

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Regular Session**  
**February 22, 2016 @ 7:00pm**  
**Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

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

Town Council Present: M. Isaacs, S. Cienki, W. Stone, S. Todd, (M. Schwager – absent)

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

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

Acknowledgments

None

1) Town Council Minutes

- a) January 25, 2016 (Regular and Executive Sessions)
- b) January 26, 2016 (Special Session)

VP Cienki voted to approve, 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) Finance Report – January 2016

Ms. Benoit reported on the highlights for the monthly financial report. Unemployment benefits, the School Fields Project (also known as the McHale Project) and the School Bond Project were discussed.

3) Public Hearing

- a) Ordinance adopting a codification and revision of the ordinances of the Town of East Greenwich, County of Kent, State of Rhode Island; repealing certain ordinances not included therein; and making certain changes in previously adopted ordinances, including amendments to Chapter A263, Development and Subdivision Review Regulations, made in conjunction with the 2015 update of the Town's Code (SECOND READING).

There were no public comments.

Mr. Clarkin suggested deleting Article I, Building Code Board of Appeals in Chapter 34, Boards, Committees and Commissions. This board does not exist and the Town by default refers to the State Board of Appeals.

Councilor Stone moved to close the public hearing and schedule for third reading on March 14<sup>th</sup>, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Ratification of Commendation for Suzanne M. Cienki for being appointed as the 2016 Rhode Island State Director for the National Foundation for Women Legislators.
- b) Recommendations from the Tax Assessor for additions and abatements to the tax rolls:
  - i. Additions \$6,817.68
  - ii. Abatements \$12,629.63

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

5) Unfinished Business

None

6) New Business

- a) Application for NEW Victualing License for FROZEN DESSERTS, LLC d/b/a Dear Hearts, 1855 South County Trail.

Jeffrey Butler, the applicant, advised that he purchased the property in November and also owns several other Dear Hearts locations throughout Rhode Island.

VP Cienki moved to grant the license subject to all inspections, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- b) Award of contract extension to Santa Buckley Energy, Ltd for the purchase of unleaded gasoline and ultra-low sulfur diesel for the amounts listed on the tabulation sheet.

Councilor Todd moved to approve, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- c) Review of applications for School Committee vacancy and scheduling interviews

Applicants will be scheduled for interviews on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in open session and Council may vote on the same day for an appointment.

d) Parks and Recreation Pay Scale

Ms. Bradley explained that the scale is for seasonal employees and since the State increased minimum wage, these rates needed to be adjusted.

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

e) Debt Service Presentation

Adam Krea with FirstSouthwest spoke about two main topics; the assumptions on the projections for a \$5,000,000 road bond and the Town's overall debt and how the new debt would fit in to the debt profile. He provided details on the bonds projected term, interest rate and cost. If approved by the voters, the Town could issue the bond two ways; through the RI Infrastructure Bank for subsidized financing or by self-issue. He explained the Town's existing general obligation debt as of June 30, 2015. 77% of the Town's outstanding debt is for schools, which is supported by a minimum 35% school housing aid reimbursement. Using a chart, it was shown how the Town's debt decreases significantly over the next four fiscal years, leaving capacity to take on more debt without adding to the debt service budget. Town debt is rolling off faster than School debt and the reimbursements continue. Rating agencies continue to look favorable on the Town and he feels there is no down-side.

A lengthy discussion followed based on Council's questions related to timing to receive exemptions from the General Assembly and any advantages or disadvantages, how much debt is too much, term length and bond ratings. Unissued bonds from older authorized debts were also discussed. It was requested that the chart be revised to show net numbers from school reimbursement. Mr. Krea will also provide a municipal financial ratio analysis provided by Moody's for other New England states. President Isaacs requested other information on amounts less than \$5,000,000 and for the Town Manager to speak with bond counsel Karen Grande regarding approval needed from the General Assembly. Refinancing options will be discussed at a later date. Council could go out to bid to accelerate projects if the main contractor is unable to perform the work as needed. Mr. Krea further explained what options are available to issue the bonds. The Town has historically been ranked very low on the RIDOT list for projects and has not qualified for funding. Mr. Duarte explained how the RI Infrastructure bank ranks applications.

f) Bond Refunding Opportunity

Tabled

7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle has been working on the budget and plans on presenting a draft of revenues at the next meeting.

8) Council Comments

President Isaacs will work with the Clerk to schedule interviews for Boards and Commissions. Councilor Todd and VP Cienki support consolidation of IT functions between Town and School.

9) Public Comment (15-minute time limit)

None

10) Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation and (5) related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

VP Cienki moved to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation and (5) related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, seconded by Councilor Todd. Roll call vote 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- a) Personnel Policies and Contractual Agreement between the Town of East Greenwich and East Greenwich Firefighters Association IAFF Local 3328 from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.
- b) Union negotiations
- c) Update on any pending or previously settled litigation cases
- d) Harris Marina
- e) 333 Main Street

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 add for discussion purposes only the topic of the Hill and Harbor Neighborhood and their interactions with the Kent County Water Authority (KCWA), seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

A brief discussion followed on the type of information the residents in the Hill and Harbor neighborhood have been requesting from the KCWA. It was noted that the residents can contact the Department of Health if they have any concerns over the integrity of their water. Council agreed to continue to speak with Peter Masterson, the Town's appointed representative to the KCWA Board, to help facilitate a resolution.

VP Cienki moved to adjourn at 9:30pm, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC, Town Clerk

**APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL MARCH 14, 2016**