

Town Council Meeting
February 9, 2015

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Councilwoman Carlson, President Shibley, Councilwoman Duxbury, Councilman Laboissonniere, Town Manager Thomas Hoover, Town Solicitor Nicholas Gorham. Councilman McGee was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation by Manager Hoover
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

President's Comments

President Shibley announced that congratulations go out to the Coventry JRROTC cadets as they spent last Saturday at CHS collecting goods to donate to the food bank in Coventry. He also thanked the Department of Public Works for the great job they are doing in dealing with the enormous amounts of snow that we have received lately and reminded citizens that for public safety reasons, to please not shovel snow back into the road after the plow has gone by.

Approval of Town Council minutes January 26, 2015.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to approve minutes. All voted Aye.

COUNCIL DISTRICT UPDATES

District 5 Councilwoman Duxbury reiterated what President Shibley said, asking citizens not to move plowed and shoveled snow back into the roads and intersections; this is very dangerous especially with school children.

District 1 Councilwoman Carlson agreed and stated that she has received several emails regarding the excellent job DPW is doing with the snow.

District 2 and District 4 had no news to report.

Public comment: None at this time.

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing the quick action of Department of Public Works employee Domenic Imbruglia in discovering a fire involving three (3) sanitation trucks on January 15, 2015

President Shibley presented a proclamation to Domenic Imbruglia, a custodian at the Town Hall, who on January 15, 2015, smelled a burning odor, found that it was a refuse truck on fire at DPW. With his quick action in calling 911, the fire department was able to get there quickly. We only lost one truck and there is slight damage on two others. Had it not been for him noticing and responding so quickly, we could have lost the whole fleet.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Discussion and resulting action regarding the emergency repair of the rear steps at the Town Hall Annex Police work out room by Little Rhody Machine Repair, Inc. at a cost of \$7,450

DPW Director McGee explained that an unsafe condition of a stairway and platform falling apart at the Town Hall Annex was brought to his attention by the Police Department. The building inspector checked it out and condemned it. We talked to the Trust and they denied the claim. Since the stairway and platform was too dangerous to utilize anymore, we called Little Rhody Machine, a local company (fabricator) to look at the situation. They provided a proposal, engineering sketch and basically we need to remove it to have it repaired and redone so that we can use it again. This was an important enough situation that we had to do it, so we are coming to you after the fact.

Councilman Laboissonniere asked which entrance at the annex and Mr. McGee responded

that it was the rear loading dock area which is not just used for the weight room for the police department.

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

2. Discussion and resulting action regarding the award of a contract to Cintas Fire Protection for fire alarm and sprinkler testing and inspection at a cost of \$5,750

DPW Director McGee explained that the town has had a contract with Cintas for the last ten years. The contract has never been renewed, although Cintas has held the price. However, we do need to go out to bid, even though they have not raised the price over the last ten years. Manager Hoover explained that the annual price actually will go down because we have had Cintas taking care of the MacArthur Boulevard Building also and the closing for that property should be done this month. Since we will no longer have to provide the Cintas service to that building, the bill should be reduced by about \$1,000.

Councilman Shibley added that this is an essential service that covers the Town Hall, Library, DPW, Senior Center, Police Station, Annex, and Human Services Center.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

3. Discussion and resulting action regarding the award of a contract to Sanitary Equipment Company Inc. of West Haven, CT to provide nine (9) automated refuse and recycling collection truck bodies at an annual cost of \$1,141,362

Mr. McGee sent out invitations to bid, however Sanitary Equipment was the only company/bidder who was able to follow the specs and also the only bidder with a multi-use truck body that allows us to collect yard waste as well as recycling and trash. Additionally, we were able to get them to extend the reach arm at no additional charge.

President Shibley asked if the auto lube option of \$72,000 noted on the bid spec would be an expense at a later time. Mr. McGee replied that no, this would have had to be done at the time of manufacture and we do not have the additional \$72,000 in the budget.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Discussion and resulting action on tax abatements and additions for January 2015

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to approve abatements and additions. All voted Aye.

Discussion and resulting action regarding replacing a position of Family Social Worker with a position of Family Social Worker Assistant.

Pat Shurtleff, Human Services Director, explained that she would like to hire a social worker assistant rather than a social worker. She has advertised for a social worker and received quite a few applicants, but the skill base she is looking for was not there. Instead, she would like to hire an assistant social worker, which would allow her to open the food bank another day during the week and take some additional chores off of the desks of the social workers we have now. The assistant social worker would also be involved with the income tested programs, the RI low income heating and housing programs, allowing the social workers to focus on the more complicated situations that we are faced with every day.

The approximate \$5,000 difference in salary would benefit the department in that we could get some other programs started up. There is a real need to do some work with grandparents who are raising their grandchildren as they are also dealing with their own age related issues and find themselves inheriting grandchildren who come with a lot of issues of their own. There are quite a few families in Coventry with this need. There is also a need to expand ourselves in working with kids and teens, who are also taking on a lot of responsibility because of their own parents who are dealing with substance abuse problems of their own. This additional money will allow us to operate these programs and still accomplish what we need to do.

President Shibley asked that if an assistant social worker is hired whether the position of full social worker goes away. Mrs. Shurtleff replied yes it does go away and she is ok with that. Currently there is no one special in mind for the assistant position, but there are many people who work at the various CCAP agencies. Mrs. Duxbury asked how she gets the word out that she wants to run these programs regarding grandparents/children. Ms. Shurtleff said work will get out there through the housing authority , newsletters, the website, mental health centers, and schools.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to approve resolution. All voted aye.

Discussion and resulting action requesting the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation and the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass legislation to create a Governor's Line-Item Veto in Rhode Island

Manager Hoover stated that this item was brought to his attention by both Councilmen Shibley and Laboissonniere. The resolution is self-explanatory, but Rhode Island is one of six states that does not provide for governor's line item veto. Mr. Ken Block is championing this effort in trying to get it passed by the General Assembly and is asking that you give it your consideration.

Councilman Laboissonniere happened to see the bill. Mr. Block is moving it forward and feels it is a good bill to add to the separation of powers. President Shibley agrees and having served as a State Senator, he had the choice of voting only yes or no on the state budget. He would have liked to have seen a line item veto as there were things that he feels could have been taken out of the budget, yes or not is not a good business and is happy to have this resolution put before the Town Council tonight.

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

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

Town Clerk