

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
November 19, 2007

Vice President Thompson called for motion to go into Executive Session under RI General Law 42-46-5-(a) (2) (5) (7).

- EXECUTIVE SESSION

Per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) (5) (7)

1. Interstate Options v Town of Coventry KC 02-303
2. Acquisition/disposition of property
3. School/Municipal Bond
4. Worker's Compensation Fund
5. Investment of Public Funds

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

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to emerge from executive session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye. So voted.

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

- WORK SESSION

1. Elderly tax freeze/exemption

Councilman Cloutier questioned situation regarding caregiver, household income, and how this is tied to disabilities.

Manager Sprague - This new ordinance defines what a caregiver is and requires documentation from the doctor that a caregiver is needed in the household. Caregiver income is not included. This also provides for a three year residency to qualify.

Mr. Colaluca would like to see longer than a three year residency to qualify, maybe four or five years, think that should be adjusted.

Mr. Cloutier agreed that exemption should be earned, not granted.

Mr. Thompson – In favor of five years.

Mr. Hyde – I have something to add regarding the veterans. My understanding is that the income veterans receive is non-taxable and probably would not be considered as part of their income. I want to make sure that it specifies that.

Mr. Thompson – With that said, it comes down to any gross adjusted income if someone is receiving any type of disability. With money that is tax free, and the government says it is tax free, then that should be inclusive.

Mr. Sprague stated that he spoke with tax assessor, and she has no objections.

2. Use of transfer station

Councilman Cloutier thinks this is a good idea, starting at \$10.00 the first year and \$15.00 the second, go from there.

Manager Sprague indicated it costs the town \$20.00 per load at the landfill. About \$250,000 a year. This is a way to recoup some of those costs.

Mr. Colaluca - Would like to keep it at \$10.00 the first year and go to \$20.00 the second year.

Mr. Thompson – Also, in the future should look at white goods also.

3. Chamber of Commerce presentation

Kevin McGee, President of P.V. Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Center gave presentation regarding the Chamber of Commerce and the services it provides. Among those services are training for small businesses, seminars, employee benefit programs, brochures and information for new residents moving to town. It is a viable tourism center located in West Warwick, an organization made up of business people, from small businesses to Amgen, funded through dues, grants and municipal funding. The Chamber of Commerce helps to bring in new businesses and supports current businesses. We request that the 20% hotel tax be reinstated to the Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism and to expand its services.

Vice-President Thompson presented Mr. McGee with a donation of \$3,000 for the PV Chamber of Commerce.

• TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Absent: Justin Pomfret
Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice-President Thompson
Invocation led by Councilman Colaluca
Vice-President Thompson reviewed evacuation plan
Certificate of Recognition presented to Sgt. Earle Tammelleo for receiving the Bronze Star during his service in Iraq.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve Town Council minutes of November 5, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

• CONSENT AGENDA

1. Tax abatements for month of October 2007 in the amount of \$17,226.85
2. Resolution canceling Town Council meeting on December 24, 2007
3. Resolution authorizing Brookside Center to connect to public sewers
4. Renewal of Private Detective license for Robert Conover
5. Resolution reducing bond for Dawley and Dodd Streets

Mr. Sprague noted that we are not ready to move forward on Item #3 Brookside Center. Sheila Barrett, Engineer, suggests that we wait until final approval is received.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to table Item #3 regarding Brookside Center sewer connection, and to approve Items #1, 2, 4 and 5 on Consent Agenda. All voted Aye. So voted.

• PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Ordinance regulating Vehicle Towing Services with the Town of Coventry

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to table at this time and hold public hearing on December 10, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

• RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution authorizing town to submit bond referendum question to electorate

Manager Sprague explained that on June 27, 2007, the General Assembly authorized the town to hold a special referendum. We need approval of this question by January 26, 2008. The General Assembly gave approval for up to \$32,250,000. This council feels that is too much money. We had architects come in to consult and get a handle on expenditures. The number was pared down to \$19.8 million. This is a building that is five times the size of the present Town Hall. It is in need of some repair, but is a sound building. Municipal offices will be moved across the street, Senior Center will also move in; we will refurbish the present Town Hall for the library, allocate money for a police station. The School has reduced their request to \$9 million. Also

included is refurbishing the athletic complex at the high school. Our target date for the referendum is January 23, 2008, before the January 26 deadline.

Ray Spear, School Committee – Stated that there is a crucial issue with the updates of the fire alarm systems in the schools in order for the schools to remain open.

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

2. Resolution engaging the services of an engineering consultant

Manager Sprague explained this would authorize the Town Council to engage the services of a consultant to review our sewer policies and make recommendations.

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adopt resolution. All voted aye. So voted.

3. Resolution regarding use of transfer station

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to amend Paragraph #2 from \$15.00 to \$20.00 during the time period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. All voted Aye. So voted.

4. Resolution vacating appointment of member of Board of Canvassers and appointing new member

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Anthony Colaluca to appoint Agnes LaPointe. All voted Aye. So voted.

- INTRODUCTION

1. Petition for Abandonment of portion of Dawley Street
2. Ordinance Prohibiting Signs on Utility Poles
3. Ordinance regarding Sewer Use Charge
4. Ordinance amending Elderly/Disabled Tax Ordinance

Consensus of Town Council to follow procedure regarding the above items listed for introduction.

- PUBLIC FORUM

Public invited to address Council members at this time with any issues of concern.

President Thompson declared meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Town Clerk