

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 14, 2016

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on December 14, 2016. Present were Mark Tourgee, Linda Rekas Sloan, Robert Andrews, Mark Boyer and Thomas Mulcahey. Also present Town Administrator Kevin Breene and Town Solicitor Michael Ursillo.

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

West Greenwich Boy Scouts Troop 35 led in the Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Tourgee made the following announcements: We'd like to thank the RI Fish & Game Protective Association, The Horseman's Club and the Coventry/West Greenwich Lions who recently made large donations to help WG families in need. The Town recently offered the AAA over 55 Driving Course. Over 20 residents took advantage of this course and will save money on their car insurance. Scout Nick Martinelli recently completed his Eagle Scout Project which was building raised garden beds behind the Library. They will be used by our seniors as a community garden next year. The annual Christmas Tree Lighting was held on December 5th. Well over 100 people were in attendance for this event which took place in the pavilion. He also thanked Robert Butler for the railing repair at Town Hall.

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

Councilman Mulcahey moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Council Andrews seconded.

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

I. MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2016

II. REPORTS

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

1. BUILDING OFFICIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER, 2016
2. POLICE DEPT. REPORT – NOVEMBER, 2016
3. TAX OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT – NOVEMBER, 2016

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4. TOWN CLERK REPORT – NOVEMBER, 2016
5. PLANNER’S OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT- NOVEMBER, 2016

III. CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. LAND TRUST – MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2016
2. COPY OF LETTER TO: MARK TOURGEE, PRESIDENT TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: TIM LEMIRE
NOVEMBER 28, 2016
RE: STUDY COMMISSION ON DIVORCE
3. COPY OF LETTER TO: WEST GREENWICH TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: HEATHER EKLOF, TREASURER EWGGS
NOVEMBER 15, 2016
RE: THANK YOU
4. COPY OF LETTER TO: WEST GREENWICH TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: MICHAEL A. URSILLO, TOWN SOLICITOR
NOVEMBER 14, 2016
RE: COVENTRY WIND TURBINES
5. COPY OF LETTER TO: WEST GREENWICH TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: TEE JAY BOURDREAU, RI URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 28, 2016
RE: TREE CITY USA CERTIFICATION

IV. ADDITIONS, ABATEMENTS, REBATES & UNCOLLECTABLE

1. REQUEST OF TAX ASSESSOR/TAX COLLECTOR FOR SPECIFIC UNCOLLECTABLE
AND VOTE REGARDING SAME – NOVEMBER, 2016

<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u> <u>NAME</u> <u>ADDITIONS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>CODE</u>
06-0086-01	FITZPATRICK, JUNE	3,497.83	39
13-0387-41	MONTY, DENNIS & WENDY	882.50	39
16-0075-64	PASKALIS, GEORGE & DANA	990.99	39
18-0164-42	RELLI, ROBERT & MARY	2,352.53	39
20-0001-67	TALLMAN, WILLIAM & LABONTE, DONALD	2,863.27	39
	Additional Revenue	<u>10,587.12</u>	

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V. CHECK SUMMARY REPORT

1. RECEIPT OF CHECK SUMMARY REPORT FOR
MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2014
FROM TOWN TREASURER

1. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF NEWLY ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Town Administrator Breene introduced Senator Kettle and Representative Roberts to swear- in the officials.

Representative Roberts swore in Mark Tourgee, Linda Rekas Sloan, Robert Andrews, Mark Boyer, and Thomas Mulcahey to the office of Town Council,

Senator Kettle swore in the Town Sergeant Frank Vollucci and School Committee member Lee Kissinger.

2. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Erin Liese, Town Clerk assumed the role of Chair for nominations of Council President.

Councilman Boyer nominated Mark Tourgee as Council President. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

Council President Tourgee resumed the role as Chair for nominations of Council Vice President.

Councilman Boyer nominated Linda Rekas Sloan as Council Vice President.

Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

3. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON APPOINTMENT OF TOWN SOLICITOR AND ASST. SOLICITOR

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to appoint Michael A. Ursillo as Town Solicitor and Andrew Teitz and Amy Goins as Asst. Town Solicitor. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

Council President Tourgee thanked Michael Ursillo for serving as Town Solicitor since 1984.

