

Town Council Meeting  
September 12, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2)

➤ Anthony Mill-Brady Sullivan

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman Asselin to come out of Executive Session. All voted Aye.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to seal minutes of Executive Session. All voted aye.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmember McGee, Vice-President Carlson, President Shibley, Councilmember Laboissonniere, Councilmember Asselin, Town Manager Waters, Town Solicitor Gorham

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence on the 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001, those who were lost and the families affected by those events.

Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

Approval of Town Council minutes from August 22, 2016

A motion was made by Councilmember McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve minutes. Vote taken 4 (aye); Mr. Asselin did not vote as he was not present as a council member at the August 22, 2016 Town Council meeting.

President's Comments

- President Shibley welcomed and thanked Mr. Wayne Asselin, who has agreed to serve as Councilmember for District 5 until the November election.
- A resignation letter has been received from Veronica Assalone, our assistant Town Solicitor, effective October 1, 2016. President Shibley thanked her on behalf of the Town Council and the Town of Coventry for five years of invaluable service.
- President Shibley urged voters to get out and vote in the primary tomorrow for the candidates of their choice. There are seats on Town Council Districts 2 and 5 as well as some state seats.
- Kent County Water Authority board member Scott Duckworth has submitted a report regarding current Board activities and actions, pending and proposed. He thanked Mr. Duckworth for both his detail and thoroughness.
- He commented on the lack of parking at the soccer fields on Fish Hill Road, asking that it might be addressed for next year's season by maybe considering more fields in town or more parking area around the fields.

Councilman McGee, District 3, had nothing new to report, but urged voters to go to the polls and vote tomorrow.

Councilman Asselin, District 5, advised that he is available to the public through his new town e mail address and his phone number which is public information. He invited the public to feel free to contact him.

Vice-President Carlson advised that a letter was received from Rhody Rovers last week. They are going back to West Greenwich for their dirt bike racing.

Over the weekend, Mrs. Carlson attended the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Coventry-WG Lions Club. They celebrated with a car show at Mishnock Barn, good food and raffles. And lastly, the new street sweeper was seen in my end of town, a huge, impressive machine.

Councilman Laboissonniere, District 2, thanked voters for allowing him to serve the last four years on the Town Council and hopefully at the primary tomorrow they will see fit to send, as a

candidate, to this November's election.

There were a couple of issues with traffic signs in District 2 along Town Farm Road, which have been taken care of, and there is also an issue with increased traffic to what is known as the old Global Recycling site, currently the Vinagro Corporation. I am working on trying to figure out exactly what that is.

President Shibley, District 4, remarked that it looks like O'Reilly Auto parts on Tiogue Avenue is ready to open any day now; they have done all the groundwork, asphalt, shrubbery and lights. Also, Jayco Medical has opened on Pilgrim Avenue and is ready for business. He encouraged all residents, who have a need, to visit Jayco Medical Supply as well as O'Reilly Auto Parts when they open. There is never enough good business here in Coventry.

### CONSENT AGENDA

1. License renewal application for 60 day Peddler's license by JoJo's Cupcakes
2. Approval of abatements and additions for months of July and August

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilman McGee to approve Consent Agenda. All voted aye.

### RESOLUTIONS

1. Exempting Parks and Recreation Director from residency within the Town of Coventry

Town Manager Waters stated that he didn't realize that department directors were required to be residents of the town, unless they receive an exemption. I am aware of this now, otherwise this resolution would have come before you at the last meeting. However, I can tell you that our newly hired Parks and Recreation director did look to move into Coventry and had trouble finding residency. She currently lives in Warwick.

He introduced Raena Blumenthal, originally from New York, who has resided in Texas for the last few years employed by a community environmental organization. She has a background in education with parks and recreation management. She remarked that she tried to find housing in Coventry, but with a very limited amount of time before she started employment with the town, ended up signing a lease the week before she began work for housing in Warwick. Manager Waters stated that he also had difficulty finding a place to live in Coventry, there was not much available in the rental market. Ms. Blumenthal does have intentions of eventually moving to Coventry, has a one year lease and is getting to know the area now.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilman Asselin to approve resolution. All voted aye.

