

MINUTES OF SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Place: Smithfield Town Hall

Time: 6:15 P.M.

Present: Town Council President Paul M. Santucci
Town Council Vice-President Alberto J. LaGreca, Jr.
Town Council Member Maxine A. Cavanagh
Town Council Member Suzanna L. Alba
Town Council Member T. Michael Lawton
Town Solicitor Patricia A. Buckley, Esq.
Town Manager Randy R. Rossi
Town Clerk Carol A. Aquilante

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Lawton, to consider, discuss and act upon matters pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sec. 42-46-5(a)(2), Existing Litigation; Consider, discuss and act upon matters pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sec. 42-46-5(1)(1) Personnel; to interview Paul Perrotti and Derek Tomka for possible appointments to a Town Board or Commission and Consider, discuss and act upon matters pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sec. 42-46-5(a)(5) Real Estate: Acceptance of a Land Donation. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.** Town Clerk Aquilante takes a roll call vote of each Town Council member's vote to convene the Closed Session. Council member Cavanagh and Council member Alba arrive after the Executive Session was convened.

Council President Santucci calls the Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Smithfield Town Council meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Town Council President Santucci offers a prayer.

III. Town Council President Santucci conducts a salute to the flag.

IV. The Emergency Evacuation and Health Announcement is made by Town Manager Randy Rossi.

V. Presentation:

A. State of the Town Address by Town Council President Santucci

Council President Santucci reads the State of the Town Address and explains this is address is seen through his lens and not the lenses of the entire Town Council.

***see supporting documentation attached.**

VI. Minutes:

A. Move that the minutes of the December 18, 2017 Town Council work session be approved, as recorded.

Motion is made by Council member Lawton, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca,

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that the minutes of the December 18, 2017 Town Council Work Session be approved, as recorded. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

- B. Move that the minutes of the December 19, 2017 Town Council work session be approved, as recorded.**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Lawton, that the minutes of the December 18, 2017 Town Council Work Session be approved, as recorded. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

- C. Move that the minutes of the December 19, 2017 Town Council meeting be approved, as recorded.**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the minutes of the December 19, 2017 Town Council meeting be approved, as recorded. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

- D. Move that the minutes of December 19, 2017 Town Council meeting closed session be approved, as recorded, and sealed.**

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the minutes of the December 19, 2017 Town Council meeting closed session be approved, as recorded, and sealed. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

VII. Consider, discuss and act upon the following possible appointments and reappointments:

- A. Smithfield Housing Authority reappointment with a term expiring January 2023.**

Motion is made by Council member Lawton, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby reappoints Alfred Groccia to the Smithfield Housing Authority Review with a term expiring January 2023. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

- B. Smithfield Board of Assessment Review reappointment with a term expiring January 2020.**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby reappoints Dennis Flis to the Smithfield Board of Assessment Review with a term expiring January 2020. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

- C. Smithfield Tree Warden reappointment with a term expiring December 2018:**
- **Raymond Olson (reappointment)**

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby reappoints Raymond Olson as the Smithfield Tree Warden with a term expiring December 2018. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

VIII. Public Hearings:

- A. Consider scheduling a Public Hearing on February 6, 2018 to amend Article 12, “Comprehensive Permit for Low and Moderate Income Housing”, of the Smithfield Zoning Ordinance and refer the amendment to the Town Planner, the Town Engineer and the Planning Board for recommendation pursuant to Article 11, Sec. 11.1, A of the Zoning Ordinance.**

Upon further discussion the Town Council members agree to change the scheduled date of the Public Hearing to February 20, 2018.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the Smithfield Town Council schedules a Public Hearing on February 20, 2018 to amend Article 12 “Comprehensive Permit for Low and Moderate Income Housing”, of the Smithfield Zoning Ordinance and refer the amendment to the Town Planner, the Town Engineer and the Planning Board for recommendation pursuant to Article 11, Sec. 11.1, A of the Zoning Ordinance. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

- B. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the renewal of the Intoxicating Beverage Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinances, and a Certificate of Good Standing from the RI Division of Taxation.**

