

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 27, 2006

Present: Gregory Laboissonniere, Robert Thibeault, Ted Jendzejec, Justin Pomfret,  
Frank Hyde

Town Manager Richard Kerbel

Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Presentation of Colors by Coventry Police Department Honor Guard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant

Invocation led by President Jendzejec

Town Sergeant reviewed the Emergency Evacuation plan

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Town Council Minutes for October 23 and November 6, 2006
- b. Extension of Class B, Victualling and Liveshow licenses for Half Moon, 1650 Nooseneck Hill Road, Coventry from December 1 to December 12, 2006.
- c. Resolution releasing bond for Chloe Court
- d. Application for Peddler's license at 15 Sandy Bottom Road by Alfred DiPrete, Jr.
- e. Application for Peddler's license at 638 Tiogue Avenue by Steven Salois
- f. Application for Peddler's license at 548 Tiogue Avenue by Warren Philippi
- g. Application for Sewer Contractor's license by Sal Maggiacomo Plumbing & Heating, Inc., 51B Western Industrial Drive, Cranston

Motion made by Gregory Laboissonniere seconded by Justin Pomfret to approve Consent Agenda. All voted Aye. So voted.

Councilman Laboissonniere congratulated Councilman-elect Kenneth Cloutier, coach of the Coventry Rams Midgets, for winning the New England Championship and noted that the team will be heading to the national championships in Florida next week.

Senator Jack Reed and Congressman James R. Langevin swore Council members into office:

Justin A. Pomfret, District 1  
Anthony Colaluca, District 2  
Frank Hyde, District 3  
Bruce P. Thompson, District 4  
Kenneth L. Cloutier, District 5

Senator Jack Reed and Congressman James R. Langevin swore School Committee members into office:

Katherine M. Patenaude, District 2  
Andrew B. Perra, District 3  
Donna J. Hayden, District 5

Senator Reed and Congressman Langevin congratulated all members of the Town Council and School Committee, thanking them and acknowledging that though they will face challenges ahead, this is a great opportunity to serve the Town of Coventry.

#### Election of Council Officers

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca nominating Justin Pomfret to the office of President of the Town Council.

Councilman Hyde questioned Mr. Pomfret's qualifications for this position. Mr. Pomfret responded that he is a fair and honest person; has experience from his service on the Town Council; works well with people; is willing to listen to the concerns of all of his constituents and is confident that this council will work together as a great team.

Councilman Hyde stated that he is disturbed by a caucus last week, and questioned if there could be a violation of a state statute. A decision should not have been made regarding a council president at that time and location. Don't believe we are starting off on the right foot, being a leader takes making the right decisions. This town has a large financial deficit. Would like to know what you are going to do to fix it.

Councilman Pomfret stated that he will do everything in his power. Is looking forward to working along side a town manager, noting that we haven't had a Town Manager in two years.

Councilman Colaluca – Point of order. I feel we should move on and vote.

Town Manager Kerbel – We have a motion and a second.

Mr. Colaluca made motion seconded by Mr. Pomfret to end discussion and move on to the vote for President. Vote four in favor, one opposed (Mr. Hyde opposed). Motion passes.

Manager Kerbel stated that we have a motion and a second to elect the council president. Vote taken: four in favor, one against (Mr. Hyde against). Motion passes.

President Pomfret stated he would accept motions for vice-president of the Town Council.

Anthony Colaluca made motion seconded by Justin Pomfret to nominate Bruce Thompson to the office of vice-president of the Town Council. All voted Aye. So voted.

#### President's Remarks

Good Evening,

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone here tonight for supporting this council and believing in a new beginning for the Town of Coventry.

I wouldn't be here without the love and support of some very special people and if you'll give me a moment, I'd like to recognize them for their efforts.

First to my family: my wife, Hollie and our two beautiful daughters, Alexis and Skylar. Thank you for always believing in me and reminding me of what is so special about Coventry, and why serving this community is so important.

To my mother, Anne, and my brothers and sisters, thanks for inspiring me to be my best, always looking out for me and helping me see the bright side, even when times got rough.

Shirley and Lindsay Turner, Ron and Pat Mailloux, Ron and Roberta Wood, Brett Harrington, Scott Guthrie, Jean Boulanger, Representative Ray Sullivan, Kevin McGee, Bill Hall and all my friends on the Democratic Town Committee: thank you for all the work you did behind the scenes to make tonight possible. Whether it was hanging signs, making phone calls or stuffing envelopes, your steadfast commitment made all the difference. Please know that Hollie and I will be forever grateful for your friendship and assistance.

I want to recognize and thank former Council President Ted Jendzejec. Ted, I know this hasn't been the easiest two years for you, which makes your commitment and sacrifice on behalf of this town all the more laudable. I know how much this community means to you, and I know we can all continue to rely on your passion and experience to help build a better Coventry.

Most of all, I want to thank my constituents, the good people who elected me to be their voice on this council. While my responsibilities may broaden as I assume the council presidency, I can promise I'll never stop working to protect the interests of the people in my district. I work for you, and I won't forget that.

Tonight is about a new beginning – a fresh start – not only for this council, but for the Town of Coventry,

We've seen a lot happen over the last two years. While I'm proud of what the previous council was able to accomplish, I'm also eager to put the partisanship and often divisive bickering behind us.

This town and its people deserve better, and I believe this council is ready to deliver.

Are we a little green? Sure – three of our members are newly elected councilmen. And, yes, none of us are perfect so we'll all make our fair share of mistakes.

But no matter what our party affiliation, I believe we all share a commitment to moving this town forward, and doing what is good and right for the hard working families that call this place home.

So tonight, I ask for your patience. Give us the opportunity to strengthen your faith in this town's government.

And, if you can, please join us in finding new and creative solutions to the challenges we all must face together. There are plenty of opportunities to serve on public boards and commissions. If you can, please fill out an application and get involved and help make Coventry a shining example of civic participation.

To my friends on the council, thank you for the trust you've placed in me. I promise to never take your support for granted.

We've got a lot of work to do, and I'm eager to get started. I'm usually not long on speeches, so I thank everyone for giving me this chance to share my thoughts and hopes with you tonight.

I love this community, my family and I wouldn't live anywhere else.

And though there will be many challenges and obstacles over the next two years, I know that if we work together, we can rise to the occasion and make Coventry a better place to live, work and raise a family.

President Pomfret thanked Senator Jack Reed, Congressman James Langevin and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for their participation in tonight's ceremony and also thanked in memoriam his late father, brother and grandfather-in-law.

Recognition of Outgoing Town Council and School Committee Members

President Pomfret recognized outgoing Town Council and School Committee members with certificates of appreciation.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. So voted.

---

Town Clerk