

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

January 8, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on January 8, 2014. Present were Mark Tourgee, Susan Woloohojian, Robert Andrews, Gregory Coutcher and Thomas Mulcahey. Also present were Town Administrator Kevin Breene and Asst. Town Solicitor Nancy Letendre.

A. CALL TO ORDER - 7:00 P.M.

Council President Tourgee called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Tourgee made the following announcements: The EWG Jazz Band Concert will be held on Thursday, January 30th starting at 6:30 p.m. The WG Land Trust will have their annual dinner and silent auction on Saturday, March 22nd. Tickets are \$25 per person. Steve Wright is the contact person and can be reached at 392-3628. He also stated many people from Town donate silent auction items and is a good time had by all.

D. CONSENT AGENDA - All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Town Council and may be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Council so requests, in which event the item will be removed from Consent Agenda consideration and considered in sequential order. The List of Consent Agenda Items is appended below.

Council President Tourgee requested Report No. 4 Tax Office to be pulled for further consideration.

Councilman Andrews moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Report No. 4 Tax Office pulled for further consideration. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Woloohojian - abstain, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey – aye

I. MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2013
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION- DECEMBER 11, 2013 (SEALED)

II. REPORTS

(THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE RECEIVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.)

1. TOWN CLERK REPORT – DECEMBER, 2013
2. POLICE DEPT. REPORT – DECEMBER, 2013
3. BUILDING OFFICIAL REPORT – DECEMBER, 2013

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5. PLANNING DEPT. MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER, 2013
6. TREASURER’S OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER, 2013

III. CORRESPONDENCE

(THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE IS RECEIVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.)

1. COPY OF LETTER TO: MARK TOURGEE, TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT
FROM: NADEAU WADOVICK LLP
DECEMBER 26, 2013
RE: AUDIT FINDINGS
2. COPY OF LETTER TO: ROBERT MARTIN, CHIEF BRISTOL FIRE DEPT.
FROM: PETER F. KILMARTIN, ATTORNEY GENERAL
NOVEMBER 4, 2013
RE: OPEN MEETINGS ACT
3. COPY OF LETTER TO: WAYNE P. ANDREWS, WG FIRE BOARD OF ENGINEERS
FROM: KEVIN A. BREENE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
NOVEMBER 7, 2013
RE: OPEN MEETINGS ACT

IV. ADDITIONS, ABATEMENTS, REBATES & UNCOLLECTABLES

1. REQUEST OF TAX ASSESSOR/TAX COLLECTOR FOR SPECIFIC UNCOLLECTABLES
AND VOTE REGARDING SAME – DECEMBER, 2013

December			
ACCT #	NAME	AMOUNT	CODE
<u>Abatements</u>			
13-0525-42	MUSHIN-DO-KARATE INC	\$82.19	31
14-0002-89	NAPOLILLO CARMINE	\$880.79	17
23-0068-94	WEST GREENWICH HOSPITALITY LLC	\$55,012.98	22
<u>ADDITIONS</u>			
23-0068-94	WEST GREENWICH HOSPITALITY LLC	\$53,842.64	22

V. CHECK SUMMARY REPORT

1. RECEIPT OF CHECK SUMMARY REPORT FOR
MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2013
FROM TOWN TREASURER

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOUTTIT LIBRARY CHILDREN’S LIBRARIAN RETIREMENT–
LAUREEN YOUNG

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Council President Tourgee commented on Laureen Young's service to the Town and read the following proclamation for Laureen Young's retirement: WHEREAS, Laureen Young and her husband Kenny moved to West Greenwich in 1976; and WHEREAS, they raised five children, Sherri, Andy, Michelle, Chris and Ricky, all of whom graduated from the Exeter/West Greenwich school system; and WHEREAS, she taught at the Raggedy Ann and Andy Nursery school in Greene for many years and had many West Greenwich Children as students; and WHEREAS, for over 25 years Laureen has held many positions at Louttit Library most notably Children's Librarian, where she excelled in what she loves working with kids; and WHEREAS, Laureen is a well known and respected member of the West Greenwich community, having served the Town loyally and faithfully. NOW, THEREFORE, We, the West Greenwich Town Council, and on behalf of the Citizens of West Greenwich, hereby thank Laureen for her many years of service to the Town and wish her well in her retirement. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of the Town of West Greenwich to be affixed this 8th day of January, 2014.

Laureen Young accepted her proclamation and thanked the Council for the honor. She stated she truly loves the Town of West Greenwich and working with children. She further stated she now will enjoy her time with her grandchildren.

Town Administrator Breene commented on her service and highlighted her tradition with the Halloween story hour.

Gerald Young, Board of Trustees Chair for the Louttit Library, commented on the essay contest held which theme is what the Louttit Librarian means to EWG High School Seniors. Most students mention Laureen and her activities with the library.

2. DISCUSSION ON WEBSITE FOR VETERANS BY FRANK VOLLUCCI, TOWN SERGEANT

Frank Vollucci, Town Sergeant explained the Veterans Initiative Project. The mission of this project is to provide support and communication to Veterans on the VA system. He also explained the book available that explains the VA system and five copies are available at Louttit Library. Vollucci also explained Brads Deals; which is discounts available to Veterans.

