

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Session
March 28, 2016 @ 6:00pm
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:00pm ~ Interviews for Boards and Commissions

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

Town Staff Present: T. Coyle, III, L. Botello

- Neal McNamara for Municipal Land Trust

Mr. McNamara is an experienced labor and employment attorney and served on the Planning Board from 1991-2000. He expressed secondary interest in the Personnel Board and has experience with personnel manuals, etc. He has worked with Pat at Boesch Farm previously and further discussed the Town's involvement in the farm.

- Jennifer Suellentrop for Municipal Land Trust/Historic Cemetery Adv. Com.

Ms. Suellentrop moved from New York City and is an asset management attorney with Fidelity. Her family enjoys the properties offered by the Land Trust and she has an interest in history and cemeteries. She has volunteered with the Historical Cemetery cleanups and wants to increase awareness at the Boesch Farm.

- Marc Gertsacov for Municipal Land Trust

Mr. Gertsacov is a Cranston native and a real estate attorney. He is familiar with the Boesch Farm and has ideas to engage the public and encourage their involvement in other Land Trust properties. He is also familiar with the Board of Assessment Review process (college internship) and the Zoning Board (represented Burrillville Land Trust).

- Derek Steinbrenner for Personnel Board or Municipal Land Trust

Mr. Steinbrenner relocated from Boston to join his father as a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley in Newport, who was also a former City Manager in Newport. He has experience with HR policies, needs assessments and would focus on bringing past policies to the future. His interest in the Land Trust is a personal interest only and he would like to help promote usage.

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, P. Clarkin, K. Benoit, J. Duarte, C. Bradley, R. McGillivray, M. Sullivan, S. Brown, S. Cirella, J. Peixinho

At 7:04pm, President Isaacs called the meeting order and led the assembly in the Pledge of

Allegiance to the America Flag.

Acknowledgments

- Cole and EGHS Students International Economic Summit
- EGHS All-State Athletes Fall 2015
- Nethaneel Jarrell and Daniel O’Hara of the EGHS Wrestling Team for winning the George Schneider Memorial Hurricane Invitational Championship Match
- EGHS Girls Indoor Track and Field Team for winning Division II Championship

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

Students received a commendation from the Town Council and citations from the House of Representatives on behalf of Representative Anthony Giarrusso. Senator Mark Gee presented citations from the Senate to students who participated in the International Economic Summit.

1) Town Council Minutes

- a) March 7, 2016 (Special Session)
- b) March 14, 2016 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

Councilor Stone moved to approve, seconded by VP Cienki. 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)

None

President Isaacs reported that he received a call from Governor Raimondo congratulating the Town on being the recipient of a \$32,000 grant for Main Street offered by the RI Commerce Corporation for Main Street. Ms. Bourbonnais and the Planning Department were acknowledged for their work on the grant application submission, which the Governor said was well done.

- b) Finance Report – February 2016

Ms. Benoit reported on the highlights for the monthly financial report including departmental expenditures. Collections on sewer assessments have been positive.

3) Public Hearing

- a) An ordinance in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 34, “Boards, Committees and Commissions” by deleting and repealing Article I, “Building

Code Board of Appeals". (SECOND READING).

The Town no longer has this board so it is being removed from the Code.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Stone moved to close the Public Hearing and move to third reading on April 11th, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- b) An ordinance in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 248, "Vehicles and Traffic", Article II "Operation", Section 248-16 "Throughways designated" to amend as noted and Section 248-19 "Multiway stop intersections" to add new subsections related to Liberty Street, Union Street and Somerset Street (SECOND READING).

The amendment was passed as an emergency ordinance on March 14th to allow for the installation of stop signs.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Todd moved to close the public hearing and move to third reading on April 11th, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Recommendation from the Tax Assessor for Abatements to the 2015 Real Estate and Motor Vehicle Tax Rolls totaling \$7,975.22.
- b) Application for Class F Alcoholic Beverage License for St. Elizabeth Home Concert Fundraiser at Westminster Unitarian Church on April 15, 2016.

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

5) Unfinished Business

- a) Report on the status of the Howland Farm Road sewer and paving project.

Joe Farside, 14 Howland Farm Road, reported that gating issues related to the intersection at Cedar Avenue have been resolved and an agreement has been made with the DPW. Neighbors have approved moving forward with the second phase involving Peter Nolan and Alpha Engineering on roads and drainage. The goal is to come to a mutual agreement to draw up plans and legal documents and present them to all 14 property owners to sign off on. He cannot give 100% guarantee at this time but is optimistic. Due to engineering, legal documents and further discussion with the DPW, he anticipates it could take another 4 weeks.

