

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1675 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
May 18, 2009

Present: Frank Hyde, Kenneth Cloutier, Raymond Spear, Glen Shibley, Laura Flanagan
Interim Town Manager Paul Sprague
Town Solicitor Patrick Rogers

Invocation by Fr. Amaral of Our Lady of Czenstochowa
Pledge of Allegiance
Review of evacuation plan

- Approval of Town Council minutes for April 15, April 16, April 27 and May 4, 2009.

At the request of President Spear correction was made in April 27 minutes on Page 2 , Paragraph 6 and Page 3, Paragraph 5 to read "If we were to go to the maximum 4.75% increase in the levy (5.2% in tax rate), it would generate about \$2.7 million, but only \$700,000 of new revenue"

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to approve minutes with corrections. All voted Aye. So voted.

President's Comments

At the request of President Spear, Item J2 (Resolution adopting budget for FY 2009-2010) is moved to follow President's Remarks. Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Laura Flanagan agreeing to move placement of budget resolution. All voted Aye.

Manager Sprague discussed impact of budget adjustments, noting that there are substantial changes to the municipal budget. He further indicated that department heads were asked to level fund to the current year; further reductions were taken amounting to about 6.7%. Manager Sprague further noted that major cuts were taken in the Personnel Department, Tax Assessor's office, Building Inspection Dept., DPW and the Planning Department. He is continuing to talk with municipal and police union representatives, seeking concessions from both sides.

President Spear asked that the Town Council entertain a motion to table the adoption of the budget until June 1, in order to receive more feedback. Changing the date for adoption of the budget will also make it necessary to change the date of the Financial Town Meeting.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to table adoption of budget to June 1. All voted Aye. An announcement was made that the entire budget would be posted on-line when ready.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Application for Sewer Contractor's license by Hendrickson & Sons Excavating Contractors, Inc., 351 Shippeetown Road, East Greenwich, RI
2. Application for Sewer Contractor's license by Northern Site Contractors Inc., 344 Washington Highway, Smithfield, RI
3. Resolution adopting Town Council meeting schedule for July and August
4. Resolution awarding contract for two power angle snow plows
5. Resolution awarding contract for street sweeping
6. Resolution authorizing owner of 35-37 Anthony Street to connect to public sewers
7. Resolution authorizing Interim Town Manager to engage services of MGD & Associates to assist Town in securing Department of Energy Block Grant monies
8. Resolution awarding bus transportation for 2009 summer recreation programs

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Ken Cloutier to remove Items 4, 5, 6 and #8 for discussion. All voted Aye.

Motion made by Glen Shibley seconded by Laura Flanagan to approve Item #2 application for sewer contractor's license for Northern Site Contractors Inc. subject to complete information on application. All voted Aye.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to approve items 1, 3 and 7. All voted Aye.

- Regarding Consent Item #4 awarding contract for snow plows: Councilwoman Flanagan asked if contract is being awarded to the lowest bidder. In the future would like to see all bidders' information. Mr. Sprague replied that bid is being awarded to Madigan, who is the low bidder.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to approve Items #4 and #5. All voted Aye.

- Regarding Consent Item #8 awarding bid for summer bus transportation:
Councilwoman Flanagan asked if this was the only bid submitted. Parks and Recreation Director Guy Lefebvre stated that it is the only bid. Motion made by Glen Shibley seconded by Ken Cloutier to approve resolution for bus transportation. All voted Aye.

- Regarding #6 resolution approving sewer tie-in 35-37 Anthony Street:
Chairman of the Sewer Subcommittee Bill Hall explained the urgency of this request, involving failure of a septic system. The Sewer Subcommittee is being bypassed with the request going directly to Town Council.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to approve tie-in resolution. All voted Aye.

LICENSES

Application by Yong Ik Lee, YMH Laundromat, Inc., 1612 Nooseneck Hill Road for new pool table license

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Laura Flanagan to grant license. All voted Aye.

Application for new Private Detective license by Judy L. Sheets, 3 White Rock Road, Coventry

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Laura Flanagan to grant license. All voted Aye.

Application by Charles W. Duffy of Duffy Enterprises LLC dba Scotti's Ice Cream for new Peddler's license

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Laura Flanagan to grant license. All voted Aye.

Application for renewal of Auto Salvage license by Capozzi's Auto Sales & Salvage, Inc., 2015 New London Turnpike

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Glen Shibley to grant license. All voted Aye.

Applications for renewal of Second Hand licenses

- a. D's Walk In Closet, 749 Tiogue Avenue
- b. Little Pumpkins, 759 Tiogue Avenue
- c. Sew-Phisticated, 303 South Main Street
- d. Hollywood Video, 760 Tiogue Avenue
- e. Twice Is Nice, 1049B Tiogue Avenue
- f. Gamestop, 627 Centre of New England Blvd.
- g. Anthony Village Antiques, 658 Washington Street
- h. New 2 You, Coventry Shoppers Park

Councilman Hyde recused himself due to conflict of interest.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve second hand renewals contingent upon complete documentation submitted to Town Clerk. All voted Aye.

Application for Exhibitions and Performances license by The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living on June 6, and June 7, 2009

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to approve application. All voted Aye.

INTRODUCTION OF REVISED SEWER ORDINANCE

Solicitor Rogers reviewed the revised sewer ordinance, including maintaining the current 8% interest rate for now to apply for the financing, and establishing a definitive ordinance once a comprehensive rate study is done.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if the Town Council can adjust the rate after the study is complete and Solicitor Rogers responded that the Council can further adjust the rate at that time.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to approve first reading of sewer ordinance. Vote taken 4-1 (Mr. Hyde votes no, motion passes)

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution adopting policy for appointment to boards and commissions

Nancy Sprengelmeyer stated that she doesn't think it should be required that applicants divulge their party affiliation.

Mr. Spear explained that in order to keep the proper balance on committees it would be necessary. For example, if you had a committee with 5 members, you wouldn't have any more than three Republicans on that committee.

Mr. Hall remarked that candidates should be registered voters.

Ron Gizzarelli agrees with the new policy, takes politics out of it.

Representative Scott Guthrie suggested there may be more interest shown if the Economic Development Commission and Redevelopment Commissions were combined.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to adopt resolution. All voted Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Gizzarelli, 50 Harrington Rd. - Town Council should have a voice-activated sound system. Agree that Council should level fund and everyone live within the budgets. No tax increase.

Mark Potter, Hillside Avenue, is involved with Coventry Basketball, Coventry Little League and has concerns for the children. The league has already raised fees. If some cuts go through, it will hinder the programs and our stipend will be in jeopardy. We may be forced to take on the lighting fees at Wood Street, at about \$4,000.

Representative Scott Guthrie asked the Town Council to support Bill H5469, eliminating a flat tax.

Mr. Spear asked Mr. Guthrie to give a copy of the bill to the Town Manager.

School Committee Chairperson Kathy Patenaude inquired what the cuts are in town departments.

Mrs. Flanagan advised her to talk to the Town Manager, but detail would be available before June 1.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye.

Town Clerk