

Minutes Approved
April 4, 2016

The City of Warwick
Docket of the City Council
Regular Public Hearing Meeting
For
March 21, 2016
@
Council Chambers
Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886
@ 7:00 P.M.
Donna Travis, President

Roll Call: 7/2 Steven Colantuono (absent), Thomas Chadronet, Camille Vella-Wilkinson, Joseph Solomon, Edgar Ladouceur, Donna Travis, Kathleen Usler (absent), Joseph Gallucci, Steven Merolla

Time: 7:00 PM

Salute to the Flag: Councilman Ladouceur

Executive Communications

Per PCR-122-15 Sub A Requesting City and State Agencies address the City Council regarding restoration and preservation of Warwick Ponds, Lakes, Rivers & Streams. – Continued to May 2016

Per PCR-23-16 The Director of the Department of Public Works, David Picozzi, address the City Council to respond to various accusations of theft within that Department.

David Picozzi – Thanks for opportunity to speak, brief history, claims go back a little while, no documentation has been found, awhile back he was approach for building soccer field, he explained that he does not have to ask to build field but needs to ask Council for funds to build field. He was approach by reporter that he had unpaid property taxes, reporter apologized, private contractors where related to city employees, he was home he got phone call telling him that one of employees was at compose station, no one was at station. The truck was at garage and asked to see security video it showed that the truck was there for three days. Allegations about his department on how he keeps receipts in old shoe box, he has 1000 Purchase Orders in his office will receipts attached. Batteries that are purchased, he received a request for public information on 5-2015 he supplied all the information they agreed to pay for it and once they produced information no one appeared to pick up the information. On the web site of misinformation, they post that they have spent ½ million dollars, DPW has provided the information on work done and fire alarms. His family, the retired little old people, there was no way cars were registered; no way had they paid taxes, because they were related to him. They are in their 80's he had to call police to protect his in-laws. Then they had to apologize because it was all untrue. Their documentation is laughable. Stated employee was taking hour and half lunch, that employee was going to see Councilman Solomon in Ward 4. Employees using gas card & gate code is not known to anyway. They have a key card system. They have to swipe their card and it is recorded. Who, what, when and time you left the same thing goes for gasoline. Not everyone has access to these cards. Card creates great record of who is using gas and who is not. Surveillance cameras have been in yards for years. He can see who is coming and who is going. No one can get away with getting gas. It is not happening in City yard.

Two houses being built with equipment from yard, it should be reported to Police right away not to the Council. Having purchases being made with Home Depot card, show him City of Warwick Home Depot Credit Card. He has no control over tire contract, anytime a vehicle goes for tires, the place is called and very next day email is sent with purchase of tires. Anyone who would believe that a DPW worker would put their job on line was set of tires is wrong. \$1,000,000 in thefts in 10 year period, he has no answer for that. Show him the proof. He has been an employee for 30 yrs. He has never been accused of anything close to this in all his years. How do you tell a concerned citizen from a person that has a political agenda?

City Council has been accused of supporting a criminal enterprise. They make claims because they are in fear of filing false police report. Now we are being accused of bidding the reveal on their property. He invites all members to come down to the City yard and see the way everything is done. He asked that they do this since there are no criminal enterprises before they spend more money he is very proud of his workers of Public Works. The majority of this is done by the same people. They return everyone back to Office every year. He thanks for the opportunity to speak. It is personnel questions and cannot be answered at Council Meeting and the answer to the second question is yes.

Council President – Has the highest respect for the DPW and the Director. They always respond and she has seen \$1000.00 saved not only in her Ward but in all wards. She is glad he cleared the air. Hats off to Department of Public Works.

Councilman Ladouceur – Clarify that this Resolution was done at the request of the DPW Director not the Council. Mr. Picozzi indicated that he wanted to come before the Council.

General Communications -

Councilwoman Vella -Wilkinson – With heavy heart that she says the loss of an educator, business leader and political activist in the way of Bob Healey. Request Council for moment of silence in this memory.

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.

Public Comment:

1. Anthony Sinapi : Thank you for opportunity to speak. Since the fall he has been investigating school committee over the past several years reviewing minutes and he has researched the city charter. He has been working on the open meetings act. They have violated 9-14 and continue to do so. Over 100 violations since 2014, specific examples masking of public forums only inviting some people in and improperly closing meeting and going into executive session – Those are only a few examples of what has been going on. He recommends that the Council under 2-15 of City Charter authorize by resolution and pursue action against the School Committee. There is a great deal of animosity between Council and the School Committee in the public's perception. There should be outside report instead of pointing fingers. Council should go after school committee under City Charter no statute of limitations.
2. Jeremy Rix: Leadership committee of Norwood Association heard presentation from Smart Power working with National Grid to come up a program for Warwick residence to install solar power. These installations are not intended as power plants they are in order to be eligible for tax grants, Point of uncertainties, Karen Stewart expressed that we do not have policy regarding taxing for the solar installations. They are not intended to sell back the electricity. City Council could either look in an ordinance exempting these particular installations. They are intended to power that particular building.

