

The City of Warwick  
Docket of the City Council  
Regular Business and Public Hearing Meeting  
For  
JULY 8, 2013  
@  
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 J. Solomon, Ed Ladouceur, Donna Travis,  
Charles J. Donovan Jr., Joseph Gallucci, Steve Merolla

**Salute to the Flag:** **Time:** 7:04 PM  
**Ward:** Solomon

**Executive Communications**

**1. General Communications -**

- Travis - Moment of silence for Warwick Police Department Dog Officer David DiSano.
- Colantuono - Received email from a volunteer for West Side Little League. Warwick players in a regional tournament July 19-26 in Long Island NY. Donations greatly appreciated, and may be sent to: c/o Continental Little League 189 Bingham Street Warwick RI 02886.
- Vella-Wilkinson - Constituent email regarding runaround from Warwick Sewer Authority. She has five plats near Lippitt, questioning property line in assessment, constituent wanted abatement. Constituent advised if Council had passed enabling legislation then WSA could do what they thought was right with abatement. For constituent was very frustrating. Constituent sent pictures and was advised pictures could be modified. Constituent sent back and forth between Tax Assessor and Warwick Sewer Authority.
- Solomon - Heard unfavorable report on either WPRI or Fox TV regarding the Warwick Sewer Authority. The Warwick Sewer Authority threw the inequity issue on the Council. The Mayor was nowhere to be found. Councilman Solomon reported the bad news about Warwick's finances and was villianized. A year later Moody downgraded the City rating because of unfunded pension liability. The Administration stated Moody's assessment was inaccurate. Moody's report gave negative outlook: a) lowering of reserve b) deficits in water and sewer being made up by general fund. Will cost the City more to borrow, will incur further debt service.

## General Communications – (continued)

- **Merolla** - Following up on what Councilman Solomon stated. Providence Journal June 27<sup>th</sup> article regarding bond rating dropped. Administration press release of May 30<sup>th</sup> stated “city maintains good bond rating”. Should amend Ordinances for annual reviews.
- **Ladouceur** - Attended school committee meeting approximately two weeks ago. Appreciates that Council supported Ordinance allowing public to speak at beginning of meeting; he and approximately 65-70 others waited for two and a half hours sequestered in the hallway. City Council criticized and chastised for not giving school money yet funds found. Will docket a resolution for more transparency in School Dept. Another big issue print-out from School Dept was \$220 for summer school. Then citizens arrived at meeting and told \$275. If the extra funds not received certificate will not be issued.

A. Acceptance of minutes from council meetings held on:

1. May 28, 2013

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

2. May 29, 2013

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

3. May 30, 2013

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

4. June 3, 2013

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

5. June 10, 2013

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

6. June 17, 2013

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

**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

### Roy Dempsey

- 1) Chairman of Warwick Sewer Authority said enabling legislation would have assisted the constituent with abatement. Statements were false – nothing in enabling legislation would have helped that constituent; her case goes back 4–5 years.
- 2) Article in Warwick Beacon regarding vandalism. Over \$100,000 in damage was given \$300 in community service. Penalties are lax. Council needs to take a look at penalties.
- 3) Tax bills (real estate) seemed specific except for senior exemptions etc. But car tax did not show \$2000 exemption. Was advised exemption done by computer program and applied to bill. Mr. Dempsey thinks a note should be placed on tax bills; i.e. this is a net bill with the \$2000 exemption.
- 4) Providence – has highest commercial tax rate in nation; Providence froze the rate for 7 years, and a Providence Councilman said “we’re open for business”. Hopefully Warwick will not follow path of Providence.

### Roger Durand

- 1) Thanks Councilmen Solomon and Merolla for reiterating and bringing attention to debt structure that is out of control. Councilman Ladouceur summed it up best during budget hearings that the departments over-spending budget are rewarded and departments doing a good job are penalized. First challenge to Finance Committee: give every member of the public an update to Fire Department overtime, and give this information every month. Every year same thing: in May Fire Department over budget. Second challenge: An article in Providence Journal a month ago regarding a recent Supreme Court ruling regarding lifetime health care in school department, now assessing 55% to retirees. Warwick retirees have no copay, that’s eight million a year. The city could receive four million back with copays. Wants to thank people from Wards 2, 3, 6, and 8 for their courtesy during petition drive. Concerned about sewer usage assessments. Wants to thank Joanne Cournoyer for all her fine work for the citizens of Warwick.

