

Minutes Approved
September 14, 2015

The City of Warwick
Docket of the City Council
Regular Business / Public Hearing Meeting
For
August 12, 2015
@
Council Chambers
Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886
@ 7:00 P.M.

Donna Travis, President

Roll Call: 9/0 Steven Colantuono, Thomas Chadronet, Camille Vella-Wilkinson, Joseph Solomon, Edgar Ladouceur, Donna Travis, Kathleen Usler, Joseph Gallucci, Steve Merolla

Time: 8:29 PM

Salute To The Flag: Councilman Chadronet

Executive Communications

1. Councilman Ladouceur – nice to hear that Marie Ahlert remains with us (she recorded the National Anthem for it to be played at the meeting). A few Thank You's in regards to the recent storm are in order to the Fire and Police Departments and the Department of Public Works who all did an outstanding job. All the staff did an outstanding job with communications in such difficult adverse conditions. He did not receive one complaint from a single constituent.
2. Councilman Colantuono – echoes the comments and kudos to all the departments throughout the City throughout the aftermath. Water and Sewer trucks were on the roads accessing the situation In addition to DPW. Governor Francis got it the worst. Lots of trees fell on houses and cars. He rode his bicycle through neighborhoods as this was the safest way and applauds the people in those neighborhoods for the help and response in such a difficult time. Thanks Chief Armstrong for communications especially regarding the lack of traffic lights in bad intersections.
3. Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson – In addition to kudos for all of our City employees, National Grid was willing to put their men on the line with our DPW to expedite repairs. Other municipalities that recognized the dire consequences in Warwick sent people from their cities to assist. As Councilman Colantuono indicated, our neighbors and our residents are always going to be our greatest resources.
4. Councilman Solomon – shares the sentiments of all and the Department of Transportation. Everyone's hands were tied as to what they could do, due to the fact of all of the downed wires. No power in some areas for 4 days, telephone poles snapped like twigs, 100 year old trees fell through houses. At shift changes, there were people that stayed on board to clear highways and main arteries so that emergency response and utilities could travel through. He worked 12 hours to remove a tree because of a wire situation on a State Highway Route 117. DPW responded and was unable to move the tree. DOT was there and willing to remove the tree but their hands were tied due to the downed wires. At 4:30 PM National Grid finally arrived and took about 10 minutes to assure DOT that the wires were inactive and DOT could proceed to remove the tree. Removal took about 2 hours and left a telephone pole in the road in which Verizon had to come and remove. He is grateful that there were no casualties resulting from the storm or resulting from the inability of Police, Fire and Rescue vehicles being detoured. Lesson to be learned, without the proper coordination with the utility companies, our local and state department's hands were tied and this has to be addressed. Fortunately, this was an isolated storm and our neighbors were able to help us from in and out of state. Had this been a state wide storm, it could have been a major catastrophe. We need to be better prepared for the future.
5. Council President Travis – thanks the Chief and everyone involved for keeping the Council updated in relation to the storm. The night of the storm was supposed to be National Night Out and though it normally does not get rescheduled if cancelled, The Mayor feels that this is a good time to reschedule. It can be a time to thank the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works, but most of all the citizens. National Night out is being rescheduled to Wednesday, August 26 and everyone is invited.

6. Councilman Merolla – echoes the sentiments of the Council Members. Neighborhood was lucky because some of the power lines are buried. Lost power for two days. Feels that National Grid should be burying power lines especially on any new road construction instead of putting up more telephone poles. It should be mandated that the power lines be buried anytime the road is being opened up by another utility. If we were to have a Hurricane 3 to a 5, West Shore Road would be flooded. People can't get to Warwick Vets as a shelter. Need to have in place a mechanism where the families of our first responders have the option depending on where they live, to meet in a location and be transported at the cost of the city to a hotel or to the western part of RI or CT. to seek shelter somewhere else so that our first responders do not have to worry about the safety of their family. Reminder about the fair at Saint Gregory's on the 18th, 19th and 20th of August.
7. Councilwoman Usler – Thanks all responders and families for their hard work. Commends those responsible for keeping lights and hospitals functioning. Thanks the YMCA for making their facilities available.
8. Councilman Gallucci – Thanks for the rapid response from Police, Fire and Public Works. Pontiac area has been cleaned up and they understand that the sidewalk pick up will be delayed while the other parts of the city are addressed. Congratulations to all of our city agencies.
9. Council President Travis reminds that Jonah is having a fair at Oakland Beach the 19th through the 23rd of August.

