

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Regular Session**  
**January 23, 2017 @ 7:00pm**  
**Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

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

Town Council Present: S. Cienki, S. Todd, A. Deutsch, N. Granatiero, M. Schwager

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

Others: C. Malaga

President Cienki called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Acknowledgments

\* Len Curado for serving over 10 years on the Juvenile Hearing Board

Mr. Curado was unable to attend.

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

1) Town Council Minutes

a) January 9, 2107 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

VP Todd moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Deutsch. 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)

VP Todd made a statement apologizing for comments he made on social media over the weekend.

Cheri Moss, 85 Laurel Wood, spoke in support of VP Todd.

Lila Zarrella, representing the U Matter Club at East Greenwich High School, spoke about their participation in the Women's March and the importance of empowering each other.

Cecil Dennis, 80 Mendon Lane, North Kingstown and former East Greenwich resident spoke

about her participation in the Women's March, asked VP Todd to be more respectful and thanked him for his apology.

Justine Caldwell, 8 Aurora Road, spoke about her experience at the Women's March and suggested that VP Todd make a donation or volunteer at a woman's organization.

Sadie Swanson, 38 Green Street and 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Eldredge Elementary, spoke about her experience at the Women's March and how VP Todd's tweet made her feel.

Doug Alexander, 20 Devon Court, spoke about his family's experience at the Women's March, reminded Council of their collective responsibilities and that he supports his wife.

Kate Goldman, 200 Kenyon Avenue, called upon President Cienki to issue a statement for the removal of VP Todd from the Town Council.

Kristen Whitaker from East Providence spoke about her experience at the Women's March and citizens' right to protest.

Tara Walsh, 50 Wildwood Trail, spoke about her experience at the Women's March and requested the resignation of VP Todd.

Patricia Flanagan, 1425 Diplomat Drive, spoke about the value and message of the Women's March and her dismay with the lack of understanding and fundamental disrespect towards the community and democracy by VP Todd.

Tanya Glover, 220 First Avenue, called for the resignation of VP Todd.

Laurel Proulx, 18 Sleepy Hollow Road, spoke out of inspiration and expressed her support for the freedom of speech and her disappointment as a voter.

Frederick Tremble, 130 Cindyann Drive, a Marine veteran made reference to an influential quote "Mind your thoughts. They'll become your words. Mind your words. They'll become your actions. Mind your actions for they become your reputation".

Stacia Walmsley of Cranston spoke about her experience at the Woman's March and urged Council to do better because everyone is watching.

Councilor Schwager remarked on the importance of public comments and encouraged all citizens to stay involved.

Council took a brief recess.

b) Financial Report December 2016

Ms. Benoit provided highlights on the financials through the month of December 2016 including departmental expenditures that are over budget. An explanation was provided on debt service

related to schools and its inclusion in the Town's budget. The Fire Department's overtime account is now under control. The Town Manager will supply more information.

c) Review of 2016 EG Drug Program

Item continued to February 13, 2017.

d) Presentation on Planning Department

Ms. Bourbonnais gave an interactive slide presentation on the Town's history and geography and local land use regulations. Organizational structure and staffing functions were provided as well as an overview on the Boards and Commissions supported by this department. Pending residential developments were explained as were details on several grants which received from RI Commerce Corporation and RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission. She noted she is working in conjunction with other departments on the LEAN initiative which is related to streamlining the business and permit licensing process. Explanations of the Comprehensive Community Plan and Capital Improvements were provided. In 2017, the department is looking at record-breaking development submissions, on-going grant and project management, comp plan implementation and budget priorities such as waterfront plan and impact fee study. She stressed the importance of land use and development.

A discussion followed on the priorities and current developments that could affect the Comp Plan over the next ten years.

e) Presentation on Human and Senior Services Department

Ms. McAndrew provided details on the department's staff/responsibilities, newsletter distribution and 2016 statistics for both senior and human services programs. She noted that Rhode Island has the highest population of adults over 85 in the nation and in East Greenwich; approximately 17-21% of adults are 60 or older. The catering program is going well and she meets regularly with them.

3) Public Hearing

- a) Approval of TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP of Class BV Alcoholic Beverage License with requisite Victualing License including Entertainment FROM Mozzarella's of East Greenwich, Inc. d/b/a Fitzzy's Pub TO 5702 Post Road Corporation d/b/a Fitzzy's Pub located at 5702 Post Road.

VP Todd moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Schwager.

Linda Fraunfelter, Gary Paveo and Anthony Medeiros were present. Ms. Fraunfelter advised they are in the process of purchase and sales. Mr. Paveo provided BCI checks, TIPS and foot safety certifications to the Clerk.

The Clerk noted that there were outstanding tangible taxes with the Town and two objections were received from McLaughlin and Moran and Sinapi Law on behalf of RI Distributing.

Mr. Paveo stated that the current owner paid the tangibles last week. The Clerk will confirm. He has been in contact with the owners to clear up the debts owed to the distributors.

The Clerk noted the transfer is subject to the all inspections and the receipt of a Certificate of Good Standing from the Division of Taxation. Transfers are granted for 30 days.

VP Todd moved to amend the original motion to insert the words “ ... pending payment to the vendors, all real estate taxes and such”, seconded by Councilor Deutsch.

