

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the sixth day of December 2021 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Stephen Moffitt, Jr. at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Stephen Moffitt, Jr., Sharon Davis, Robert Marvel; Scott Bill Hirst, Michael Geary; Town Solicitor Stephen Sypole; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin.
Absent: Town Manager Brian Rosso.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session was to start at 6:15 PM but the applicants had cancelled.

The executive session began at 6:30 PM.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER: RIGL SEC. 42-46-5 (A)(2) LITIGATION.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Town Council President Moffitt affirmed all votes taken in Executive Session relative to RIGL sec. 42-46-5(a)(2) Litigation reading from § 42-46-4(b) - All votes taken in closed sessions shall be disclosed once the session is reopened; provided, however, a vote taken in a closed session need not be disclosed for the period of time during which its disclosure would jeopardize any strategy, negotiation or investigation undertaken pursuant to discussions conducted under § 42-46-5(a).

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

HEARINGS

2022 RIDEM LARGE RECREATIONAL GRANT

The Council opened a hearing to consider an application for a 2022 RIDEM Large Recreational Grant for public access improvements at Crandall Field located at 22 Ashaway Road identified as AP 2 Lot 3A; 188 Main Street, identified as AP 24 Lot 5 and 190 Main Street identified as AP 24 Lot 4 and to entertain public comment on the Crandall Field Public Access Improvement Project. Town Planner James Lamphere was present. Notice of the hearing had been published in the Westerly Sun on November 28, 2021.

Mr. Lamphere requested authorization to sign a \$400,000 grant request to RIDEM to be used for public access improvements at Crandall Field and one of their requirements was for RIDEM to see that this plan has been presented to the public and is supported by the public officials and residents. The plan was displayed on a screen for the audience to see. Mr. Lamphere explained that there are six key features of the plan, with the most important being a drainage system for the entire parking area which will feed into the pond that is located in the field. The parking area will be paved which will entail the reclaiming and recycling of the existing pavement which will make an extremely strong base for the new pavement. There will be additional parking spaces added as well and the path going from the parking area to the new playground will be paved. The

playground itself will have a rubberized surface which will be wheelchair accessible.

Councilor Geary asked Mr. Lamphere which would happen first, the installation of the new playground or the parking area. Mr. Lamphere noted the drainage for under the playground was going to be installed soon, along with the posts for the playground equipment. The playground equipment has been ordered but there will be a delay in receiving it. He anticipated that the playground would open by Memorial Day of 2022. The parking improvements would commence in the spring of 2023 for the grant has to be submitted and then reviewed. He did not anticipate receiving a response from the State until June of 2022 and they could not commence any work until the contract was signed. In the meantime the playground will have wood chips as its surface and the pathway going to the playground is going to be stone dust. Mr. Lamphere noted that they are also working on a master plan for the whole field, which Crossman Engineering was working on with the Recreation Commission. He suggested that DEM has recreational grants every two years and the town will be in a position to apply for those grants in order to complete these projects and improvements. Councilor Hirst felt this was a positive step forward for the town.

Public Comment:

Polly Hopkins of Kuehn Road asked if there would be public restrooms available and Mr. Lamphere responded that there would not be any exterior restrooms, but this was a good point. It was noted that composting toilets, such as what is at Ninigret Park, should be considered. Council President Moffitt believed that the composting toilets at Ninigret Park were put in with a DEM grant. Councilor Hirst wished to assert that if anyone sees someone vandalizing town property they should report it to the police.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO AUTHORIZE TOWN PLANNER JAMES M. LAMPHERE TO SIGN AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A RIDEM 2022 LARGE RECREATIONAL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000 TO

ASSIST IN THE FUNDING OF THE CRANDALL FIELD PUBLIC ACCESS
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILOR GEARY TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

The Council opened a hearing on an application for the transfer of a Class B Liquor License from Brick Oven Restaurant of Ashaway, Inc.; Keith Knott, 28 Old Richmond Townhouse Rd., Carolina, RI 02812 and Eva Platt, 450 Saugatucket Rd., Peace Dale, RI 02879 for property identified as Brick Oven Restaurant located at 209 Main St., Ashaway, RI 02804 transferring to Brick & Grills, Inc.; Pamela Grills Naccarato and Peter A. Naccarato, 556 Pendleton Hill Rd., North Stonington, CT 06359.

Attorney Paul Kuhn was present on behalf of the applicant and the applicants, Pamela Grills Naccarato and Peter Naccarato were present. It was noted that the filing fees had been billed out and would be collected by the time of opening. Councilors Hirst and Geary noted that they would miss Keith Knott and Eva Platt who had been very good members of the community and they wished them the best of luck.

Attorney Kuhn noted that he was present on behalf of Brick & Grills who was requesting a transfer of the liquor license, as well as a victualling license and holiday sales license. He introduced Pamela Grills Naccarato and her husband Peter, who were both natives of the area. Attorney Kuhn also introduced Jody Bush, Peter Naccarato's sister, who graduated from New England Culinary Institute and had thirty years of professional restaurant experience and has worked

as a private chef and a caterer. Council President Moffitt asked what they anticipated their hours of operation to be.

Pamela Grills Naccarato noted that they were planning on being open from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and after a few months of being open they hoped to expand the hours for two or three nights of dinner service and expected to close by 11:00 p.m. No one from the public spoke in favor of or opposition to the transfer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR MARVEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO GRANT APPROVAL TO THE BRICK & GRILLS, INC. CLASS B LIQUOR LICENSE SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

VICTUALLING LICENSE

The Council opened a hearing on an application for a Victualling License filed by Brick & Grills, Inc.; Pamela Grills Naccarato and Peter A. Naccarato, 556 Pendleton Hill Rd., North Stonington, CT 06359.

