

Minutes Approved  
July 13, 2015

The City of Warwick  
Docket of the City Council  
Regular Public Hearing Meeting  
For  
June 15, 2015  
@  
Council Chambers  
Warwick City Hall  
3275 Post Road  
Warwick, RI 02886  
@ 7:00 P.M.

Donna Travis, President

**Roll Call:** 8/0 (Chadronet)

**Time:** 7:05 PM

**Salute To The Flag:** Marie T. Ahlert

**Executive Communications**

**General Communications -**

**Marie T. Ahlert, City Clerk - Final City Council Meeting before retiring**

1. Councilman Colantuono thanks Council Members for Marching in the Gaspee Parade and also commends the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments for an excellent job. He was told it was the best parade from a Cranston Councilman. He also recognizes Marie Ahlert for her outstanding job as City Clerk and Thanks her.
2. Council President Travis thanks Marie for being a great employee and friend.
3. Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson thanks Marie for what she has done for the City, as an advocate for the Trudeau Center and as an advocate for the veterans of the City of Warwick. Councilwoman salutes Marie.
4. Councilman Ladouceur requests that Marie sing and record the Anthem for the Council to remember her by, and thanks her for her service and direction, responding to emails late at night and appreciates all of the help she has given him.
5. Councilman Gallucci shares with Marie that it has been a long time, since 1993, and it has been his honor and pleasure to support and recommend her nomination for city clerk. and after all these years it has been the right choice. She is acknowledged as running the best City Clerk's office in the State.
6. Councilwoman Usler says that Marie was the first person she met after becoming a Council Member and tells how nice Marie is, amazing at her job and wishes her the best in the future.
7. Councilman Merolla tells that for 17 years, Marie has always been right there with a straightforward answer and was very helpful to the Council Members. That her foresight in thinking has not only benefited the City of Warwick, but also the State of RI. The Probate system is commended around the state and other Clerk's offices turn to Marie for advice. The City is going to need more than two people to replace her and he wishes her well in her retirement.
8. Councilman Solomon remembers back in 1993, that Marie as a young lady had a thirst for knowledge and Ted Sheehan said she will do well and he was right. Today, she is still a young lady, with a wealth of knowledge that she has shared and thanks her for her services over the years.

**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 Fife Ward 1 – He knew Marie’s parents after he retired and they were the nicest people you could meet. Marie had told him to stay out of politics. He wishes Marie well, approaches the bench and presents her with flowers.
  2. Roy Dempsey Ward 1 – Wishes a good retirement to Marie. He says that a lot of things should be discussed. Employees haven’t received wage increases in 3 years and they should be allowed. The upcoming increases are not over the board. The tax rate is going up by 3.4% to raise 4 million dollars in revenues, where only 1.4 million is going to compensation. Also pulling 3 million dollars from the surplus which makes it 7 million dollars coming into to the city and only 1.4 going to compensation. The compensation is not causing the city’s problems and the employees appreciate the problems that the city is facing and even if the contracts pass that the Council should work with the employees to get the finances under control. Jefferson Solutions, at last meeting addressed debt and we should work together to solve.
  3. John Kennedy Ward 1 – Jefferson Solutions did a good job with the presentation at last meeting. Buzz words were 20% co-pay, which was used 15 years ago in the private sector which now the buzz word is 35% with a \$4000 copay. Zero.00% raise increases in the last 9 years in the private sector. You can’t ask people that aren’t getting raises to pay for other people to get raises. Unless the problem is tackled now, the City is chasing residents away.
  4. Jerry DiDonato Ward 1 – Thanks the Council for the opportunity to be there. He has some issues with the Warwick Police Department. He had an incident in February of 2012, He was threatened, but was told he could not file a complaint because the Officer did not witness it. Next night, his home was shot, bullet misses his wife and 18 month old grandson she was holding, next night tires slashed, a trail of blood was left. Police took samples, but nothing was done because he was told that the Police did not have that type of database and later told that there was no money to do it. Mr. DiDonato brought suit against 2 individuals. His family is in danger yet the City gives out bonuses. A records clerk was served and did not appear, but then was subpoenaed to appear. The clerk initially did not remember that she was served to appear, but since no records were on file, she did not appear the first time. Did not move forward on contempt charge. Captain Coffey was subpoenaed and appeared at the deposition with many papers in which Mr. DiDonato’s name appeared 22 times where he had brought suit against the defendants. The defendants hired private investigator retired Warwick Police Officer Earl Hodson to do a background check on Mr. DiDonato in summer of 2012. During this investigation Mr. Hodson was told that Mr. DiDonato was poisoning dogs in Governor Francis Farms area. The report was given to the Warwick Police Department. The police reached out to the Warwick Beacon in which several articles were published regarding the poisoning of dogs. The police solicited individuals and several complaints were filed against Mr. DiDonato. Nothing was ever found, but the matter at hand is how they went about doing this. The actions from the police department have polarized Mr. DiDonato’s family. Eggs have been thrown at his house, car doors have been kicked in due to the fact that people think that he poisoned the dogs. Jerry sent the Warwick Police Department a check for \$5000.00 to take a polygraph to rectify the situation. Mr. DiDonato feels that the Police sounded the alarm before the investigation based on an assumption from an individual that they know is a problem.

