

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 25, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: President Gary Cote, Ted Jendzejec, Kerry McGee, Raymond Spear

Town Manager Thomas Hoover
Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant
Invocation by Rev. Auld from Summit Baptist Church
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

President's Comments

President Cote announced that a public hearing will be held regarding the municipal and capital budgets on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Town Hall Annex auditorium.

Approval of Town Council Minutes – April 11, 2011

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to approve minutes. All voted aye.

Swearing-In Town Council Member

Carl Mattson, Jr., recently elected Town Council member from District 2, was sworn into office by his son-in-law, Det. Sgt. James Tiernan of the West Warwick Police Department. On behalf of the Town Council, President Cote congratulated and welcomed Mr. Mattson as a member of the Town Council.

PROCLAMATION

Mr. Peter Lockwood of the Coventry Conservation Commission accepted a proclamation recognizing April 29 as Arbor Day in Rhode Island, also marking the 23rd anniversary of the observance of Arbor Day. Mr. Lockwood announced that a red oak tree has been purchased in memory of Peter Suorsa, a former member of the Conservation Commission, for his dedicated work as a commission member and surveyor in Coventry. The tree will be planted in front of the Town Hall.

Presentation by Waste Zero Corporation on a "Pay As You Throw" trash program

Mr. Michael Laporte, Regional Manager, gave presentation (See full presentation in council folder). He explained that the core business of Wastezero is the Pay As You Throw program. Wastezero is employed by four or five communities in Rhode Island and 300 throughout the United States. He commented on the success of Middletown, RI, currently using the Wastezero system, with recycling now at 42%, the highest in RI.

He explained that revenue received helps towns reach their financial objectives, with bag revenues being used to reduce taxes or balance budgets. Either way the town benefits from tipping fees, an increase in recycling revenue, reduction of greenhouse gases as the trucks idle less, trash routes completed more quickly, and a reduction in municipal waste. You may also see a decrease in worker's compensation cases.

In addition, once the Johnston landfill closes, out of state shipping rates will triple. Wastezero has a higher success rate than other programs available. Illegal dumping has not been found to be a significant problem.

With regard to the bags, Waste zero manufactures them, distributes to retailers, does the accounting and the comprehensive reports. Major retailers such as Lowes, CVS, and Cumberland Farms sell bags in their stores.

Pay As You Throw is a program that can be quickly implemented with minimal or no capital expenditure with immediate and measurable results. There are significant reductions in solid waste. The town can customize the program to meet its own needs. We have provided you with an impact analysis with projected total savings and bag revenue at \$803,714, assuming bag prices of \$1.00 for 30 gallon., .63 cents for 15 gallon and .50 cents for the smallest bag. We have had 300 successful municipalities with no failures.

President Cote asked about the revenue split; Mr. Laporte responded about 85/15 with the town getting 85% of bag costs. If you decide that you want out of the contract, we ask for a 60-90 day notice in order to deplete inventory. President Cote remarked that he is looking to reduce fuel and man hours, but not employees. Mr. Laporte stated that the cost to the average family is about \$156.00 a year.

When asked about the life expectancy of RI Resource Recovery, Mr. LaPorte replied about 20 years.

Councilman Spear commented that in addition to this presentation, there should be further clarification of the program and how it works.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution approving sewer tie-ins at 599 and 760 Tiogue Avenue
2. Resolution directing Tax Assessor to levy sewer assessments on certain properties located on Tiogue Avenue, Forestdale Drive, Alaska Street, Colorado Street and Arizona Street

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to approve Consent Agenda. All voted Aye.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution amending the Operating and Capital improvement Budget Schedule

Manager Hoover noted the reason for the change from May 3 to May 5 on the School Department public hearing schedule is because Commissioner of Education Gist will visit Coventry the evening of May 3.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to approve the resolution with a scheduling change to May 5. All voted aye.

2. Awarding a contract for Street Sweeping to Xpress Sweeping Inc. at a total cost of \$27,107.20

Manager Hoover commented that there was one bid from Xpress Sweeping of \$27,107, the same price as last year.

Motion made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman Mattson to approve resolution. All voted aye.

3. Affirming the award of a contract for the redevelopment of the Village Green Project in Anthony Village to d'Ambra Construction Co., Inc. at a cost of \$142,191

Manager Hoover asked that this resolution be tabled. Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to table resolution. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Hakanson, 30 Lakeside Drive asked the Council to consider street sweeping in areas around Tiogue Lake, there is a silt problem

Dorothy Berube, Colvintown Road, asked if the town gets paid for recycling; Superintendent Smith replied yes, the town received \$26,000 last year.

Bob DiPadua, 62 Laurel Ave., feels that more clarification is needed with regard to the Wastezero program.

Ron Gizzarelli, 50 Harrington St., remarked that the Town should seek innovative new programs and offer brochures to the public.

Bob Thibeault, 18 Grant Drive, asked if an RFP would be required with regard to the Pay as You Throw program and Manager Hoover replied that yes, an RFP would be required.

Mr. Laporte remarked that the program would guarantee \$65,000 a month. Revenue would depend on what the community decides. Some communities charge up to \$4.00 or \$5.00 a bag, even though that is not recommended. This is your program and you decide where your numbers have to be.

Kathy Patenaude, 38 Field Stone Drive, supports such a program and feels the only way the public will get on board is if it cost them.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Mattson to recess into executive session. Roll call vote: Carl Mattson Aye, Raymond Spear, Aye; Kerry McGee, Aye; Gary Cote, Aye; Ted Jendzejec, Aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2)

1. For the purpose of discussing personnel matters
2. For the purpose of discussing matters of litigation

Upon motion made by Councilman Spear and seconded by McGee, it was voted to recess back to regular session.

Roll call vote: Carl Mattson Aye, Raymond Spear, Aye; Kerry McGee, Aye; Gary Cote, Aye; Ted Jendzejec, Aye.

In open session, motion was made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman Spear to approve a resolution permitting the Tax Collector to sign the judgment stipulation between the Town of Coventry and Coventry Building and Wrecking, Inc. It was unanimously approved.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to seal the minutes of executive session. It was unanimously approved.

Councilman Mattson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Spear. It was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Town Clerk