## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY EVENING - JANUARY 10, 2018

PRESENT: Calouro, Sweeney, Tyska, Parella, and Stuart

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
Michael A. Ursillo, Esq., Town Solicitor
A. Archie Martins, Town Sergeant

The Council met in regular session on Wednesday evening, January 10, 2018 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:06 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

Prior to the commencement of this evening's regular agenda, Council Chairman Calouro deferred to Town Administrator Contente who commended the Fire Department which successfully "saved lives and property" at three serious structure fires recently. He noted that there were two residential fires in Bristol, one on Poppasquash Road and another on Hope Street and that the Bristol volunteers were called to a mutual aid call at a structure fire in Portsmouth.

Councilwoman Parella observed that the Fire Department was also present to aid in public safety for a natural gas leak which occurred near her residence on High Street on Sunday evening, January 7, 2018. She noted that firefighters went door-to-door in the neighborhood, in very frigid temperatures, to check for fumes and warn residents.

## MOTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA - TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. SUBMISSION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
  - 1. Town Council Meeting December 20, 2017

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to approve these minutes as prepared and presented.

2. Town Council Special Meeting - December 19, 2017

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to approve these minutes as prepared and presented.

3. Town Council Executive Session (sealed - Council packets only) - November 29, 2017

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to unseal these minutes.

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to approve these minutes as prepared and presented.

- B. PUBLIC HEARINGS
- C. ORDINANCES
  - 1. Ordinance #2018-01, Chapter 27, Taxation, Article I, In General, (new) Section 27-12, Volunteer firefighter/EMS tax incentive program (to establish firefighter tax incentive), 1st reading

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2018-01. Advertise in local newspaper.

- D. LICENSING BOARD NEW PETITIONS
  - Carolyn Almonte, for Our Lady of Mount Carmel School PTG - Request for Bingo License, January 26, 2018
- LATE ITEM a. Recommendation Town Administrator and Chief of Police (approve)

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies.

- E. LICENSING BOARD RENEWALS
  - Erin E. Meyer, d/b/a Crate Escape Doggie Daycamp, 15 Gooding Avenue, Unit 18 - Six (6) Month Review of Dog Kennel License (license issued July 21, 2017)
- LATE ITEM a. Recommendation Town Administrator and Chief of Police (approve)

Stuart/Parella - Voted unanimously to receive and place this matter on file.

## F. PETITIONS - OTHER

1. James F. Davis, 51 Bradford Street, Apt. 1 - Request for "Accessible Parking" Space in Front of Residence, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

Sweeney/Parella - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for approval of an accessible parking space. Inform Public Works Department.

 Roland St. Onge, 421 High Street - Request for "Accessible Parking" Space in Front of Residence, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for approval of an accessible parking space. Inform Public Works Department.

## G. APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Public Service Appointments
  - a. Historic District Commission (2) (1 full member, term to expire July 2018; and 1 alternate, term to expire July 2019)
    - 1. Sonney Furtado, 148 High Street interest/appointment
    - Benjamin Cantor-Stone, 218 State Streetinterest/appointment
    - 3. Robbin Smolca, 353 Hope Street interest/appointment
    - 4. Gerald Walsh, 33 Byfield Street interest/appointment

Councilman Stuart nominated Mr. Walsh to the position of full member and Mr. Furtado to the position of alternate member.

There were no counter-nominations.

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to close nominations and to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot each in favor of Mr. Walsh and Mr. Furtado to the respective positions with terms to expire as noted above.

- b. Juvenile Hearing Board-Alternate (term to expire December 2020)
  - Marjorie J. McBride, 3 Avenir Court interest/reappointment
  - 2. Henry Cabral, 54 Sefton Drive interest/appointment

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to instruct the Clerk to arrange an interview for Mr. Cabral to take place at a special meeting to be held on January 31, 2018 beginning at 6:30 o'clock PM or at a special meeting to be held on February 7, 2018 beginning at 6:30 o'clock PM depending upon the availability of the interviewee.

- c. Christmas Festival Committee
  - Pamela Pelletier, 105 Valhalla Drive,
     Portsmouth interest/appointment
  - 2. Owen E. Trainor III, 198 High Street Resignation

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to provide Ms. Pelletier's name to the Christmas Festival Committee and to send Mr. Trainor a letter of thanks for service.

