

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
June 25, 2007

Work Session: Bond Ordinance

Manager Kerbel informed Council that the bond ordinance did pass in the legislature with one change, and that being in Section 14, which requires approval of the school portion by the Board of Regents prior to August 15, 2007. Manager Kerbel distributed an outline to council members of the legislation, the uses and the next steps to be taken in the procedure before the referendum occurs.

Council members believe that the \$8 million dollar cost is very high. More research is needed to come up with a more solid number. President Pomfret does not feel that the bond will pass if it stands at \$32 million.

Discussion took place as to the organization of building committees for the projects. Mr. Kerbel stated also that he would like to get an architect in for design and also to come up with a more solid number of the costs involved in order to firm up the numbers.

Mr. Hyde mentioned that Churchill and Banks would have done this project for less money, should maybe take a step back and see what they proposed and maybe come up with a better deal. You already have a developer that is willing to do this for you, don't see why we couldn't take advantage of that.

Mr. Cloutier asked what a position on building committee entails.

Building Committees award the contract, review design and orders among other things. It is quite a time commitment when you are talking about 4 or 5 projects that will be ongoing for a few years. This is not as easy as building an addition on your house, especially with the state purchasing laws and other rules to follow. It can be complicated.

President Pomfret called for motion to go into Executive Session under RI General Laws 42-46-5-(a) (2) (5).

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to go into executive session. Roll call vote. All Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson 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 of executive session. All voted Aye. So voted.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Town Manager Richard Kerbel
Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Pomfret.
Moment of silence for our troops in Iraq
President Pomfret reviewed evacuation plan.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve Town Council minutes from May 21 and June 4, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

- PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Paul
181 Colvintown Road

Ms. Paul – The meeting with DEM was cancelled last week. I have set up another meeting on July 10 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Ms. Paul invited Manager Kerbel, Councilmen Colaluca and Pomfret, Planning Director Paul Sprague and Solicitor Sullivan to attend. Meeting will be to discuss the issue and where we go from here.

Charles Vacca, Esq.
124 Fairway Drive

Mr. Vacca commented on the condition of the building next to the police station. Deplorable condition, danger to health, safety and welfare of the community.

Councilman Hyde suggested to Mr. Vacca that he speak to one of the family members to see what the intention is with that building, possibly it is tied up in probate.

Mr. Vacca also questioned what is going to happen at the Financial Town Meeting regarding the school's problems with the budget.

Manager Kerbel stated that the School Committee has a meeting scheduled tomorrow night where they will address the budget issues. They have made it known that they will not touch the sports program or the Oak Haven situation.

Denise Caprio, 190 Hopkins Hill Road
Clara Benoit, Knotty Oak Road

Ms. Caprio represented her parents. Went in front of the Sewer Assessment Board of Review, they told us to go in front of the Town Council.

Manager Kerbel – The issue here is that these apartment units may be taxed as commercial or split between residential and commercial for regular property tax, but the way the sewer ordinance reads is regardless of the number of units, you are taxed \$6,600 per residential unit. So you could have a ten unit apartment building, you would be taxed the commercial tax rate for your regular property tax, and then your sewer assessment, if it is ten units, then it is 10 x 6,600 as opposed to the \$55.00 a thousand if you were just a regular commercial office building.

As I understand it, I think the issue is that the sewer assessment board cannot change that because that is the way the ordinance is written. If the Council wants to change it, that's possible in your sewer rate review, but that's going to totally change the revenue that we are anticipating.

Manager Kerbel suggested a meeting between the Benois, Ms. Caprio, Tax Assessor and Town Manager. Ms. Caprio will call manager's office tomorrow to make appointment.

Mark Ellis
190 Hopkins Hill Road

Mr. Ellis – Regarding sewer bills, wonders what this will do the affordable housing in Coventry if you do this? Who will be able to afford the rents that the landlords will charge.

LICENSES:

Application for fireworks license by Johnson's Pond Civic Association on July 4, 2007.

Present : Kyle Losek, 1 Jack Pine Road

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve fireworks license subject to detonator obtaining a permit and submitting additional paperwork regarding location of the event to Town Clerk's Office. All voted Aye. So voted.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. New Sewer Contractor's license for Walter E. Reynolds, General Contractor
2. Abatements for month of May in the amount of \$3,195.50
3. Resolution authorizing Town Manager to sign Cell Tower lease for Blackrock School property
4. Resolution awarding contract for removal of asbestos (TABLED)
5. Resolution affirming guidelines set by Sewer Subcommittee regarding sewer tie-in approvals (Removed from Consent Agenda)
6. Resolution regarding non-union municipal employees' health care contribution
7. Resolution regarding non-union municipal employees' pension contribution

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to table Item #4. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to remove Item #5 for discussion. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to approve Item #s 1,2,3,6 and 7. All voted Aye. So voted.

Mr. Cloutier – Regarding Items #6 and #7, are these contributions just for new employees?

Manager Kerbel – Yes, non-union personnel hired after July 1, 2007, does not effect current employees. Mr. Kerbel also noted that on Item #5, this is nothing out of the ordinary, just affirming Sewer Subcommittee guidelines.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adopt resolution affirming guidelines set by Sewer Subcommittee. All voted Aye. So voted.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution of the Town Council authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds (tax anticipation notes).

Manager Kerbel – This is an annual act of the Town Council to roll over the tax anticipation notes.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adopt resolution. All voted Aye. So voted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Maisie Quinn Sewer Ordinance (remain tabled)
- New Mechanical and Electronic Device license by Coinstar Entertainment for Ocean State Job Lot, located at 1173 Tiogue Avenue

Present: Andy Morin

This application is for permission to operate a train (stuffed animal). It is already there and has been for a while, just fell through the cracks.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

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

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

Application for Additional Hours by Wendy's Restaurant, 2311 New London Turnpike

Present: Patricia Bennett (Owner)

Ms. Bennett stated that she would like to have the drive-thru open 24 hours a day. The regular dining room will close at 1:00 p. m.

Motion by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Anthony Colaluca to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

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

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve 24 hour license. All voted Aye. So voted.

Application for new Second Hand license by Jacques and Ann Bard located at 658 Washington Street

Present: Jacques and Ann Bard
664 Washington Street

Mr. Bard told Council that the location is the former antique shop, across the street from Ice House Flowers.

Mr. Hyde asked about hours of operation.

Mr. Bard – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

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

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

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to approve second hand license. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to return to Executive Session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to come out of executive session. All voted Aye. So voted.

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

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Town Clerk

