

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Regular Session
March 2, 2017 @ 8:00pm
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

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

Town Staff Present: T. Coyle, III, D. Potter, K. Benoit, L. Bourbonnais, P. Clarkin, J. Duarte, W. Schmidle

8:00pm ~ Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Acknowledgments

None

1) Town Council Minutes

- a) February 13, 2107 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

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

Caryn Corenthal, 5 Brookfield Court, spoke in support of Cathy Bradley and the Parks and Recreation Department, commending her exceptional work considering the minimal budget allowed. She suggested that more money and staff should be allocated to that department.

- b) January 2017 Financial Report

Ms. Benoit reported on the highlights for the monthly financial report including departmental expenditures. Drainage repairs on Kent Drive and legal settlements were briefly discussed.

3) Public Hearing

- a) 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 and Section 248-19 Multiway Stop Intersections removing Kent Drive at Allen Drive from the list of through streets, creating a three-way stop intersection at Kent Drive and Allen Drive and removing Great Road at Kent Drive, and Kent Drive at Great Road from the list of through streets (SECOND READING).

There were no public comments.

VP Todd moved to approve on second reading and move to third reading on March 13, seconded by Councilor Deutsch. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- b) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 34 Boards, Committees and Commissions adding Article X, IT Governance Council (SECOND READING).

There were no public comments.

VP Todd moved to approve on second reading and move to third reading on March 13, seconded by Councilor Deutsch.

President Cienki provided a brief summary of what the mission is. Council discussed the following new language to be considered for inclusion in the ordinance: “As it relates to technology that supports specific educational goals and objectives as developed by the East Greenwich School District Technology Plan, with the approval of the East Greenwich School Committee any recommendations made by the ITGC shall be advisory only. The incorporation and implementation of which shall be subject to the approval of the School Committee.” The Council is an advisory board and expenditures would require approval by both Town and School.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Application for RENEWAL of Private Detective License for Benjamin Lupovitz, 25 Ivy Garden Way.
- b) Petition for Verizon New England and Narragansett Electric to place one jointly owned pole on the westerly side of Glen Drive.

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

5) Unfinished Business

None

6) New Business

- a) Application for a NEW Victualing License for J & W Ice Cream, Inc. d/b/a Clementine’s Ice Cream, 250 Main Street.

Warren and Jess Stenberg appeared and clarified the location and hours of operation. Councilor Deutsch moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- b) Application for a NEW Victualing License for Mohegan East Greenwich (JM Subs), LLC d/b/a Jersey Mike's at 537 Main Street.

Manager/Representative appeared and clarified the location in the CVS Plaza and the planned opening March 8th.

VP Todd moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Deutsch.

The affiliation with the Mohegan Tribe was explained. Mohegan Holdings is a diversification division that is running several restaurant franchises in the State, all owned by the Tribe.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- c) Appointment of a regular member to the Juvenile Hearing Board for the remainder of a three year term to expire December 1, 2017.

VP Todd moved to appoint Leanne Zarrella as a regular member to the Juvenile Hearing Board for the remainder of a three year term to expire December 1, 2017, seconded by Councilor Schwager.

President Cienki explained she has been serving as an alternate member and the Chair had recommended her appoint as a regular member.

Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- d) An ORDINANCE in amendment of the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 260 Zoning (as amended), Article III Zoning Districts, Section 260-10 Districts by Assessor's Plats to change the zoning designation on said parcels and Article XVII Affordable Housing to replace Sections 98 through 101 and add Sections 102 and 103 (FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION).

Ms. Bourbonnais explained this ordinance will bring the Zoning Ordinance into compliance with the 2014 Comp Plan relative to the State mandate of having a least 10% of house stock deeded as affordable housing. The Planning Board has worked on this for two years. It includes a provision to allow developers to use off-site locations to help meet their requirements. Changes to the zoning map will be presented at second reading and abutter's notices will be sent out. She explained that developers are receptive to the new provision and she is working with current plans being considered now to meet affordable housing requirements.

Councilor Granatiero moved to approve on first reading and schedule for second reading and public hearing on April 10th, seconded by Councilor Schwager. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

- e) Multimedia approach for communications to Town residents.

Following some opening remarks from President Cienki and VP Todd, Councilor Granatiero provided a summary of an analysis he compiled related to financial issues that may be of concern to residents. Comments followed on how to measure effectiveness and delivery. It was noted that the funds for the Financial Town Meeting have been allocated to fund this project and the Town's website is being revamped. The existing resources available on the Town's website would be used to disseminate information to the Town residents, as well as possibly using a mailer to inform residents about the Town budget. An overall communication strategy was discussed and how to communicate with the residents about upcoming project needs in the Town. Revenues such as State Aid and NEIT were addressed. Ms. Bourbonnais spoke about her success using email to disseminate Planning news and the past practice of a Community Survey done via telephone. Councilors engaged in a lengthy discussion on the purpose and longevity of the project initiated by Councilor Schwager. The design, strategy, timing and process of preparing a formal proposal were also deliberated. Councilor Schwager voiced his concerns about not being involved in the proposal being presented and how the Town Manager should receive his charge to prepare an RFP in open session with all five Councilors. There was additional discussion on the process of creating an RFP. The Councilors discussed a direction for the Town Manager to create an RFQ and have his staff disseminate appropriately.

VP Todd moved to include a multi-media approach to deliver information and communicate to the citizens of East Greenwich, using the metrics that Councilor Granatiero outlined and to charge the Town Manager to come up w/ a RFP, seconded by Councilor Deutsch. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle stated that he and Ms. Benoit are working on several projects for Council. Sewer bills are being prepared. He will work with Ms. Schmidle to prepare the RFP.

8) Council Comments

VP Todd mentioned tickets are available for the Beach Ball at the Dune's Club which is fundraiser for the East Greenwich Education Foundation. He also thanked Chief McGillivray for providing a firetruck for the Meadowbrook School fundraiser.

President Cienki thanked Council and the citizens for being understanding of starting the meeting later than normal. Members were able to attend an event where former Council President Michael Isaacs was acknowledged for his twelve years at the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting.

9) Public Comment (15-minute time limit)

Kevin Roberts, 355 Stone Ridge Drive, had concerns about funding of the East Greenwich schools and the percentage of appropriations from the Town budget. Councilors engaged in discussions about the teacher's contract situation, State Aid, debt service, tax increases, etc.

Councilor Deutsch moved to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), seconded by VP Todd. Roll call vote 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

10) Executive Session per R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 per the following sections:

- a. (a) (2) Pawtucket Credit Union v. Town of East Greenwich
- b. (a) (2) Dubis v. Town of East Greenwich
- c. (a) (2) Kane v. Town of East Greenwich

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

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

VP Todd moved to adjourn at 10:30pm, seconded by Councilor Deutsch. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL MARCH 13, 2017