General Communications -

- A. Acceptance of minutes from council meetings held on:
 1. July 13, 2015

Moved by:	Colantuono
Seconded by:	Vella-Wilkinson
Vote:	9VV

APPROVED

Public Hearings

RULE 41. After the General Communications and prior to the Consent Calendar at each City Council Public Hearing meeting there shall be a fifteen minute period during which citizens may comment about Warwick city government issues subject to the following stipulations:

- a) The total period of time for public comment shall be 15 minutes.
Comments need to be brief in order to allow as many citizens as possible to participate.
- b) The topics for comment shall be issues directly affecting City government.
- c) City Council members will not respond to questions during the public comment period.
- d) The public comment session will terminate at the expiration of 15 minutes.
Waiver of this provision requires unanimous consent.

Public Comments

1. Eugene Nadeau comments regarding the vote of "no confidence" regarding school administrators. Does not respect this resolution. Feels that Mr. Harrington should get in touch with legal counsel to see what can be divulged from the report because as committee members they cannot. There are 53 administrators in the Warwick School Department and feels that the resolution should only be referring to three. The other 50 bring credit to the school department in Warwick as well as the best in the State of Rhode Island. He states that the resolution is stating that it has no confidence in our 23 schools and those hard working people associated with them. There is an upcoming school consolidation and many changes being implemented and lists commendations of the schools and students. Continues with commendations, feels that the resolution discredits our school department, the students and the parents and urges the Council and the Mayor not to approve it.
2. John Marr – came up to bash school committee and lost all of it. He thanks everyone regarding the storm. He is supposed to be the positive guy in Warwick. He witnessed two Councilmembers laughing during the Pledge of Allegiance He and other members of the Council are Veterans. We lost a RI Veteran this week

KIA and it greatly disturbs him to witness the laughing of Councilmembers. He had intentions of discussing the school committee, but this occurrence changed his public comment.

3. Sean Rainey – disgusted with people who can't put their hand over their heart and respect the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. He feels that the resolution regarding the school committee is aimed at the school committee and the upper administration of the school department. The committee is not open and needs to be. They need to answer to the citizens of the city. Is in favor of all resolutions regarding school committee and the School System in addition to the Charter Review Committee resolution.

Councilman Merolla apologizes if he offended anyone if he was smiling during the National Anthem. He was surprised to hear the voice of the former city clerk, that just retired, singing it. He lists those in his family who have served in the military and again apologizes if he offended anyone.

Referred Business

1. **PCO-12-15** An Ordinance relative to a Zone Change Petition
Expanding City Centre Zoning Districts, City of Warwick, Petitioner
(Council President Travis, Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson, Councilman Colantuono)

Public Hearing, First Passage

Committee Report: Ordinance: recommends public hearing: Gallucci

Action: open public hearing

Moved by: Gallucci

Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Colantuono

Vote:

Speaking for: William DePasquale

Dan Geagan

Michelle Komar

Jackie Ingalls

Thomas Bruzzese

Speaking against: Theresa Haskins would like more information

Motion to close the P.H.: Colantuono

Seconded by: Merolla, Chadronet

Vote: 9 VV

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Colantuono

Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Ladouceur, Gallucci

Vote: 9/0

TO SECOND PASSAGE 9/21/2015

1. Announcement of Appointments – none

2. Appointments Requiring Confirmation – none

Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson requests a moment of silence in honor of Sgt. Andrew McKenna, from Bristol, from 7th Special Forces Group who was killed during an attack on August 7th in Kabul, Afghanistan.