4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON APPOINTMENT OF PROBATE JUDGE AND DEPUTY PROBATE JUDGE

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to appoint Honorable Michael A. Ursillo as Probate Judge and Joseph H. Scott as Deputy Probate Judge. Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

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6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICER JAKE H. MOWRY (This item was taken out of order)

Chief Ramsay introduced Jake Mowry and made the following comments: As you know in April 2016 we began a recruitment process. We had 52 applicants for the position of probationary police officer. Each applicant participated in a written exam and a physical fitness test and those that passed both phases were invited to an interview. After the first interview the top 6 were invited to a second interview after which we chose our top candidate for the position and put him through both medical and physiological testing to ensure he had the qualities needed to be a police officer. It is my pleasure to introduce Jake Mowry to the council and community as our candidate to the Municipal police academy. Jake is no stranger to police work, his mother was a police officer in the Town of East Greenwich and his father was a police officer in the city of Warwick. Jake was not only a top finisher in the written and physical fitness testing, what really impressed us was his knowledge of West Greenwich and his desire to work in a rural community. I believe Jake is going to be a perfect fit for our community. Jake is a graduate of Bishop Hendricken High school and CCRI, and is currently enrolled in the criminal justice program at RIC. He is also a proud member of the Army Nation Guard. I know you join me in wishing Jake success in the 20 week police academy which begins on January 9th and we look forward to him graduating and becoming a productive police officer for the community of West Greenwich.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to recess. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

A brief recess was taken for refreshments.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to reconvene. Council Vice President Rekas Sloan seconded.

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

**9. PUBLIC HEARING-
DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCES
REGARDING PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE OF HISTORIC CEMETERIES
(This item was taken out of order)**

Town Administrator Breene announced it was the Butlers 42nd Wedding Anniversary. The Council and audience congratulated the Butlers on their anniversary.

Robert and Charlene Butler explained the need for the Cemetery Ordinance.

Discussion ensued on Section 4 and amending shall to should.

Charlene Butler stated this would put an undo burden on the residents and enforcement would be very difficult.

Town Administrator Breene thanked the Butlers for their work and research done on West Greenwich cemeteries.

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Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to approve the Ordinance on Cemeteries as amended.

Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF HISTORIC CEMETERIES.

IT IS ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Town of West Greenwich, vests historic cemetery property owners with the duty to preserve and otherwise maintain their historic cemetery as a cultural resource as described in this Article.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of West Greenwich, Rhode Island, that the Town Code be amended to read as follows:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF HISTORIC CEMETERIES.

ARTICLE I GENERAL

Sec. 1. Authority.

In compliance with Title 23, Chapter 18 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Town of West Greenwich hereby adopts the following regulations and standards to govern the protection of the historic cemeteries within the Town of West Greenwich.

Sec. 2. Purpose.

The town council of the Town of West Greenwich recognizes that historic cemeteries possess archaeological, social, cultural and religious significance that require sensitive and consistent maintenance. It is therefore the policy of the town to promote the continued preservation and maintenance of historic cemeteries by vesting the duty to protect, enhance, and otherwise ensure the perpetuity of these historic resources with the property owner.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

“Historic cemetery” means any tract of land which has been for more than one-hundred (100) years used as a burial place for human remains, whether or not marked with a historic marker or gravestone, containing one or more burial sites. The term “historic cemetery” also refers to an area twenty-five (25) feet around the perimeter of the cemetery.

Sec. 4. Preservation and Conservation of the Historic Cemetery, Artifacts, and other Pre-Existing Ancillary Features.

A historic cemetery property owner should maintain the historic cemetery and its associated features against decay, deterioration and structural defects. The property owner should exercise reasonable care to meet the applicable requirements established under this Article and Title 23, Chapter 18 of the Rhode Island General Laws so as to prevent the loss of historic material and the deterioration of important character defining details and features.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent the ordinary repairs and maintenance of any building, structure, or site, provided that such repairs or maintenance do not result in a conspicuous change in the design, form, proportion, mass, configuration, building material, texture, color, location, or visual appearance of any structure, or part thereof.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

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- 5. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON APPOINTMENT OF TOWN OFFICIALS-**
CORDER OF WOOD
TOWN HISTORIAN
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR
PLUMBING INSPECTOR
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR
RANGE OFFICER AND ASST. RANGE OFFICER
BONDED CONSTABLES
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AND ASST. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND ASST. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
PARADE CHAIRPERSONS
FIRE ALARM COORDINATOR
911 COORDINATOR
POLICE CONSTABLES

Council President Tourgee read the following appointments: Dr. Clyde S. Fish II, Corder of Wood; Charlotte Jolls, Town Historian; Kenneth Saccoccia, Electrical Inspector; John Kenney, Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector; Michael Andrews, Range Officer; Keith Laliberte, Asst. Range Officer; Richard Ramsay, Albert Taylor, Brad Barco and Frank Vollucci, Bonded Constables; Frederick Pendlebury, Communications Officer; Brooke Lawrence, Emergency Management Director; Richard Brown, Asst. Emergency Management Director; Wendy Tavares, Animal Control Officer; Kenneth Andrews, Asst. Animal Control Officer; E. Margaret Fish, Parade Chairperson; Frederick Pendlebury, Fire Alarm Coordinator; Barbara Sweet, 911 Coordinator; and Police Constable as presented.