### **Public Hearing**

Motion to open the public hearing relative to the three ratifications of Collective Bargaining Agreements PCR-73-15, PCR-74-15 and PCR-75-15: Solomon

Seconded by: Colantuono, Ladouceur, Vella-Wilkinson

Vote:

**1. PCR-73-15 Ratification of the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement Local 1651, Council 94**

(Councilman Colantuono, on behalf of Mayor)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable-Vella-Wilkinson

Speaking: Eric Falcofsky – Police President Lodge 7 FOP  
Scott Small, President Local 1651, Council 94  
Roy Dempsey – Ward 1

Motion to close public hearing: Solomon  
Seconded by: Usler, Ladouceur, Colantuono  
Vote: 8VV  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci, Ladouceur  
Vote: 7/1 (Merolla)

**Adopted R-15-69**

**2. PCR-74-15 Ratification of the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement Local 305, IAFF**

(Councilman Colantuono, on behalf of Mayor)

See PCR-73-15

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable – Vella-Wilkinson  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Seconded by: Colantuono, Usler, Gallucci  
Vote: 7/1 (Merolla)

**Adopted R-15-70**

**3. PCR-75-15 Ratification of the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement Lodge 7, FOP**

(Councilman Colantuono, on behalf of Mayor)

See PCR-73-15

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable – Vella-Wilkinson  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Seconded by: Colantuono, Usler, Gallucci  
Vote: 7/1 (Merolla)

**Adopted R-15-71**

**1. Announcement of Appointments – none**

**2. Appointments Requiring Confirmation – none**

**Recess: 8:50 PM – 9:03 PM**

**3. Consent Calendar –**

**1. PCR 87-15 -Resolution Relative to Bids**

(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable – Vella-Wilkinson  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci

Consent Calendar Vote: 8/0

**Adopted R-15-79**

**PCR-88-15 Bid# 2016-41 Security System Monitoring and Maintenance**

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable - Colantuono

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Colantuono

Seconded by: Gallucci

Vote: 7/0/1 (Vella-Wilkinson abstain)

**Adopted R-15-80**

**PCR-89-15 Bid# 2016-28 Fire Department Rescue Collections**

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable – Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci

Vote: no vote

Motion to suspend rules to allow vendors to speak

Moved by: Colantuono

Seconded by: Merolla

Speaking: Vendor: The Dawson Group, Kimberly Dawson

Vendor: Comstar, Jeff Tassi

Move to amend: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Colantuono, Merolla, Usler

Vote: 8/0

Move as amended: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded: Colantuono, Ladouceur, Usler

Vote: 8/0

**Adopted R-15-81**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. PCO-24-14 Tax payments (Councilman Ladouceur) First passage**

Committee Report: Finance: **MOVE TO PENDING-** Ladouceur

**2. PCO-08-15 Corporation Certificate of Good Standing Requirement for Bid Submission (Councilman Solomon, Council President Travis, Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)**

**SECOND PASSAGE**

Committee Report: Ordinance: Favorable

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Solomon

Seconded by: Colantuono, Vella-Wilkinson

Vote: 8/0

**Adopted O-15-6**

**3. PCO-11-15 New Building Permit Fee (Councilman Colantuono, Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson, Council President Travis)**

**SECOND PASSAGE AS AMENDED**

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable - Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Colantuono

Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Ladouceur, Usler

Vote: 7/0/1 (Ladouceur abstain)

