

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Regular Session**  
**May 9, 2016 @ 6:30pm**  
**Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

6:30pm ~ ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL GROUP PHOTO - RESCHEDULED

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

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

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

Others: C. Malaga

At 7:03pm, 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 2015
- Peter Cienki for placing 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the RI State Academic Decathlon – continued
- East Greenwich Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2016
- 2016 Service to Sports Award
- Anthony “Tar Tar” Ucci Award

Peter Cienki’s commendation was continued and the Hall of Fame, Service to Sports and Anthony “Tar Tar” Ucci awards will be presented at a separate ceremony.

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

Several Town employees were recognized for their years of service in 2014 and 2015.

1) Town Council Minutes

None

2) Reports and Communications

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

None

3) Public Hearing

None

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Recommendation from the Tax Assessor for tax abatements from the 2015 Real Estate and Motor Vehicle tax roll in the amount of \$868.92.

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

5) Unfinished Business

- 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 (THIRD READING).

Ms. Bourbonnais explained that the self-storage provisions were modified to add a footnote to replace blanket permissions in specific circumstances where a self-storage facility already exists or is on an adjacent lot. A handout was disseminated with another version for consideration.

John C. Revens, Jr., representing Tony Victoria, explained that an agreement is in place for Mr. Victoria to purchase the land that the post office currently sits on. He provided some details about the lease and the plans to convert the building into a storage facility. He stated that the language currently being recommended would terminate the agreement due to ownership restrictions. The newest version he presented would prohibit the use of self-storage facilities in a CH zone and modify the footnote to allow the use only if a self-storage facility is already in existence or is built on an abutting conforming parcel. Another option would be to strike the “common ownership” language as presented by Ms. Bourbonnais.

Discussion followed on how to proceed with what has been presented and the interpretation of what ‘visually screened’ means.

Jeffrey Gladstone felt this was an inappropriate use of the property and that it goes against the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Bourbonnais pointed out that Mr. Gladstone’s comments were legally incorrect and retorted that the Town would not be in danger of running afoul of the Comp Plan based on this use in a commercial or “red” zone. She clarified what spot zoning is and a discussion followed on the length of time the post office has been on the market. She also showed the future land use map in color.

President Isaacs moved to amend the ordinance to add the portion on self-storage and footnote 9 as presented except striking the language “...and is under the same ownership.”, seconded by

Councilor Todd. After further discussion, it was voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.  
Councilor Stone moved to adopt the ordinance on third reading as amended, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0- 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 (THIRD READING).

The ordinance assigns a lot and zone to a parcel allowing the ownership to be transferred from RI DOT to Cove Homes.

Councilor Stone moved to approve on third reading, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- c) Discussion and adoption of Budget FY2017
  - Dredging

Discussion and adoption of the budget was rescheduled to accommodate VP Cienki.

Dan Speca, President of the Odeum Corporation, spoke about their request for grant money from the Town in the amount of \$2,000 to cover the costs of asbestos abatements and state fire permits. He gave a visual tour using a poster board to explain the renovation plans.

Ms. Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner, requested that the \$30,000 called out in the FY 2017 Capital Outlay for dredging could now be used instead to hire a consultant to formulate an engineered Waterfront Master Plan to include dredging and a Town marina. The proposed amount came from dredging being done on the Warwick side. Approvals from CRMC, DEM and Army Corps are needed which the consultant could help with.

Discussion continued on the geographic area of a potential marina and getting more input from the Cove Commission on the scope of the entire project. The current location of the transfer station is a sensitive issue for many residents. It was decided that more research needs to be done to see what the \$30,000 would get the Town and then begin to prioritize neighborhood plans from there. Additionally, CRMC is involved in fixing the hole at the bottom of boat ramp. The Main Street Plan was discussed since implementing over the past five years and that more improvements are planned on being implemented in the near future.

Council discussed several proposed changes and items up for discussion on the budget; particularly an increase to school appropriations, repairs to tennis courts, curb stop and control valve and removing modules and adding Novus Agenda in IT.

Discussion continued to May 11, 2016.

Ms. Hitchen added that the Cove Commission suggested increasing mooring fees and dingy rack fees and possibly building a new dinghy rack if the kayak launch at Scalloptown is approved. The Harbormaster thinks more moorings could be made available in the cove if approved by CRMC. Discussion was continued to May 11th.

