

Minutes Approved
March 7, 2016

The City of Warwick
Docket of the City Council
Regular Public Hearing Meeting
For
January 20, 2016
@
Council Chambers
Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886
@ 7:00 P.M.
Donna Travis, President

Roll Call: 8/0 Steven Colantuono, Thomas Chadronet, Camille Vella-Wilkinson, Joseph Solomon, Edgar Ladouceur, Donna Travis, Kathleen Usler (absent), Joseph Gallucci, Steven Merolla

Time: 7:25 PM

Salute to the Flag: Councilman Merolla

Executive Communications

Quarterly Reports

1. Dan O'Rourke – Water Department

Councilman Ladouceur- Pg 1- Item A did the grid contribute to cost of work? – Dan – yes it did. B. Water main re: relocation of water line has been completed – Dan It was paid by RIAC Item D- Increase in value protection what would you guess that to be? Dan – Increase of 12 to 13% - Lot more work to be done with equipment weather permitting they will do a lot more maintenance, fire department accounts for certain percentage. Ward 5 has had broken water pipes and wants to compliment water department for their response time. Dan – There is a procedure in place to respond to all water breaks he gives the credit to his staff.

Council President Travis – Thanks Dan his follow-up and work on water breaks she appreciates all the work. Under E - Who maintains water dept. software – It is maintained internally by Water Department.

Councilman Merolla – Dan I think B relocation of water main was something Council had he negotiated this with RIAC - Dan – response – No this was main avenue. Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson responds to Councilman Merolla – it was only a knuckle on airport road that was off to side of street the work has not been done yet. Councilman Merolla – Dan in C – Governor Francis Phase – looks like you are working with WSA – no pump station needed only Rocky Point Area needs pumping station. New Neptune purchased – water meter readers can drive by to read meters – we are phrasing into a drive by system. They have 9000 ready for drive by reading equipment. Others will be installed on outside of house have been upgraded. They will do several thousand a year. If they had money they could do it within a year. Complete project about 1,200,000.00. Cover more homes with less staff, Neptune system, in theory you are correct. If they go to full Neptune system positions will be eliminated as phased in there are other programs that staff can be put in. Cost benefit analysis – Please provide in next report.

Councilman Solomon - He noticed that he has taken steps to replace lead services in the area. Due to condition in Michigan is that a concern for us in Warwick. Dan – we do comply with EPA & RI Health lead rules. They would be under mandate to comply. The Providence Water Supply System had 37,000 lead servers in their system –the coordination was not there with home owners to replace their side. We only have 200 in entire city which is Lakewood and Pawtuxet area. They have replaced many on their own. City is responsible for the result of lead in household but only have legal – from pipe to curb stop.

Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson – She wants to thank Dan for keeping them abreast of all water breaks and people really appreciate having the updated information. New Neptune meeting reader equipment – has not been reflected in bills correct? Dan - you won't see any change in billing it is in reading of the meters. Recent water bill rates have jumped up – he gets a lot of calls most of the December bills reflect summer usage. They can see usage on their bills. Meters are read it is not an estimate. Bills are not estimates they are read and it is for summer usage? He would say so.

2. Janine Burke – Sewer Authority

Janine Burke – Sewer Authority- Provided written report – they have completed the project to rehabilitate the main influent pipe on time and on budget and making progress on sewer extension project. Provided expense report to date there is typo on report will correct for next report.

Councilman Merolla- Levy work – Pawtuxet River Flood also some flooding caused by the State are they providing financing to repair main storm drain? The main storm drain has been cleaned whole thing. She finds State easy to work with and very helpful but no grant. Look into funding from State for portion of that project they should be bearing some of that cost. He thanks her for putting together tables they are very helpful. Funds explained on last page of chart by category by summary. Janine explains chart. She tries to breakdown with table if council wants more she can do that. He asked that projects and expenses be shown on chart. Major projects are bond funded.

Septic systems and cesspools how are they are being phased out? Law on books 2007 – phase out – at time of sale new owner has one year to connect. Are they required to remove septic or can they leave it there? They like to see them filled in. How does WSA track the sales of houses and give new owner's notice of 1 year to connect? – They provide homeowner's notice within 30 days of sale, then reminder and then notice of violations with final notice. They work with realtors and homeowners to make sure everyone is aware of law. Councilman Morella would like clear policy on septic systems. State law is for cesspools. Warwick includes cesspools and septic systems.

Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson– Thanks Janine for coming tonight – She has received email regarding Cedar Swamp Road, odor in area, they have set up chemical treatment and last step is to completely replace heating system. She would like them to call her with odor complaints. They have completed an odor study and they have a lot of data so they know where the odors are coming from. They are going to continue to work on that. Seems problem keeps coming up. Janine assures her that they continue to work on it. She appreciates the continued calls. Request you can do a summary of what is going on with phone number to contact WSA with problems in Beacon. She is willing to have meeting with Councilwoman and neighborhood.

