

**Draft**

**Amended**  
The City of Warwick  
Docket of the City Council  
Regular Public Hearing Meeting  
For  
May 20, 2019  
@  
**Warwick City Hall**  
**3275 Post Road**  
**Warwick, RI 02886**  
**@ 7:00 P.M.**

Steve Merolla, President

**Roll Call: 9/0**

**Time: 7:02 PM**

**Salute To The Flag: Rix**

**Executive Communications**

**None**

**General Communications –**

**Merolla –** First, we had talked about school mediation that took place – think began September ended recently w/ the mediator’s award. Wants to address because not always have the opportunity to address in the press or individually. Very long process for himself and the admin due to number of meetings. 1<sup>st</sup> time in a number of years that a Carrulo action was filed and eventually w/drawn by the School Committee and we had entered into a binding mediation. Interesting to him been on council long time, along w/ councilwoman Travis, and many others

1<sup>st</sup> time really had access to SD books, because hired attorney and firm to look into that, first time really Got questioned answered in a timely meeting. This time they had time to follow up, what learned was, speaking for himself, was shocking what was happening w/ pensions, the overpayments, think one pension at 104% reported by journal – good its over budget – what’s disconcerting was when analyzed more they learned bathrooms not being washed, kids/parents/staff had to raise money for plays and afterschool activities and getting calls themselves for donations. He was in negotiations all summer/spring along w/ Ladouceur, Mayor and others, trying to figure out a way to help SD what the issues was. We are now paying about 19,000 per child, Cranston is paying 15,000 and we wondering what discrep was. We started to examine and took into consider that this council approved bond he sponsored in 2006, frozen by previous administration finally approved a the bond ref for \$40 million and release 6 of that this year to the SD. Concerned when hears people talk have to examine city side of budget, when he talks of schools, he’s been advocate, last year gave add’l 1.5 mil after closing 3 schools and layoffs of teachers and staff. It was puzzling as to why they were claiming a financial crisis there was about 4.9 mil they were asking for in those negotiations – has to say the marking group did an excellent job analyzing those numbers. Found out

Annual contributions was 1-1.2 mil (minimum-maximum) we were seeing overpayments for the last 4-5 years of 600,000 and in some cases over 1 mill dollars above the max contribution. It was represented to everyone in that room that in the past \$ were withdrawn from that account that there was not an issue w/ SD withdrawing it and the mediator decided that what the decision would be. A lot of criticism that's how it came to fruition. We were there on the defense not the offense. Represented to the journal pension fund at 104% represented to us that they hadn't factored in contributions and it was at 92% - overwhelmingly it was a well-funded pension and that was one issue. Stress this is just one issue not the only issue. We did our job and we do it well.

Merolla – other issue coming up later have to pick a healthcare provider – that issue will be continued When new info comes before council and public I think it's important to take the opportunity to look at that info and make a well-educated decision in particular – add'l info came to light – why – because doing due diligence – also been questions about 5 year forecasts – can tell you this council in all years been here never done a 5 year forecast – admin performs a 5 year forecast and the same is true of an audit

I – myself – have asked thru accountants to look at audits and numbers, I have been criticized and sure to be again – issue in projecting 5 year forecast – need to know where you are before you can predict where you can go. No better example of that than the School Dep.

During Adved admin appeal from the FD and pension and what Tier that pension should be in, arbitration done and over w/ barring some add'l info that was requested. He personally does not agree w/ the arb decision. Council had passed an ordinance clearly stating we were in Tier II – that's under fire pension II and arbitrator disagreed – another expense of 2.4 mil that this council member didn't anticipate – absolutely impacts the forecast that we make. The acct firm handling work for School Dept was also working to get and look at numbers for SD because that issue needed to be mediated and determined before the end of year. There are priority lists and hat didn't come to fruition until later on.

Another issue – required to have an audit by charter and should be completed by 12/31

And unfortunately wasn't completed and it's on extension – people can criticize city for that and talk about issues and what should be used to complete – people don't know – change in the hierarchy in the treas/finance dept but the 2 people that performed those audits for several years retired after they finished

The previous \ audit (April 2018) we are on a fiscal year

All number for the audit for the next year hadn't been performed for July august sept etc.

Now this admin had to hire to new auditors and train on system not familiar with.

