

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
May 7, 2007

WORK SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Potential bond ordinance

Karen Grande, Bond Counsel for the Town of Coventry, briefed council on procedure in regard to bonding. She offered rafts of General Assembly legislation in reference to bonding and resolutions which the council would have to adopt.

Essentially there are two mechanisms: one would be to get the General Assembly to pass special act authorizing issuance of the bond, the other using General Laws 45-12, statute authorizing cities and towns to borrow amount not greater than 3% of the taxable property in the town. Most towns that have a financial town meeting actually have the ability to pass a resolution at the financial town meeting authorizing this under 45-12. Explained that in Coventry per Coventry's charter, this has to be done at a special election. Either way you do it, the Town Council has to pass a resolution first.

Manager Kerbel – Both require a referendum. What we are really asking tonight is how you want us to proceed. What do you want on the next agenda? Will need to get on the next agenda because the closer the legislature gets to the end of its session, the less they would want to consider this sort of thing.

Mr. Colaluca – Think we need some time to inform the public before they make a decision on this.

President Pomfret – I have been speaking with people about how important this is. Want to make sure that the taxpayers understand this. Maybe mail an informational package to the registered voters, as to the cost and what is needed. It may be difficult to pass the bond if the voters don't know the details.

Ms. Grande - Don't commit yourself to something that you won't be able to do.

Manager Kerbel – Recommend not sending out anything until you have a date for the referendum. We'll put this on the May 21 agenda to go through the legislature, and then if the legislature passes it, we'll come back to the council and talk about a date for the referendum. You can send out information packages, but as a body and as a town, you cannot advocate for a position.

Mr. Hyde – Questioned if it would be appropriate to put something into the police pension fund.

Ms. Grande – The General Assembly will not let you do pension obligations with just a Town Council resolution. Pension bonds are taxable and more complicated to do.

Mr. Kerbel – Regarding the pension, we are hoping that by developing a more prudent investment policy, that we will see a more reasonable rate of return; secondly, we are trying to limit the liabilities by certain actions; and third, we are trying to limit our costs.

Mr. Hyde – I've been watching this pension liability grow. What's going to happen in two more years?

Mr. Kerbel – We need to work with you on a TIF proposal and get the bond part of it going. Also need to develop which areas of town we want the TIF to apply to. Ms. Grande has done TIF in other communities.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Town Manager Richard Kerbel
Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Absent Kenneth Cloutier

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Pomfret.
Moment of Silence for former Tax Collector Audrey Cornell
President Pomfret reviewed evacuation plan.

The Town Council recognized Captain Hennessy and Officer Guglielmo for their roles in saving the life of a girl whose car went off the road and was submerged in Johnson's Pond.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Bruce Thompson to approve Town Council minutes from April 19 and April 23, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

- PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Spear, Coventry School Committee
261 Phillips Hill Road

Distributed copies of capital needs report and announced that the School Committee will be reviewing the needs of the schools, funding allocations and their priority order at tomorrow night's School Committee meeting.

Wayne Asselin

Voiced concern regarding the run off issue in the York Drive/Johnson Blvd. area. Suggested a study regarding the source of the run off.

Mr. Sprague replied that he has spoken with DEM. Requesting a meeting to sit down with DOT, DEM. The developer is undergoing a site assessment as I understand it, and is supposed to submit a soil stabilization plan. Mr. Sprague feels that things are progressing.

Mr. Hyde requested that the transfer station is open at least part of the day on Saturdays; he also stated to President Pomfret that in the future he does not want to be put off when calling and asking for information from the Town Manager, as the manager works at the pleasure of the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution # 51-07-2758 awarding bid for bus transportation for Parks and Recreation summer program
2. Resolution #52-07-2759 authorizing the Town Manager to sign agreement with Lakeside Funeral Home
3. Resolution #53-07-2760 approving sewer tie-in for Coventry Crossings at 2270/2280 New London Turnpike
4. Resolution #54-07-2761 approving sewer tie-in for Coventry Crossings at 2310 New London Turnpike
5. Resolution #55-07-2762 approving sewer tie-in for Coventry Crossings at 2250 New London turnpike
6. Resolution #56-07-2763 appointing Ronald Flynn to Planning Commission

7. Resolution #57-07-2765 appointing Edward S. Inman, III as Moderator for Financial Town Meeting
8. Resolution #58-07-2766 canceling Town Council meeting on June 11, 2007 due to the Financial Town Meeting

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to approve Consent Agenda. All voted Aye. So Voted.

Charles Vacca – At the last meeting I asked about a Historic District Commission.

Manager Kerbel – There are areas in town that are recognized as historic districts, but there is no part of zoning that requires historic district permission. The Planning Department is working on some revisions to zoning and if a historic district is approved by the State for the Anthony district, then will have to change our zoning to have a historic district commission. At that point would go about appointing a commission. Right now there is nothing in the Charter or the Zoning Ordinance to give power to a historic district commission.

LICENSES

1. Application by Robert A. Rebello, 8 Highland Avenue, Coventry for new victualling license at 470 Washington Street (change in ownership at Village Deli)

Mr. Robert A. Rebello
8 Highland Avenue

Mr. Rebello - (Located near Pulaski Street) Mr. Rebello wants to change name and add ice cream to the menu.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to grant license. All voted aye. So voted.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Renewal of Second Hand licenses

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

SECOND HAND LICENSES

- 1) D's WALK IN CLOSET, Donna R. Laucks
749 Tiogue Avenue
- 2) LITTLE PUMPKINS, Cynthia A. Sullivan
759 Tiogue Avenue
- 3) SEW-PHISTICATED, Christine Ludka
303 South Main Street, Suite #2
- 4) BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO, Mark A. Feinstein
1036 Tiogue Avenue
- 5) SIMPLY FABULOUS DESIGNER RESALE BOUTIQUE
157 Sandy Bottom Road
- 6) HOLLYWOOD VIDEO #039109
760 Tiogue Avenue
Mailing address: Hollywood Entertainment Corp., attn: Kate Fleischer, Dept. 82,
9275 SW Peyton Lane, Wilsonville, OR 97070-9200

- 7) SNOOZE U. LOOZE, Glory & Ray Messier
47 Sandy Bottom Road
Mailing Address: 981 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, RI 02857
- 8) TWICE IS NICE
1049B Tiogue Avenue
- 9) GAMESTOP INC, dba GameStop #3707
627 Centre of New England Blvd.
Mailing Address: 625 Westport Parkway, Grapevine, TX 76051

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to close public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to renew second hand licenses. All voted Aye. So voted.

Executive Session
(Immediately following Town Council Meeting)
R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2)

1. DEM v Town of Coventry

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to go into Executive Session. Roll call vote. Motion passes 4-0.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to come out of Executive Session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to seal minutes. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. So voted.

Town Clerk