

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 14, 2009

Present: Frank Hyde, Raymond Spear, Glen Shibley, Laura Flanagan

Acting Town Manager Warren West
Town Solicitor Patrick Rogers

Absent: Councilman Kenneth Cloutier and Town Manager Thomas Hoover.

Pledge of Allegiance by Town Sergeant and Boy Scouts from Troop 10 and Troop 31
Invocation by Deacon John Juneau of Knotty Oak Baptist Church
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

President's Comments

President Spear announced that the purpose of tonight's executive session pertains to appointments to four boards/commissions. At the September 28 meeting the Town Council will announce the next group of vacancies they will seek to fill.

Motion made by Vice-President Flanagan seconded by Councilman Shibley to approve minutes of August 24 and August 25, 2009. All voted aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Cancellation of Town Council meeting on October 12, 2009 due to the holiday.
(Consideration of an alternate date to be discussed at the September 28, 2009 meeting)
2. Resolution affirming the recommendation of the Town Manager to appoint Finance Director Warren West as Acting Town Manager in his absences from the Town.
3. Resolution awarding a fence contract for the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. Resolution adopting Administrative Pay Plan
5. Application for renewal of Private Detective license for Seth Mellor
6. Application for renewal of Private Detective license for Roland M.J. Daigle

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to remove items #3, #4, and #5 from Consent Agenda for discussion. All voted aye.

Motion made by Glen Shibley seconded by Laura Flanagan to approve items #1, #2, and #6. All voted aye.

Regarding Item #3 - Resolution awarding a fence contract for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mrs. Flanagan asked Recreation Director Guy Lefebvre why he is not recommending the lowest bidder regarding the fence contract for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Lefebvre explained that the primary project is Rice Memorial Field, but other projects throughout the community were additionally identified for chain link and cedar post and rail fencing. The low bidder for Rice Field (KC Fence) was not the low bidder for the total bid package. Ventura Fence was low bidder for the total bid at \$46,695. We put out one bid for multiple projects. Rice Field is immediate, the other projects don't have a time line on them.

Mrs. Flanagan asked why the bid wasn't separated with the lowest bidder chosen for each project. Mr. Lefebvre responded that the bidders were clear on what we were seeking, they bid exactly how it was requested and received no questions from bidders.

Mrs. Flanagan further questioned whether the projects are all being funded from prior year budgets. She is not opposed to approving the resolution for fencing as long as it is all funded from prior year capital budget funds allocated to parks and recreation, with none of it coming from the cell tower fund. Mr. Lefebvre responded that Rice Field funding is from the immediate prior 08-09 capital budget.

Mr. Shibley noted that KC Fence has done prior work for the town. With the difference between the bids only \$425.00, does Mr. Lefebvre feel that Ventura, as an outside vendor, is the best choice, since KC is a Coventry business.

Mr. Lefebvre stated that Mr. Ventura is a Coventry resident and does believe that Ventura Fence is the best choice. Mrs. Flanagan asked Solicitor Rogers if having a business in town could be a reason not to go with the low bidder; Solicitor Rogers stated that the requirement is for the low bidder. Ventura is the low bidder; doesn't matter whether the person does or does not reside in Coventry.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to approve resolution along with the stipulation that this must be funded from prior capital budgets allotted to the Department of Parks and Recreation. All voted aye.

Regarding Item #4 - Resolution adopting Administrative Pay Plan

Mrs. Flanagan asked for confirmation that the only change in the salary schedule from this year to last year was the addition of the Town Engineer and that it is identical in all other respects from last year. Acting Town Manager West confirmed that the only change to the pay plan is the addition of the engineer at grade 16 at \$67,684 starting pay. Mrs. Flanagan further clarified that the salary of the new engineer is due to the elimination of a contract, where the town was paying for engineering services that far exceeded the costs of having a full time salaried engineer. We are saving \$50,000 a year.

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

Regarding Item #5 Application for renewal of Private Detective license for Seth Mellor

It was the consensus of the Town Council that the photo attached to Mr. Mellor's license application needed further review by the Police Department in order to verify identity. Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Laura Flanagan to approve renewal subject to further confirmation of identity by the police department. All voted aye.

