

Town Council Meeting  
October 24, 2016

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

- RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) - Riverview Nursing Home

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman Asselin to go into Executive Session. All voted aye.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to come out of Executive Session. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman Asselin to seal minutes from Executive Session. All voted aye.

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

- o Pledge of Allegiance
- o Invocation by President Shibley
- o Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

Citizens Police Academy Graduation

Colonel MacDonald thanked everyone involved in the academy who came out to learn what the police department does and how we do it. Captain Zalabowski led the graduation ceremony, thanking the graduates for the 100% participation they gave every Tuesday night for ten weeks; he also thanked the officers who assisted in conducting the academy. Captain Zalabowski went on to explain what the academy is and the training that the graduates went through.

After the graduation ceremony, graduate Jim Kuipers thanked Colonel MacDonald for his support and Captain Zalabowski for carrying this out. He urged residents to vote "Yes" on Question 8 on the November 8 referendum, to construct a new police station/Human Services building. On behalf of the Class of 2016, he presented a plaque to Colonel MacDonald and Captain Zalabowski. President Shibley congratulated the graduates and wished them the best of luck.

Proclamation – Assistant Solicitor Veronica Assalone

Vice-President Carlson presented Asst. Town Solicitor Veronica Assalone with a proclamation, thanking her for her service to the Town of Coventry for the past five years.

Approval of Town Council Minutes from October 11, 2016

Councilman Asselin referred to Mrs. Sullivan's remarks during Public Comment on October 11. He suggested that "sound management system" is changed to read "audio video live streaming and archiving system." A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Asselin to approve minutes as amended. All voted aye.

President's Comments

- General Nathanael Greene aka Dave Loda, CDR USNR (RET) visited the elementary schools this week, which was a great success.
- Congratulations to the Oaker football team, who, in a downpour Friday night, won their second game 32-8 over Tollgate High School
- Parks and Recreation will host a Halloween party at 6 pm on Saturday, October 29. This is a free event, bring your own flashlight.
- The Library has several upcoming events: On October 25 there is Halloween storytime for ages 3-8; on October 24-29 there will be a Jack-o-lantern display and contest; on October 26 a Monster Bash at 6:30 pm. You can call the Library for more details.
- The last "Coffee with the Cops" was very well received and there will be another this Saturday from 9am – 10 am.
- President Shibley reminded voters to please vote "yes" on Question 8 (Police Station/Human Services building) on the November referendum.

## COUNCIL DISTRICT UPDATES

Councilman McGee advised that things are going smoothly in District 3. He reminded voters that there is an important election and referendum on November 8, so please get out and vote.

Councilman Asselin, District 5, thanked the Town Manager for starting the process and looking into the situation with Ferrara Mechanical on Hopkins Hill Road.

District 1 Councilwoman Carlson has received more complaints about the turbines in Western Coventry. She asked Manager Waters if he sent a letter to the attorney for Mr. DePasquale and he replied that he has been in touch with the attorney, the police have been to the site, but there have been no reports forthcoming yet.

Mrs. Carlson announced that Greene Public Library is having a Harvest Fair on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be pies, crafts, cakes, and fresh cranberries right out of the bogs, all kinds of fun between 10 am and 1 pm.

District 2 Councilman Laboissonniere has received many positive comments on road work and repaving Station Street and Town Farm Road.

President Shibley, District 4, commented that Doherty's Lakeside Alehouse has changed their name to Tiogue Tavern, changed their menu, their whole concept and I wish them the very best.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

School Committee member Ann Dickson updated the Council on several issues:

The School Committee thanks the Police Department for their support of Coventry Public Schools, being proactive in ensuring safety and effective communication in our school community.

NECAP results have been made public by RIDE and we are happy to acknowledge that Western Coventry ranked fourth in RI for proficiency in Science.

The concession stand at the high school field was open for the homecoming football game, business sponsors and volunteers will be recognized during a future school committee meeting.

The Coventry Public Schools recently received a comprehensive facility condition assessment from RIDE, which is currently being analyzed; a report will be sent to the School Committee.

The School Committee has met with Chief Lamb from Central Coventry Fire District to look at a communication system that could be used during crisis or emergency.

Superintendent Levis will attend a kickoff meeting on Monday, November 7 to talk about moving town departments to the annex.

The PTA Council hosted a question and answer session with the RI Commissioner of Education, which was quite an informative meeting.