Councilman Ladouceur – Shares information that an issue happened in his ward he received phone call from mother of son that lives on Tidewater Dr. Her son, wife and young child just purchased house and cesspool collapsed. That was a problem for young family, had sewer not run pipe that stopped at corner of their house they would have had to put in new septic system for \$40,000. WSA within a matter of days, all departments, had young family connected to sewer. He thanks all involved.

Councilman Solomon – Typo on last page of chart – bond authorization last line very last page of report– (\$6,000,000 is correct). \$14,500,000 has been spent. That includes cost of issuance and one year reserve. How are they doing cash flow wise can they maintain services? Budget s fine they are able to pay debt services they are about to look at 5 year rate study. Next rate study with address the bond issuance it will look at next 5 years.

Council President Travis - Thanks Janine for detailed report. They will have press release for outreach grant when all in order.

General Communications -

Dr.Thornton, Superintendent will be reporting to Council quarterly.

Carlos Zambrano – MIS Director – Introduces Himself to Council

Councilwoman Travis - When did you start? – Carlos started 10-3-2015

Councilman Solomon – Welcome aboard, can you tell us about background.

Carlos: J&W; worked in Corporation; in East Greenwich School Department & Air Force Reserve Member – 15 years IT experience and 12 years of IT Management Experience How did you apply for job? – Searching on line and he came across and applied for job.

Has worked with some vendors that they use now? He has done work with some of the Vendors that the City works with.

Awarded bid for HP – purchase of Apple products – tourism – they have to produce this graphic design is why they needed apple computer. Separate invoice for computer and software has to be on different invoice. Hardware will be separate. Purchase should not be piece meal.

Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson –Welcome back from committee meeting: They had a bid on paper ink and toner, if you can talk briefly on document management program.

Carlos – We have done audit on consumables. Department should go paperless. He has done some work in the past and wants to do in the future. Reach out to city school department side Anthony Ferrucci he was involved in document management program. We are looking into Munis Program if budget is there in future they will work on that.

Councilman Ladouceur – Welcome, you had stated at committee meeting, where you have been and how you got here. Worked for town of East Greenwich for three years as Director of IT he modernized the school department. Of things he accomplished he received part of State Grant to bring technology to class rooms. Councilman Ladouceur had requested the following and never received answer: How is overtime issued? The overtime budge is at 128%...why were you paying overtime to monitor council meeting should be salary employee working council meeting. Councilman Ladouceur will set up

meeting but has questions: Apple computer purchase the total cost of computer is the hardware & add on – software in on case & case basis...we purchase computer today would there be situation where you would add additional things would that happen...Carlos computer is purchased all together, apple purchased is different situation and streaming to computers.

Council President Travis: If anyone has questions they should make appointment to meet with Director at different time to go over their specific questions.

Councilman Solomon. You have been here since Oct 3rd. Where is your office? Carlos my Office is in personnel conference room.

Councilman Merolla – Did you work for Apec at one point? – How many employees to you have? There are presently 5 employees. They are hiring 2 new people

Public Comment

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.

1. Don Chicone – Ward 5 – Make comments but he would prefer feedback. Referring to Resolution to General Assembly to change the Warwick School Committee from elected body to appointed body. Word change should be changed to not allow to vote. It means public can't vote. Why would they extend resolution without allowing input from general public? Why there is no knowledge that general public wants this. He does see that the teachers union wants this to happen. He noticed in Beacon no reporting on this issue. He can't recall if this was ever discussed by the Council. He seems General Assembly already has this docketed. Councilman can't talk about it; Beacon issue was bought up but postponed him is disappointed in Council. It is most important to taxpayers and Beacon did not put this in. Good luck with the answers.
2. Stacia Huyler – Ward 9 - She wants to speak on the city doing forensic audit, should be done, start with WSA and then DPW she finds it disturbing that she gets a snicker when talk about rate increase at WSA. Must be funny there is another 5 year rate study that's funny is the Warwick City still funding WSA retirement and plan health. The last 5 years mayor has pulled \$14,000,000 to balance budget from reserve to balance the budget. Tax base continues to weaken. We are facing our 16th year of Taxing small businesses and homeowners out of the city. Healthcare Retirees – OPEC is not funded. Outstanding bills, ship is sinking. Baby steps are being taken to fix budget, in addition if you look at financial statements, we can't afford to continue the games that are being played. We are passing budgets without answers. Audit has never been done to date and stop with baby steps and grandstanding.

