

**Town of East Greenwich
Town Council
Joint Meeting with School Committee
And
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2013 @ 7:00pm
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

Town Council Present: Michael B. Isaacs, President; Jeffrey B. Cianciolo, Vice President; Bradford C. Bishop, Mark Watkins Gee, Michael S. Kiernan

Town Staff Present: Thomas E. Coyle, III, Town Manager; Leigh A. Botello, Town Clerk; Wendy Schmidle, IT Director; Lisa Bourbonnais, Planning Director; Russ McGillivray, Acting Fire Chief; Kathleen Raposa, Finance Director; Pamela Aveyard, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Peter Clarkin, Town Solicitor

School Committee Present: David Green, Mary Ellen Winters, Clark Smith, Jack Sommer

Others: Dr. Victor Mercurio, School Superintendent; Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; Carole Malaga, Stenographer

7:00pm Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

The acknowledgments were considered before the joint meeting with the School Committee began.

Joint Meeting with School Committee

- Discussion of revenues and expenditures for FY 2015 and issues affecting preparation of school budget per RIGL 16-2-21.2 (d).

Mr. Sommer moved to call the School Committee to order, seconded by Ms. Winters.

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange revenues and expenditures as per State law. Mr. Green stated these figures are projections at this point. He noted that collaborative efforts continue in many areas such as Finance, IT and most recently HR. Initiatives for 1:1 digital devices and all-day kindergarten are not included in the estimates and are still to be deliberated by the School Committee.

President Isaacs acknowledges the collaborative efforts put forth in IT and Human Resources. Another meeting needs to be scheduled in January 2014 and a new budget schedule will be disseminated with proposed dates. State Aid, Pilot and State Incentives were briefly discussed.

Councilor Kiernan asked about the overall increase of approximately \$1 million dollars and salary increases of approximately \$700,000. Per Mr. Green, all figures are estimates based on pending negotiations.

Mr. Sommer moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Winters. Voted 4-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Acknowledgements

- Justin Ferra for being named a 2013 U.S. Paralympic High School Track and Field All-American
- EGHS Unified Volleyball Team for being named Division 1 State Champions

VP Cianciolo moved to approve the acknowledgments, seconded by Councilor Bishop. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried. Council and members of the School Committee moved to the front of the dais to congratulate the recipients and Coach Dave Egan.

The joint meeting with the School Committee was then called to order.

1) Town Council Minutes

- a) November 25, 2013 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

Councilor Bishop moved to approve, seconded by VP Cianciolo. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

2) Reports and Communication

- a) Public Comment (15-minute time limit for items NOT on the agenda)

None

3) Public Hearing

- a) RENEWAL of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses with Victualing including Entertainment and New Year's Eve Extended Hours from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014 (CONTINUED from November 25, 2013).

Ms. Botello gave an update that Bistro 9 and Rok Bar and Grill have paid their Town taxes but have not yet received clearance from the State Division of Taxation. Both applicants were encouraged to attend this meeting.

Brandon Sweet from Rok Bar and Grill explained he is working to clear up an outstanding sales tax debt of approximately \$6,000 with the State.

President Isaacs noted that the Town Manager has met with Norman's and was unable to reach an acceptable payment plan. A representative from Bistro 9 was not present.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Bishop requested that the Town Manager look into procedures to ensure applicants remain current and accountable to Council on their taxes.

Councilor Bishop moved to extend the license for Rok Bar and Grille and Bistro 9 to noon on December 17th, seconded by VP Cianciolo. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Coyle explained that he and Sharon Hazard from Norman's have met to discuss plans to increase revenues and make payments to dissolve their debt. Ms. Hazard requested more time. Further discussion followed on the proposed payment plans offered by the Town Manager.

President Isaacs moved to extend the license for Norman's until January 14, 2014, seconded by Councilor Kiernan. Further discussion was had on various methods of payment. Voted 3-2 with President Isaacs, VP Cianciolo and Council Kiernan voting yes and Councilors Gee and Bishop voting no, motion carried.

Moved to Item 5b

- b) Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance adopted July 25, 2000 as amended to change the zone from F-1 Farm to CH Commercial Highway for Map 31, Plat 17, Lot 10 to accommodate the development known as "The Commons at Frenchtown Road" (SECOND READING).

