1. 6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Pres. Morrone, Vice Pres. Aiello
Councilors Celico, Carson, Overton, Gagnier
Adrianna Turano, Town Council Student Representative

Absent: Councilor Cioffi

INVOCATION – Councilor Aiello

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Council President Morrone

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Sign-Up Sheets will be available at the Council Meeting for any citizens wishing to be heard. Citizens who do not sign up to speak will have an opportunity to be heard following the individuals listed on the sign-up sheet.

When addressing the Council, please state your name and address; please conduct yourself in an orderly and respectful fashion. The comments of citizens accessing this portion of our meeting are neither adopted nor endorsed by this body, but heard as requested. Comments shall be limited to Committee of the Whole agenda items only. If the matter is scheduled for a public hearing, the comments shall be deferred to that agenda item.

a. Megan Nelson, 21 South Joseph St - re: Road Abandonment on South Joseph St

b. Gregory Massad, Esq., representing Margaret Caster of Joseph St, the abutter of Ms. Nelson’s property; re: Road Abandonment on South Joseph St; problem of pipe going under his client’s property

c. William Garraty, 11 Oriole St, Pawcatuck, CT - re Road Abandonment on Joseph St; underground culvert

COUNCILORS’ RESPONSE

Councilor Overton announced that he would be recusing himself on any discussions regarding the petition for road abandonment on South Joseph Street due to his business relationship with the Casters.

Councilor Gagnier responded to Citizens’ Comments regarding the petition for road abandonment on South Joseph Street.

3. Finance Department’s Monthly Report/Update – Interim Finance Director Perino

Present: Barbara Perino, Interim Finance Director
Ms. Perino addressed the Monthly Report/Update regarding property tax collection receipts, permit fees, fines and penalties, etc. and expenditures. She noted that expenses will come under budget from what was appropriated. She responded to questions from the Council regarding expenditures, debt service, police pension and snow removal.

Ms. Perino informed the Council that all approved positions in the Finance Department have been filled, with the exception of the systems administrator. She distributed a handout showing fund balance availability.

4. **Proposed Ordinance** – “An Ordinance Transferring Appropriations To Adjust Various Departments For Projected Deficits In Accordance With Article 3-1-7 (A) And 3-1-7 (D) Of The Westerly Town Charter” – Discussion

Present: Barbara Perino, Interim Finance Director

Ms. Perino and Mr. Kennedy explained the aforesaid ordinance, which will transfer funds from accounts that have excess funds to those departments that were over expended. They responded to questions from the Council.

It was the consensus of the Council that the aforesaid proposed ordinance be placed on the April 2, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda to be ordered advertised for public hearing.

5. **Petition For Road Abandonment** – Portion Of South Joseph Street – Meghan M. Nelson – Discussion

Present: Meghan M. Nelson, Petitioner
Lisa Pellegrini, Director of Development Services
Paul Corina, Director of Public Works
Sheila McGauvran, Town Engineer

Councilor Overton recused himself due to a possible conflict of interest being that the abutting property owners, Margaret and Richard Caster, have two sons with whom he has a business relationship.

Ms. McGauvran explained the location of the drain pipe, the culvert and the catch basin. She recommended that the Town retain the drainage easement in the event it is needed in the future. She responded to questions from the Council.

Town Solicitor Conley stated that the matter needs to be referred to the Planning Board and noted the state statute that dictates the process that must be followed for road abandonment.

It was the consensus of the Council that the aforesaid petition for road abandonment be referred to the Planning Board for review and recommendation.

6. **Land Swap Request** – 312-316 Atlantic Avenue (AP 166, Lot 17) – George Tattersall – Discussion

Present: George Tattersall, Petitioner
Lisa Pellegrini, Director of Development Services
Paul Duffy, Recreation Director
Sheila McGauvran, Town Engineer
Nancy Letendre, Esq., Assistant Solicitor for Planning & Zoning

Mr. Tattersall provided a brief history of his purchase of the aforesaid property. He stated that the Town is parking cars on his property and that he has no insurance. He
further stated that a front corner of Town property on Atlantic Avenue that is not now used for parking was chosen for the swap. He noted that the property consists of 1627 square feet and has a value of $27,000. He presented several other scenarios, but stated that he prefers the front corner. He further stated that he just wants to trade 1627 square feet for property somewhere in the Misquamicut Fire District. He responded to questions from the Council regarding his willingness to sell his piece of property and the possibility of the Town leasing the property.

Town Solicitor Conley was of the opinion that Mr. Tattersall cannot be put on the Town's insurance, but that the Town could lease the property for the cost of Mr. Tattersall's insurance on the property and, therefore, both parties would have insurance.

Discussion was held regarding a suggestion that Mr. Tattersall give the Town his strip of property in exchange for beach passes to either the old Town Beach or the Wuskenau Beach for life, and a suggestion that Mr. Tattersall and the Town Solicitor meet to negotiate further options to present to the Council for consideration.

It was the consensus of the Council that Mr. Tattersall discuss further options with the Town Solicitor and report back to the Council.

7. **Bluff Avenue Parking—Discussion**
   a. **Proposed Ordinance** — “An Ordinance In Amendment Of Article VII, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Of chapter 238 Of The Westerly Code Of Ordinances Entitled ‘Vehicles And Traffic’” (Amend §238-66(C) – Allow parking on Bluff Avenue, west side, three hours and amend §238-67(A)(3) – Remove Tow Zones on Bluff Avenue, west side) – Discussion

Present: Lisa Pellegrini, Director of Development Services
   Paul Corina, Director of Public Works
   Sheila McGauvran, Town Engineer
   Richard Silva, Chief of Police

Ms. McGauvran explained the parking plan developed for parking along the west side of Bluff Avenue. She addressed concerns of the Watch Hill Fire Chief due to increased traffic in the summer and noted that parking spaces might not be available in front of the Watch Hill Chapel parking lot due to cars exiting from there. She responded to questions from the Council regarding signage and parking for chapel services.

Discussion was held regarding enforcement, signage, the three-hour limit, the possible creation of a bottleneck, limiting the parking to Westerly residents only and providing handicapped parking.

It was the consensus of the Council that the aforesaid proposed ordinance be placed on the April 2, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda to be ordered advertised for public hearing.

8. **Resolution Authorizing The Town Manager To Enter Into A Contract With J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc. For Construction Services For The Downtown Improvements Project ($653,000.00, which includes 10% contingency) and Transfer Of Restricted Funds – Discussion**

Present: Lisa Pellegrini, Director of Development Services
   Paul Corina, Director of Public Works
   Sheila McGauvran, Town Engineer

Ms. McGauvran addressed the Town’s application for a streetscape improvement grant in the amount of $140,210.00. She noted that construction must be completed by June and
requested that, due to the short window, the aforesaid resolution be approved this evening to avoid another two-week delay. She stated that the work consists of sidewalk repairs, crosswalks, handicapped ramps and installation of ten street trees. She responded to questions from the Council regarding the variance in bids, the cost of each item within the project, the feasibility of removing the brick from the crosswalks and paving them with asphalt, the savings with using asphalt rather concrete for crosswalks, and the percentage of sidewalks to be repaired.

Discussion was held regarding a suggestion that the stamped concrete crosswalks be removed from this project and include crosswalks in the road improvement project for a cost savings and a suggestion to remove the stamped concrete crosswalks and concentrate on the sidewalks.

A consensus of the Council was sought that the aforesaid resolution be amended to include asphalt crosswalks and that the resolution, as amended, be moved to the Special Meeting to follow and the consensus failed. (1 to 5 – Councilors Celico, Carson, Overton, Gagnier, and Morrone dissented)

A consensus of the Council was sought that the aforesaid resolution be placed on the Special Meeting to follow and the consensus failed. (3 to 3 – Councilors Aiello, Carson, Morrone dissented)

It was the consensus of the majority of the Council that the original resolution as presented be moved to the Special Meeting to follow. (4 to 2 – Councilors Morrone and Aiello dissented)

9. Resolution In Support Of House Bill #7501 And Senate Bill #2419 Relating To The Implementation Of In-Person Early Voting – Discussion

It was the consensus of the Council that the aforesaid resolution be placed on the April 2, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda for consideration.

10. Proposed Ordinance – “An Ordinance In Amendment Of Article III, Town Sergeant, Of Chapter 34 Of The Westerly Code Of Ordinances Entitled ‘Officers And Employees’” (Amend §34-7 and §34-8 to include language that Deputy Town Sergeant may be appointed; that the Town Sergeant or Deputy Town Sergeant shall attend Council and School Committee meetings; that fee for Deputy Town Sergeant will come from salary of Town Sergeant) – Discussion

It was the consensus of the Council that the aforesaid proposed ordinance be placed on the April 2, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda to be ordered advertised for public hearing.

11. Request For Payment Of Legal Services Rendered By Higgins, Cavanagh & Cooney (Mario P. Celico - $6,335.00) – Discussion

Town Solicitor Conley addressed the aforesaid request for payment stating that he was not approving the payment as he has no record of the Council authorizing legal services on behalf of the Town and that it was not legal work that he had requested.

Council President Morrone stated that this matter is not legally before the Council; therefore, he will not seek a consensus of the Council.

12. Interim Town Manager Process – Discussion

Mr. Kennedy stated that he is collecting resumes for Interim Town Manager and that the bids for the executive recruiter will be available on Thursday. He informed the Council that
a special meeting could be scheduled for Monday, March 26th to review the resumes and the bids, after which interviews could be scheduled. He noted that formal requests for resumes have been made to the presidents of the Rhode Island and Connecticut Town Managers Association and through several recruiters who work in the region, and that he has reached out to several former interim town managers in Rhode Island as to their interests and for recommendations.

Council President Morrone requested that an Executive Session be considered for Monday, March 26, 2018 to address the resumes for Interim Town Manager and that persons interested in the position of Interim Town Manager be allowed to continue to submit resumes up to 5 p.m. on Monday.

It was the consensus of the Council that the Manager post on website the qualifications for Interim Town Manager and the job description for Town Manager as was posted by the former recruiting firm.

It was the consensus of the Council that an Executive Session be scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

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a. Hatsy Moore, 32 Yosemite Valley Rd - re: Answers to her questions; presented handouts with her questions; re: Interim Town Manager; objects to Town Manager Kennedy being involved in town manager hiring process

COUNCILORS’ RESPONSE

Council President Morrone responded to Citizens’ Comments regarding the hiring process for interim and permanent town manager, noting that the Council will be making the decisions.

14. ADJOURNMENT

8:50 P.M. Voted Unanimously to adjourn.

ATTEST: Donna L. Giordano, MMC
Council Clerk

Details of the aforesaid proceedings are available on video on the Town of Westerly website.