

The City of Warwick
Docket of the City Council
Regular Public Hearing Meeting
For
April 11, 2016
@
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 Solomon, Edgar Ladouceur, Donna Travis, Kathleen Usler, Joseph Gallucci, Steven Merolla

Time: 7:10 PM

Salute to the Flag: Councilman Gallucci

Executive Communications

President Travis – Welcomes Troop 233 observing government, working for a badge

Quarterly Reports

1. Dan O'Rourke – Water Department – Report provided to Council

Remarks:

Ward 5 – Councilman Ladouceur –On Item #2, Why will Warwick begin testing every three years – Response: due to lead & cooper test results for the Providence Water Supply Board.

Ward 4 Councilman Solomon – Why is Providence Water our problem? – Response: because they supply the water to us we are required by Federal Law to test. Lead issue has to do with service lines that feed to households. We cannot force people to update their pipes. You are getting more bond money issued? Response: this year's loan will be 8,000,000.00. With additional borrowing are we going to have increase in revenue to pay this debt service? Response: Yes it is in the rate fee that was increased. Money used in past to pay service will be used to pay debt service.

Ward 9 – Councilman MEROLLA – We received a notice that Kent County is looking for 15% INTEREST what is our rate. Warwick's rates are half that. Ct, Boston & Providence talking about lead issue and Providence Water Board being in violation. What are they in violation of and do we have any lead pipes in Warwick? Is there a possibility it can come in our pipes. Response: there was not a violation it was a noncompliance issue, it isn't in the pipes per say it is pipes leading into the household. There is no lead in those lines; it would be in service line to household. Where they testing in people's homes? Response: it was in households. The readings are from service line into the house in older homes. There should be no back flow issues. What happened in Michigan was self-induced.

2. Janine Burke – Sewer Authority- Reports provided to Council: Highlights: Treatment facility is running very well and we are looking good for this year's budget.

Remarks:

Ward 4 – Councilman Solomon - \$740,000 over budget with change orders they are same numbers as last quarter. Response: \$240,000 change orders were at WSA request. It is due to levy redesign and reconstruction. Does credit reflect payment? Response: It reflects work that was not done. The rest of change orders are things requested. Will there be any other change orders? No the rest of the work is going out to bid in addition to. In examining the budget you have exceeded debt service by \$360,000. Debt interest is lower because rates are lower. Is that the reason? Debt service is up just because we are paying less interest why are we incurring more debt. Response: all the debt services have been paid it is paid twice a year. All debt service has been figured in. There should be no rate increase.

Ward 1 – Councilman Colantuono - GRA report 2-19 – Governor Francis - Land acquisition piece, looks that will be completed in May is still correct. Response: we are continuing with that but there are title issues. We are trying to move quickly. Hoping to go out to bid in the fall is there an alternate plan if this site does not work. Response Yes there are.

Ward 5 – Councilman Ladouceur Pg. 1 – Board approved extension of contracts – what was the cost per gallon that they came up with? Responses: I will get you the information for diesel cost. In respect to the overage did that have to do with levy and are you assuming recourse on recovery of funds. Response: Yes we have in writing basically staked our claims against engineering company and manufacturer of the materials we have put a place holder in.

Ward 9 – Councilman Merolla – What is the status of the claim against the engineer and the architect whoever was at fault for the design defect? We have staked both claims. We need to get levy open to find any additional damage. Councilman Merolla - Sometimes the insurance company may assist by offering money up front are they in response to your claim regarding liability. Are they contesting your liability? Response: Yes – I will have our legal counsel call you. Merolla would like results this should be taken care of. If we are not putting into the system we are going to be 2 – 3 years behind otherwise it will be six years before lawsuit gets settled. It is disconcerting that we have not done anything. How much has been spent on plant upgrades? Response: Little over \$14,000,000. Clean Water Finance is supplying loan funds for the project. We are borrowing on an annual basis just about to close on another loan for last portion of construction project. There will be bond revenue left at the end of this project. Governor Francis had a design schedule is WSA going to be having public hearings on this and a workshop at Bayside is that open to the public. It is a design workshop. Public could sit in afternoon agenda.

Ward 3 – Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson – She has had several emails and calls from some of folks that live around Cedar Pump Station regarding the odor. Response: The chemical condition is working very well on Tidewater. I emailed you the study. It is working well we have not had any complaints. Some of the people are embarrassed to call about odor coming from pumping station. Continuing to get word out, I will schedule meeting and you can attend to enforce reporting of odors. For Ward 3 why there is construction when there are no sewers. We want to expand into Warwick Neck. The more it gets full the better the pump station will be.

General Communications -

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:

Jeremy Rix –Ward 2 – Norwood Neighbor - Taking a look at the City Charter and suggesting changes to improve the process. For that reason there is a Charter Review Commission meeting this Wednesday starting at 6:45PM for those who wish to attend. Items will be School Committee and whether Warwick should have a Home Rule Charter in order to make certain amendments to the Charter. Just a couple of important items we are looking at and people can participate in process.

Anthony Sinapi – Warwick Parent – I spoke last time we had Warwick Comment: I have been looking into the Warwick School Dept. last report regarding school committee violations. Tonight is on special education. Many parents have raised questions regarding special education services. They keep getting stone walled. He has concerns about these issues with some RI attorney these things are illegal. He recommends the City Council hire someone to investigate school committee.

Roy Dempsey - The gentlemen that was just up, last time he commented on violations he found in school committee. Why are the parents going to this individual? Why is he bringing this before council? As to Mr. Rix: The resolution that was brought forth does not state home rule. It speaks to amendment of current charter. He was at last commission hearing and there was a lot of confusion as to why they are meeting. Unheard of, basis resolution speaks to charter not home rule. How can this commission do what this resolution is supposed to do. Last commission meeting they did open it up to public, which took people by surprise. Up to that point there was going to be 10 minute comment. This resolution says they should be outreaching to community. The commission is not adhering to the resolution.

Jay Messier - Thanks the City of Warwick he runs community Facebook page, Wicked Beautiful Rhode Island and they are doing Wicked Locally, restaurant week and we are doing in Warwick next week with lunch contest. Very proud that we are in Warwick come to Office for kickoff event and invites everyone to attend.

Referred Business

**1. PCO-8-16 An Ordinance relative to the Abandonment of a Portion of Hallene Road, Marley Realty, LLC, Petitioner
Public Hearing, First Passage**

Committee Report: Land Use: Motion to open Public Hearing, Colantuono
 Action: Favorable
 Moved by: Colantuono
 Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Chadronet, Usler
 Vote: 9/0 VV

Speaking for: K. Joseph Shekarchi, Esq. for Petitioner
 John Gowell, Esq. for Enterprise
 William DePasquale, Planning Director
 Speaking against: NONE

Motion to close the P.H.: Colantuono
 Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson
 Vote: 9/0 VV
 Action: Favorable
 Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
 Seconded by: Chadronet, Colantuono
 Action: Move to amend
 Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
 Seconded by: Colantuono, Ladouceur
 Vote: 9/0
 Action: Move as amended
 Moved by: Vella-Wilkinson
 Seconded by: Colantuono, Chadronet, Ladouceur
 Vote: 9/0

To Second Passage 5/16/2016

Recess: 9:50 PM
Resume Meeting: 9:59 PM

- 1. Announcement of Appointments – none**
- 2. Appointments Requiring Confirmation – none**
- 3. Consent Calendar –**
 - 1. PCR-50-16 -Resolution Relative to Bids
(Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson)**

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

Consent calendar vote: 9/0

ADOPTED R-16-39

PCR-51-16 Bid 2013-215 State of RI Janitorial Supplies

Action: Hold to 5/2/2016

PCR-52-16 Precast Items for Catch basins & Manholes

Action: Favorable
Moved by: Colantuono
Seconded by: Vella-Wilkinson, Ladouceur
Vote: 8/0/1 (Merolla abstains)

ADOPTED R-16-40

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)

First Passage – Not Drafted

Committee Report: Ordinance: HOLD to 5/16/2016

2. **PCO-28-15 Tax Stabilization Agreement for Intermodal District**
(Councilman Merolla, Councilman Solomon)

First Passage – Not Drafted

Committee Report: Finance: HOLD to 5/16/2016

3. **PCO-4-16 Dishonorable Service Ordinance**
(Councilman Solomon, Councilman Ladouceur, Councilman Merolla, Councilman Gallucci, Councilwoman Usler)

First Passage – Not Drafted

Committee Report: Ordinance: HOLD to 5/16/2016

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

Committee Report: Finance: HOLD to 5/16/2016

5. **PCR-33-16 Sub A A Resolution Relative to School Bonds**
(Councilman Ladouceur)

Committee Report: Finance: Favorable, Colantuono
Action: Favorable
Moved by: Ladouceur
Seconded by: Colantuono, Chadronet, Usler
Vote: 9/0

ADOPTED R-16-41

FOR REFERRAL AND ADVERTISING

PCO-11-16 An Ordinance relative to a Zone Change Petition, Veracruz Shabo, LLC, Petitioner (Council President Travis)

Unanimous Consent for April 11, 2016

Motion to Adjourn: Gallucci

Vote:

Time: 10:27 PM

Next Available Numbers:

PCR-51-16

PCO-15-16

DOCKET SESSION

Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson – Resolution requesting Warwick to participate in the “resilient cities campaign” - Intergovernmental Committee **PCR-53-16**

Councilman Ladouceur – Resolution requesting that the Warwick Community Outreach Educational Committee investigate and subsequently report on complaints regarding special education services in the Warwick School Department – Intergovernmental Committee **PCR-54-16**