1. Announcement of Appointments – none

2. Appointments Requiring Confirmation – none

3. Consent Calendar –

1. **PCR-11-16 -Resolution Relative to Bids**
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable, Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Colantuono, Chadronet, Gallucci

ADOPTED R-16-9

2. **PCR-12-16 – Resolution Relative to Claims**
(Councilman Gallucci)

Committee Report: Public Safety: Favorable, Gallucci
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Gallucci
Seconded by: Colantuono, Ladouceur

ADOPTED R-16-10

Consent calendar vote: 8/0

PCR-13-16 Bid #2016-219 Frames, Grates & Covers

Action: Favorable
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Chadronet, Colantuono, Gallucci
Vote: 7/0/1 (Merolla abstains)

ADOPTED R-16-11

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. PCO-33-15 An Ordinance relative to the Abandonment of Portions of Progress Street and Fort Street, Harbor Light Marina Inc., Petitioner
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Second Passage

Committee Report: Land Use: Favorable, Colantuono
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Solomon
Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci
Vote: 7/0/1 Ladouceur abstains

ADOPTED O-16-2

2. PCO-34-15 An Ordinance relative to a Zone Change Petition, M&M Land Company c/o Kevin Murphy, Petitioner (Councilman Merolla)

Second Passage as Amended

Committee Report: Land Use: Favorable, Colantuono
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Merolla
Seconded by: Ladouceur, Colantuono, Chadronet
Vote: 8/0

ADOPTED O-16-3

3. PCO-35-15 An Ordinance regarding vehicles using the Petro facility at 141 Knight Street use access and egress via Pontiac Avenue
(Councilman Gallucci)

Second Passage

Committee Report: Public Safety: Favorable, Gallucci
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Gallucci
Seconded by: Colantuono, Chadronet, Vella-Wilkinson, Ladouceur
Vote: 8/0

ADOPTED O-16-4

4. PCO-36-15 An Ordinance relative to the Abandonment of Lexington Street, Harbor Light Marina, Inc., Petitioner
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Second Passage

Committee Report: Land Use: Favorable, Colantuono
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Solomon
Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci
Vote: 7/0/1 Ladouceur abstains

ADOPTED O-16-5

5. PCO-37-15 Parking Restrictions for Oakland Beach School

(Council President Travis)

Second Passage

Committee Report: Public Safety: Favorable, Gallucci

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Travis

Seconded by: Colantuono, Chadronet, Vella-Wilkinson, Ladouceur,
Gallucci

Vote: 8/0

ADOPTED O-16-6

6. PCO-18-15 Neighborhood Improvement Program- An Ordinance that will make Landlords responsible for the costs to pick up debris left on the street by tenants. (Councilman Ladouceur)

First Passage – Not Drafted

Committee Report: Ordinance: **Hold to 2/17/2016** at request of sponsor

7. PCO-28-15 Tax Stabilization Agreement for Intermodal District

(Councilman Merolla, Councilman Solomon)

First Passage – Not Drafted

Committee Report: Finance: **Hold to 2/17/2016**

8. PCR-121-15 Planning Department to provide a presentation to the City Council and General Public regarding the Storm Water Management Plan including the 2007 RIDEM Watershed Report (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Not Drafted – Move to Pending File per Council Rule 30

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: **Move to pending file at request of sponsor**

9. PCR-124-15 Resolution requesting that the GA pass legislation that changes the Warwick School Committee from an elected body to an appointed body (Councilman Ladouceur)

Not Drafted – Move to Pending File per Council Rule 30

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: **Move to pending file at request of sponsor**

10. PCR-139-15 A Resolution requesting a Warwick Police Officer attend each City Council Meeting (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Public Safety: **Withdrawn at the request of sponsor**

Action: Withdrawn

Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Colantuono, Chadronet, Ladouceur

Vote: 8/0

WITHDRAWN

11. PCR-150-15 A Resolution Requesting the Warwick School Committee, The School Department Personnel Director and the Mayor to appear before the Warwick City Council November 23, 2015 (Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: **Hold to 2/17/2016** at request of sponsor

12. **PCR-9-16 A Resolution Requesting a Comprehensive Audit be Conducted in Preparation for the FY2017 Budget Hearings** (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable, Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Ladouceur

Action: Move to amend

Moved by: Merolla

Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson

Vote: 8/0

Action: **Hold as amended to 2/1/2016**

FOR REFERRAL AND ADVERTISING

none

Unanimous Consent for January 20, 2016

Motion to Adjourn: Gallucci

Vote: 8/0 VV

Time: 10:00 PM

Next Available Numbers:

PCR-13-16

PCO-7-16

DOCKET SESSION

1. Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian
Ordinance – Building Fee Revisions – Ordinance Committee PCO-7-16
2. Council President Travis, Councilman Colantuono, Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson on behalf of Mayor Avedisian
Resolution – School Bonding – Finance Committee PCR-14-16
3. Council President Travis
Resolution – Brushneck Cove Dredging – Intergovernmental Committee
PCR-15-16

Attest,

Judy Wild
City Clerk