

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Regular Session**  
**July 11, 2016 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

6:00 pm ~ Interviews for Boards and Commissions

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

Town Staff Present: L. Botello

- Robert Vespia for the Planning Board

Mr. Vespia would like to see better communication between developers and abutters on large projects. Advisory boards are not of interest to him. Vacancies on other boards were reviewed, but his first choice is the Planning Board. He is retired and does not foresee any conflicts.

Ms. Botello administered the oath of office to Deepak Vishnu for another term on the Personnel Board. His schedule would not allow for him to take the oath during normal business hours at Town Hall.

- Nathaniel Ginsburg for the Planning Board

Mr. Ginsburg is an architect who is looking to get involved and use his professional skills. He had previously applied to the Historic District Commission but is interested in learning more about the planning process. Currently, he does not have any clients in Town and mostly practices on the institutional side and higher education. He has experience presenting to planning boards and ensuring compliance with regulations and he is a member of the National Fire Protection Association. There are no foreseeable conflicts of interest or agenda for him. Additionally, he has experience with renovations related to affordable housing initiatives.

- Elyse Pare for Board of Assessment Review

Ms. Pare is the current Tax Assessor in Woonsocket and comes highly recommended by Janice Peixinho. She was formerly the Deputy Assessor in Providence. The discussion focused on different evaluation methods for both commercial and residential properties. She is an advocate of fostering good relationships during the appeal process to ensure residents understand the analysis. Terms on the board were explained and expectations as a member.

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 – absent)

Town Staff Present: T. Coyle, L. Botello, K. Benoit, J. Duarte, T. Walsh, L. Bourbonnais, L. Anthony Hitchen, S. Brown, S. Cirella, R. McGillivray, P. Clarkin

Others: C. Malaga

At 7:07pm, President Isaacs called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. A moment of silence was observed in memory of former Town Councilor, School Committee and Board Member Carl Hoyer who passed away and also for the Dallas police officers.

### Acknowledgments

- Cole Middle School Drama Club for winning production of Disney's Aladdin Jr.
- Gene Dumas for serving over two years on the Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission
- Gregory Dantas for serving over one year on the Board of Assessment Review
- Doug Brown for serving over twenty-two years on the Municipal Land Trust
- Tracie Truesdell for nine years of service to the Farmer's Market

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

Barbara Brusini accepted the commendation on behalf of the Cole Middle School Drama Club. Gene Dumas and Tracie Truesdell were present to accept their commendations.

### 1) Town Council Minutes

- a) April 27, 2016 (Special and Executive Sessions)
- b) May 9, 2016 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

Councilor Stone moved to approve, seconded by VP Cienki. 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) Financial Report - May 2016

Ms. Benoit provided details for the monthly financial report including departmental expenditures that are over budget. Discussed receivables, tax collections and anticipated year end numbers. The Trust OPEB account made favorable gains and the Town received the Government Finance Officer's award of achievement for the audit.

### 3) Public Hearing

None

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Recommendation from the Tax Assessor for abatements to the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015 motor vehicle and 2015 real estate tax roll in the amount of \$1,989.94.
- b) RENEWAL of Holiday Sales License for Preamble Consignment, 575 Main Street

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

5) Unfinished Business

- a) An ORDINANCE in amendment of Chapter 15 Alcoholic Beverages, Section 15-8 entitled Outdoor Sidewalk Liquor Service to extend the allowable hours to serve by one hour (THIRD READING).

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

6) New Business

- a) Ordinance in amendment of the Zoning Ordinance Chapter 260 and Comprehensive Plan to re-zone property on the south side of Middle Road (near pole #104) known as Map 52, Plat 11, Lot 499 and a portion of Lot 500 (FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION).

VP Cienki moved to introduce on First Reading and set for Public Hearing on August 22, seconded by Councilor Stone. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

b) Town Hall roof replacement

Ms. Hitchen explained that the roof on the original portion of the building has reached the end of its useful life; slates are falling off and it is leaking. Cost estimates are \$445,000 for new slate roofing and \$210,000 for asphalt. A state preservation grant is available through the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission for up to \$150,000. In order to be eligible, the Town must replace slate with slate because of the building's historic nature and match the grant dollar for dollar. A letter of intent to apply has been submitted. A discussion ensued about any left-over monies from an older bond from 1993 which is not expected to be available and line items in the cost estimates. Mr. Duarte spoke about what safety measures to take around Town Hall that may be more aesthetically pleasing than orange caution tape. If the Town is awarded any amount of grant money, the project must begin by December 2017. There was a brief discussion on the parameters on which to accept the grant and the bidding process. Mr. Duarte said that any new repairs are too dangerous. The HDC strongly recommends replacing slate with slate and possibly "selling a slate" to generate funds. Budgeting for the project in the future was discussed including other major repairs such as replacement windows, new condenser, etc. It was the general consensus to maintain the building's historic character.

- c) Approval of salary increases for Department Heads effective July 1, 2016.

These increases have already been approved in the budget but still require Council's approval.

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

- d) Vote on ballot question for November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election for \$5,000,000 road bond:

“Shall an act passed at the 2016 session of the General Assembly entitled “AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REHABILITATION, REPAIR, IMPROVEMENT AND LANDSCAPING OF ROADS, SIDEWALKS AND DRAINAGE FACILITIES IN THE TOWN, AND ALL COSTS INCIDENTAL OR RELATED THERETO INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ENGINEERING COSTS AND APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES THEREFOR IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000 be approved?”

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

#### 7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks went well and there will be some minor changes for next year with lighting and personnel. A post event meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss future funding and recognizing the sponsors.

#### 8) Council Comments

VP Cienki asked about the correlation between the Employee Assistance Program offers and the Drug Program. Mr. Coyle will meet with Mr. Houghtaling and advise.

#### 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 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 VP Cienki. Roll call vote 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

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

c) 333 Main Street

Following the Executive Session, Councilor Stone moved to return 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 Schwager moved to adjourn at 8:15pm, seconded by VP Cienki. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC  
Town Clerk

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**