### Mrs. Mowry:

She was on news, major issues, cannot get her Warwick Sewer Authority bill corrected. Received a letter from Lynda Ortiz at Warwick Sewer Authority. Was advised Lynda did not send nor sign letter. She received another letter she thought was her reimbursement, it was another bill for \$1200.00, on top of the \$6,900.00 she’s already paid. Was advised \$3,000.00 in interest and penalties on a \$5,200.00 original assessment. Wants to thank Mayor for not returning her calls, and when she went into his office the secretary told her he didn’t want to be involved. Hopes committee steps up and look at the Warwick Sewer Authority, she is told the Authority can do whatever it wants.

### Rob Cote

Moody’s downgrade covered by Councilmen Solomon and Merolla. He’s been coming to meetings several years and Mr. Cushman and Mr. Durand speak nearly every meeting regarding financial standing of Warwick.

Public Comments (continued)

Two very intelligent men and are criticized. Now what they predicted is coming to fruition. Article in Warwick Beacon – the city not only gives the gold-plated Cadillac plan of healthcare to its employees, now the city gives \$150 to employees for blood pressure tests and body fat content tests. Mayor’s comment of helping in future is rhetoric; it has the appearance of another deferred compensation package.

William Russo Two years in a row, last year was \$40,000 extra to send out new bills. Now he has twelve envelopes that requires twelve checks and twelve stamps. Neither his nor his wife’s exemptions were listed on the bill. Tax collector employees very nice and helpful, the bill balance did reflect the exemptions. He is concerned about the senior citizen that doesn’t question the bill and just pays it. Asks Council to ask Tax Collector to send tax bills to the Council first to see what information is contained, perhaps like a Monroney sticker when buying a car that reflects what the cost is for tires, air conditioning, power antenna etc. Tax bills need to reflect more information.

2. Consent Calendar -

A. PCR-86-13                      Resolution Relative to Bids (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report (Finance): **Favorable    Vella-Wilkinson**  
Action: **Favorable**  
Moved by: **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Seconded by: **Colantuono, Chadronet**

**Adopted, as amended**  
**R-13-75**

A1. PCR-100-13                      Bid #2014-38 **Large Diameter Clamps, Saddles & Couplings**

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

**Adopted**  
**R-13-76**

A2. PCR-101-13                      **Bid# 2014-54    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)**

**Adopted**  
**R-13-77**

Consent Calendar (continued)

**A3. PCR-102-13**

**Bid# 2014-51 HVAC Services at Ice Arenas**

**Committee Report (Finance):** **Favorable** **Vella-Wilkinson**  
**Action:** **Favorable**  
**Moved by:** **Vella-Wilkinson**  
**Seconded by:** **Chadronet, Colantuono**  
**Vote:** **9/0**

**Adopted**  
**R-13-78**

**B. PCR-87-13**

Resolution Relative to Claims (Councilman Gallucci)

**Committee Report (Public Safety):** **Favorable** **Gallucci**  
**Action:** **Favorable**  
**Moved by:** **Gallucci**  
**Seconded by:** **Colantuono**

**Adopted**  
**R-13-79**

**C. PCR-88-13**

Resolution Relative to Tax Abatements  
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

**Committee Report (Finance):** **Favorable** **Vella-Wilkinson**  
**Action:** **Favorable**  
**Moved by:** **Vella-Wilkinson**  
**Seconded by:** **Colantuono, Chadronet**

**Adopted**  
**R-13-80**

VOTE: **9/0**

**2. Announcement of Appointments –**

**3. Appointments Requiring Confirmation –**

Board of Assessment of Review

Thomas O. Sweeney  
19 Mayfair Road  
Warwick RI 02888

Ward 1

Term to expire: 1-1-2015

VICE – Evelyn Spagnolo (Resigned)

**Committee Report (Appointments):** **Donovan** **Hold 9-9-2013**

**Hold 9-9-2013**

## Appointments Requiring Confirmation – (continued)

### Land Trust Commission

Timothy Howe  
33 Elite Drive  
Warwick RI 02889

Ward 3

Term to expire: 6-1-2018  
Appeared: 6-17-2013

Vice  
(Janice Pangman – resigned)

Committee Report (Appointments):  
Action:  
Moved by:  
Seconded by:  
Vote:

**Favorable**                      **Donovan**  
**Favorable**  
**Vella-Wilkinson**  
**Colantuono, Chadronet**  
**9/0**

**Accepted**

### Zoning Board of Review

Richard Corley  
550 Algonquin Drive  
Warwick RI 02888  
(Re-appointment)

Ward 1

Term to expire: 1-1-2018  
Appeared: 6-17-2013

Committee Report (Appointments):  
Action:  
Moved by:  
Seconded by:  
Vote:

**Favorable**                      **Donovan**  
**Favorable**  
**Colantuono**  
**Chadronet, Donovan**  
**9/0**

**Accepted**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 1. PCO-26-12

An Ordinance in regards to amending Section 26-42  
Warwick Absentee Landlord Registration  
(Councilman Chadronet/Council President Travis)

First passage

Committee Report (Ordinance): **Gallucci**      **Hold 8-14-2013**

**Hold 8-14-2013**

### 2. PCO-1-13

An Ordinance in regards to “In State” agent of service  
(Councilman Ladouceur)

First passage

Committee Report (Ordinance): **Gallucci**      **Hold 8-14-2013**

**Hold 8-14-2013**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)**

- 3. PCO-6-13-A**                      An Ordinance regarding amending the Firefighters Pension Fund  
(Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)

First passage

Committee Report (Finance):      **Favorable**                      **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Action:                                      **Favorable**  
Moved by:                                   **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Seconded by:                              **Chadronet, Colantuono**  
~~Vote:~~

**Move to amend to add annual:**                      **Favorable**      **Colantuono**  
**Seconded by:**                                      **Vella-Wilkinson**

**Move to amend to add annual**                      **Favorable**      **Merolla**  
**and actuaries at public meeting:**  
**Seconded by:**                                      **Ladouceur**

**Move to hold to 8-14-2013:**                      **Colantuono**

**Hold 8-14-2013**

- 4. PCO-6-13-B**                      An Ordinance regarding amending the Police Department Pension Fund  
(Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)

First passage

Committee Report (Finance):      **Favorable**      **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Action:                                      **Favorable**  
Moved by:                                   **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Seconded by:                              **Colantuono, Chadronet**  
~~Vote:~~

**Move to hold to 8-14-2013:**                      **Colantuono**

**Hold 8-14-2013**

- 5. PCO-6-13-C**                      An Ordinance regarding amending the Municipal Pension Fund  
(Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)

First passage

Committee Report (Finance):      **Favorable**      **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Action:                                      **Favorable**  
Moved by:                                   **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Seconded by:                              **Colantuono, Chadronet**  
~~Vote:~~

**Move to hold to 8-14-2013:**                      **Colantuono**

**Hold 8-14-2013**



**6. PCO-7-13**                      An Ordinance regarding notifying city residents on  
**(fka PCR-42-13)**                      coastal matters (Councilmen Donovan & Merolla)

First passage

Committee Report (Finance):                      **Gallucci            Hold 8-14-2013**

**Hold 8-14-2013**

**7. PCO-11-13**                      An Ordinance for a change to the Warwick Gun  
Buy Back Program  
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

First passage

**June 17, 2013:**

**Move to amend:**                      **Vella-Wilkinson**  
**Seconded by:**                      **Chadronet, Colantuono**  
**Vote:**                                      **8/1 (Solomon)**

Committee Report (Ordinance):   **Favorable    Gallucci**  
Action:                                      **Favorable**  
Moved by:                                      **Vella-Wilkinson**  
Seconded by:                                **Colantuono, Chadronet, Gallucci**  
Vote:    **7/2 (Ladouceur, Solomon)**

**First passage as amended, 7-8-2013**  
**Second passage 8-14-2013**

**8. PCR-109-12**                      A Resolution to approve lease Aspray Boat House in  
Pawtuxet Park & the Gaspee Days Committee  
(Councilman Colantuono – introduced at the request of Mayor Avedisian)

Committee Report (Public Properties): **Favorable    Colantuono**  
Action:                                      **Favorable**  
Moved by:                                      **Colantuono**  
Seconded by:                                **Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet**  
Vote:    **9/0**

**Adopted**  
**R-13-81**

**9. PCR-16-13**                      A Resolution regarding the beautification of the  
Apponaug circulator (Councilman Donovan)

Committee Report (Intergovernmental):   **Colantuono            Hold 8-14-2013**

**Hold 8-14-2013**



## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)**

### **10. PCR-59-13**

A Resolution for PEW to perform a cost and effect on President Obama's healthcare as it will affect the cost of healthcare for city employees, and how it affects the actuaries estimates & forecast  
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report (Intergovernmental): **Merolla** **Hold 9-9-2013**

**Hold 9-9-2013**

### **11. PCR-64-13**

A Resolution relative to establishment of a debt policy

(Councilmen Colantuono & Chadronet, Council President Travis, Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson, Councilman Gallucci) Introduced at the request of Mayor Avedisian

Committee Report (Finance): **Favorable Vella-Wilkinson**  
Action: **Favorable**  
Moved by: **Colantuono**  
Seconded by: **Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet**  
Vote: **6/3 (Ladouceur, Merolla, Solomon)**