Councilman Boyer moved to appoint the Town Officials as read for 2 year terms.

Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

- 7. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION BY TOWN AUDITOR OF DRAFT FINANCIAL AUDIT FY ENDING JUNE 30, 2016**

The Town's auditor, Jeff Wadovick and Michael Olson of Nadeau and Wadovick, presented the preliminary draft of the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. They stated the town is extremely healthy and financially secure and revenues were favorable.

Town Administrator Breene questioned how the state pension system works and why the town was only funded to 68 %.

Wadovick explained the town has over funded and always paid the retirement as required. He further explained the obligation and effects from employees retiring.

Discussion ensued on retirement funding.

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Councilman Mulcahey questioned the interest on the bond. Olson stated that was due to refinancing the bond with the better rate due to the ranking.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to adjourn as the Town Council and convene as the Liquor Licensing Board at 7:59 P.M. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

8. LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REQUESTS FOR 2:00 A.M. CLOSING – NEW YEAR’S EVE-

A. THE NUTZ ON NOOSENECK, LLC- TAVERN ON THE HILL- 809 NOOSENECK HILL ROAD

B. M& J ENTERPRISES- THE WOODS TAVERN- 45 NOOSENECK HILL ROAD

C. THE MISHNOCK BARN- 200 , MISHNOCK ROAD

Chief Ramsay stated there were no issues last year with any of the establishment.

Councilman Andrews moved to approve the request of Tavern on the Hill, The Woods Tavern and Mishnock Barn for 2 A.M. closing on December 31, 2016. Council Vice President Rekas Sloan seconded.

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

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to adjourn as the Liquor Licensing Board and reconvene as the Town Council at 8:00 P.M. Councilman Boyer seconded.

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

10. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REQUEST FROM FIRE BOARD OF ENGINEERS REGARDING REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE APPARATUS FUND

Councilman Mulcahey explained the request from the Fire Board of Engineers to request the \$60,000 from the Fire Apparatus Fund.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan questioned if the funding was already allocated.

Councilman Mulcahey stated this would be allocated from previous year funding not used.

Councilman Mulcahey recused

Councilman Boyer moved to approve the request from the Fire Board of Engineers to distribute \$60,000 from the Fire Apparatus Fund. Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

Discussion ensued on the Fire apparatus funding.

Treasurer Andrews confirmed the funding was not used from last fiscal year.

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11. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REQUEST FROM FIRE BOARD OF ENGINEERS REGARDING REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF CYBERCOMM INVOICE

Chief Ramsay explained the Cybercomm Invoice.

Councilman Mulcahey explained the town agreed to pay \$40,000 and West Greenwich Fire Company would pay \$2,382.82.

Discussion ensued on contribution and funding source including the reimbursement from the Trust.

Councilman Andrews questioned what steps can be taken to prevent lighting strike damage from ruining the equipment.

Chief Ramsay explained a lot of blocks have been implemented to prevent this from happening in the future.

Councilman Boyer moved to approve the request from the Fire Board of Engineers request for payment of the Cybercomm Invoice. Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

12. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON SETTING DATES FOR REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2017

Council President Tourgee read the proposed dates for Town Council Meetings in 2017: January 18th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan stated she had a conflict in February and August.

Town Administrator Breene stated he would not be present at the January meeting.

Town Solicitor Ursillo stated he also had a conflict in January.

Discussion ensued on moving the January meeting to January 18, 2017.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to approve the following dates for regular Town Council meetings in 2017: January 18th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th. Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

F. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comment.

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Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to close the meeting and to go into Executive Session at 8:11 P.M. for Potential Acquisition of Property. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A)(5) POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to come out of Executive Session and seal the minutes at 8:51 P.M. Councilman Boyer seconded.

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

No action was taken.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to adjourn at 8:52 P.M. Councilman Boyer seconded.

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

ERIN F. LIESE, CMC

TOWN CLERK