3. Consent Calendar –

1. PCR- 103-15-Resolution Relative to Bids

(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable, Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Colantuono

ADOPTED R-15-87

2. PCR- 104-15 Resolution Relative to Claims
(Councilman Gallucci)

Committee Report: Public Safety: Favorable, Gallucci
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Gallucci
Seconded by: Colantuono
ADOPTED R-15-90

3. PCR-105-15 Resolution Relative to Abatements
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable Vella-Wilkinson
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Colantuono
ADOPTED R-15-92

Consent calendar vote: 9/0

PCR-106-15 Bid# 2016-60 Purchase Fertilizer, Liquid Weed Control & Lime (if necessary)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable, Vella-Wilkinson
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Chadronet
Vote: 8/0/1 Colantuono abstains

ADOPTED R-15-88

PCR-107-15 Bid# 2016-87 Purchase & Installation of Convault 1000 Gallon (or Equal) Diesel Fuel Tank & Equipment

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable Vella-Wilkinson
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Colantuono
Vote: 9/0

ADOPTED R-15-89

PCR-108-15 Claim Kevin Matos

Committee Report: Public Safety: Favorable, Gallucci
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Gallucci
Seconded by: Colantuono
Vote: 2/7

CLAIM DENIED

PCR-109-15 Claim John Johnston

Committee Report: Public Safety: move to deny, Gallucci
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Gallucci
Seconded by: Colantuono
Vote: 8/1

CLAIM DENIED

PCR-110-15 Claim Geraldine Beaudoin

Committee Report Public Safety: Favorable, Gallucci
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Gallucci
Seconded by: Usher
Vote: 6/3

ADOPTED R-15-91

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. PCO-15-15 Amendment to Code of Ordinance Chapter 8 Buildings Section 8.5 Special Flood Hazard Ordinance

(Councilman Colantuono)

SECOND PASSAGE

Committee Report: Ordinance: Favorable, Gallucci

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Colantuono

Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet

Vote: 9/0

ADOPTED O-15-8

2. PCO-1-13 "In State" Agent of Service

(Councilman Ladouceur)

FIRST PASSAGE Not Drafted

Committee Report: Ordinance: withdraw at request of sponsor, Gallucci

Action: Withdraw

Moved by: Ladouceur

Seconded by: Colantuono

Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

3. PCO-7-14 Bids & Purchases by Department Heads

(Councilman Ladouceur)

FIRST PASSAGE Not Drafted

Committee Report: Finance: Withdraw at request of sponsor, Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Withdraw

Moved by: Ladouceur

Seconded by: Colantuono

Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

4. PCO-25-14 Eliminate Bonfires on City Property, State Property including DEM Property without Proper Supervision (Councilman Ladouceur)

FIRST PASSAGE Not Drafted

Committee Report: Ordinance: withdraw at request of sponsor, Gallucci

Action: Withdraw

Moved by: Ladouceur

Seconded by: Colantuono

Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

5. PCO-04-15 McDermott Pool Passes

(Councilman Ladouceur)

FIRST PASSAGE Not Drafted

Committee Report: Finance: Withdraw at request of sponsor, Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Withdraw

Moved by: Ladouceur

Seconded by: Colantuono

Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

6. PCO-14-15 Available Funds in Budget

(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Ordinance: **HOLD TO 9/14/2015**

FIRST PASSAGE

Not Drafted

7. PCR-39-13 To GA regarding Abandoned/Vacant Properties
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: withdraw at request of sponsor, Colantuono
Action: Withdraw
Moved by: Ladouceur
Seconded by: Colantuono
Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