**Adopted**  
**R-13-82**

### **12. PCR-75-13**

A Resolution authorizing issuance of twenty three million dollars in revenue bonds to fund shovel ready sewer installations (Councilman Gallucci)

Committee Report (Finance): **Vella-Wilkinson** **Hold 9-9-2013**

**Hold 9-9-2013**

### **13. PCR-99-13 (fka PCO-13-13)**

A Resolution to request to School Department to revise its website so information may be located better by the public (Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report (Intergovernmental): **Favorable Colantuono**  
Action: **Favorable**  
Moved by: **Ladouceur**  
Seconded by: **Vella-Wilkinson, Colantuono**  
Vote: **9/0**

**Adopted**  
**R-13-83**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **PCO-14-13**                      An Ordinance regarding special flood hazard areas  
(Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)

First passage

Committee Report (Ordinance):                      **Gallucci        to withdraw**  
Action:    **Withdraw**  
Moved by:     **Colantuono to withdraw**  
Seconded by:     **Vella-Wilkinson, Gallucci**  
Vote:    **9/0**

**Withdrawn**

2. **PCO-15-13**                      An Ordinance regarding street light repairs and re-illumination 72 hour rule (Councilman Solomon)

First passage

Committee Report (Ordinance):                      **Gallucci        Hold 9-9-2013**

**Hold 9-9-2013**

3. **PCO-16-13**                      An Ordinance requiring department heads to notify the Council in writing when their department expenditures reach 80% (Councilman Ladouceur)

First passage

Committee Report (Finance):                      **Favorable    Vella-Wilkinson**  
Action:    **Favorable**  
Moved by:     **Ladouceur**  
Seconded by:     **Gallucci**  
Vote:    **5/4 (Travis, Chadronet, Colantuono, Vella-Wilkinson)**

**First passage        7-8-2013**  
**Second passage 8-14-2013**

4. **PCO-17-13**                      An Ordinance requiring the Council not to vote on budget for 7 calendar days after budget hearings end (Councilman Ladouceur)

First passage

Committee Report (Finance):                      **Vella-Wilkinson    Hold 8-14-2013**

**Hold 8-14-2013**

5. **PCO-18-13**                      An Ordinance regarding revision to the Noise Ordinance, Chapter 40, Section 40-13.  
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

First passage

Committee Report (Ordinance):                      **Gallucci        Hold 8-14-2013**

**Hold 8-14-2013**

**NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

6. **PCO-19-13** An Ordinance regarding amendment to Code of Ordinance Chapter 8: *Buildings and Building Regulations Sec. 8-5. – Special Flood Hazard* (Councilman Colantuono on behalf of Mayor Avedisian)

First passage

Committee Report (Ordinance): **Favorable Gallucci**  
Action: **Favorable Colantuono**

**Move to amend: Colantuono**  
**Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet**  
**Vote: 9/0**

**Action: Favorable Colantuono**  
**Moved by: Favorable as amended Colantuono**  
**Seconded by: Chadronet, Vella-Wilkinson**  
**Vote: 9/0**

**First passage 7-8-2013**  
**Second passage 8-14-2013**

7. **PCR-96-13** A Resolution requesting RIAC (Rhode Island Airport Corporation) provide an update on action items listed in the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed with the Warwick City Council (Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report (Intergovernmental): **Vella-Wilkinson Move to pending**

**Move to pending**

8. **PCR-97-13** A Resolution to the Mayor and the Personnel Director requesting that a City Council auditor be hired (Councilman Merolla)

Committee Report (Finance): **Favorable Vella-Wilkinson Move to floor**  
Action: **Favorable**  
Moved by: **Merolla**  
Seconded by: **Vella-Wilkinson**  
~~Vote:~~

**Motion to hold to 9-16-2013: Merolla**

**Hold 9-16-2013**

9. **PCR-98-13** A Resolution to the Mayor and the Personnel Director requesting that a health insurance consultant be hired (Councilman Merolla, Councilman Ladouceur, Councilman Solomon, Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)

Committee Report (Finance): **Favorable Vella-Wilkinson Move to floor**  
Action: **Favorable**  
Moved by: **Merolla**  
Seconded by: **Ladouceur**  
~~Vote:~~

**Motion to hold to 9-16-2013: Merolla**

**Hold 9-16-2013**

**Unanimous Consent for July 8, 2013**

None

*Motion to Adjourn:*  
*Time:*

*Gallucci*  
*10:30 PM*

*Attest,*

*Marie T. Ahlert*  
*City Clerk*