

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers  
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI  
February 11, 2008

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Solicitor Patrick Sullivan  
Acting Manager Paul Sprague

Absent: Bruce Thompson

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant  
Moment of silence for police and Town Council regarding shooting tragedy in Missouri last week.  
Evacuation plan reviewed by Town Sergeant

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve minutes of Town Council meetings on January 28 and January 29, 2008. All voted Aye. So voted.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Application for Sewer Contractor's license by Richie Equipment Corporation

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve application. All voted Aye. So voted.

2. Proclamation establishing Dorothy Hutchinson Memorial Park

President Pomfret presented proclamation to members of the Hutchinson family, dedicating and renaming Central Coventry Park the "Dorothy Hutchinson Memorial Park". This is done in memory of Mrs. Hutchinson's years of dedication to the town, especially her service on the Planning Commission.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution regarding low interest loan program

Manager Sprague gave overview of guidelines and how program would work. Since the aesthetic zoning ordinance was adopted the town has been seeking ways in which to help the small business person deal with the repair or remodeling of their business. Mr. Sprague explained that the intent of the loan is not for operating expenses, but to help the small business owner with the appearance of the structures.

Councilman Hyde stated that he sponsored this resolution in an effort to recognize the local businesses in town because of the stressed economic situation. He stated that this is nothing that he will take advantage of personally. Believes fellow businessmen in the community could really benefit from this. In the times that we are in, you have to have an outreach program and this is our way.

Councilman Colaluca believes this is a win-win situation for the town and for small business. Will help businesses move forward with the aesthetic zoning ordinance regarding upgrades for their facilities.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adopt resolution. All voted Aye. So voted.

## 2. Resolution pertaining to Engineering Department

President Pomfret – We have been saying for a couple of months now that we are going to be faced with a tough year. Taxes are high, people don't feel that they can pay any more, and we really need help with the tax burden. This is just one step taken going in the right direction for the taxpayer. We already have two engineering firms on our payroll, Weston and Samson and Geremia and Assoc. We feel that by eliminating the engineering department and going "outside", it is going to save the town thousands of dollars in the future.

There are many issues that will have to be looked at. Overall this is a very big step. Tough times are upon us, we are going to have to cut back without cutting back too much on the services of the taxpayer. We are now taking the bull by the horns and this is the first victory for the taxpayer.

Mr. Cloutier – There is a concern in town, according to some phone calls I received this weekend, that not having a full time engineer would be like not having someone to "watch the store" in some aspects of the town, such as Centre of New England and Tiogue Lake. Not positive that an engineering firm, doing this by the hour, is going to be able to do the same type of job and watch the store.

President Pomfret – I am also concerned about those things, but believe we can get that straightened out. This is something that I don't necessarily want to do, but am forced into tough decisions. In the future we will be looking at a hiring freeze for the town. We are paying a lot to live in the Town of Coventry and have some very good services. It is time to ease the burden on the taxpayers.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adopt resolution. Vote taken: Frank Hyde – Aye; Anthony Colaluca – Aye; Justin Pomfret – Aye; Kenneth Cloutier – Nay; Motion carries.

### PUBLIC HEARING AND ENSUING ACTION

1. Application by Kyle McCarthy and Paul Percivalle, Mid-State Gun Company, LLC, for new firearms license at 15 Sandy Bottom Road, Unit 109

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

Present: Kyle McCarthy  
16 Beach Street, Coventry

Paul Percivalle  
542 Plainfield Pike

Steven Pezza, Esq. represented Mid State Gun Company.

Mr. McCarthy told Town Council that he would operate his shop in the same building as the previous gun shop, but a different unit. This will be a new store with new owners.

No one spoke in favor or opposition.

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

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Frank Hyde to approve application. All voted Aye. So voted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE FOR ADVERTISING AND THE SETTING OF  
PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance amending Chapter 3, Article 1 of Coventry Code of Ordinances - Animals and Fowl

Municipal Court Judge Arthur Capaldi gave brief overview of ordinance and that a few items will be addressed and clarified, such as a clarification of the law regarding fines; putting "vicious dogs" in its own category and away from trespassing and nuisance as currently it is a combined category. The animal control officer has requested the establishment of an additional charge in a fine in order to start a fund for medical attention that an animal may require to make him more adoptable. Additionally Parks and Recreation requests a fine for the failure to clean up after your pet on public property.

Town Council directed that ordinance is advertised for public hearing on March 10, 2008.

President Pomfret asked for motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (5) Acquisition/disposition of property and Personnel.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to go into Executive Session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye.

Motion made by Frank Hyde 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.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. So voted.

President Pomfret announced that the Town Council is available at this time in Public Forum if anyone wishes to discuss any issues or concerns.

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Town Clerk