### LICENSES

1. Application for One Day Liveshow Entertainment license on September 24, 2016 by Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society at Paine House Museum, 7 Station St. including waiver of fee

Councilmember McGee pointed out that he has never seen it on an application where the applicant specifically asks for fees to be waived. Council often waives the fees as a gesture for a charitable organization, and I understand that this is fundraising, but don't know how appropriate it is for them to ask that the fees be waived.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Vice-President Carlson to grant application and waive fees. All voted Aye.

2. Application for Victualling license by David Thomas for Enlightenment Wellness dba Str8 Juicin, 1152 Main Street

Dave Thomas, 99 Jambray Avenue, Warwick explained that he will be the sole proprietor of an establishment which is a juice bar with fresh fruit, protein shakes, herbs, probably soup in the future. There will be no e-cigarettes or vapes. Massages may be addressed at a later date, but we are not doing that now. Purely food at this point. Although the Department of Health has limited him to 50 seats, he stated that is not a problem.

Vice-President Carlson referred to Mr. Thomas's sign at Str8 Juicin, commenting that the sign advertises massages and facials. Since Mr. Thomas stated that he will not provide massages and facials at this time, she suggested that the sign is changed or the wording blocked out, not to advertise massages and facials.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve license. All voted aye.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### Amending the Coventry Code of Ordinances adding Chapter 205 entitled "Clothing Collection Bins"

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Vice-President Carlson to open public hearing. All voted aye.

Manager Waters commented that this ordinance was originally brought up for discussion two or three months ago. Many bins have been unsightly and often overflowing, so since we have had a number of problems, this ordinance will allow us to keep track, register them, know where they are and who they belong to.

Councilman Laboissonniere said that in some cases the bin owner will pay the business owner a stipend to let them place the bin there. Councilman Asselin asked if there were any state laws that might regulate these in lieu of our own laws? Manager Waters replied no, but if it overflows on public property we have the ability to remove it and if on private property, we can cite the property owner. He proposed that registration is done through the Town Clerk's Office, a registration sticker is placed on the bin and the town would enforce the law.

Solicitor Gorham thinks the ordinance is pretty much self explanatory, but there are a couple of sections that need to be decided on by the Town Council. Regarding Section 2.01, Atty. Gorham feels that a typical time frame would be 30 days; he suggested a permit value of \$25.00; with \$25.00 for replacement stickers. Lastly regarding Section 3.04 (violations and penalties) he feels \$100.00 is typical.

Councilman McGee feels that \$25.00 is too much for a replacement sticker and thinks that \$5.00 or \$10.00 is more reasonable. For example, if a bin owner is vandalized, why are you going to charge the owner \$25.00 to replace a sticker? He thinks that a replacement sticker should be just \$5.00 or \$10.00, more reasonable for replacement.

Russell Crossman, 11 Silver Maple Drive, commented that he works for the court appointed receiver at Centre of New England and there is a huge problem there with bins. It's almost like they just show up in the middle of the night. I have already called six people to remove bins, nobody responds. We have six bins stored outside in a secured area. What do we do with these bins if they're not picked up? Can the town charge if we have to pick up? I have called people, it's been over a year and they still haven't picked up their bins.

Solicitor Gorham suggested that if the Town Council wishes, they can continue this proposed ordinance to the next Town Council meeting on September 26, keeping tonight's public hearing open, and vote at the next meeting. In the meantime I'll write up something on the abandonment issue giving a little more structure to Municipal Court, allowing them a way of remediating these abandoned receptacles.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Vice-President Carlson to table this issue and leave the public hearing open to the next Town Council meeting on September 26, 2016, in order to add enforcement information regarding the removal of bins. All voted aye.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Russell Crossman, 11 Silver Maple Drive, commented on the announcement that Solicitor Veronica Assalone turned in her resignation. She will be missed, I'm sad to see her go.

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman Asselin to adjourn meeting. All voted aye.

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Town Clerk