8. PCR-59-13 PEW to do a Cost & Effect on President Obama Healthcare
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: withdraw at request of sponsor, Colantuono
Action: Withdraw
Moved by: Ladouceur
Seconded by: Colantuono
Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

9. PCR-128-14 Purchasing of Gamma Counters for the Warwick Police Department Traffic Division (Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Finance: Withdraw at request of sponsor, Vella-Wilkinson
Action: Withdraw
Moved by: Ladouceur
Seconded by: Colantuono
Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

10. PCR-20-15 Federal Flood Map Review for Warwick
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: withdraw at request of sponsor, Colantuono
Action: Withdraw
Moved by: Ladouceur
Seconded by: Colantuono
Vote: 9/0

WITHDRAWN

11. PCR-47-15 Vote of “No Confidence” Regarding School Administrators
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: Favorable, Colantuono

Action: Favorable
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Usler, Chadronet
Action: Move to amend
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Ladouceur, Chadronet
Vote: 7/2 (Merolla, Solomon)
Action: Move as amended
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Usler, Chadronet
Vote: 6/2(Colantuono, Solomon)/1 Merolla Abstains

Councilman Solomon invokes Rule 21 at 11:54 PM.

12. PCR-48-15 Charter Review Commission
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Intergovernmental

HOLD 9/14/2015

13. **PCR-51-15 Planning Department to Join Community Septic System Loan Program** (Councilman Merolla)
Committee Report: Intergovernmental:

HOLD 9/14/2015

Not Drafted

14. **PCR-54-15 Easement on Railroad Row**
(Councilman Gallucci)
Committee Report: Public Prop/Land Use:

HOLD 9/14/2015

Not Drafted

15. **PCR-90-15 Short Term Committee to Review OPEB**
(Councilman Colantuono)
Committee Report: Finance:

HOLD 9/14/2015

Not Drafted

NEW BUSINESS

1. **PCO-16-15 Military Time for Warwick Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Employees** (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)
Committee Report: Finance

HOLD 9/14/2015

Not Drafted

2. **PCO-17-15 Policy Regarding Food Shopping by Warwick Fire Department**
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)
Committee Report: Ordinance

HOLD 9/14/2015

Not Drafted

3. **PCO-18-15 Neighborhood Improvement Program**
(Councilman Ladouceur)
Committee Report: Ordinance

HOLD 9/14/2015

Not Drafted

4. **PCR-97-15 Change 4 Stop Signs at Namquid and Spring Green to Yield**
(Councilman Colantuono)
Committee Report: Public Safety

HOLD 9/14/2015

5. **PCR-98-15 Community Outreach with School Department**
(Councilman Ladouceur, Councilwoman Usler)
Committee Report: Intergovernmental

HOLD 9/14/2015

Not Drafted

6. **PCR-99-15 Request School Committee Chair to Appear Before Council**
(Councilman Ladouceur)
Committee Report: Intergovernmental

HOLD 9/14/2015

7. **PCR-100-15 City Council to Subpoena Ragasta Report**
(Councilman Ladouceur)
Committee Report: Intergovernmental

HOLD 9/14/2015

8. **PCR-101-15 To GA requesting Crosswalk at Cowesett and Post Road**
(Councilman Merolla)
Committee Report: Public Safety

HOLD 9/14/2015

9. **PCR-102-15 To GA in Support of Federal Ban on Misuse of Medicines for Animals** (Council President Travis)
Committee Report: Intergovernmental

HOLD 9/14/2015

FOR REFERRAL AND ADVERTISING

PCO-19-15 Changing the Zoning Classification of House of Hope 3188 Post Road from PDR A-10: Duplex Transitional Housing and Open Space to PDR A-10 Shared Living Space Transitional Housing and Open Space
(Councilman Colantuono)

Unanimous Consent for August 12, 2015

Motion to Adjourn:

Vote:

Time:

Next available numbers: *PCR-106-15*
PCO-20-15

DOCKET SESSION

Attest,

Judy Wild
City Clerk