

Town Council Meeting  
April 28, 2014

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Review of qualifications for Boards and Commission appointments per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1)
1. Friends of Human Services
  2. Coventry Housing Authority
  3. Library Board of Trustees
  4. Historic District Commission

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Vice-President Kerry McGee, Councilwoman Carlson, Gregory Laboissonniere, Town Manager Thomas Hoover, Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin; President Cote was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 31 Crompton  
Moment of Silence  
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

A motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to close Executive Session and seal Executive Session minutes. Roll call vote. All voted Aye.

President's Comments

Vice-President McGee announced that the next budget hearing will be held on May 5 and he would like to see more residents attend the hearings.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REPORT

School Committee member David Florio advised that on May 5 there will also be another school budget hearing. An invitation was also extended to the Town Council to attend a presentation on May 13 by the Enrollment Task Force, where they give findings of their study. So far statistics indicate there will be a problem with enrollment in the future. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Annex. And lastly, the superintendent is working on grants from the State of RI for all day K.

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

The Town Council acting as the Liquor Control Board to consider a violation of Bella's Sports Bar, 1152 Main Street, Coventry, RI

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to open public hearing. All voted Aye.

Proprietor David Thomas from Bella's was present. Solicitor Tobin asked if he was here pursuant to a letter he received signifying that there would be a show cause hearing this evening in order to indicate whether the liquor license should be suspended or revoked for an incident occurring regarding the sale of liquor to an underage person. Mr. Thomas responded that is the reason he is here this evening.

Solicitor Tobin asked him if he admits the charge, of serving to a minor and Mr. Thomas responded that he does admit to it.

Solicitor Tobin explained that he previously indicated to Mr. Thomas that Police Chief Brian Volpe is recommending two consecutive days suspension of the liquor license.

Chief Volpe agreed that he does recommend two consecutive days as we intend to make an impact. This is his second violation in one year and establishments are aware that we operate "stings" and they should all be carding. These are two separate, severe violations and we have to draw the line somewhere.

Vice-President McGee acknowledged that this is a very difficult situation, but we have to let you know that this is serious, and two violations in one year is serious. He suggested a two day suspension on Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10, giving Mr. Thomas a chance to use up supplies this week. Although Mr. Thomas asked if this could take place on two weekdays, Mr. McGee pointed out the seriousness of the violations and in addition this violation was by the same person as last time, and hopefully that is being addressed.

Mr. Thomas advised that the bartender is going through retraining and getting re-certified. He then asked if he could keep his business open, serving only food that weekend. Chief Volpe and Solicitor Tobin agreed that he could, but all liquor in the establishment would have to be removed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to close public hearing. All voted Aye.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to suspend liquor license on May 9 and May 10. All voted Aye.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Discussion and resulting action on appointing Tony Raposo as a full member to the Sewer Subcommittee

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

2. Discussion and resulting action on appointing Councilwoman Karen Carlson to the Waterman/Fiske Fund Loan Review Committee to replace former Councilman Ted Jendzejec

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Vice-President McGee to approve resolution. All voted aye.

3. Discussion and resulting action requesting the General Assembly delegation representing Coventry to introduce and support legislation which would allow the Town of Coventry to place on the November 11, 2014 General Election ballot a referendum question to issue not more than \$5,500,000 in bonds and notes to establish a Town-wide Automated Refuse and Recycling Collection Program at no cost to property owners, to be repaid through program

savings

Manager Hoover explained that this resolution is basically just to approve a referendum for the general election in November to create a town wide automated refuse collection and recycling program. We need to get this measure before the General Assembly so that the voters will be able to have the opportunity to vote in November if our pilot program is successful and we want to expand town wide. In order to get to the general election we have to get it to the election committee by August 6 and as a result will authorize the Town of Coventry to issue bonds up to \$5.5 million. If this program does not work, then we do not have to put this on the ballot.

DPW Director Kevin McGee gave brief overview of the pilot program and how that will work. In addition, there will be a mailing to notify the residents who will be included in the pilot program. Resource Recovery is encouraging all cities and towns to go automated and it has proven to increase recycling by about 30% and the savings will pay for the program at no cost to the taxpayer.

When asked if he felt three months was enough of a sampling of the program to tell if it was successful and accepted or not, Mr. McGee thinks that he should have a good idea within the first 30-45 days.

Councilwoman Carlson asked how many bonds the town has now and Finance Director Thibeault responded twelve, but we are no where even close to our capacity. There was some discussion as to what criteria will be set to determine the program's success, which may include disposal costs, time spent at the transfer station, citizens comments, etc. Mr. McGee said he would send out response cards with questions.

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

4. Discussion and resulting action regarding authorizing the Town Manager to execute a new three (3) year Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement between the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the Town of Coventry

Manager Hoover explained that the town's current three year agreement will expire on June 30. What is before you tonight is the new agreement. Currently our municipal rate per ton is \$32. We have a cap on the tonnage that we are allowed to send to the landfill and I can send you a report on how the cap is decreasing across the board for cities and towns. We are down to about 10,000 tons now. However, when you exceed the cap you pay the \$54.00 a ton commercial rate, which we have done the last couple of years and it is very costly. This is one of the reasons we would like to diminish solid waste and increase recyclables. These rates will remain for the life of the contract. DPW Director McGee remarked also that if we do increase recyclables, the fees drop.

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

5. Discussion and resulting action regarding authorizing the Town Manager to award a contract to DeJana Truck & Utility Equipment, Inc. of Smithfield, RI for Vehicle Fit-Outs for three (3) Dump Bodies for the Department of Public Works at a cost of \$56,430, funded from the balance of their Fair Share Development Fee and Capital Improvement Program

Manager Hoover explained that this resolution ties back to two previous resolutions. In one we called for fit out costs of vehicles we purchased, and we gave you an estimate. As we took bids, we found out costs were higher than estimated. However, from the purchase of vehicles there is money left in the capital improvement program to make up the difference in the fit outs.

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

6. Discussion and resulting action to receive the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission, approve recommended changes in language to the Town's Home Rule Charter and request the Board of Canvassers of the Town of Coventry to place approved changes on the ballot of the November 4, 2014 General Election

Chairman Jean Boulanger stated that after many meetings and everyone having been given an opportunity, as well as the public, for their input, the resulting report is ready from the Charter Review Commission.

Vice-President McGee stated that he is looking to accept these recommendations as a whole package. Councilman Laboissonniere disagrees and thinks that the recommendations should appear individually and not as a whole, entire package. Since there are only three council people here, he would like to table the issue in order to get President Cote's input as well since we have not discussed any of these things. Councilwoman Carlson agrees that charter recommendations should not be put on the ballot as a total package. Neither Councilman Laboissonniere nor Councilwoman Carlson would support resolution if it is all or nothing.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dorothy Berube, 40 Colvintown Road, asked for a copy of the charter changes for the Board of Canvassers. Bob Raposa and Bob Kando from Board of Elections want to make everyone aware of how it would need to go on the ballot, for example if there are three choices in one question. Coventry looks like a two page ballot and the state already is two pages. Need to think about how you could maybe combine some things. My concern, if you have three possible votes in one question, I believe that the charter says you need majority to approve.

Solicitor Tobin commented that per Section 15.20 of the charter, the largest affirmative vote shall prevail.

Tammy Duxbury, 2 Orchid Trail, suggested that when the DPW director sends out mailings about automated services, that criteria is placed on the mailing stating how you will judge whether this program is successful or not. Manager Hoover will take that suggestion under consideration.

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

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Town Clerk