## H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilwoman Parella re Request Support for Implementation of Textile Recycling Program in Bristol, continued from December 20, 2017

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to continue this matter until the regular meeting of January 31, 2018.

Prior to the vote taken, Town Solicitor Ursillo reported that he has been unable to reach this company in order to complete the drafting of the agreement. He asked for a continuance until January 31, 2018.

- I. OTHER NEW BUSINESS REQUIRING TOWN COUNCIL ACTION
  - 1. (Bond Counsel) re Borrowing Resolutions

Stuart/Parella - Voted unanimously to adopt these resolutions as prepared by the Bond Counsel.

2. Director of Community Development Williamson re Request for Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(5) Lease of Town Property - Solar Project at Landfill and on Public Buildings

It is hereby noted for the record that action on this agenda item took place at the conclusion of the public agenda as found below.

3. Economic Development Coordinator Vitale - Request for Council Appropriation re 2018 Black Ships Festival

Parella/Sweeney - Voted appropriate \$2500 from the Town Council Contingency line for this initiative. Voting in favor of this motion were Council Chairman Calouro, Councilman Sweeney, Councilwoman Parella and Councilman Stuart. Voting opposed was Councilman Tyska.

Prior to the vote taken, Town Administrator Contente introduced the new Economic Development Coordinator Christian Vitale and reviewed Mr. Vitale's credentials. He noted that Mr. Vitale had been of particular assistance this past week with media outreach.

Economic Development Coordinator Vitale explained that the Town has an opportunity to bring the Black Ships Festival to Bristol from Newport since the City of Newport is no longer hosting the festival. He explained that the festival celebrates the relationship between Rhode Island native Matthew Perry and the people of Japan since Commodore Perry is considered to be the persons responsible for opening up trade agreements with the Empire of Japan in the 1800s.

Economic Development Coordinator Vitale explained that the festival should bring economic benefit to the Town since participants will spend an average of \$170 per day during the festival and that he anticipates that the festival will take place during the third weekend in July of this year.

Economic Development Coordinator Vitale also explained that brining the festival here will help satisfy a major goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan in that it will help diversify the Town's tourism offerings and extend the tourist season beyond the  $4^{\rm th}$  of July.

Patrick T. Conley, a member of the executive committee of the Japan America Society explained that the Society, as sponsor of this event may choose its location. He noted his opinion that Bristol would be a suitable site for this type of event and that it is well equipped to handle it.

Dr. Conley recalled that the Town was the site of a special visit of the Manga Carta in the past and also that the Town was the location of a special reception for the Black Ships festival approximately 25 years ago at the Linden Place Mansion. He noted that this reception honored the late Senator LeBaron Bradford Colt, a former resident of Linden Place, who supported trade agreements with Japan while serving in the US Senate in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Dr. Conley also noted that the Columban Fathers of Bristol have a history of missionary work in Japan and also that the Portuguese established missions in Japan as early as 1547. He reminded the Council that Bristol has a significant population of persons of Portuguese descent.

Councilman Stuart thanked Dr. Conley for his information.

Councilwoman Parella stated that she finds the proposal to be fascinating and that she believed that the festival was deeply rooted in the City of Newport. She asked to know the proposed location of the events with Economic Development Coordinator Vitale explaining that these sites are not yet determined but that they will be likely in downtown Bristol and likely will take place in Independence Park and/or the Town Common.

Eric W. Shweibenz, President of the Japan America Society explained that the festival draws many persons from the Boston area. He added that there is also a cultural exchange and that it raises awareness.

Mr. Shweibenz reported that activities include sword techniques, martial arts demonstrations, calligraphy demonstrations and Tyco drum performances.

He noted that there are several Japanese-based Rhode Island companies, including Toray Plastics, which sponsor the events.

Councilman Sweeney agreed that it is advisable to expand the Town's calendar of events and asked to know the duration of the Black Ships Festival.

Economic Development Coordinator Vitale explained that the festival is held over one weekend and that it will take place from July 12 through July 15. He added that there will likely be a gala reception at Roger Williams University and that the event overall will draw hundreds of persons.

Councilwoman Parella expressed concern that the dates in question include the annual Our Lady of Mt. Carmel feast and that this takes place already on the Town Common. She suggested that the two events would conflict and also suggested that the Town should endeavor to coordinate the activities to avoid difficulties.