**Adopted O-15-7**

**4. PCO-14-15 Available Funds in Budget (Councilman Ladouceur)**

**FIRST PASSAGE**

Committee Report: Ordinance: **HOLD TO JULY 13, 2015**

**5. PCR-58-14 Lease Agreement for Conimicut Shoals Lighthouse**

(Councilman Solomon, Councilman Colantuono)

Committee Report: Public Property: **WITHDRAWN** - Solomon

Action: Withdraw

Moved by: Solomon

Seconded by: Colantuono

Vote: 8/0

6. **PCR-96-14 Solar Powered Trash Receptacles and Recycling Receptacles**  
(Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)  
Committee Report: Intergovernmental: **MOVE TO PENDING** - Colantuono
  
7. **PCR-09-15 Bid #2015-140 Purchase and Install 3 Handicap Door Openers at Pilgrim Senior Center** (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson )  
Committee Report: Finance: Favorable: Vella-Wilkinson  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci  
Vote: 8/0  
**Adopted R-15-72**
  
8. **PCR-20-15 Federal Flood Map Review for Warwick**  
(Councilman Ladouceur)  
Committee Report: Intergovernmental: **HOLD TO JULY 13, 2015**
  
9. **PCR-33-15 Opposition of House Bill 5257 Moorings**  
(Council President Travis, Councilman Colantuono, on behalf of Mayor)  
Committee Report: Intergovernmental: Favorable  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Colantuono  
Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Vote: no vote  
**HOLD TO JULY 13, 2015**
  
10. **PCR-43-15 Purchase of Rescue Units and related Equipment**  
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)  
Committee Report: Finance: **MOVE TO PENDING** – Vella-Wilkinson
  
11. **PCR-47-15 Vote of “No Confidence” Regarding School Administrators**  
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)  
Committee Report: Intergovernmental: **HOLD TO JULY 13, 2015**
  
12. **PCR-54-15 Easement on Railroad Row**  
(Councilman Gallucci)  
Committee Report: Public Prop/Land Use: **HOLD TO JULY 13, 2015**
  
13. **PCR-62-15 Support of House Bill H6025 Sexual Offender Registration**  
(Councilman Colantuono, Council President Travis)  
Committee Report: Intergovernmental:  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Colantuono  
Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Usler, Gallucci  
Vote: 8/0  
**Adopted R-15-73**
  
14. **PCR-63-15 Support of House Bill H6051 & S-0821**  
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)  
Committee Report: Intergovernmental: Favorable – Colantuono  
Action: Favorable  
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Seconded by: Gallucci, Usler  
Move to suspend rules to allow speaker  
Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson  
Seconded by: Solomon, Colantuono  
Vote: 8 VV  
Speaker: Rob Rock, Director of Elections, State of Rhode Island  
Vote: 8/0  
**Adopted R-15-74**

**15. PCR-71-15 Bid# 2016-21 Minor Roof Repairs for Various City-Owned Buildings** (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable – Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci

Vote: 8/0

**Adopted R-15-75**

**16. PCR-76-15 Department of Environmental Management Open Space Grant Supplemental Funding**

(Councilman Solomon, Councilman Colantuono)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable – Vella-Wilkinson

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Solomon

Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci

Vote: 8/0

**Adopted R-15-76**

**17. PCR-77-15 Requesting the Director of The Department of Public Works to Discuss the Truck Fires**

(Councilman Merolla)

Committee Report: Intergovernmental: Favorable - Colantuono

Move to amend

Moved by: Merolla

Seconded by: Colantuono

Vote: 8/0

Move as amended

Moved by: Merolla

Seconded by: Colantuono

Vote: 8/0

**Adopted R-15-77**

**18. PCR-86-15 Bid# 2015-283 Computer Aided Dispatch Software**

(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report: Finance

Action: Favorable

Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson

Seconded by: Colantuono, Gallucci

Vote: 8/0

**Adopted R-15-78**

**Unanimous Consent for June 15, 2015**

**NONE**

**Motion to Adjourn: Gallucci**

**Vote:**

**Time: 10:30 PM**

**Next Available Numbers:**

**PCR-88-15**

**PCO-15-15**

**DOCKET SESSION**

Councilman Colantuono –

Chapter 8 Building Regulations – Special Flood ORD PCO-15-15

OPEB – FIN PCR-90-15

Attest:

Judy Wild  
Deputy City Clerk