Ms. Bourbonnais introduced the item and explained the applicant has already received master plan approval per state statute in both East Greenwich and North Kingstown. Public sewer connections are anticipated in order to preserve and protect water quality. The sewer facilities plan will need to be updated.

Attorney John C. Revens, Jr. representing the applicant Frenchtown Partners, LLC explained that proper notice was given to all abutters. The project is two years old and 25% of the land area is in East Greenwich and approximately 75% of the land area is in North Kingstown. The applicant has received master plan approval and Comp Plan amendments adopted in both Towns. North Kingstown has already approved the zone change. A proposal on the sewer facilities plan amendment will need review if the zone change is approved. The Town has completed a study on such and the applicant has agreed to pay for it. State permits need to be obtained and a final review in front of both Planning Boards. Several experts were present for questions.

Bob Clinton, VHB, briefly explained some details from the traffic study performed for this project.

Councilor Bishop moved to close the Public Hearing and move to third reading on December 16, 2013, seconded by VP Cianciolo. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

4) Consent Calendar

- a) Ratification of Class F Alcoholic Beverage License for OLM Fundraiser

Councilor Gee moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Bishop. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

5) Unfinished Business

- a) Ordinance amending Chapter 34 of the Town Code entitled “Boards, Committees and Commissions, Article X, East Greenwich Historic Cemetery Advisory Committee” as previously adopted on September 9, 2013 (THIRD READING).

Councilor Bishop moved to approve, seconded by VP Cianciolo. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Move to 6a.

- b) RENEWAL of Victualing Licenses from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014 (CONTINUED from November 25, 2013).

Councilor Bishop moved to approve the victualing licenses for Drizzle Pizza/Ricotti’s Subs, Gold’s Gym, Jiggers Hill and Harbor Diner and New England Tech Food Court, seconded by Councilor Gee. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Moved to Item 3b

6) New Business

- a) Approval of the Alpha Research Associates 2013 Community Resident Survey

Ms. Bourbonnais explained that since the Comprehensive Plan has been approved, this survey would assist in creating regulatory ordinance amendments affected things such as Renewable Energy, transit and affordable housing. A discussion followed on the composition of the questions with regard to the effect on costs associated with potential new projects and the previous survey done in 2011.

Robert Vespia asked if the survey could be done online. Ms. Bourbonnais explained voice results have generated the best polling results. Only land lines are used. The survey will be publicized before it commences.

Councilor Bishop moved to approve the survey with the cost paid for from the Comprehensive Plan budget, seconded by Councilor Gee. Voted 4-1 with President Isaacs, VP Cianciolo, Councilor Gee and Councilor Bishop voting yes and Councilor Kiernan voting no.

- b) Approval of new computer equipment in Fire Department apparatus

Wendy Schmidle explained the necessity to upgrade the equipment and hardware. She is proposing to standardize equipment where applicable between the Fire and Police Departments. Funds are coming from the former capital account that existed with the previous Fire District.

Councilor Kiernan moved to approve the purchase and installation of new computer equipment in Fire Department apparatus at a cost of \$33,000, seconded by Councilor Gee. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

7) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Coyle attended the ribbon cutting at Cobblestone's Pizza.

8) Council Comments

Councilor Gee is concerned about hand-made signs tacked up on utility poles. Ms. Bourbonnais added that numerous signs are removed on a weekly basis by Town staff. The Sign Ordinance is due to be amended and updated. Violators should be reported to the Zoning Official. A process will be drafted to cite offenders.

President Isaacs noted that the last meeting of the year is next Monday, December 16th.

9) Public Comment (15-minute time limit)

None

10) Executive Session per RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) pertaining to personnel and litigation or collective bargaining:

Councilor Bishop moved to go in to Executive Session per RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) pertaining to personnel and litigation or collective bargaining, seconded by VP Cianciolo. Roll call vote of 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

a) Town Manager Contract

b) Litigation – Sara's Trace residents vs. East Greenwich School Committee

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

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

Councilor Gee moved to adjourn at 9:45pm, seconded by Councilor Bishop. Voted 5-0 all in favor, motion carried.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL DECEMBER 16, 2013