

SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

MARCH 18, 2016

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

6:00 P.M.

The meeting began at 6:04 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Mr. Soly, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Boucher.

AD HOC ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Because Chairman of the Ad Hoc Ordinance Review Committee Scott Lentz has been finding it difficult to get a quorum, he is requesting that the resolution be amended to reduce the number of members from eleven to seven.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Soly and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 3 to 0 on a roll call vote to amend the resolution by reducing the membership to seven members to include two members of the public at large.

(Ms. Alves arrived at 6:07 P.M.)

GAS USAGE REPORT ON TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S VEHICLE

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue this to April 4, 2016.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to adopt the following resolution: “WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 8(22) of the Charter of the Town of North Smithfield (the “Charter) and Section 2-204(a) of the North Smithfield Code of Ordinances, the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield wishes to establish a Charter Review Commission. WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield desires that the Charter Review Commission solicit citizen input, deliberate with all due care, prepare a report with its recommendations and deliver that report to the Town Council. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield hereby establishes a Charter Review Commission which shall be comprised of nine (9) members who shall be appointed by the Town Council. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall be charged as follows: (a) Conduct meetings to obtain public input; (b) Comply with the Robert’s Rules of Order and the Rhode Island Open Meeting Act; (c) Review the reports prepared by prior Charter Review Commissions established by the Town; (d) Review the current North Smithfield Town Charter; (e) Make recommendations for revisions to the existing Charter, if any, to the Town Council for its consideration; and (f) The first order of business of the Commission shall be to elect a chair for its ranks. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall complete its work and present the Commission’s recommendations and report to the Town Council by May 1, 2017 so that said recommendations can be reviewed and approved by the Town Council and approved by the General Assembly, if required,

before submittal of any Charter revisions to voters for approval in a 2017 special election or a 2018 general election.”

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to have the Town Clerk advertise in the Valley Breeze for persons interested in serving on the Charter Review Commission.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Although the Town Council did not approve of North Smithfield becoming a sending town to the RISE Mayoral Academy, Town Administrator Hamilton took over as the sponsoring Administrator. Mr. Boucher would like to submit legislation to our local delegation to cap the number of students leaving the North Smithfield school system for a charter school, thus enabling the town to keep the funding for education.

As the proposed legislation was not available for this evening, MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue this matter to April 4, 2016.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Mr. Boucher did not feel this resolution would be in the town’s best interest at this time.

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MOTION by Mr. Boucher and seconded by Mr. Zwolenski for discussion to deny this resolution.

Mr. Zwolenski questioned how Chief Reynolds and Chief Jillson felt about this. Mr. Boucher responded that, per a discussion he had with Chief Reynolds, the Chief did not feel this would be good for the town.

On a roll call vote the MOTION passed 4 to 0.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SEC. 2-222 TOWN VEHICLES

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to amend paragraph (c) by adding “as defined by the Internal Revenue Service” after de minimus fringe benefit.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Soly and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to delete the line, “Notwithstanding the foregoing, town vehicles shall not be used for travel to the RISE Mayoral Academy or any other charter school” from paragraph (a).

MOTION by Mr. Soly, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to delete the line, “To facilitate accurate record keeping, refueling of town vehicles must be completed at the

town highway department” from paragraph (e).

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, Ms. Alves and Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to amend language throughout the document where it says “any town official or employee” to “town elected officials, other town officials, appointed department directors or employees”.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski and seconded by Ms. Alves to consider this the first reading of the ordinance as amended.

Public Works Director Raymond Pendergast commented that the courtesy plate “400000” was granted by former Governor Garrahy and every Town Administrator and Mayor received a similar plate number. He felt it is a courtesy extended to the chief administrative officer and it was insulting to remove that plate from the Administrator’s vehicle and replace it with a municipal government plate.

The MOTION to consider this the first reading as amended was approved 4 to 0 on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote to adjourn at 7:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk