

Town Council Meeting  
January 27, 2014

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 PM

- A. Review of qualifications for Boards and Commissions appointments as per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1)
  - 1. Juvenile Hearing Board
  - 2. Sewer Assessment Board of Review/Appeals
  
- B. For the purpose of discussing matters of potential litigation as per RIGL 42-46-5(a) (2)
  - 1. West vs. Town of Coventry
  - 2. Commerce Park vs. Town of Coventry (SU-12-0207 & 0210)

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Present: President Gary Cote, Vice-President Kerry McGee, Councilwoman Carlson, Councilman Jendzejec, Town Manager Thomas Hoover, Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Absent: Councilman Laboissonniere

Pledge of Allegiance led by Eagle Scout Richard Audette  
Moment of Silence  
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

A motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to adjourn Executive Session. All voted Aye.

Motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to seal minutes from Executive Session. All voted Aye.

President's Comments

President Cote asked that cell phones and pagers be turned off or put on silent.

Approval of Town Council minutes January 13, 2014

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Vice-President McGee to approve minutes. All voted aye.

PROCLAMATION

Vice-President McGee presented proclamation to Richard S. Audette upon receiving his Eagle Scout Certificate

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REPORT

School Committee member David Florio gave update on the Wireless Classroom Initiative, a \$326,000 RIDE grant. Jacobs Technology is being awarded the contract and the expectation is that the project is complete before the start of the 2014-2015 school year.

Additional updates included notification that Superintendent Almeida will present the schools' technology plan to the School Committee at its next meeting. The Enrollment Task Force Committee is recommending that the School Committee hire RGB to do a study on enrollment and all-day kindergarten to determine if a capacity problem exists, to assess current enrollment and space capacity at elementary schools, identify potential solutions and/or opportunities and costs. In addition, to project future enrollment at elementary schools for the next three years and develop proposals based on future enrollment projections.

Lastly, Brad Pingley, Coventry High School Social Studies teacher, was honored by RI Commission of Education, Deborah Gist, with the Golden Apple Award.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approving the Budget Calendar for submission of the 2014/2015 fiscal year budget

Vice-President McGee asked if these are all public meetings and would like to see at least one more public hearing added to give public more opportunity.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Vice-President McGee to adopt resolution, and amend to add one more public hearing. All voted Aye.

## LICENSES

1. Application for victualling license by UMAAMBE INC. dba Coventry Mart, 1100 Main Street (due to corporate name change only)

Proprietor Kanan Patel was present to answer any questions and he stated that this license application is only due to a corporate name change.

Motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve license. All voted Aye.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Discussion and resulting action on authorizing an Automated Refuse and Recycling Collection Pilot Program for the Town of Coventry

Manager Hoover advised that on September 23, 2013, he made an initial presentation on a proposed pilot program for auto refuse collection. Since that time, our new Public Works Director, Kevin McGee, has offered some suggestions of his own and refined the presentation, which he will make tonight.

Mr. McGee went on to discuss the benefits of the program, such as overall reduced costs with regard to manpower, collection efficiency and a decrease in work related injuries.

Mr. McGee prepared a report, which was discussed at length (see entire report in council folder). In summarizing, he stated that there are currently five collectors for refuse and four for recyclables who collect 5 days a week with a single operator in a side loader truck. In automated collection the operator performs their tasks within the vehicle, reducing job injuries and increasing productivity.

The Pilot program includes renting two automated trucks for six months for two routes for the pilot program. One route would service curbed streets and the other uncurbed. These trucks would dump directly at RI Resource Recovery Corp.

It is estimated that a 3.7 million bond would need to be issued to fund the town-wide automated collection system. The Town would also have to dedicate annual funding to replace the automated trucks after their 10 year life cycle has been met. The cost on a 10 year cycle would be 1.7 million, which can be realized through the program savings.

Further discussion took place with regard to anticipated revenues and costs. Additional benefits to automation include decreased workers comp claims and reduced sick days.

Councilwoman Carlson suggested that consideration should be given to one of the pilot routes covering the western end of Coventry, since many roads are not paved, there are no curbs or sidewalks and driveways are long.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilman Jendzjec to approve resolution authorizing a pilot program. All voted Aye.

2. Discussion and resulting action awarding rights of providing a defined contribution program to the International City/County Manager Association Retirement Corporation (ICMA RC) for Town of Coventry employees as may be required by collective bargaining agreements and/or selected by said employees

Manager Hoover advised that an agreement was reached with AFCME that all new employees will be provided a pension based on a defined contribution program. One bid was received from ICMA-RC and I am recommending that we enter an agreement with this corporation. All employees can supplement with this plan, but town will not match any contributions if those employees already have a defined benefit plan.

Finance Director Robert Thibeault and Mark Lasyone from ICMA-RC gave an overview of the proposal submitted by ICMA-RC. Mr. Lasyone stated there would be no fees charged to

the town, fees will be paid by employees. ICMA-RC will give training to employees and they will have a wide selection of funding to choose from. Councilman Jendzejec asked about fees and Mr. Lasyone replied that the main fee is administration of the plan at .55% and employees will be paying for the services.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Vice-President McGee to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

3. Discussion and resulting action providing the same percentage wage increase to the Town Manager as to be provided to AFSCME Local 3484 and non-uniformed unrepresented employees on July 1, 2014 and July 1, 2015

President Cote explained that by approving this resolution, Manager Hoover would become in-line with any raises that the rest of the towns non-uniformed, AFSCME employees receive. Currently Mr. Hoover has an employment agreement with the town and has been employed here for a little less than five years.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

4. Discussion and resulting action regarding the transfer of unencumbered appropriations in the Police Department from this fiscal year's capital improvement items for the purpose of purchasing and/or installing currently needed items per Section 8.19 (d) of the Coventry Home Rule Charter with resulting action on the purchase of three used administrative/detective vehicles at a cost of \$14,000 per vehicle and the purchase and installation of fencing across the north and east side of the recently paved Police parking lot at a cost of \$9,500

Chief Volpe requested that the remaining balance of CIP money (\$11,824) from paving of the parking lot be reallocated to supplement the Byrne/Jag grant funding, which will allow the purchase of three detective vehicles at approximately \$14,000 per vehicle. The \$11,824 balance is due to the fact that a smaller area was paved that we had planned.

In addition, he requested the remaining \$9,500 in CIP funds that were originally allocated for installation of gutters to be reallocated for the purchase of fencing across the north and east side of the new parking lot.

A motion was made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve resolution. All voted aye.

5. Discussion and resulting action regarding indemnification of public employees, officials, members of boards, agencies and commissions

President Cote explained that this issue had been previously discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

6. Discussion and resulting action regarding authorization to sign a settlement agreement with Springfield Armoury.

Manager Hoover stated that this is an item which was discussed in a prior Executive Session, is a cost saver for the town, and he recommends approval.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to approve resolution. All vote aye.

## ORDINANCE

1. Amending Article 6 of the Section 603 Schedule of Zoning District Use Regulations Table 6-1 C Industry 2. Industrial Non- Manufacturing to allow Commercial Woodlots & Firewood Storage & Sales as a permitted use in the I-1 Zone.

President Cote explained that he was approached by a local business owner who asked him to sponsor this ordinance. It is on the agenda tonight for a vote to approve advertisement for a public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice-President McGee to approve for advertisement, no second. Motion fails.

2. Amending in accordance with Articles 5 and 18 of the Town of Coventry Zoning Ordinance and the Coventry Zoning Map whereby the property at the corner of Arnold Road and New London Turnpike, designated and described as Assessor's Plat 7, Lot 15, 17, 18, 19 & 20, currently zoned Industrial is hereby rezoned in its entirety to Planned Business Park (BP)

Attorney John Brunero was present and gave a brief overview of the proposed ordinance, in that a request is being made to rezone this area from Industrial to Business Park (BP). Currently, Cumberland Farms desires to knock down three houses and the Planning Commission has unanimously recommended to this Council that the zone be changed from Industrial to BP, which allows numerous retail opportunities. There is a long way to go, this is just Phase 1. I also contacted the owners of Chevaliers to see if they want to be included in that zone change. This is a combined deal which would result in more of a continuous business park with no separation.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Vice-President McGee to approve ordinance for advertisement. All voted Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one spoke at Public Comment.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to adjourn meeting. All voted aye.

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Town Clerk