Councilman Tyska asked to know if the Town must contribute \$2500 if the festival is to come to Bristol.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the City of Newport's contribution to the event in the past was \$5000 total. He noted that these funds were used to offset expenses. He added that he believes that the Town's investment would be well-spent with a good return. He noted that the Administration is requesting \$2500 from the Council contingency account at this time.

Town Administrator Contente also explained that the details of the event have not been yet determined and that most activities will likely take place in Independence Park and not on the Town Common.

Councilman Tyska asked to know if the Tourism Council has looked at this proposal with Town Administrator Contente responding that Michael Byrnes and Jeff Hirsh are in full support of the festival.

Councilman Tyska stated that he was interested to know any other costs that the Town may incur as a result of this event for security, police, park maintenance, etc., and what the anticipated overall budget would be. He suggested that the Council should not agree to any expenditure until it receives this budget information.

Councilwoman Parella noted that it appears that the Council's decision regarding its financial support of the initiative will help determine whether or not the festival will take place in Bristol.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the Council's financial support will prove the Town's commitment to the festival. He noted that the funds will be used to reimburse direct costs and that the maximum amount granted in previous years from the City of Newport was \$5000.

Councilman Tyska asked to know the amount allocated to the British Motorcar Festival with Director of Community Development Williamson explaining that this amount is several \$ thousands.

Councilman Tyska suggested that the Black Ships Festival might receive some of the already allocated tourism funds instead of a special appropriation from the Town Council contingency budget line.

Director of Community Development Williamson noted that the tourism line plans to provide \$2000 already.

Council Chairman Calouro stated that the recommendation asks for another \$2500 from contingency and observed that the line has \$10,000 remaining in it. He added that it may also be possible to instead budget a certain amount for the festival in next year's budget.

Council Chairman Calouro reminded the Council of the plan to have the Town's funds reimburse the festival for certain necessary expenses and that it would not be granted for "just anything."

Council Chairman Calouro added that he believes that it is appropriate for the Town to expand its calendar of events and that he would like to receive an "after action report" when the festival is concluded.

Councilman Stuart noted that there are already many summer activities including road repairs and asked to know if the Town was "in the clear" for this particular event.

Town Administrator Contente noted that the event is for one weekend and that the summer construction is slated for Metacom Avenue and not on downtown streets.

Councilman Stuart suggested that Roger Williams University community grants may wish to contribute to this event.

Councilwoman Parella noted that the Black Ships Festival was a great opportunity and suggested that the Town should readily embrace the project.

Councilman Stuart stated that he anticipates that the Black Ships Festival will be a good project for Bristol.

Town Administrator Contente clarified that no ships will be visiting the Town and that the festival rather celebrates the ships of long-ago.

Councilwoman Parella suggested that it would be advisable to move the festival in future years to a weekend in August since July is already quite busy.

Council Chairman Calouro noted that it would not be desirable to detract from the long-standing Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel which will take place the same weekend.

Councilman Tyska stated that he believes that the Black Ships Festival is desirable but that he is concerned that the Council is not in receipt of an itinerary. He added his concern that the Council is also unaware of the festival's budget and public safety requirements.

4. Town Administrator Contente re Presentation by Attorney Eva Mancuso - Prescription Opiates

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to approve the Town's hiring of Ms.

Mancuso for the action described and also to authorize the Town

Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town.

Prior to the vote taken, Ms. Mancuso appeared before the Council and explained that she has been a practicing attorney for 35 years. Ms. Mancuso explained that she represents the interest of several communities which seek damages from opiate manufacturers and distributors. She noted that there is an opiate abuse problem, in varying degrees, in each of Rhode Island's 39 cities and Towns.

Ms. Mancuso further explained details of the problem and its damages and the planned course of action. She asked that the Town of Bristol join in this multi-district litigation.

Ms. Mancuso explained that there are no up-front costs for the Town and no fees paid to the attorneys if they are not successful with the case.

Council Chairman Calouro asked Town Solicitor Ursillo what would be an appropriate course of action in this case with Town Solicitor Ursillo responding that there appears to be no downside for the Town should it choose to participate and that the Town would benefit if the action is successful. He added that he reviewed the engagement letter and determined, as earlier reported, that there are no up-front costs for the Town to consider.

