

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**BUDGET HEARING
APRIL 20, 2016**

A Special Meeting and Budget Hearing of the West Greenwich Town Council were held on April 20, 2016. Present were Mark Tourgee, Linda Rekas Sloan, Robert Andrews, Mark Boyer and Thomas Mulcahey. Also present Town Administrator Kevin Breene, Tax Assessor Charlene Randall, and Chief Richard Ramsay.

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

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

Councilman Mulcahey moved to open the meeting and dispense of the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Council Vice President Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Andrews –aye, Boyer –aye, Mulcahey - aye

B. AGENDA:

1. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON SECOND READING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING USE MATRIX- TYPES OF POWER

USE CATEGORY	RFR -2	RFR-1	OSPL	NBHD BUS	HIWAY BUS	EXIT 7 SMD	INDUST A	INDUST B	CORP DISTRICT
482 Fuel & Power	S	X	X	S	S	S	S	S	X
<u>4821 Solar Power Utility</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>4822 Wind Power Utility</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>4823 Reserved</u>									
<u>4824 Fossil Fuel Power Utility</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>

Key: S= Special Use Permit, X= Prohibited, P=Permitted
Proposed Changes denoted in Underline for proposed new text
and in ~~Strikethrough~~ for proposed deletions

Council President Tourgee advised this was reviewed at the Public Hearing held last month and asked for questions.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to approve the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Use Matrix to address different types of power sources for the different Zoning Districts in Town based on the following findings of fact:

1. That the proposed changes to the Use Matrix are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan in that the changes specify in greater detail the spatial locations where different forms of utility power generation are allowed within Town. The proposed changes acknowledge and strengthen the following goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan:

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- a. Economic Development Goal 4: Consider designated areas for Neighborhood Business districts to serve the day-to-day needs of remote residential nodal areas or villages. The use of Power generation in the Neighborhood Business districts does not primarily serve the day to day needs of the residents.
 - b. Economic Development Goal 5: To enhance, strengthen, and promote existing Highway Business districts. The purpose of the Highway Business zone is to provide areas for commercial activities to serve the needs of the entire community and contiguous regions. It is expected that such zones will be located on major arterial highways to maximize accessibility. The uses of wind or solar utility power generation would not enhance or strengthen the existing Highway Business districts.
 - c. Economic Development Policy 15: Encourage restricted Industrial/Commercial development appropriate to a site in consideration of environmental factors, accessibility, and adjacent land uses. The proposed designation of the different forms of utility power generation to the different zoning districts helps implement this policy by selecting appropriate zoning districts with different levels of highway accessibility.
2. The proposed changes to the Use Matrix recognize the following applicable purposes of the Zoning Ordinance:
- a. Provide for orderly growth and development which recognizes the goals and patterns of land use contained in the West Greenwich Comprehensive Plan.
 - b. Promote implementation of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Andrews seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Andrews - aye, Boyer- aye, Mulcahey - aye

2. BUDGET HEARING ON FY 2016/2017 BUDGET

Council President Tourgee opened the Public Hearing on the 2016/ 2017 Budget.

Town Administrator Breene updated the Council on the proposed budget and declared this is the seventh consecutive year without raising taxes.

Council President Tourgee questioned if this proposed budget remained the same since the last budget workshop.

Town Administrator Breene reviewed the General Government proposed budget.

Town Administrator Breene stated the school budget has been determined; however it looks like they will get the transportation aid.

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Council Vice President Rekas Sloan requested Town Administrator Breene explain transportation funding.

Town Administrator Breene explained the transportation aid bonus for regional school districts. He further explained the coalition formed by the four regional school districts to demand reinstatement of funding. If reinstated, the school department agreed to reallocate the savings to the towns.

Discussion ensued on the school budget.

Town Administrator Breene reviewed the fire and rescue budget.

Town Administrator Breene reviewed the highway department and advised on the changes made since the last meeting to asphalt and seal coat. A total of \$260,000 will be needed with \$110,000 in the line item and use \$150,000 from surplus.

Councilman Mulcahey brought up the need for a resolution for highway department capital purchases.

Discussion ensued on capital purchase resolution.

Town Administrator Breene reviewed the maintenance line item.

Discussion ensued on the maintenance position.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan stated after discussions held with Public Works Director Wright, she feels a full time position is warranted.

Councilman Mulcahey stated a list and time required of duties needs to be created.

Town Administrator Breene stated there are two historical churches that would need work.

Town Administrator Breene reviewed transportation, water department, and community budget line items.

Town Administrator Breene explained the Henry Wright scholarship, comprehensive plan and EWG TV line items.

Discussion ensued on streaming of board meetings.

Town Administrator Breene explained reasons for adding \$500 to the Happy Seniors line item to allow for education and recreational activities for seniors.

Tax Assessor Randall explained proposed senior activities.

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Discussion ensued on senior activities and the Happy Seniors. It was the Council's preference to separate and create a new line item for the additional \$500.00.

The Louttit Library, Conservation Commission, Land Trust and Celebrate West Greenwich Day budgets were reviewed.

Discussion ensued on donations for Celebrate West Greenwich Day.

Chief Ramsay explained the personnel within the police department.

Chief Ramsay stated they have eleven police officers with a median age of 45. He also explained currently they have four officers eligible to retire and they only would need to provide two weeks notice. The police training program is twenty two weeks long.

Discussion ensued on the time line of the police academy.

Chief Ramsay explained overtime budget effects with a vacancy and requested funding for six months to place a probationary officer in the academy.

Discussion ensued on the recruitment process.

Discussion ensued on the interview process.

Chief Ramsay stated he would prefer to interview all the candidates who pass the written and agility test.

Council President Tourgee stated it would be better to be proactive.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan agreed with Council President Tourgee.

Discussion ensued on funding.

Councilman Boyer stated he agreed with Council President Tourgee and Council Vice President Rekas Sloan.

Discussion ensued on the timeline for police academy.

Chief Ramsay advised on the resolution needed for police clothing.

Discussion ensued on Resolutions.

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Tax Assessor Randall recommended to the Council to wait on the capital resolution for the highway department for they are getting \$150,000 this year.

Discussion ensued on the Public Works trucks.

The Council agreed to wait on the capital resolution for Public Works.

Town Clerk Liese requested a resolution to carry the funding for the codification of ordinances.

Tax Assessor Randall stated resolutions for the server replacement fund and revaluation fund was needed.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to adopt the budget as proposed and to be presented to the voters at the Financial Town meeting. Councilman Mulcahey seconded

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Andrews - aye, Boyer- aye, Mulcahey - aye

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to adjourn at 7:58 P.M.
Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Andrews - aye, Boyer- aye, Mulcahey - aye

**ERIN F. LIESE, CMC
TOWN CLERK**