

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
January 14, 2008

Executive Session
RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (5)
Pertaining to Acquisition of Land

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to go into Executive Session. Roll call vote. All Aye. (Councilman Hyde arrived after beginning of Executive Session)

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to emerge from Executive Session. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to seal minutes of Executive Session. All voted Aye. So voted.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Kenneth Cloutier, Anthony Colaluca, Justin Pomfret, Bruce Thompson,
Frank Hyde

Solicitor Patrick Sullivan
Acting Manager Paul Sprague

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant
Invocation by Councilman Cloutier
Evacuation plan by Town Sergeant

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve minutes from Town Council meetings on December 10 and December 27, 2007

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Renewal of Private Detective license for Ernest Legault

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to grant renewal of Private Detective license for Ernest Legault. All voted Aye. So voted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Renewal of B Ltd. License for Caroline's Restaurant Inc., 1532 Main Street, Coventry (renewal of 90 day license)

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

No one spoke in favor, no one opposed.

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Frank Hyde to close public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Zoning Officer Jacob Peabody stated that he has issued a signage violation. Since that time I spoke with the owner and she has agreed to take down the signs. I would request that you do not issue this license until I have done an inspection of the property and notified the Town Clerk's Office that she is in compliance.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve B Ltd License for the remainder of the year subject to compliance with regard to violation of signage on the property. All voted Aye. So voted.

2. Renewal of Firearms license for Joseph Vadovsky, New England Gunsmiths, 1368 Plainfield Pike, Greene

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to close public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to grant renewal of firearms license. All voted Aye. So voted.

3. Renewal of Firearms license for Charles Hawkins, Hawkins Machine Co Inc., 374 Hopkins Hill Road, Coventry

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to close public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Bruce Thompson to grant renewal of firearms license. All voted Aye. So voted.

Bond Presentation

Presentation given by Vice-President Bruce Thompson. Mr. Thompson stated that this presentation gives the public a tour of the town's facilities and the various repairs, capital improvements and issues which need to be dealt with.

Of top priority were fire alarm upgrades which are mandatory at the school department. The school department has already received extensions. Cost for fire alarm upgrades would be about \$1 million dollars.

The track at the high school athletic field needs replacement, as does the lighting on the field. The bleachers are not safe and need to be replaced.

There are leaking roofs at some facilities, the high school needs upgraded ventilation, heating and cooling systems, Hopkins Hill School and Blackrock are in need of repaving in the parking areas. Police need a new facility. They are cramped, out of space. Human Services needs space, they are overcrowded. The library needs space and that will just about double by taking over the Town Hall; and the new government center, although structurally sound, needs a new roof.

Charles Vacca questioned whether there are any plans for a new location for the police department. Mr. Vacca stated that East Greenwich is paying \$8 million for their new station. Wonders what effect the stock market will have on our ability to pay back the bond.

Finance Director Warren West stated that at 19.8 million, it might sound like a lot, but for lenders it is considered a small amount. Percentage rate/interest would be 4.5 – 5%.

Manager Sprague brought to the public's attention the fact that Central Coventry Fire Department is interested in purchasing the Wood Street Senior Center. There could be a reimbursement situation there. Regarding the police station, there are still 8 acres on the northerly side of Walker Lane. Also, the developer at the Almacs Plaza will work with us for a police station at that site. We will have a fixed rate bond – the market won't effect us.

Mr. Vacca asked about school reimbursement. Raymond Spear, School Committee, stated that if this is approved, that we are guaranteed 50% reimbursement by the state at this point. If we wait, the state is supposed to do away with the reimbursement, but right now we have a guarantee. Mr. Vacca also noted that he doesn't think we should have to go outside the town for a lot of the workers.

Manager Sprague stated that Department of Public Works did a lot of the work inside the former school already.

Joseph Brown – If this passes, will all of the safety issues be taken care of by the start of the next school year?

Manager Sprague – Yes, we have no choice.

Mr. Spear – The roofs will be done as fast as we can. Maybe they will all be done at once, maybe two at a time. Will begin with the biggest problem first.

Mr. Brown – If this bond doesn't pass, what are the other options?

Mr. Thompson - The fire alarm has to be done before the schools open. As far as other options, you would probably have to look at cuts. We have implemented TIF. That money could be used for capital improvements.

Manager Sprague – Some communities have imposed a surtax to meet mandates, although those are not pleasant options.

Wayne Asselin – Questioned if new building would include a new P. A. system.

Justin Pomfret – Yes.

Wayne Asselin – Is this bond additional to the cap?

Justin Pomfret – Yes.

Robert DiPadua – I am voting for this. If we don't, in ten years we will be getting killed in taxes.

Kathy Patenaude – Am hopeful that TIF will give us some capital money.

Raymond Spear stated that this bond should be supported. Reminded public that of the \$10 million going to the schools, \$5 million of that will be paid by the state.

President Pomfret announced that public forum would begin for anyone wishing to address the council with any issues or concerns.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. So voted.

Town Clerk