Attorney Paul Kuhn was present on behalf of the applicant and the applicants, Pamela Grills Naccarato and Peter Naccarato were present. It was noted that the filing fees had been billed out and would be collected by the time of opening. No one from the public spoke in favor of or opposition to the granting of the license.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO TO GRANT APPROVAL TO THE BRICK & GRILLS, INC. VICTUALLING LICENSE SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE

The Council opened a hearing on an application for a Holiday Sales License filed by Brick & Grills, Inc.; Pamela Grills Naccarato and Peter A. Naccarato, 556 Pendleton Hill Rd., North Stonington, CT 06359.

Attorney Paul Kuhn was present on behalf of the applicant and the applicants, Pamela Grills Naccarato and Peter Naccarato were present. It was noted that the filing fees had been billed out and would be collected by the time of opening. No one from the public spoke in favor of or opposition to the granting of the license.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO GRANT APPROVAL TO THE BRICK & GRILLS, INC. HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO ADJOURN AS LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CONSENT AGENDA

The Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021 were removed from the Consent Agenda. Councilor Hirst noted on page 4 it indicated two new fuses, but it should be three new fuses.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

WITHOUT THE NOVEMBER 15, 2021 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES AS FOLLOWS: Set January 3, 2022 ~~January 6, 2022~~ as the hearing

date for renewals of Campground Licenses; Set January 18, 2022 as the second

Town Council Meeting in January due to Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday; Set

January 18, 2022 as the hearing date for renewals of Commercial Haulers

Licenses; Set February 22, 2022 as the second Town Council Meeting in February

due to President's Day Holiday; Approve refund due to overpayment on 2021 real property tax submitted by the Tax Collector.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY

COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2021 AS CORRECTED.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Town Council discussed the draft Communications Committee Charge before them for possible approval.

Councilor Marvel noted that he had modified the definition of the

Communications Committee for clarification so that it would be clearly

understood that the Town Council liaison would be the point of contact that this

committee would use to communicate through the town departments. Councilor

Marvel read the charge:

Communications Committee: The communications committee will be a temporary committee consisting of five members appointed by the Town Council and having a Town Council member as liaison. The committee is responsible for exploring strategies and resources that will foster and promote a positive and productive dialogue with community members. Specifically, the community will explore ways in which the town can better communicate with the public through use of various vehicles such as social media and the town website; consider the establishment and management of a town newsletter and other forms of communication, including costs and personnel required; and, explore ways in which other boards and commissions can better communicate with residents as well as with each

other. The Town Council liaison will be the conduit for all communications between the committee and all town entities as well as other boards and commissions. All interim suggestions, ideas, questions, etc. directed to the Town Manager, IT Director or others will be funneled through the Council liaison. The committee will meet at a regular interval to be determined by the committee members. The commission will present its findings and make final recommendations to the Town Council at the first regular Town Council meeting in February of 2022. After this presentation, the committee's work is concluded and the committee will be dissolved.

Council President Moffitt asked Councilor Marvel why he had chosen the first meeting in February and Councilor Marvel indicated that he believed there was a reason but he could not remember what it was. Council President Moffitt felt that the committee should be given a specific time period, such as three months, to complete their charge. Councilor Marvel noted that his main goal was to have some good ideas in time to have people engage in the school and town budget process but indicated that he was not opposed to extending the time.

Attorney Sypole noted that in one instance in the charge it indicated this was a commission when it should consistently state committee throughout the charge.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO ADOPT THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHARGE WITH SUGGESTED CHANGES.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

TRI COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Public Welfare Director Joseph Moreau was present to make an announcement re: Tri County Community Action Agency Heating Oil Assistance and Weatherization Assistance.

Mr. Moreau explained that the Tri County Community Action Assistance Program is located on 34 Pond Street in Westerly and they are available to assist people with purchasing heating oil as well as provide other weatherization assistance. He noted there were brochures in the Town Clerk's Office, this information was available on the town's website, or anyone could contact him for

more information. Mr. Moreau noted that he has helped fourteen residents and he keeps things confidential. He was concerned about residents who may not have a computer so he was meeting with Mary Sawyer, Recreation Director, after the first of the year so they can discuss how they can help the seniors that go into the Crandall House.

Councilor Hirst hoped the press would give some attention to Mr. Moreau and his great work. He also thanked Pastor Stall for his food donation and noted that there were many organizations in Rhode Island that assisted with heating bills and oil purchases. He wished to remind people that they can call United Way at 211 for assistance in finding information for whatever they may need. Also, in January residents can apply for a reduction in taxes if they are eligible.

WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS TOWN COUNCIL BY-LAWS

The Town Council scheduled January 3, 2022 at 6:00 PM as the date for a workshop to discuss the draft Town Council By-Laws.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

POLICE COMMISSION

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to appoint one of three applicants to the Police Commission: Richard Longolucco, Howard Mills or Steven Weil. All three candidates had been interviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO APPOINT HOWARD MILLS TO THE POLICE COMMISSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CHARIHO FINANCE COMMITTEE

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to appoint Sylvia Thompson to the Chariho Finance Committee. Mrs. Thompson had been interviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPOINT SYLVIA THOMPSON TO THE CHARIHO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CHARIHO AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to appoint Sylvia Thompson to the Chariho Audit Subcommittee. Mrs. Thompson had been interviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO APPOINT SYLVIA THOMPSON TO THE CHARIHO AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to reappoint Holly Greene to the Animal Control Commission.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO REAPPOINT HOLLY GREENE TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILOR MARVEL TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF FREDA JOAN
POPE.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk