

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers  
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI  
November 24, 2008 - 8:00 P.M.

Present: Kenneth Cloutier, Anthony Colaluca, Justin Pomfret, Frank Hyde

Interim Town Manager Paul Sprague

Presentation of Colors by Coventry Police Department Honor Guard  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant James Spearman  
National Anthem sung by Raymond Byrnes  
Invocation by Reverend Baker  
Review of evacuation plan

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve minutes of the September 8, 2008 Town Council meeting. All voted Aye.

President Pomfret thanked Councilmen Cloutier, Colaluca, Hyde and Thompson for their hard work over the past two years.

Governor Donald Carcieri swore newly elected Town Council members into office:

Raymond E. Spear, District 1  
Laura A. Flanagan, District 2  
Glenford J. Shibley, District 4  
Kenneth L. Cloutier, District 5

Senator Leonidas Raptakis swore Town Councilman Frank Hyde into office.

Senator Leonidas Raptakis swore newly elected School Committee members into office:

Thomas A. Hetherman, District 1  
Nancy E. Sprengelmeyer, District 4  
Lisa P. Tomasso, District 5

- Election of Council Officers

Motion made by Raymond Spear seconded by Frank Hyde to appoint Kenneth Cloutier to the office of President of the Town Council. All voted Aye.

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Laura Flanagan to appoint Raymond Spear to the office of Vice President of the Town Council. All voted Aye.

- President's Remarks

President Cloutier - There's an ancient Chinese saying "May you live in interesting times."

It was first thought to be a curse, but it's evolved to be words of challenge...for when you live in difficult times, you are faced with challenges...and when you have overcome those challenges, you and those around you are rewarded.

When you look to the wall on my right and your left you will see 4 paintings. They were drawn by Norman Rockwell who was inspired by the 4 Freedoms Speech of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Congress in January, 1941 during the Great Depression and just before our country's entry into World War II.

Those freedoms which set us apart from the rest of the world were:

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Worship
- Freedom from Fear
- Freedom from Want

At that time, our country's economy was in turmoil, much of the world was at war, and the public was looking for solutions.

As things change, nothing seems to change. Today our world, our country and our town faces many of the same issues.

A U.S. Senator recently said there's a reason God put our eyes on the front of our heads rather than the back; it's so we can look forward, not backwards.

Looking forward, the challenges we face in Coventry today include:

- How do we continue to provide quality education for our youths while maintaining a reasonable school budget?
- How do we provide adequate public safety services, such as police and fire for our citizens - while still living within our means?
- How do we continue to provide excellent public services such as garbage pickup, snow plowing, recreational opportunities and human services support without emptying your wallets?

I can promise you that this administration welcomes these challenges and with your help - will overcome them and at the end of the day we will all be the better for it.

As to Freedom of Speech - we welcome the public's input, and with that input as well as our own strategies we will sit down with the various Town departments to include the School Department to find ways to accomplish our goals while maintaining a balanced budget.

With respect to Freedom from Fear - we will reach out to the Police Department to ensure your homes, properties and lives are safe and at a reasonable cost.

As to Freedom from Want - we will work with our Human Services Department and State Community Development Block Grant program to ensure that your basic needs such as food, heat, and a roof over your heads are met.

These are not just words, these are promises and we will keep them.

God Bless the United States of America, the State of Rhode Island and the Town of Coventry.

Thank you.

- Consent Agenda
  - a. Resolution reaffirming appointment of Paul K. Sprague as Interim Town Manager
  - b. Resolution affirming the appointment of Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge as Town Solicitors
  - c. Resolution approving sewer tie in at 1152-1154 Main Street
  - d. Resolution approving sewer tie in at 69A and 69B Boston Street
  - e. Resolution approving sewer tie in at 144-144A Hopkins Hill Road
  - f. Resolution approving sewer tie in at 117-119 Summit Avenue

Councilman Hyde would like more information regarding the appointment of Edwards Angell Palmer and Dodge as Town Solicitors. Don't think it is appropriate to hold this up, but would like an informative work session in the future.

President Cloutier noted that there will be a work session on December 8, 2008 with the new solicitors.

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Glenford Shibley to approve Consent Agenda. All voted Aye.

Mr. Spear would like the opportunity to discuss more matters and get more information before the public so that the public understands what the Council is acting on. Although Mr. Spear has no problem with the reappointment of Mr. Sprague as Interim Town Manager, there should be a further explanation accompanying this matter.

- Licenses

Application by Kevin Beese for Private Detective license

Motion made by Laura Flanagan seconded by Raymond Spear to approve license. All voted Aye.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Laura Flanagan to adjourn meeting.

---

Town Clerk