Mr. Duarte explained the project involves taking a private road and turning it over to the Town for public amenities including sewers. An agreement was made to manage the vegetation at the intersection of Howland Farm Road and Cedar Avenue. The RI Infrastructure Bank is pressuring the Town to move on the project as the bond is six years old. He anticipates at least 3 months of work still needs to be completed. An administrative subdivision is required for one lot that encompasses the access road and he still has to go out to bid. Mr. Duarte has been providing verbal updates to the bank to protect the funds for a while longer.

Discussion continued about unanimous approval of the agreement, establishing sewer and road improvements assessments amongst all neighbors. Mr. Farside commented that the consensus is to make it a unanimous decision and that the payment of assessments will be resolved between the neighbors. He briefly explained how the project has been facilitated up to this point.

6) New Business

a) 4th of July Fireworks

Steve Mendes, Cove Commission member, explained that he received a proposal from another resident, Dr. Joanne Lewis that she would be willing to pay for a display if he coordinated it. He gave details on his progress so far and is seeking Council's approval to have the event in the cove, borrow lighting from DPW and have the fire/police/harbormaster available for public safety.

Crowds are anticipated at Goddard Park which will be fully staffed and at Scalloptown Park. DPW would have to rent lights costing approximately \$1,100 to rent for one day. Police, Fire and the Harbormaster would receive double time for holiday pay.

Mr. Coyle anticipates the cost to the Town would be approximately \$10,000 for personnel and overtime and is not included in the FY 2017 budget.

Discussion followed on a traffic and pedestrian management plan between both Warwick and East Greenwich and sharing costs. Warwick is supplying their Harbormaster. The fireworks cost \$25,000 and the port-a-potty's cost \$1,000. The donor is willing to financially support the event in year one and open it up to other sponsors in following years.

The general consensus was that there are many benefits to the Town by having this event but the financial impact is a concern. Many other community groups that provide services to the Town ask for funds annually and are declined due to budgetary constraints. Displays in other communities were discussed as well as an alternative date to hold the event.

- b) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 248, "Vehicles and Traffic", Article II "Operation", Section 248-16 "Throughways designated" to amend as noted and Section 248-19 "Multiway stop intersections" to add new subsection related to Second Street and Fourth Avenue (FIRST READING).

The amendment will allow for additional stop signs at the intersection of Second Street and Fourth Avenue.

VP Cienki moved to introduce on first reading and set for public hearing on April 11th, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- c) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 260 Zoning, Article III Zoning Districts, Section 260-10 Districts by Assessor's Plat and Zoning Map Amendment for property owned by RIDOT at the intersection of Frenchtown Road and Route 4 (FIRST READING).

The amendment will create a zone for a parcel that is part of a potential project with the Housing Authority.

Councilor Stone moved to introduce on first reading and set for public hearing on April 25th, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- d) Discussion regarding a proposed RESOLUTION of the Financial Town Meeting to finance the energy efficiency improvements in school buildings and other municipal buildings.

Discussed a project administered by National Grid and the RI Infrastructure Bank where municipalities can issue bonds to finance energy efficiency improvements; whereas the potential savings would neutralize the anticipated costs. The results are not guaranteed.

Mr. Duarte said he was looking at projects at Town Hall and Town House (LED lighting, HVAC) and the number is more like \$200,000. The School Department is looking for \$2,000,000 for their own projects but a decision needs to be made now. The School Department has yet to present their ideas to the Town. School projects are not subject to reimbursement under this program. Short term projects versus long term projects were discussed. The School Department has just recently been discussing their projects and the need to act quickly. Details remain unclear and reimbursements are not available. Legislation already exists to allow municipalities to go for these bonds without voter approval. The concept is to move forward with shovel-ready projects using financial options available right now.

- e) Authorization for the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Tighe & Bond to provide Engineering Design and Construction Services for the improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility in the amount of \$869,500.

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

- f) Reduction of a performance bond in the amount of \$39,880 for Stone Ridge Section 12 Subdivision, leaving a balance of \$62,269.

Solicitor Clarkin suggested not reducing the bond at this point because the affordable unit has never been built which was a condition of the development.

No motion made.

7) Town Manager's Report

Proposed budget for FY 2017 will be presented by April 1st.

8) Council Comments

None

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.

Councilor Todd 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 Stone. Roll call vote 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- a) Union negotiations
- b) Update on any pending or previously settled litigation cases
- c) Harris Marina
- d) 333 Main Street

Following the Executive Session, VP Cienki move to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to seal the Executive Session minutes, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to adjourn, seconded by President Isaacs. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL APRIL 11, 2016