

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 12, 2011

Present: President Gary Cote, Ted Jendzejec, Kerry McGee, Raymond Spear, Carl Mattson, Jr.

Town Manager Thomas Hoover
Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Mattson to recess to Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing applicants for boards and commissions.

Roll call vote: Carl Mattson, Aye
Raymond Spear, Aye
Kerry McGee, Aye
Ted Jendzejec, Aye
Gary Cote, Aye

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Mattson to reconvene regular meeting. All voted aye.

Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Mattson to seal minutes of Executive Session. All voted aye.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant
Invocation by Councilman Spear; President Cote asked for a moment of silence in honor of Worcester, Massachusetts Firefighter John Davies, who recently lost his life in the line of duty.

Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

President's Comments

President Cote announced that the December 26, 2011 Town Council meeting has been canceled and the next Town Council meeting will be held on January 9, 2012.

President Cote advised that Town Manager Hoover, Vice-President McGee and he will be meeting with Mayor Dan McKee tomorrow morning at 9:00 at the Blackstone Valley Mayoral Academy for a tour of that facility. This is a fact finding mission, an informational seminar to explore the feasibility of possibly bringing a mayoral academy to the Town of Coventry. Also invited are the Coventry School Superintendent, the President of the Coventry Teachers Alliance and any member of the school department who cares to join us. We are not sure that a mayoral academy or charter school is the way to go, but hopefully we will come away with some valuable information.

Councilman Spear asked if it would be appropriate for him to join the tour of the Blackstone Valley facility since he was a former Superintendent and Chairman of School Committee. Solicitor Tobin remarked that technically you should not have three Town Council members conducting council business in one location as it may constitute a violation of the RI Open Meetings Law.

President Cote further stated that on Friday at noon, the Town Manager, Finance Director Ted Przybyla and he will meet with State Treasurer Gina Raimondo. Senators Kettle and Shibley will also be present for a discussion of ways and ideas to solve the problem of the unfunded pension liability in the Town of Coventry. Any suggestions from any taxpayers are welcome.

The Council extended best wishes to all the citizens of Coventry for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday.

Approval of Town Council Minutes

Councilman Spear made motion seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to approve minutes from November 14 and November 28, 2011. All voted Aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approving the tax abatements and additions for November, 2011

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to approve Consent Agenda. All voted Aye.

Councilman Spear observed that the abatements are usually less than the additions. This time it is the other way around. Manager Hoover stated that this time of year we close off appeals on November 15, and you will see a surge of this type. Expect it to reverse and go the other way for the majority of the year.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Appointing member to the Sewer Assessment Board of Review

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to reappoint Glen Skurka to the Sewer Assessment Board of Review. All voted aye. Mr. Skurka was sworn in by President Cote.

2. Appointing member to the Coventry Land Trust

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Mattson to reappoint Joyce Peretta to the Coventry Land Trust. All voted aye.

3. Awarding a contract to DiPrete Engineering at a cost of \$9,435 for a Class 1 survey and awarding a contract to Roch Appraisal Company at a cost of \$2,750 for an appraisal, both as a prerequisite to closing on the purchase of the Beaudoin property, as required by the State of Rhode Island.

Motion made by Council Spear seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to approve resolution. All voted aye.

4. Emergency purchase of a Phone/Radio Recorder for the Town of Coventry Fire Dispatch Center

Manager Hoover explained that this purchase was done on an emergency basis. Chief

Frank Brown of Hopkins Hill Fire District explained that the equipment records 15 different lines going into the building. All of these calls get archived, become public record and are available for investigations and potential litigation. The system that was in there was corrupted and couldn't be repaired.

Manager Hoover advised that funding will come from a joint radio fund involving all four fire districts. Chief Volpe and Mike Broggi from the Police Department were instrumental in making this happen.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to approve resolution. All voted aye.

REPORTS

Regarding the status of the business license for the operation of Mishnock Garden Center, 2501 Nooseneck Hill Road

Manager Hoover advised that this matter was supposed to come before Council at the last meeting, but was omitted from the agenda.

Brian Warnock, 54 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich indicated there had been several outstanding issues. Since the last meeting, the office trailer is off the premises. We are in the process of obtaining the state permit for public access. DOT has been out there and told us we would have the permit within 14-30 days, and we're still waiting. It's only a matter of stamping and issuing it. We have done everything they asked, just need it stamped so we can move forward.

Planning Director Paul Sprague stated that the issue with off street parking has been resolved also. Mr. Bob Boyer, Mr. Warnock's engineer, expects the DOT permit within a couple of days. When asked by President Cote if he is satisfied with what Mr. Warnock has accomplished, Mr. Sprague indicated that he is satisfied.

Manager Hoover asked for a copy of the permit when it is made available.

President Cote thanked Mr. Warnock for his compliance and wished him success in his business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Anderson, 14 Osprey Drive, wanted to know where to send suggestions regarding pension reform. President Cote suggested an e-mail to the Town Manager or himself.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Mattson to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye.

Town Clerk