Town Solicitor Ursillo recommended that the Town should hire the firm.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know how many other Rhode Island Communities are participating with Ms. Mancuso responding that she has already appeared before 9 towns and that all 9 of these are participating.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know how the Town will remain informed regarding the case with Ms. Mancuso responding that there will be a more formal announcement with Lt. Governor McKee

and that her assistant will begin working on the damages aspect of the case with the local police departments.

- J. BILLS & EXPENDITURES
- K. SPECIAL REPORTS
  - Allan Klepper, Barrington Director, Bristol County Water Authority - Monthly Report for January

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to receive and place this matter on file.

- L. TOWN SOLICITOR
- M. INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AGENDA ITEMS
  - 1. Calouro
  - a. Welcome Chris Vitale Council Chairman Calouro again welcomed Economic Development Coordinator Vitale and explained that the Council will support him in his new position. He also recommended that Economic Development Coordinator Vitale should work to improve the Town's relationship with existing businesses.
  - b. Snowstorm Council Chairman Calouro reported that the Department of Public Works, the Fire Department and the Police Department did an excellent job mitigating the recent snowstorm.
  - c. Veterans Council Council Chairman Calouro congratulated the new officers of the Bristol Veterans Council.
  - d. King Philip Avenue Council Chairman Calouro noted that the Town is undergoing a "test" to determine the value of a no parking zone on King Philip Avenue. He explained that the Council will receive information on the test and determine at its next meeting if the no parking zone should remain as permanent or revert to its previous use.
  - 2. Sweeney

- a. Snowstorm Councilman Sweeney congratulated Town Administrator Contente on his use of social media to inform residents of the snowstorm mitigation.
- b. E-Waste Drop-off Councilman Sweeney reported that there will be an e-waste collection event at the Transfer Station on March 10, 2018 when "anything with a plug" may be dropped off for safe disposal.

## 3. Tyska

a. King Philip Avenue No Parking Zone - Councilman Tyska asked to know if the residents of King Philip Avenue might receive notices if the Council intends to create a no-parking zone on that street.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Ordinance process requires advertising in the local newspaper before and after an ordinance is enacted and that interested parties should be encouraged to read the legal notices in the weekly paper.

b. Seniors - Councilman Tyska suggested that the Town might adopt a more extensive senior citizen program and hold a workshop to help identify the needs of the elderly. He suggested that senior services providers and high school and university students may be helpful with this project and aid in determining the Town's vision.

#### 4. Parella

- a. Snowstorm Councilwoman Parella agreed with the previous comments regarding the Town's handling of the recent snowstorm, adding that the automatic telephone calls were very well received. Councilwoman Parella also publicly thanked the various utility workers who made emergency repairs during the extreme cold temperatures.
- b. EMS Billing Councilwoman Parella expressed concern that some residents are receiving bills for emergency medical services and stated that she did not believe that it was Town policy to demand payments from individuals.

Fire Chief DeMello suggested that anyone experiencing this type of problem should contact his office.

#### 5. Stuart

- a. Congratulations to Kathy Bazinet Councilman Stuart noted the retirement of long-term East Bay Community Development Director Kathleen Bazinet. He offered Ms. Bazinet the congratulations of the Town.
- b. Elderly Concerns Councilman Stuart stated that he agreed with Councilman Tyska that there is a need for the Town to address the concerns of the elderly and noted that the Town has a board of elderly affairs.
- c. Snowstorm Councilman Stuart also commended those who worked to mitigate the recent snowstorm.
- d. Budget Season Councilman Stuart noted that the Town is about to begin its annual budget process and that this year's concerns will include requests for fire department and additional veteran abatements, the Joint Finance Committee, property revaluation, etc.
- e. Thank You Councilman Stuart extended typical thanks to Mike Davis, Archie Martins, and those who participate in the live and television audience.

### N. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AGENDA ITEM(S)

- 1. Bad Weather Mitigation Town Administrator Contente reported that the Department of Public Works is working to clear roads, sidewalks and storm drains and that the Department will continue to respond to other storm-related problems.
- 2. Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission Grant Town Administrator Contente introduced Director of Community Development Williamson who reported that her department received a grant of \$150,000 to repair the remaining portions of the exterior walls of the former Naval Reserve Armory now functioning as the Town Maritime Center. She noted that these repairs were suspended due to budget constraints and that the Town's match for this grant

will be covered by funds already expended. She added that the grant should complete all of the outstanding work.