INTOXICATING BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS 2017-2018

CLASS B-VICTAULLER BEVERAGE LICENSES

- 1. Richard J. Conti d/b/a “Café Centro”, 566 Putnam Pike**
- 2. Tavern on the Water, LLC d/b/a “Tavern on the Water”, 743 Putnam Pike (approved for outdoor bar service)**

CLASS B-V LIMITED BEVERAGE LICENSE

- 1. AKR Corporation d/b/a “Tony’s Pizza Palace”, 200 Pleasant View Avenue**
- 2. Olga’s Famous Pizza, Inc. d/b/a “Famous Pizza”, 343 Waterman Avenue**

CLASS D-CLUB BEVERAGE LICENSE

- 1. Portuguese American Social & Athletic Club, 40 Fenwood Avenue**

Council President Santucci opens the Public Hearing.

Council President Santucci closes the Public Hearing.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the renewal of the following Intoxicating Beverage Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinance and a Certificate of Good Standing from the RI Division of Taxation.

INTOXICATING BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS 2017-2018

CLASS B-VICTAULLER BEVERAGE LICENSES

1. Richard J. Conti d/b/a “Café Centro”, 566 Putnam Pike
2. Tavern on the Water, LLC d/b/a “Tavern on the Water”, 743 Putnam Pike (approved for outdoor bar service)

CLASS B-V LIMITED BEVERAGE LICENSE

1. AKR Corporation d/b/a “Tony’s Pizza Palace”, 200 Pleasant View Avenue
2. Olga’s Famous Pizza, Inc. d/b/a “Famous Pizza”, 343 Waterman Avenue

CLASS D-CLUB BEVERAGE LICENSE

1. Portuguese American Social & Athletic Club, 40 Fenwood Avenue

Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.

IX. Licenses and Permits:

A. Consider approving the renewal of one (1) Entertainment License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances:

1. Tavern on the Water, LLC d/b/a “Tavern on the Water”, 743 Putnam Pike

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the renewal of one (1) Entertainment License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.

1. Tavern on the Water, LLC d/b/a “Tavern on the Water”, 743 Putnam Pike

Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.

B. Consider approving the renewal of one (1) Special Dance License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances:

1. Tavern on the Water, LLC d/b/a “Tavern on the Water”, 743 Putnam Pike

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Lawton, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the annual renewal of one (1) Special Dance License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances:

1. Tavern on the Water, LLC d/b/a “Tavern on the Water”, 743 Putnam Pike

Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.

C. Consider approving the annual renewal of one (1) Private Detective License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinances and final approval by the Smithfield Police Chief.

1. **Mark A. Matteo, 12 Mountaindale Road**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the annual renewal of one (1) Private Detective License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinances, and final approval by the Smithfield Police Chief.

1. Mark A. Matteo, 12 Mountaindale Road

Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.

X. Old Business: None

XI. New Business:

A. Consider authorizing a Request for Proposals for Actuarial Services.

Town Manager Rossi explains that the Town is continuing its efforts in addressing the Police and Fire Pension Funds and the next phase of the process is to issue an RFP for actuarial services. Town Manager Rossi further explains that this RFP will allow the Town to reign in the exorbitant fees for Actuarial Services and look to gain a fresh perspective of the plans. Town Manager Rossi states that additionally the Town included the Actuarial Services for the Town’s Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund in the RFP to keep all of the fiduciary funds under the same firm.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the Smithfield Town Council authorizes the advertisement of an RFP for Actuarial Services. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

B. Consider authorizing a Request for Proposals for a Statistical Revaluation of Real Property.

Drew Manlove, Tax Assessor, is seeking authorization to issue a Request for Proposal for

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reevaluation of real property. Tax Assessor Manlove explains that Rhode Island State Law requires that the Town of Smithfield conduct a statistical reevaluation for the assessment date of 12/31/2018. Tax Assessor Manlove further explains that the funds have been set aside annually for the purpose of conducting triennial revaluations.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the Smithfield Town Council authorizes the Assessor to issue a Request for Proposal for the purpose of a Statistical Reevaluation in 2018. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

C. Consider, discuss, and act upon proposed tax abatements in the amount of \$244,316.61 as recommended by the Tax Assessor.