3. Dean Johnson: Ward 2 – Would like to talk about building new schools in Warwick, they have 4 buildings that will be turned back to city. He would like to have money put into fund to build schools. They are not getting any better and we should make plans now before its tow late. This will attract new families to the City and attract new business to the tax rolls. It is a win win using money we already have once we sell the buildings. Put forth the idea to plan for the future now.
4. Scott D. Small The negativity that is going around regarding members of 1651 thru public request information act about how we do things, where we drive, and how we do things. There is a social media outlet there that depicts DPW in negative way and we are not any of those. They are hardworking dedicated workers. They take their work very seriously. They are not some employees as others, they having taken workloads and due work of three people. You do not turn a corner without seeing their hard work and build the things they do. He wants to speak positive about them right now. They always disprove the negativity regarding the amount of work they do. They are not overpaid or over compensated, we earn everything we get. He would like to personal thank 1651 for their hard work and dedication.
5. Michael Zarum - Ward 2 he is speaking on behalf of Bucky Brook coalition, he wants to speak on PCR-122-15 Sub A which understandable is rescheduled for May. He needs to address at this time the many urgent issues. Issues do not fall under City or Airport Corporation. City Council needs to know whether it is high water or not. He is working with DEM and designs and they have determined current water levels are high. He has sent member downstream there is an obstruction. Vegetation has spread within the brook and stream. The Coalition is working with the City of Warwick Engineer, Airport Corporation and funding is a problem. Call him if you have any questions, we need to work on this as a team.

1. Announcement of Appointments – none

2. Appointments Requiring Confirmation – none

3. Consent Calendar –

**1. PCR-37-16 -Resolution Relative to Bids
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)**

<u>Committee Report:</u>	Finance: Favorable, Vella-Wilkinson
Action:	Favorable
Moved by:	Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by:	Gallucci

Consent calendar vote: 7/0

Adopted R-16-27

PCR-38-16 Bid# 2016-267 Fire Class B Uniforms
Action: **Hold to 4/4/2016**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**1. PCO-7-16 An Ordinance relative to Building Fee Revisions
(Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)**

First Passage

<u>Committee Report:</u>	Ordinance: withdraw on behalf of sponsor
Action:	withdrawn
Moved by:	Gallucci
Seconded by:	Ladouceur, Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet
Vote:	7/0

WITHDRAWN

2. 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 4/11/2016**

3. PCR-21-16 A Resolution Establishing an OPEB Trust

(Councilman Colantuono, Council President Travis, Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)

Speakers – Colleen Bosoni – RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust
Maureen Tolls - PARS

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable Vella-Wilkinson, move to floor without recommendation

Action: Favorable for purpose of discussion
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Gallucci, Chadronet
Action: **Hold to 9/7/2016**

4. PCR-31-16 Bid # 2016-245 Worker’s Compensation Self-Insured Third-Party Administrator or Fully-Insured Carrier (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable Vella-Wilkinson for purpose of discussion

Action: Favorable
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Ladouceur, Chadronet, Gallucci
Action: Amend bid award to 2 years 5/1/16 – 4/30/18
Moved by: Solomon
Seconded by: Ladouceur, Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet
Vote: 7/0
Action: Move as amended
Moved by: Solomon
Seconded by: Ladouceur, Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet
Vote: 7/0

Adopted R-16-28

5. PCR-32-16 Bid # 2016-24 Photography Supplies & Printing

(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: move to floor without recommendation

Action: Favorable for purpose of discussion
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Chadronet
Action: **Hold to 4/4/2016**

6. PCR-33-16 A Resolution Relative to School Bonds

(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable, Vella-Wilkinson, move to floor without recommendation

Action: Favorable for purpose of discussion
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
Seconded by: Chadronet, Ladouceur, Gallucci
Action: **Hold to 4/4/2016**

FOR REFERRAL AND ADVERTISING

PCO-8-16 An Ordinance relative to the Abandonment of a portion of Hallene Road, Marley Realty LLC, Petitioner (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Unanimous Consent for March 21, 2016

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Gallucci

Vote: 7/0 VV

Time: 9:29 PM

Next Available Numbers:

PCR-38-16

PCO-11-16

DOCKET SESSION

Councilman Ladouceur – Resolution – Building Permit Fees – Intergovernmental Committee **PCR-39-16**

Councilman Merolla – Resolution – Healthcare Actuary Reports Annual and appear before Council in 2016 – Finance Committee **PCR-40-16**

Attest,



Judy Wild
City Clerk