A lot of issues on our plate and people don't appreciate that

Last year 2 contracts were passed by this council and questions if contracts signed or not, well deserved criticism prev admin and we never had the full contracts before us – amendments before us but could not fully have comprehend without having the full contract. Suggested that this should not occur anymore – should pull old contracts and compare and contrast Language that's great if you have the info from prior admin 0 no need to go into that Solicitor's staff has completely changed. He's in favor of quicker and faster but not at the expense of accuracy.

Budget meetings – criticized because late into the night – this year moved from 5 to 4 PM and that's giving us an extra hour – debate over this and decided to go w/ 4 – state also has meetings at 4 – Thought it best to start at 4 like state meetings do.

We are working hard, cannot please all the people all the time – issues he's working on other council working on – trying to make well educated decisions

Can make compromises and changes – tough economic times for everyone – mayor proposing budget tax amount go down per 1,000 – percentage of increase where money is going and how it's spent.

Ladouceur – covered pretty much what he was going to say – wants to be on the record concurring w/ everything Merolla said – what has been happening is not sustainable. Sooner or later will come crashing down, needs to be dealt w/ dealing w/ a culture that was here 7 years – new leadership change is happening. Important culture is changing we know expenses including legacy costs are not sustainable and needs to be re addressed and re positioned

Corley – receiving calls of financial situation of city – thanks for calling and encourages to get involved Couple hundred years ago people got upset and burnt the ship – Gaspee days is coming Encourages people to come express their opinion just like years ago

Rix – told by someone working for city in regards to a specific situation a couple of years ago and heard phrase 'paperwork caught up w/ the process' no way to run things – the paperwork is the process and applies to way of doing business – glad to see moving into the right decision. We know and need to make sure public is aware – property evaluations city council has no role in assessing values – the independent vendor does that – in the future we should have a conversation on that.

Travis – happy to see someone doing things met w/ prev admin and school committee and they didn't listen to anything she said - has been saying for years there was a problem and they were sweeping it under the carpet. School Dept should be embarrassed – hears from people between 2-3 times a week. She goes to admin building, the schools – one teacher has failed the majority of the students in her classes – no help from Admin – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter now there's no summer school – but they have a nice fluff corner. Kids getting sick from sour milk – they are throwing sour milk away who is watching this. Can't wait for the budget w/ the schools to address these issues.

A. Acceptance of minutes from council meeting held on:

**April 22, 2019**

Moved by: **Ladouceur**

Seconded by: **McAllister**

Vote: **vv**

**Accepted**

**May 6, 2019**

Moved by: **Ladouceur**

Seconded by: **McAllister, McElroy**

Vote: **vv (Merolla Abstains)**

## 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.

Marilyn Baker – home owner 49 years – husband is 100% disabled vet – on March 29<sup>th</sup> husband had rec'd a call from the VA told to call rescue and have him transported immediately  
When rescue arrived said had to go to Kent – refused imperative to get to VA  
Convinced them to take to the VA – the dr's were waiting for him two weeks later  
Rec'd bill from City for \$886 for the transport to the VA from Hoxsie – Very upset and d/n believe  
Any vet in this city should be responsible for a bill to be transported there.  
A few years ago he was transported unconscious to Kent where they took a urine sample and dr in charge of ICU came in and ER doc asked last time he smoked/used narcotics –

They had mixed his sample w/ a patient w/ a man that came in with the Warwick police, gave husband Narcan, put heart rate up, beat on his chest, told me to go home and find his stash  
Insisted they had the wrong sample and hours later when they retested found they had mixed up.  
She is here to speak for all vets. Medicare covered ½ of bill and city worked w/ her however  
If she needs to have transported to VA – it's time to change the policy – if that's where there care is they need to go there.

Rob Cote – based on general communications – offer executive summary – not our problem it's the schools problem, we're a part time city council, we didn't know anything about this, former admins fault, lost people in finance department  
Well you know what that's getting old – several councils in the past long tenured council people issued  
Have been brought up for a number of years –  
City charter under article 5 – duties and response director finance – shall submit within 90 days after close of fiscal year a projected financial statement - we don't have it  
within 6 months an audit completed financial statement – we don't have it  
Budget hearings coming and we don't have the basic fundamental doc's to decimate the budget – after 10 years of budget, this is the worse and need to chop it up. Budget produced for gen public made avail on May 15<sup>th</sup> - 83mil that is unreconciled because we do not have the audit. That's questionable  
Our budget deficit could be higher than we know.  
We don't have the projected financial statement, the audit, where are the ratified contracts, we don't have access to that. City Charter says 60 days to be made available to general public  
We don't have contracts to read – that's a problem. Another example – February brought to attention line item stricken from contract 6 years ago – noted as savings than funded a week later – funded again.