Tax Assessor Manlove explains that abatements are due to status and valuation appeals of real estate, tangible personal property, and motor vehicles. Tax Assessor Manlove further explains that the Tax Collector has also asked that \$181,275 be abated for uncollectible taxes.

The following are the financial impacts:

Abatements= \$244,316.61

Refunds = \$ 2,818.66 (included in Abatement total)

Council member Cavanagh asks about the \$181,275.41 amount. Tax Assessor Manlove replies that that amount is included in the \$244,316.61 amount.

Motion is made by Council member Cavanagh, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the Tax Abatements in the amount of \$244,316.61. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

D. Consider, discuss, and act upon a proposed one year extension for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel by the Department of Public Works through the Rhode Island Purchasing Agents Association.

Town Manager Rossi explains that a few years ago the Town of Smithfield on behalf of the RI Municipal Purchasing Agent Association went out to bid for unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel. Town Manager Rossi further explains that the RI Municipal Purchase Agent Association has agreed to extend the existing contract previously negotiated through June 30, 2018. Town Manager Rossi states that Peterson Oil and Superior Plus also agreed to hold their prices as negotiated and the association did not approve the extension of Santa Buckley because Santa Buckley requested an increase in the previously negotiated contract price from \$0.0409 to \$0.0879. Town Manager Rossi further states that it is his recommendation that the Department of Public Works an extension agreement by the RI Municipal Purchasing Agent Association until June 30, 2018 be granted to continue purchasing from Peterson Oil and Superior Plus. The Town of Smithfield will use Superior Plus for diesel fuel at a price of \$0.0321 and Peterson Oil for unleaded gasoline at a price of \$0.0500.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Lawton,

that the Smithfield Town Council authorizes the Public Works Director to continue to buy fuel through the RI Municipal Purchasing Agent Associations extended contract pricing from Superior Plus (diesel @ \$0.0321) and Peterson Oil (unleaded @ \$0.0500) through June 30, 2018. These factors will be applied to the lowest daily prices published by the Oil Price Information Services. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

E. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing the Smithfield Fire Department to accept the RI State Homeland Security Grant Award in the amount of \$76,000.00.

Fire Chief Seltzer explains that before the Town Council this evening is an award notification for a R.I. State Homeland Security Grant Award that the Smithfield Fire Department has received. Chief Seltzer explains that the grant is for the purchase of radio equipment that will be added to the current dispatch center for multiple radio channel operations and to improve communications with mutual aid fire companies. Chief Seltzer states that the total grant award is \$76,000 of which the grant cover 100% of the cost of the project and the grant award number from the R.I. Emergency Management Agency is 34-02-2015 SHSP. Chief Seltzer also states that the grant award is from fiscal year 2015, and is leftover money from that year that is funding their project request.

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council authorizes the Smithfield Fire Department to accept the R.I. State Homeland Security Grant Award, award no. 34-02-2015 SHSP, in the amount of \$76,000. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

F. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing the School Department to submit the Stage II Application to RIDE.

Judy Paolucci, School Superintendent, addresses and explains that the School Department is seeking an authorization from the Town Council members to submit the Stage II Application to the Rhode Island Department of Education. Superintendent Paolucci states that the application needs to be submitted by February 1, 2018.

Paul Aiello, Town resident, requests to be heard on this matter, stating that this bond issue will have a major effect on the Smithfield taxpayers.

Council President Santucci explains that School Department will be holding various meeting with the residents of the Town to discuss their concerns.

Superintendent Paolucci confirms that the School Department plans to hold continuous meetings regarding the proposed future bond issue.

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby authorizes the School Department to submit the Stage II Application to RIDE. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

G. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing Phase 1 for Exercise Equipment in the amount of \$18,822.91 through the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium for the Physical Training Room at the Police Department.

