

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Budget Work Session and Regular Session**  
**April 25, 2016 @ 6:00pm**  
**Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

6:00pm ~ Budget Work Session

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

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

Presentations by Department Heads for FY 2017

- Department of Public Works – Joseph Duarte, Director

Mr. Duarte gave explanations for increases in employee related expenses including a request for temporary help during the summer months and additional overtime. Discussion followed regarding variances in operating expenses including advertising, collection refuse, contract cost solid waste (tipping fees), landfill monitoring, electricity, equipment maintenance, water, street lights, lantern repairs, books and subscriptions, auto parts and supplies, building maintenance and painting, drainage maintenance, clothing, heating fuel and street markings. Discussion continued on revenues and the possibility of increasing all fees by 10%. Reductions are expected in late filing fees and inspection fees. Capital outlay requests were discussed and consist of a Ford 550 utility truck, Ford tractor mower, pay-loader tires, snow plow, court house maintenance, furnace/hot water heater, valves and pumps and asphalt. A lengthy discussion followed on several items, especially the repair and/or replacement of the slate roof on Town Hall.

- Fire Department – Russell McGillivray, Chief

Continued to April 27, 2016

- Police Department – Colonel Stephen Brown, Chief

Continued to April 27, 2016

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, W. Schmidle, S. Brown, S. Cirella, L. Bourbonnais, R. McGillivray, M. Sullivan, P. Aveyard

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

## Acknowledgments

- Employee Service Awards for 2014 Anniversaries
- EGHS Girls Swim Team for winning the Division II Championship
- Municipal Clerk's Week May 1 – 7, 2016
- Women's Lung Health Week
- Arbor Day April 29<sup>th</sup>

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

All employees and students in attendance were recognized and congratulated. Ms. Botello was presented with the proclamation for Municipal Clerk's Week. Proclamations for Women's Lung Health Week and Arbor Day were read to the assembly by President Isaacs.

### 1) Town Council Minutes

- a) April 11, 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)

Aimee Heru voiced her concerns regarding the unveiling of two wooden sculptures at the EG Historic Preservation Society; specifically the one depicting a shackled black male. She requested that it be removed as she felt it is offensive public signage. It was suggested that she contact the EG Historical Preservation Society as it is not a Town building,

- b) Finance Report – March 2016

Ms. Benoit reported on the highlights for the monthly financial report including departmental expenditures. More information was requested on the School Bond Project and overages in the IT budget and Claims were explained.

### 3) Public Hearing

- a) ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 260 Zoning, Section 260-6 Terms Defined and ATTACHMENT A (Section 260A), Table I, Table of Permitted Uses related to self-storage facilities and breweries (SECOND READING).

Ms. Bourbonnais explained that the amendment was generated by an applicant who is interested in adaptively reusing the post office building as self-storage which is in a commercial highway zone. This change would accommodate these types of facilities as a use permitted by right in certain zones and does not affect the zoning map. Brewpubs are not currently dealt with from a land use perspective but inquiries are increasing and need to be addressed. The language is modeled after other rural and urban communities and state law. Discussion followed on other options available to accommodate the request for new self-storage facilities; such as zoning variances and merging or expanding lots for existing facilities. The 'red' zone for future commercial land use was explained. Proposed plans for the current post office building were discussed as it has been on the market for two years. The owner of the adjacent self-storage facility has made an offer and will allow the post office to maintain its retail presence until another a permanent location is found. The Planning Board supports this amendment.

There were no public comments.

VP Cienki moved to close the Public Hearing and amend the ordinance to delete the change to self-storage facilities, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Stone moved to move the amended ordinance to Third Reading, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- b) 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 to zone as Mixed Use Planned Development (SECOND READING).

This amendment would create a parcel and assign a zone to a piece of property that is located on the Route 4 corridor. Ownership could then be transferred to allow new owners to seek financing and begin the design and engineering process for the specific use of the property.

Frank Spinella, a consultant for Cove Homes, Inc., explained they have been through the planning process to create the lot, which is subject to final approval subject to a zoning designation. The lot and subdivision will then be recorded and RI Housing is providing bridge funds for the project to purchase from DOT.

Councilor Stone moved to close the Public Hearing and move to third reading, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- c) RESOLUTION authorizing submittal of a Community Development Block Grant application for Plan Year 2016.

