

MINUTES OF SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Place: Smithfield Town Hall

Time: 7:00 P.M.

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

Council President Santucci calls the Tuesday, April 17, 2018 Smithfield Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 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. Announcement: Public Comment on Agenda Items.**

Council President Santucci explains that according to Section 8 – Town Council Rules of Procedure, he will be allowing the public to speak for two (2) minutes on an agenda item on a trial basis. Residents will be allowed to speak once per agenda item and the comments must be respectful and civil. Council President Santucci further explains that the Public Comment portion of the Town Council meeting will not change.

Alfred Costantino, Town resident states that for sixteen (16) months the public was not allowed to speak on agenda items, which was very stressful. Mr. Costantino cannot understand why this lasted for sixteen (16) months. Mr. Costantino states that any changes to the Rules of Procedure should be the vote of the entire Town Council and not the sole authority of Council President Santucci.

VI. Minutes:

- A. Move that the minutes of the March 24, 2018 Town Council forum be approved, as recorded.**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the minutes of the March 24, 2018 Town Council forum be approved, as recorded. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

- B. Move that the minutes of the April 3, 2018 Town Council meeting be approved, as recorded.**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the minutes of the April 3, 2018 Town Council meeting be approved, as recorded. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

- C. Move that the minutes of the April 3, 2018 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 April 3, 2018 Town Council meeting closed session be approved, as recorded, and sealed. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

- VII. Consider, discuss and act upon the following possible appointments and reappointments: None**

VIII. Public Hearings:

- A. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider approving a new B-Victualler Beverage License for Kenny O's Ristorante, LLC. d/b/a "Kenny O's Ristorante", 970 Douglas Pike, Bldg. A, Unit 1, to include outdoor seating and bar service, as applied, with the hours of operation to be Monday through Sunday, 6:00 A.M. to 1:00 A.M., subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinances, and on the condition that the license will not be issued and no business may be transacted until the applicant files all required supporting documentation with the Town including final approval from the Rhode Island Department of Health, a Permit to Make Sales at Retail and a Certificate of Good Standing both from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation.**

Council President Santucci opens the Public Hearing.

Council President Santucci asks Mr. Orabona if this corporation is an LLC or a Sole Proprietorship.

Mr. Orabona verifies that his corporation is held as an LLC.

Mr. Orabona explains that he should be receiving his Permit to Make Sales and Certificate of Good Standing at any time from the Division of Taxation.

Hearing no further comment Council President Santucci closes the Public Hearing.

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council approve a new B-Victualler Beverage License for Kenny O's Ristorante, LLC d/b/a "Kenny O's Ristorante", 970 Douglas Pike, Bldg. A, Unit 1, to include outdoor seating and bar service, as applied, with the hours of operation to be Monday through

Sunday, 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., subject to compliance with all State regulations, local ordinances and on the condition that the license will not be issued and no business may be transacted until the applicant files all required supporting documentation with the Town, including final approval from the RI Department of Health, a Permit to Make Sales at Retail and a Certificate of Good Standing from the RI Division of Taxation. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

IX. Licenses and Permits:

- A. Consider approving a new Holiday Sales License for No Risk, LLC d/b/a “No Risk Crossfit”, located at 300 George Washington Highway, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the Smithfield Town Council approve a new Holiday Sales License for No Risk, LLC d/b/a “No Risk Crossfit”, for their business located at 300 George Washington Highway, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

- B. Consider approving a new Holiday Sales License for Anjan Thapa d/b/a “Pick N Pay Food Mart”, located at 619 Putnam Pike, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, move that the Smithfield Town Council approve a new Holiday Sales License for Anjan Thapa d/b/a “Pick N Pay Food Mart”, for his business located at 619 Putnam Pike, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

- C. Consider approving a new Holiday Sales License for The Barre Yoga Experience, LLC d/b/a “The Barre and Yoga Experience”, 259 Putnam Pike, Unit 2, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council approve a new Holiday Sales License for The Barre Yoga Experience, LLC d/b/a “The Barre and Yoga Experience”, for their business located at 259 Putnam Pike, Unit 2, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

- D. Consider approving the annual renewal of two (2) Massage Establishment Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.**

- 1. Pixies, Inc. d/b/a “Pixies Hair Salon”, 546 Putnam Pike**
- 2. Rhonda Rohelia d/b/a “Soothing Touch Spa”, 180C Pleasant View Avenue**

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the annual renewal of two (2) Massage Establishment Licenses, as listed, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances:

1. Pixies, Inc. d/b/a “Pixies Hair Salon”, 546 Putnam Pike
2. Rhonda Rohelia d/b/a “Soothing Touch Spa”, 180C Pleasant View Avenue

Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.

E. Consider approving the annual renewal of one (1) Massage Therapy License, as applied, subject to compliance with all State regulations and local ordinances.

1. **Rhonda Rohelia working at “Soothing Touch Spa”, 180C Pleasant View Avenue**

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

1. Rhonda Rohelia working at “Soothing Touch Spa”, 180C Pleasant View Avenue

Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.

X. Old Business: None

XI. New Business:

A. Consider, discuss, and act upon a bid award for the 2018 Triennial Valuation in the amount of \$104,000 to Vision Government Solutions.

Drew Manlove, Tax Assessor, states that he is seeking an approval to award the revaluation to Vision Government Solutions, who was the only bidder for this contract in the amount of \$104,000.00.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the Smithfield Town Council approve the award of the 2018 Revaluation contract to Vision Government Solutions as proposed. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

B. Consider, discuss, and act upon the submission of a Resolution and proposed Act to the Rhode Island General Assembly to authorize the issuance \$4.5 million of bonds for a new fire station.

Paul Aiello, Town resident, states that this agenda item and the agenda item that follows totals approximately \$50 million dollars in bond issues. Mr. Aiello further states that these bond

Page 5
Town Council Meeting
April 17, 2018

questions would be tremendous debt service to the Town. Mr. Aiello asks what the cost would be to the Town.

Town Manager Rossi states that on the \$4.5 million bond in (FYE 6/30/2020) = increase of \$326,250 = increase of \$0.17/\$1,000. Increase to average single family house (\$280,000 assessed value) \$47.60, which is less than a 1% tax increase.

Mr. Aiello asks if there may be any other future bond issues.

Town Manager Rossi replies that there has been some discussion about the Department of Public Works garage.

Thomas Robitaille, Town resident, commends the Town Manager regarding the information he supplied regarding the bond impact upon the Town. Mr. Robitaille states that he is in support of the fire department bond. Mr. Robitaille further states that in the year 2020, if the tax increase was spread across all real estate accounts it would cost \$44.64 per real estate account instead of \$47.60.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba that the Smithfield Town Council hereby authorizes the submission of a Resolution and proposed Act to the Rhode Island General Assembly authorizing a ballot question for the New Fire Station Bond. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

C. Consider, discuss, and act upon the submission of a Resolution and proposed Act to the Rhode Island General Assembly to authorize the issuance of \$45 million of bonds for the expansion and renovations of schools.

Thomas Robitaille, Town resident, states that in the year 2021 the increase to the average single family house (\$280,000 assessed value) would be \$249.20. If the increase were to be spread across all real estate accounts, it would cost \$230.87 per real estate account. Mr. Robitaille further states that very few new homes in Smithfield are assessed at \$280,000.

Joseph O'Connor, Town resident, states that if he purchased a home in Smithfield for \$500,000 he would be able to afford \$10,000 in taxes.

Paul Aiello, Town resident, asks for clarification of this \$45 million bond and how it would affect the debt service.

Town Manager Rossi explains that in (FYE 6/30/2021) an increase of \$1,687,165 = increase of \$0.89 / \$1,000 an increase to an average single family house (\$280,000 assessed value) \$249.20.

Mr. Aiello feels that the tax increase would be well over 4% in 2021 and feels that the debt service will never be paid down. Mr. Aiello further states that Representative Winfield should not allow this to be placed on the ballot.

Alfred Costantino, Town resident states that due to the expense of the Land Trust bond, he is asking if the future tax bills can show a breakdown of taxes for each bond passed by the voters. Mr. Costantino further states that the taxpayers would be able to see what amounts are being paid to specific bonds. Mr. Costantino also states that future bonds may be needed for water and sewer connections for Routes 7 and 116.

Anthony Gallone, Town resident, feels that there needs to be more attention to potential increases to general governmental expenses in the future. Mr. Gallone agrees with Mr. Robitaille regarding the increase in taxes in the future and forcing homeowners to sell their home and move from Smithfield.

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby authorizes the submission of a Resolution and proposed Act to the Rhode Island General Assembly authorizing a ballot question for the School Department Bond. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

D. Consider, discuss, and act upon a bid award for the Anna McCabe Elementary School basketball court LED Lighting in the amount of \$42,671.

Town Manager Rossi explains that this memorandum has been updated as a result of having an electrician visit the project site to review the electrical system. Town Manager Rossi further explains that Musco Lighting was the only bidder at \$42,671 to complete the project to the high standards required.

Motion is made by Council Vice-President LaGreca, seconded by Council member Alba, that the Smithfield Town Council hereby awards the contract for LED Lighting at the Anna McCabe basketball courts to Musco Lighting, LLC in the amount of \$42,671. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

E. Consider, discuss, and act upon the Smithfield Town Council (sitting as the Smithfield Water Supply Board) proposed Agreement with Stanley Tree Service.

Town Manager Rossi explains that this is a Water Agreement with Stanley Tree Service of 275 George Washington Highway, for the purpose of allowing Stanley Tree to purchase water from the Smithfield Water Supply Board via an off-site hydrant.

Motion is made by Council member Alba, seconded by Council Vice-President LaGreca, that the Smithfield Town Council (sitting as the Smithfield Water Supply Board) approve a proposed Agreement with Stanley Tree Service. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

F. Consider, discuss, and act upon authorizing a request from Saint Philip Church Youth Ministry to hold a 5K “road and color race” in Smithfield at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 622 Putnam Pike.

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

the Smithfield Town Council approve a request from Saint Philip Church Youth Ministry to hold a 5K “road and color race” in Smithfield at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 622 Putnam Pike. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 3/0 vote.**

XII. Public Comment

Paul Aiello, Town resident, states that because of the proposed bond issues the average tax bill will increase by approximately \$5,000 and force people out of Smithfield.

Thomas Robitaille, Town resident, supports the Fire Department and School Department bonds. Mr. Robitaille explains that the previous Town Solicitor told him that the language of the ballot question could include repayment by the all the taxpayers in Smithfield. Mr. Robitaille states that the seniors in Smithfield approve the bonds, but don’t pay for them, because of the senior tax freeze. Mr. Robitaille believes that the schools are vital to the Town, and he is more than happy to contribute to the taxes to pay for the bond issue.

Joseph O’Connor, Town resident, does not agree with only a two (2) minute discussion on agenda items. Mr. O’Connor states that there are many knowledgeable residents in the Town that could contribute to agenda items. Mr. O’Connor references the meetings held at the State House regarding the Land Trust and how smoothly and efficiently the meetings were held.

Peter Pare, Town resident, asks if it is a common practice for the Town to have a bond issue when a developer needs water and sewers in the Town.

There is no comment from Council President Santucci.

Jackson Despres, Town resident, reads from Section 4 – Town Council Rules of Procedure and states that Council President Santucci does not have the right to amend the Rules of Procedure without a vote of the entire Town Council. Mr. Despres feels that it is an insult to Mr. Costantino when he was ruled out of order. Mr. Despres further states that Council President Santucci does not like the criticism brought forth and, he would like to know the other Town Council members opinions.

John Serapiglia, Town resident, states that he has lived in the Town of Smithfield for eighty-one (81) years and explains that the seniors in the Town are very conservative before voting. Mr. Serapiglia also states that seniors don’t vote for everything on the ballot. Mr. Serapiglia further explains that the seniors are still paying for sins of the past regarding the first responders pension plan which had increased up to 19%. Mr. Serapiglia explains that in order to have the voters pass the bond issues the Town would need the senior vote.

Alfred Costantino, Town resident, states that Council President Santucci has called the police multiple times at Town Council meetings because he was ruled out of order. Mr. Costantino finds this insulting to both himself and the citizens of Smithfield to only be allowed to speak for

Page 8
Town Council Meeting
April 17, 2018

120 seconds. Mr. Costantino further states that this has been going on for sixteen (16) months and it needs to stop.

Donald Burns, Town resident, states that the people that spoke for 30-40 minutes on agenda items need to apologize to the Town Council members.

Town Manager Rossi expresses his thanks to the Special Events Committee for the Family Fun Day held today. Town Manager Rossi states that it was a great success and they look forward to having the event again next year.

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 were no votes taken in the Closed Session meeting held this evening.

XIV. Adjournment.

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

Meeting adjourns at 7:55 P.M.

Carl A. Aquilante, omc

Town Clerk