Richard St. Sauvuer, Jr. Police Chief, addresses the Town Council requesting the purchase of exercise equipment for the department's new Physical Training Room from Gym Source through the MHEC master prices agreement. Chief St. Sauvuer states that the cost for this equipment is \$18,822.19 and is being funded through the Smithfield Police Department Expansion/Renovation Bond.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the Smithfield Town Council authorizes the purchase of exercise equipment for the Smithfield Police Department Physical Training Room from Gym Source through the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC) contract pricing in the amount of \$18,822.91 funded through the Police Department of Expansion/Renovation Bond. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

H. Consider, discuss, and act upon awarding a bid as a sole source to Pictometry International Corp. for a six year contract in the total amount of \$52,828.00 for a Pictometry update.

Suzanne Kogut, Town employee, states that she is requesting consideration for request to approve competitive bid exemption for sole source and award contract to Pictometry International Corporation. Ms. Kogut explains that Pictometry International Corporation is the current vendor providing undistorted geo-registered oblique digitally collected imagery in the United States. Ms. Kogut further explains that the product has many registered patents and in 2014 the Town contracted to provide imagery to the Town of Smithfield, which is currently being used. Mr. Kogut also states that this imagery is three (3) years old and in need of an update as the Town will be performing a statistical revaluation in 2018. Ms. Kogut further explains that this program is being utilized by the Tax Assessor's Office, Police Department, Fire Department, Planning and Engineering, and the current data is becoming less effective due to the age of the data. Ms. Kogut states that the Smithfield GIS Committee has unanimously voted to accept the proposal by Pictometry International Corp., based on its proprietary software which allows the Town to view and analyze three (3) previous flyovers, which are valuable. Ms. Kogut further states that it is also recommended the Town do a multi-year contract to avail ourselves of the discounts, and addition, with a multi-year contract, Pictometry will provide its Disaster Response Program. Ms. Kogut explains that GIS monies have already been appropriated in the current budget. The current proposal, utilizing the multi-year discount, is a decrease over the last flyover three (3) years ago and includes an additional building outline file.

Council member Lawton asks if this is the only company for these services. Ms. Kogut replies that Pictometry is not the only company, but, they are the only company with the software for flyovers.

Fire Chief Seltzer explains that their dispatch center uses it regularly.

Motion is made by Council member Lawton, seconded by Council member Cavanagh, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the competitive bid exemption for sole source and award the contract to Pictometry International Corp. for six (6) six years not to exceed \$52,828.00. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

XII. Public Comment

Paul Aiello, Town resident, states that the Town should not be allowed to have a bond issue for this year's election. Mr. Aiello also states that by adding an additional \$41 million dollars to the budget would place the Town in a great deal of debt. Mr. Aiello explains that the Financial Review Commission should examine this issue and what its impact would be on the Town budget. Mr. Aiello also explains that the interest to the Town would be a 3% to 4% increase compounded. Mr. Aiello further explains that it makes absolutely no business sense for this bond amount and according to the Town Charter, the Town Council has the right to deny the bond issue for the ballot, and he encourages them to do so, for the sake of the taxpayers.

Jackson Despres, Town resident, asks Council President Santucci why he allowed Mr. Aiello more than five (5) minutes.

Council President Santucci apologizes for not setting the timer.

Thomas Robitaille, Town resident, states that the Town should be reviewing the application, because he believes their enrollment figures are incorrect and overstated. Mr. Robitaille would also like to know if the Financial Review Commission is in favor of this bond issue.

Joseph O'Connor, Town resident, reads his own personal State of address and does not agree with Council President Santucci, regarding Town residents not being allowed to speak on agenda items.

Donald Brown, Town resident, believes that anyone should be allowed to speak on agenda items. Mr. Brown states that anyone should be allowed to speak and voice their concerns on each and every agenda item.

Jackson Despres, Town resident refers to Sec. 21 of the Rules of Procedure, because they were never modified, regarding discussions of agenda items during the Town Council meetings.

XIII. Announce any closed session votes required to be disclosed pursuant to RI General Laws, Sec. 42-46-4.

Council President Santucci announces that there was no votes taken in Executive Session.

XIV. Adjournment.

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council member Lawton, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 5/0 vote.**

Meeting adjourns at 8:22 P.M.

Caul A. Aquilante, omc

Town Clerk