Major General Nathanael Greene aka Dave Loda, CDR USNR (RET) visited all five elementary schools last week. His focus was on both leadership and being a good follower. The event was sponsored by the Celebrate Coventry Committee.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request by Tax Collector to be relieved of collecting outstanding taxes.

President Shibley clarified that if this request is approved, any additional receipt of funds still comes back to the town. Councilman McGee added that this happens annually, and although he hates to lose out on the money, the Tax Collector will still make every effort to attempt to collect these taxes.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Asselin to approve consent agenda. All voted aye.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Affirming purchase of Ford truck by Parks and Recreation, Capital Improvement Program, funding through Impact Fees

Parks and Recreation Director Raena Blumenthal advised that this purchase will be funded with impact fees. She went on to further explain the need for the truck and dump body, which will replace a non-functioning vehicle. Mrs. Carlson asked what is left in the impact fee account and Mr. Thibeault indicated that prior to the above purchase, the amount is \$124,000. Mrs. Carlson also asked about the impact fee account being replenished and Mr. Thibeault responded that since January, they have received \$25,765 into their account.

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

### LICENSES

1. Renewal of victualling licenses (food only, no alcoholic beverages)

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilman McGee to approve licenses subject to payment of State of RI corporation taxes and Coventry tangible taxes. Fire district inspections also need to be completed on all establishments. All voted aye.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Renewal of Class A liquor licenses (package stores)
2. Renewal of Class B liquor licenses (full liquor licenses, including those establishments with live show entertainment and dance licenses)
3. Renewal of Class B Ltd. Liquor licenses (beer and wine only)
4. Renewal of Class D liquor licenses (including those with live show and dance)

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

There were no comments from the public. A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Asselin to close public hearings. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve Class A package stores. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman Asselin to approve Class B liquor licenses. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Asselin to approve Class B Limited licenses. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilman McGee to approve Class D liquor licenses. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson that issuance of Class A, B, Bltd and D licenses will be subject to proof of good standing from the State of RI Division of Taxation, completion of fire inspections and payment of town taxes. All voted aye.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Assalone, Liena Rose Way, commented on several issues: Westwood will do their best to collect taxes that have been deemed uncollectible, but also remarked that right now Westwood pays a base tax of about \$500,000 a year. We have a limited scope of children, collect our own rubbish and provide our own snow removal. Manager Waters added that he has been working closely with Mr. Assalone and his organization to seek to collect the taxes.

Mr. Assalone also stated that as far as impact fees, Westwood has always been exempt.

On another issue, East Shore Drive, he spent several hundred thousand dollars creating sewers. It was an honorable agreement that was made between the Planning Commission and the Town Council. It had been the request of residents for many years to try and sewer this area. At the time we were developing the area, DEM was allowing us to build without sewers, but we did it anyway. I just want to mention that these sewers never would have happened without instrumental guys like Gary Cote and Paul Sprague, who spent hours trying to put this together. This sewer line is not only for East Shore Drive, but for hundreds of other people in the area.

Finally, Mr. Assalone expressed his disappointment in the town manager after hearing that he had made disparaging remarks and innuendo regarding people in long term employment with the town.

Glen Anderson, 5710 Flat River Road, has a concern about the wind turbines. They are located just under a half mile from me and I can't deal with this. I can hear a whooshing noise even with the windows closed. I can't imagine the houses that are right underneath them. We need help and I think the ordinance needs to be amended. Is this the time to ask for an amendment?

Manager Waters directed Mr. Anderson to call him during business hours and he will be able to communicate and help him with this.

Karen Crawford, Monroe Drive, asked the current state of the situation on Hopkins Hill Road with

Ferrara Mechanical. Manager Waters responded that the town went to court last Friday and a cease and desist order was issued. Solicitor Gorham added that the landowner agreed to the order, meaning that everything has to stay the way it is until October 28, at which time the court could entertain a hearing on the matter and consider whether to make the restraining order permanent. If you are an abutting land owner, keep that date on your calendar.

Attorney Pat McBurney represents Ferrara Mechanicals and offered to discuss neighbors' concerns after the council meeting. We are looking to resolve this amicably.

Renee Claveau, 42 Helen Avenue reported that there are propane tanks on that property. What he is doing is commercial; this used to be a small business.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Asselin to adjourn meeting. All voted aye.

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Town Clerk