Vollucci also explained who can use the Quonset Base as follows: 20 years of service, 100 percent disabled, or currently active duty military.

Town Administrator Breene questioned who was able to use the VA hospital. Vollucci explained eligibility and specific criteria to be accepted. He also explained his willingness to meet Veterans at the VA.

Annette Feldman, Louttit Librarian stated that the Library would happy to provide assistance to those who need access to VA websites.

3. DISCUSSION ON SENATE LEGISLATIVE POLICE GRANT BY THE HONORABLE SENATOR LEONIDAS P. RAPPAKIS

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Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis explained the Legislative Grant and presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Chief Ramsay for the West Greenwich Police Department.

Chief Ramsay stated that the funds will be used to purchase a laptop for School Resource Officer.

4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REAPPOINTMENT OF TREE WARDEN

Council President Tourgee advised that Tom Leavitt is currently the Tree Warden and this would be a reappointment.

Councilman Andrews moved to reappoint Tom Leavitt as Tree Warden.

Council Vice President Woloohojian seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey – aye

**5. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RENEWAL OF JUNK YARD LICENSE-
ESTATE OF LILLIAN J. CARPENTER**

Council Vice President Woloohojian requested Building Official David Tacey report on the site.

David Tacey, Building Official explained that last summer he visited the site and the site has acquired metal containers and would like to revisit the property and report back next month.

Councilman Andrews commented on the trucks and cars stored on the site.

Town Administrator Breene advised that the applicant was David Carpenter and the renewal should be for the Estate.

Discussion ensued on the other sites and the history of the license.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to continue discussion and vote on renewal of Junk Yard License for the Estate of Lillian J. Carpenter. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey – aye

**6. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING – AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 87 REGARDING
OPEN FIRES**

Council President Tourgee advised that this was introduced last month.

Town Administrator Breene explained the following changes:

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THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
ORDINANCE NO.87
REGARDING OPEN FIRES

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, as follows:

Section 1.

* * *

2. Outdoor fires may be kindled and maintained for the following uses:

- (i) campfires;
- (ii) the cooking of food on barbeques, fireplaces, or grills;
- (iii) the burning of brush and/or leaves when permitted by the Fire Chief.

* * *

4. *Definitions:*

- (i) *bonfire*: any outdoor fire whose flames reach five (5) feet or higher measured from the ground to the highest flame.
- (ii) *campfire*: any outdoor fire fully contained in a fireplace, and consisting of the burning of untreated wood, branches, ~~and/or leaves~~.

* * *

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Discussion ensued on outdoor leaf burning and the areas most effected.

Councilman Mulcahey moved that this constitutes First Reading of Amendments to Ordinance No. 87 Regarding Open Fires and for Public Hearing for February. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey – aye

7. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RATIFICATION OF CENTREX TAX TREATY

Council President Tourgee explained the agreement and this would only apply to the new addition and not the real estate.

Councilman Andrews moved to ratify the Centrex Tax Treaty. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey – aye

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8. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON DATE AND ALTERNATE DATE OF FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

Discussion ensued on availability.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to set the date for the Financial Town Meeting to June 2nd at 7:00 P.M. with an alternative date of June 9th. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey –aye

9. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON DATE FOR TOWN BUDGET HEARING

Discussion ensued on dates.

Town Administrator Breene advised if the hearing was scheduled for the April Town Council Meeting, the Town Council would hold two meetings.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to set the date of the Town Budget Hearing to April 9th. Councilman Andrews seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey –aye

10. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to continue discussion and vote on Budget Workshops to the February meeting. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey –aye

The following item from the Consent Agenda was considered.

4. TAX OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER, 2013

Council President Tourgee reviewed sales and distressed sales in West Greenwich reported from Charlene Randall, Tax Assessor/Collector Report. He reviewed the trend of sales from 2007 to 2013 and in 2007 8% of sales were distressed; in 2011 50 % of sales were distressed and in 2013 30% of sales were distressed.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to approved Report Item 4 pulled from the Consent Agenda. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey – aye

G. PUBLIC FORUM

Jennifer Paquet stated the Planning Board would like to meet with the Council on February 10th regarding Affordable Housing.

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Frank Vollucci, Town Sergeant also wished to thank Jim Wheeler and Bob Beaudro for working on Veterans Initiative.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2

LITIGATION – SWAP INC. VS. Town of West Greenwich Planning Board SHAB 2013 -01.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to close the meeting and to go into Executive Session at 7:40 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, a, 2 for Litigation relative to SWAP Inc. VS. Town of West Greenwich Planning Board SHAB 2013-01. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Coutcher – aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to come out of Executive Session and seal the minutes at 8:00 P.M. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Coutcher – aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye

No votes were made in Executive Session.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to adjourn 8:01 P.M. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Coutcher – aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye

ERIN F. LIESE, CMC

ACTING TOWN CLERK