

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 22, 2004

Present: Gregory Laboissonniere, Frank Hyde, Ronald S. Wood, William J. Hall,
James Spearman

Town Manager Francis A. Frobel
Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Presentation of Colors by Coventry Police Department Honor Guard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant, John Sullivan

Invocation led by Thomas Yeaw, Grand Chaplin of the Grand Masonic Lodge
of Rhode Island

Motion made by James Spearman seconded by William Hall to approve
Town Council minutes of November 8, 2004. All voted Aye. So voted.

President's Comments

President Wood reflected on his past eight years in office, finding it a humbling and gratifying experience representing the people of this town. He noted that much has been accomplished over the past eight years including construction of a new elementary school, an addition to the high school, and renovations of school buildings. A Land Trust Committee was established, acquiring hundreds of acres of pristine property throughout the Town.

We accomplished a joint venture with Amgen to construct a sewer line through the eastern portion of town; a tax freeze was established on real estate for the elderly and provisions were made for residents to purchase Ramblewood Estates and Mapleroot Village, allowing them to own their home-sites.

President Wood acknowledged the work and dedication of various town employees and departments in carrying out directives of the council and services to the townspeople every day. Thanks went to Town Manager Francis Frobel and the department heads and staff of Town Hall; Chief Brian O'Rourke and the men and women of the Police Department; Fire Chiefs and the men and women of our fire districts; Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments and workers, boards and commissions of the Town.

President Wood also thanked boards and commissions for their input, such as CATCH, CARD, CURE, PORA, Tiogue Lake Assoc, and CAVE.

Outgoing Vice-President James Spearman, serving on the Council for 18 years, always a friend and confidante, was recognized as well as Councilman William Hall, a very hard working individual who served as liaison to state legislators and to the Town of West Warwick's Sewer Commission. He was instrumental in bringing sewer line through town.

And last but not least, my wife, who stood by me through good and bad days.

Swearing-in Town Council Members by Senator Jack Reed

Justin Pomfret, District 1
Gregory Laboissonniere, District 2
Frank Hyde, District 3
Richard Sanetti, District 4
Thaddeus Jendzejec, District 5

Swearing-in School Committee Members by Senator Jack Reed

Raymond Spear, District 1
Karlene Murray-Toppin, District 4

Election of Council Officers

Motion made by Richard Sanetti seconded by Justin Pomfret that Frank Hyde be appointed President. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Ted Jendzejec that Richard Sanetti be appointed Vice-President. All voted Aye. So voted.

President Hyde commented that it will be hard to follow Ron Wood. Ron is the epitome of a good leader and has been a wonderful mentor. He always puts his heart and soul into everything he does for this town. I don't think there is anything that I can say that would improve upon what he has already mentioned.

Going to say a few things that come from my heart including a quote from Andrew Carnegie, "No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all the credit for doing it".

This is how I feel and how this council is going to work, in unison for a better Coventry. The former council has given the town a lot of great things: sewers, home ownership, and building a new school, and I think that this council is dedicated to working together for the Town of Coventry. I don't think I can say anything more than that. Thank you.

At this time would like to present a plaque to William J. Hall on behalf of the Coventry Town Council.

Would also like to present a plaque to James J. Spearman for 18 years of service.

Also, would like to present a plaque on behalf of the Town Council, to former Town Council President Ron Wood.

Motion made by Richard Sanetti seconded by Ted Jendzejec that meeting be adjourned. All voted Aye. So voted.

Cheryl A. George
Deputy Town Clerk