Budget produced for residents – has been revised on May 17<sup>th</sup> and still 83 mil unreconciled – you have a problem. He takes offense at throwing schools under the bus – council should take responsible. When are we getting realistic and produce a budget that you can take responsible because he sees slush fund. When is the finalized budget being available to residents so we can see things are reconciled?

**1. Announcement of Appointments –**

**Planning Board**

Wayne L. Hemond  
449 Chestnut Street  
Warwick, RI 02888  
Vice: Nicholas Lamoureux

Ward 2  
Term to Expire: January 31, 2024

**2. Appointments Requiring Confirmation –**

**Board of Canvassers**

Donna McDonald  
16 Unity Court  
Warwick, RI 02889  
Vice: Lauren Slocum

Ward 4  
Term to Expire: January 1, 2021

Committee Report: (Appointments): **Favorable**

Action: **Favorable**  
Moved by: **McElroy**  
Seconded by: **Ladouceur, Travis, McAllister**  
Vote: **9/0**  
**Accepted**

**3. Consent Calendar –**

**1. PCR-83-19 Resolution Relative to Bids**  
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Finance: **Favorable**

Action: **Favorable**  
Moved by: **Ladouceur**  
Seconded by: **McAllister, Howe**

**Adopted, As Amended**  
**R-19-68**

**Consent calendar vote: 9/0**

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**PCR-84-19 2019 -279 Fire Department Dress Uniforms, Badges, Insignias & Name Plates** (Councilman Ladouceur)

**Committee Report: (Finance) Hold 6-3-19**

**PCR-85-19 2020-031 Brass Fittings & Valves** (Councilman Ladouceur)

**Committee Report: (Finance): Favorable**

**Action: Favorable**

**Moved by: Ladouceur**

**Seconded by: McAllister, Howe**

**Vote: 8/0/1 (Merolla Abstains)**

**Adopted**

**R-19-69**

**PCR-86-19 2020-035 Post Type Fire Hydrants** (Councilman Ladouceur)

**Committee Report: (Finance) Favorable as Amended**

**Action: Favorable to Amend**

**Moved by: Ladouceur**

**Seconded by: McAllister, Howe**

**Vote: 9/0**

**Action: Favorable as Amended**

**Moved by: Ladouceur**

**Seconded by: Travis**

**Vote: 9/0**

**Adopted As Amended**

**R-19-70**

**PCR-87-19 2020 045 Participation in State of RI Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing** (Councilman Ladouceur)

**Committee Report: (Finance) Favorable**

**Action: Favorable**

**Moved by: Ladouceur**

**Seconded by: Howe**

**Vote: 8/0/1 (McAllister Abstains)**

**Adopted**

**R-19-71**

## Referred Business

1. PCO-9-19 An Ordinance amending the Zoning of the City of Warwick, 623 Post Rd James Donelan, Petitioner. (Councilman Rix)

### **Public Hearing First Passage**

Committee Report: (Land Use): To the Floor for Public Hearing

Action: **To Open Public Hearing**

Moved by: **Rix**

Seconded by: **Travis, Ladouceur**

Vote: **vv**

Speaking for:

**K. Joseph Shekarchi, Esq**

**William DePasquale, Director Planning**

Speaking Against:

**David Mastriano – 261 Tennyson Rd.**

Action: **To Close Public Hearing**

Moved by: **Rix**

Seconded by: **Travis, Ladouceur, McAllister**

Vote: **vv**

Action: **Favorable**

Moved by: **Rix**

Seconded by: **McAllister**

Action: **Favorable To Amend**

Moved by: **Rix**

Seconded by: **Ladouceur, Travis, McAllister**

Vote: **8/0/1 (Corley Abstains)**

Action: **Favorable as Amended**

Moved by: **Rix**

Seconded by: **Travis, McAllister**

Vote: **8/0/1 (Corley Abstains)**

**First Passage**

**06-17-2019**

**Unfinished Business**

1. **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, Councilwoman Travis)

**First Passage – Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Ordinance):   **Hold 6-3-19**

2. **PCO-3-18 Rocky Point – Ordinance to Protect the Rights of Private Property Owners** (Councilman Ladouceur)

**First Passage – Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Health, Education & Welfare)   **Hold 6-3-19**

3. **PCO-7-19 – Pension Board** (Councilman Ladouceur)