6) New Business (1:19)

a) Approval of the submittal of grant applications to RI DEM for projects to remain as Recreation in perpetuity

- Observation deck at Barbara Tufts playground
- Kayak launch at Scalloptown Park
- Re-constructing small Town dock with second float

Ms. Bradley presented three projects designed to improve the waterfront and benefit the Town that are DEM approved. Funds are available in the Recreation Impact Fee Fund to cover the Town's matching funds appropriation in the amount of \$54,000. Discussion followed on the Town dock project in relation to the possibility of a Town marina and the best location for the kayak launch. The grant application process was explained.

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

b) Resolution supporting H 8005 Student Transportation Legislation Revisions

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

c) Resolution supporting legislation restoring funding for the State Aid to Libraries to the full 25 percent.

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

d) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 93 FEES, Article I FEE SCHEDULE, Section 93-1 SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES to increase fees for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, Victualing Licenses, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Fees and the addition of a Zoning Certificate Fee EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016 (FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION).

Councilor Stone moved to pass on first reading and set for Public Hearing on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

e) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 38 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, Section 38-4 SCHEDULE OF PERMIT FEES to increase fees for Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Permits; and fees by

10% EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016 (FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION).  
Councilor Stone moved to pass on first reading and set for Public Hearing on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- f) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 248 Vehicles and Traffic, Article III Parking, Stopping, Standing, Section 248-46 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF PROSECUTION FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS to increase fees EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016 (FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION).

Councilor Stone moved to pass on first reading and set for Public Hearing on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- g) A RESOLUTION requesting an amendment to Chapter 3-7 of the General Laws to authorize the Town of East Greenwich to grant exemptions pertaining to alcoholic beverages, retail licenses.

The amendment would amend the general laws to allow for exemptions within the 200' rule pertaining to schools and churches and would list specific addresses for which exemptions could be granted.

Councilor Stone moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Todd. After further discussion on the reason for the amended language, it was voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- h) Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- Regular member to the Board of Assessment Review to fill a vacancy for a 3-year term to expire July 1, 2016.

Councilor Stone moved to appoint Mark Gertsacov as a regular member to the Board of Assessment Review to fill a vacancy for a 3-year term to expire July 1, 2016, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- Regular member to the Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission to fill a vacancy for a 3-year term to expire November 30, 2018.

Councilor Stone moved to appoint Kathleen Healey as a regular member to the Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission to fill a vacancy for a 3-year term to expire November 30, 2018, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- Alternate member to the Juvenile Hearing Board to fill a vacancy for a 1-year term to expire December 1, 2016.

Councilor Stone moved to appoint Leanne Zarrella as an alternate member to the Juvenile Hearing Board to fill a vacancy for a 1-year term to expire December 1, 2016, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- Regular member to the Municipal Land Trust to fill a vacancy for a 5-year term to

expire October 1, 2017.

Councilor Stone moved to appoint Jennifer Suellentrop as a regular member to the Municipal Land Trust to fill a vacancy for a 5-year term to expire October 1, 2017, seconded by Councilor Todd. After further discussion on which applicant to assign to which term, it was voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- Regular member to the Municipal Land Trust to fill a vacancy for a 5-year term to expire March 1, 2021.

Councilor Stone moved to appoint Neal McNamara as a regular member to the Municipal Land Trust to fill a vacancy for a 5-year term to expire March 1, 2021 effective as of August 1, 2016, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- Regular member to the Personnel Board to fill a vacancy for a 3-year term to expire March 31, 2019.

Councilor Stone moved to appoint Derek Steinbrenner as a regular member to the Personnel Board to fill a vacancy for a 3-year term to expire March 31, 2019, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

#### 7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle reported that the Chalk the Block event was rescheduled to Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### 8) Council Comments

Councilor Todd attended the EG Little League opening day ceremony and reported that the field was in good condition thanks to the Town.

President Isaacs received a letter from Kent County Water Authority regarding a large increase in fire hydrant fees. He asked the Town Manager to talk to other communities.

#### 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 Schwager 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) Union negotiations
- b) Update on any pending or previously settled litigation cases

Following the Executive Session, Councilor Stone moved to return to open session, seconded by Councilor Todd. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Todd moved to seal the executive session minutes, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

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

Leigh A. Botello, CMC

Town Clerk

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