RESOLUTIONS

Set fees at Paine Field for teams that do not fall under the framework or jurisdiction of the Town of Coventry local leagues, charters or the house league insurances.

Discussion between Parks and Recreation Director Guy Lefebvre and the Town Council with regard to setting fees for the use of fields and whether this is an administrative decision or belongs in front of the Town Council. The Council has set fees for use of the community center, Briar Point and gym usage. Administratively, Parks and Recreation has set fees for program registration, but not facility use. This would be the first time we have set fees for ball fields.

Mrs. Flanagan told Mr. Lefebvre that if he plans to increase revenue, you have to increase expenses to keep a balanced budget. She questioned the need to raise fees and stated that any additional costs should have been included in the operating budget. Mrs. Flanagan suggested this resolution be tabled until we can sit with the Town Manager and get things straightened out.

Wayne Asselin's concern is that he wouldn't want to see anyone get squeezed out by increasing fees.

Keith Cloutier, 31 Cobblestone Drive, organizer of a select team made up of Coventry families, commented that the proposed fees would put us out of business.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to table resolution and have a meeting with the town manager when he returns. All voted Aye.

Adopting a "No Bin/No Barrel" program for recycling within the Town of Coventry.

Dennis Smith, Superintendent of Public Works, explained the "no bin/no barrel" program which is being adopted by other communities in Rhode Island in order to increase the recycling rates within the communities. Using the no bin/no barrel program, if you don't have a bin out at curbside, then we won't pick up your garbage. Other towns that have adopted this program have seen their recycle rates come back up. We would like to kick off the program in Coventry on November 16.

Ron Gizzarelli suggested a workshop or public hearing on the issue.

Rick Kalunian, 607 Blackrock Rd., applauds the concept, but suggested every two-week pick-up, especially in the winter when road conditions are dangerous.

Scott Guthrie, 31 Maplewood Drive, commented that this is a cost saving measure for the town. The General Assembly is changing the tonnage, the more you recycle, there is less cost per ton. Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Amending the selection/recommendation process for Library Board of Trustees.

President Spear discussed the current selection process and makeup of the Library Board. He further explained the change the Council wants to make by eliminating the following language "*from names submitted for consideration by the remaining members of the Board of Trustees*". This should be the authority of the Town Council.

Mrs. Flanagan requested another correction, eliminating the word "initial" in the first line of Paragraph B.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Laura Flanagan to dispose with first reading of ordinance. All voted aye.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to approve first reading of ordinance with amendments. All voted aye.

LICENSES

Application by Steve Karapatakis for victualling license at 975 Tiogue Avenue (Galina's Ice Cream – new ownership).

Applicant Steve Karapatakis of 851 South Road, East Greenwich stated that he will continue with the same hours as previous owner with plans to open in the winter on January 3 rather than February 14 as the previous owners had. Motion made by Glen Shibley seconded by Frank Hyde to approve license. All voted aye.

Application by Come Along Inn, 402 Washington Street for Live Show Entertainment license

Richard Crompton and John Ray were present. Mr. Crompton told the Council that he is only seeking a license for karaoke. Mrs. Flanagan explained that if license stipulated only karaoke, that would be all he could have. She asked if he would prefer to also include a one-person performer. Mr. Crompton said he would prefer that. Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Frank Hyde to approve live show entertainment license, stipulating that it be restricted to only karaoke or a one-person performer. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No further public comment

President Spear announced that the Town Council will go into Executive Session regarding candidates for boards and commissions. Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glen Shibley to go into Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. All voted aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) - Discussion of job performance, character or physical or mental health relating to potential appointments to Town Boards and Commissions

Motion made by Vice-President Flanagan seconded by Councilman Shibley to return to regular session. All voted aye.

Motion made by Vice-President Flanagan seconded by Councilman Shibley to seal minutes of executive session. All voted aye.

Motion made by Vice-President Flanagan seconded by Councilman Shibley to adjourn executive session. All voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Town Clerk