Ms. Bourbonnais explained how the program works and that the Town has been applying for over 40 years. Funds pass through the Federal Government from HUD to the State's Division of Planning and then to municipalities. Six (6) sub-recipients have applied and most have been previously funded in the past. In 2015, the Town received \$141,000 and has applied for \$136,000 this year of which \$10,000 goes to Geoff Marchant to administer the consortium.

Marcia Sullivan, Director of the Housing Authority, explained the funds would help finish the upgrades to the last four (4) public housing units by replacing boilers and hot water heaters. The next project is to begin painting the exterior of the building over several years.

Janet Kenney, Director of London Bridge Learning Center, explained the funds help assist families that do not meet other requirements for child care and subsidizes programs for child care.

Councilor Schwager moved to approve the resolution authorizing submittal of a Community Development Block Grant application for Plan Year 2016, seconded by Councilor Stone.

A lengthy discussion followed about the State's consolidated housing plan and the AFFH (Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing) rules, federal, state and local regulations, the application and award process.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Approval of Opening Day Parade for East Greenwich Little League on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- b) Recommendation from the Tax Assessor for Abatements to the 2015 Real Estate Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,910.98.
- c) Approval of Outdoor Sidewalk Liquor Service for May 1 through July 31

Dante's Kitchen, 315 Main Street  
La Masseria, 223 Main Street  
Rasa, 149 Main Street  
Main Street Coffee, 137 Main Street

Fat Belly's, 241 Main Street  
Grille on Main, 50 Main Street  
Red Stripe, 455 Main Street

The application for the Grille on Main in Item 4c was pulled for separate discussion.

VP Cienki moved to approve the Consent Calendar except for the approval for the Grille on Main, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

The Grille on Main owes 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter real estate taxes that were due March 15<sup>th</sup>. The item was tabled until May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

5) Unfinished Business

- a) Presentation of potential bond refunding opportunity by Adam Krea of First Southwest.

Mr. Krea provided a detailed explanation of a few scenarios that would allow the Town to lower debt service by taking advantage of some bond refunding opportunities. Council discussed the budgetary impact which was shown by fiscal year; specifically related to 2004 (schools and open

space), 2008 (sewers) and a combination of both sets of general obligation bonds. More information was requested on the total projected savings for school bonds including reductions in RIDE housing aid to allow the Town to safely deduct from the budget.

b) 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks

The Town has been named as an additional insured on the liability insurance policy and has been approved by the Town's insurance representative. The costs to the Town were revisited and reduced and a site visit is scheduled for next week. Council discussed if there was a contractual agreement between the fireworks company and the sponsor, West Bay Dental Group. The item was continued to May 2<sup>nd</sup> to allow the Solicitor time to review the contract.

- c) 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 (THIRD READING).

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

6) New Business

- a) RESOLUTION opposing S 2263 and H 8080 relating to Elections – School Closings.

Councilor Stone moved to approve, seconded by VP Cienki.

Discussion followed on the validity of the clause stating that 205 polling facilities would need to find alternate locations.

Councilor Schwager moved to amend the resolution and strike the third whereas clause, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Voted 5-0 all in favor to approve the resolution as amended, motion carried.

- b) Authorization of a five year extension of the mandatory sanitary sewer connects for the residents in the Cedar Heights Service Area.

VP Cienki moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Schwager.

Mr. Duarte explained the five year extension came from negotiations with DEM. Delays in the past five years came from certain residents not wanting to be told what to do and from financial hardships noted by residents. 65% are already tied in.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- c) Reappointments to the Planning Board

- Christopher Russo as a regular member for a 3-year term to expire May 1, 2019.
- Daniel Tagliatela as a regular member for a 3-year term to expire May 1, 2019.
- David Eaton as an alternate member for a 2-year term to expire May 1, 2018.

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

7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle advised about Opening Day for EG Little League, the commencement at NEIT and Arts on Main and Chalk the Block events.

8) Council Comments

Councilor Stone requested that more appointments to Boards and Commissions be placed on upcoming agendas since the Council has fallen behind in appointments.

President Isaacs confirmed the upcoming meeting schedule for budget work sessions.

Councilor Todd asked for support on electionday as a delegate for Donald Trump.

VP Cienki noted that the Relay for Life is taking place at the EG High School.

9) Public Comment (15-minute time limit)

There were no public comments.

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 Stone 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 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, Councilor Stone moved to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried. Councilor Stone moved to seal the Executive Session minutes, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried. Councilor Stone moved to adjourn at 9:35pm, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC, Town Clerk **APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL JUNE 13, 2016**