taxes and fees owed to the Town, seconded by Councilor Todd.

The Clerk was asked to prepare a letter with a certified copy of the motion passed by the Council stating that if the fees are not paid by December 31<sup>st</sup> the license will expire. It shall be hand delivered to the restaurant and their attorney.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- iii. Kon Asian Bistro

The Clerk advised they have been cleared by the State and the license was issued.

- iv. PieZoni's (see Item 6a)

Refer to Item 6a

6) New Business

- a) Application for NEW Victualing License for Pepperoni's of East Greenwich, LLC d/b/a PieZoni's, 1000 Division Street.

Delvi Martinez explained he is taking over the franchise as the sole proprietor.

Councilor Stone moved to approve the application, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- b) Resolution requesting the General Assembly to add an exemption to RIGL § 44-3-3 for full tax-exempt status for the New England Wireless Museum.

VP Cienki moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- c) An ordinance in amendment of Chapter 15, Alcoholic Beverages, Section 15-8, Outdoor Sidewalk Liquor Service and Chapter 218, Streets and Sidewalks, Article I, Use and Maintenance, Section 218-2, Use of Sidewalks for Dining and other purposes by Business Establishments (FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION)

Councilor Todd moved to introduce the ordinance on first reading and set for Public Hearing on January 11<sup>th</sup>, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- d) Update on Information Technology Projects
  - i. Mobile App

ii. Website

Ms. Schmidle reported that following a request to investigate a mobile application for the Town, two products have been demonstrated called See Click Fix and PublicStuff. She explained how each tool could be used by residents using their mobile devices or the website to send in requests for services. It could also be used as a marketing tool by the Town to send alerts via text message. Departments could use it to manage work orders. The app could be used by both Town and School. Both cost around \$5,000 and there are funds available in the IT budget for FY 2016. She suggested that the current Town website needs to be dynamic for the app to work and both the Town and Schools should be branded the same. Both sites could use an overhaul and reconfiguration. She received a quote from the Town's existing vendor which was high but comparable to others from neighboring communities. A strategic decision is needed from both Town and School. She recommended hiring a professional to help albeit expensive; it would be a one-time deal. She explained how multiple pages and links work on both sites and recapped the outcome of recent meetings with the IT Advisory Committee. A lengthy discussion followed on the capabilities of these apps in addition to existing tools such as Laserfiche and Constant Contact and how residents choose to communicate. The scope of the project and implementation costs were noted. Code Red was discussed and how emergency notifications could be consolidated with the schools. President Isaacs noted some concerns which are budgeting costs, continuing discussions with the School Committee, as well as getting more feedback from the Town Manager and the Department Heads, scheduling demos for Council and understanding how the management tool works. Mr. Duarte was supportive but sees it as a tool for the future. After additional comments and concerns, it was decided that a demo should be scheduled in January.

e) Update on \$2,000,000 Road Paving Bond

Mr. Duarte provided a comprehensive update on the roads that have been completed and the roads that have not yet been completed. There is approximately \$500,000 remaining in the bond and he feels it may require an additional \$100,000 to complete all the roads. There are capital funds from previous years that are earmarked for Somerset Street and the Hill and Harbor area as well as Middle Road, which will be done in the summer of 2016.

f) Appointment to the Housing Authority to fill a vacancy of a five-year term to expire March 31, 2018.

VP Cienki moved to appoint William Sequino, Jr. to the Housing Authority to fill a vacancy of a five-year term to expire March 31, 2018, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

g) Appointment to the Municipal Land Trust to fill a vacancy of a five-year term to expire October 1, 2016.

VP Cienki moved to appoint Kevin Guerette to the Municipal Land Trust to fill a vacancy of a five-year term to expire October 1, 2016, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- h) Appointment to the Personnel Board to fill a vacancy of a three-year term to expire March 31, 2018.

VP Cienki moved to appoint Laurie Horridge Bissonnette to the Personnel Board to fill a vacancy of a three-year term to expire March 31, 2018, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle is expecting the final copy of the audit by the end of January and it will be presented in February. Budgets are due from the Department Heads by January 8<sup>th</sup>.

8) Council Comments

Councilor Schwager asked about grant opportunities from the RI Foundation for municipal projects. Ms. Bourbonnais noted that Cathy Bradley is preparing to apply for the grant. He also inquired about reinvigorating the Town Council's Reminder/Priority List which will be reviewed by President Isaacs and a draft will be recirculated.

Councilor Todd noted that East Greenwich High School was ranked as #1 in the State.

President Isaacs introduced Sarah Jette as legal counsel.

9) Public Comment (15-minute time limit)

There were no public comments.

10) Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

VP Cienki moved to adjourn at 9:26pm, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC  
Town Clerk

**APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL JANUARY 11, 2016**