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CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM

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Consent Agenda Items:

(CA) AA. SUBMISSION OF MINUTES-Boards and Commissions

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to receive and place these items on file."

- 1. Planning Board October 12, 2017
- Police Pension Fund-Board of Trustees September
   2017
- 3. Rogers Free Library-Board of Trustees September 19, 2017
- 4. Rogers Free Library-Board of Trustees October 19, 2017
- 5. Rogers Free Library-Board of Trustees November 16, 2017
- 6. Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force November 16, 2017
- 7. Board of Fire Engineers January 2, 2018

## (CA) BB. BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve these adjustments."

- 1. Tax Assessor/Collector Belair re Recommended Abatement & Additions December 2017
- (CA) CC. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to receive and place these items on file."

- 1. (Town Treasurer Goucher) re Revenue and Expenditure Statement - January 3, 2018
- (CA) DD. PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS & CITATIONS

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented."

- 1. Citation Kathleen D. Bazinet, Retirement
- 2. Commendation Brandon J. Moreira, Eagle Scout Court of Honor
- (CA) EE. UTILITY PETITIONS

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve these petitions."

(CA) FF. UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve advertising these Appointments."

- 1. Public Service Appointments-January
- (CA) GG. CITY & TOWN RESOLUTIONS NOT PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to receive and place these items on file."

(CA) HH. DISTRIBUTIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to receive and place these items on file."

- Application for Reappointment to Conservation Commission - Raul A. Abreu (reappointed December 20, 2017)
- 2. Application for Reappointment to Personnel Board- Amy M. Marino (reappointed December 20, 2017)
- 3. Town Administrator Contente to Joseph Fraioli re Preliminary Award of Bid #850 Bristol Rooftop PV
- 4. Warrant Carolyn Medina, Board of Tax Assessment Review
- 5. Warrant Raul A. Abreu, Conservation Commission

- 6. Warrant Antony Morettini, Conservation Commission
- 7. Warrant Matthew P. Cabral, Juvenile Hearing Board
- 8. Warrant N. Diane Davis, Juvenile Hearing Board
- 9. Warrant Amy M. Marino, Personnel Board
- 10. Town Administrator Contente to C & C Fiberglass Components, Inc. re Award of Bid #870 Pump-Out Boat Repair
- 11. Coastal Resources Management Council January 2018 Calendar
- (CA) II. DISTRIBUTIONS/NOTICE OF MEETINGS (Office copy only)

# Approval of consent agenda="Motion to receive and place these items on file."

- 1. Christmas Festival Committee December 28, 2017
- Planning Board-Technical Review Committee -January 2, 2018
- 3. Historic District Commission January 4, 2018
- 4. Bristol Warren Regional School District Schedule of Meetings, Week of December 24, 2017
- 5. Bristol Warren Regional School District Schedule of Meetings, Week of December 31, 2017
- 6. Bristol County Water Authority Public Hearing, January 11, 2018
- 7. Bristol County Water Authority-Board of Directors January 11, 2018
- 8. Zoning Board of Review January 8, 2018 (amended)
- 9. Bristol Warren Regional School District Schedule of Meetings, Week of January 7, 2018

- 10. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Budget/ Facilities Subcommittee - January 8, 2018
- 11. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee January 8, 2018
- 12. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Personnel/ Contract Subcommittee - January 8, 2018
- 13. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee January 8, 2018
- 14. Harbor Commission January 8, 2018
- (CA) JJ. CLAIMS (REFERRALS)

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to refer these items to the Insurance Committee and at its discretion to the Interlocal Trust."

(CA) KK. CLAIMS (DENIALS)

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to deny these claims and refer same to the Insurance Committee and the Interlocal Trust for response to claimant."

(CA) LL. CURB CUT PETITIONS AS APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to grant this curb cut per the recommendation of, and any conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works."

(CA) MM. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL

Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve these items."

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Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(5) regarding lease of Town property as so noted in agenda item I2 as found above at 8:29 o'clock PM.

Stuart/Tyska - Voted unanimously to resume open session and seal the

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY EVENING - JANUARY 10, 2018

minutes of the Executive Session at 8:36 o'clock PM.

Council Chairman Calouro announced that action was taken in Executive Session.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Stuart, seconded by Councilman Tyska and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:37 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC Council Clerk