The applicants plan on running the business as is with a few small improvements keeping it a family oriented pub.

The Clerk reiterated the approval is subject to all inspections, payment of objectionable debts and Town taxes and the receipt of a Certificate of Good Standing from the Division of Taxation within 30 days.

The applicants were given copies of the objections.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

4) Consent Calendar

a) Appointment of Tree Warden and Deputy Tree Warden for 2017

Mr. Duarte explained the necessity for a Tree Warden based on State law and DEM regulations.

VP Todd moved to approve the appointment of Mike Schreffler as the Tree Warden and Maureen Schreffler as the Deputy Tree Warden, seconded by Councilor Schwager.

Councilor Schwager advised that Elizabeth McNamara, President of the EG Tree Council, had requested that another arborist from North Kingstown be considered for the position. The deadline to appoint the Tree Warden is by the end of January. The Solicitor had no issues with the appointment of husband and wife together. Mr. Duarte noted that only a few hundred dollars are expended annually for this service. It was suggested that the EG Tree Council come to a meeting in the future.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

b) Award of bid to Turf Products Corporation for the purchase of a turf and field groomer in the amount of \$15,105.34 as previously approved in the FY2017 Capital Improvement Budget.

Ms. Bradley explained the equipment is an attachment which will help groom all the fields throughout Town.

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

carried.

5) Unfinished Business

- a) Approval of RENEWAL OF Class BV Alcoholic Beverage License with requisite Victualing License including Entertainment and Outdoor Sidewalk Liquor Service for the period of December 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017 for THE GRILLE ON MAIN located at 50 Main Street.

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

6) New Business

- a) Award of bid to T. Miozzi for the purchase of Roadway Rehabilitation per tabulation sheet.

Mr. Duarte explained the \$5,000,000 road bond money was previously approved and the contractor has previously worked for the Town and is in good standing.

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

- b) Award of bid to United Fence Company for the purchase and installation of guard rail and bollards per tabulation sheet.

Mr. Duarte explained that several accidents over the past year have made the installation a matter of safety. Wooden rails are recommended and the expense was not included in the current year's budget. Discussion continued on the immediate need to address the issue.

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

- c) Award of contract extension to Santa Buckley Energy Ltd. for the purchase of Unleaded Gasoline and Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel per tabulation sheet.

Mr. Duarte explained the procedure of bidding using the State purchasing system.

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

- d) Municipal Court Software

Ms. Schmidle provided some history on the creation of the municipal court's current operating system which is on loan from the Town of Middletown. Recent changes at the State level (DMV/RITT) are now requiring municipalities to change interfaces by July 1. One option is to

pay a programmer to redo the current system which is an unanticipated expense or buy the software from the current vendor (Curia Systems located in East Greenwich) which 22 other municipalities are using. Proposed cost for year one is \$11,000 which includes software, training and conversion. The actual purchase price could be spread out over four years at \$2,000 per year plus another \$5,600 for annual support. The court has not been generating revenue since its inception. It is a service benefiting both residents and non-residents who dispute violations. The question is; is it worth keeping based on financial feasibility? There is no requirement for the Town to have it.

Council discussed financials, Town resources, timelines and how tickets are issued to both residents and non-residents for a variety of violations some which cannot be handled at the State level. Ms. Benoit stated that losing the municipal court clerk would be burdensome to the Finance Department. Prior to this, summons would be handled at district court. After further discussion about dissolving the court, it was decided that more information is needed before making a decision such as costs and statistics which will be discussed at the next meeting.

e) IT Governance Committee

The idea is to consolidate non-educational IT services between the municipal and school departments. VP Todd and Council Deutsch will work together on the committee with Ms. Schmidle. Councilor Deutsch spoke about the existing disconnected infrastructures and how identifying roles and responsibilities will promote transparency to benefit the Town. VP Todd wants to see more consistency and eliminate redundancies. This evolved from the lack of progress made by the school's Tech Committee. Ms. Schmidle explained where she gleaned the draft language from and that its intent is to eliminate competing agendas and create synergy. Councilor Schwager asked who the budgeting authority was and Ms. Schmidle explained how costs for other projects have been split between the municipal budget and the school budget. It was noted that bond money should be for long term projects and funds from capital or the operating budget should be used for short term projects. Councilor Granatiero asked how this committee differs from the Tech Committee. The difference is that this committee will report back to Council with a recommendation to identify future progress as one entity. President Cienki remarked that future funding is dependent upon working together. The goal is to offer solutions that will lighten the burden on the school's budget by eliminating duplicities. The charge of this committee will be presented on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

7) Town Manager's Report

Town Council tour of NEIT and Town facilities is scheduled for Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

8) Council Comments

None

9) Public Comment (15-minute time limit)

Kathy Healy, 300 Sixth Avenue, thanked the Council for handling a productive meeting.

10) Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (5) acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

VP Todd moved to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (5) to discuss the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, seconded by Councilor Deutsch. Roll call vote 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

a) Acquisition of property

Following the Executive Session, Councilor Schwager moved to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilor Deutsch. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

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

Councilor Deutsch moved to adjourn at 10:40pm, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Carney, CMC  
Town Clerk

**APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 13, 2017**