**First Passage – Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Finance):   **Hold 6-17-19**

4. **PCO-10-19 Ordinance in regards to water discharge** (Councilman Ladouceur, Councilwoman Travis, Councilman McElroy, Councilman McAllister, Councilman Sinapi)

**First Passage – Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Ordinance):   **Hold 6-3-19**

5. **PCO-11-19 – Amendment to the Ordinance relative to parking on Herff Jones Way** (Councilman Rix, Councilman Ladouceur, Councilman Corley)

**First Passage – Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Public Safety):   **Hold 6-3-19**

6. **PCR-94-17 Bid 2017-147 State of RI Telecommunication Services/Installation & Parts** (Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Finance:   **Hold 6-17-19**

7. **PCR-148-17 Bid 2018-143 Installation of Sprinklers @ Cooper Bldg. Drill Hall** (Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Finance:   **Hold 6-17-19**



8. **PCR-9-19 A Resolution requesting that the Rhode Island Airport Corporation Consider Additional factors in its 2019 14 CFR Part 150 Noise Study.**  
(Councilman Rix)

**Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Intergovernmental): Hold 6-3-19

9. **PCR-21-19 A Resolution relative to Educational Outreach Committee**  
(Councilman Ladouceur)

**Not Drafted**

Committee Report:(Health, Education & Welfare): Hold 6-3-19

10. **PCR-57-19 2019-266 Radio System Maintenance & Repair Services for Infrastructure, Portables & Mobiles** (Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: (Finance): Favorable

Action: **Favorable**

Moved by: **Ladouceur**

Seconded by: **McAllister, Howe**

Vote: **9/0**

**Adopted**

**R-19-72**

11. **PCR-59-19 2019-277 Fire Apparatus Repair** (Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: (Finance): Favorable as Amended

Action: **Favorable**

Moved by: **Ladouceur**

Seconded by: **McAllister, Howe**

~~Vote:~~

**Action: Favorable To Amend**  
**Moved by: Ladouceur**  
**Seconded by: McAllister, Howe**  
**Vote: 9/0**

**Action: Favorable As Amended**  
**Moved by: Ladouceur**  
**Seconded by: McAllister, Howe**  
**Vote: 9/0**

**Adopted As Amended**  
**R-19-73**

**12. PCR-62-19 2020-019 Hydraulic Parts & Repairs (Councilman Ladouceur)**

Committee Report: (Finance): **Hold 6-3-19**

**13. PCR-72-19 2020-008 City of Warwick & Warwick Public Schools Medical, Pharmacy & Dental Insurance Benefits**

Committee Report: (Finance): **Hold 6-3-19**

**14. PCR-75-19 Ryan Cabral – Claim (Councilman Sinapi)**

Committee Report: (Public Safety): **Favorable \$86.13**

Action: **Favorable**

Moved by: **Sinapi**

Seconded by: **Howe, Travis**

Vote: **9/0**

**Adopted**

**R-19-74**

**15. PCR-76-19 Shirley Brown-Mullen – Claim (Councilman Sinapi)**

Committee Report: (Public Safety): **Favorable \$300.00**

Action: **Favorable**

Moved by: **Sinapi**

Seconded by: **Ladouceur, Howe**

Vote: **9/0**

**Adopted**

**R-19-75**

**New Business**

**1. PCR-78-19 Resolution Relative to Transfers, Supplemental Appropriations and Emergency Appropriations (Councilman Ladouceur)**

**Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Finance): **Hold 5-31-19**

**2. PCR-79-19 Resolution Adopting and Setting the Tax Rate of the City of Warwick for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020**

**Not Drafted**

Committee Report: (Finance): **Hold 5-31-19**

**Unanimous Consent**

All Pass

**Motion to Adjourn:** Travis

**Seconded by:**

**Vote:** vv

**Time:** 8:44 PM

**Next Available Numbers:** PCR-84-19

PCO-10-19

**DOCKET SESSION**

Rix- Res Supporting Legislatin to establish an Ocean State Climate Adaption & Resilience Fund (OSCAR) (IG)

McAllister-No Parking Chapmans (406-420) (PS)

Sinapi – Res to Traffic Comm & State DOT Tollgate Rd/Prov St (Rt 115 & Prov St) (IG)

8:45 PM

Attest,



Lynn D'Abrosca  
Deputy City Clerk

**Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the City Clerk's Office at 738-2006 ext. 6 at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.**