

JULY 24, 2014
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The July 24, 2014, Town Council Meeting was called to order by John J. Lewis, Jr., President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:04 p.m.

The following members were present:
John L. Lewis, Jr., President
Pamela Fontaine, Vice President
Neal C. Whitelaw, excused,
Denise DiFranco, and
Roger L. Hawes.

Also present were:
Renee M. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor
Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer
William Ziehl, Police Chief
Robert DePalo, Board of Canvassers Chair

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS** John J. Lewis, Jr. stated that the notice of the meeting was properly posted on the Secretary of State's web site.
- Pamela Fontaine read the notice from the top of the agenda: *The Foster Town Council does not sanction any electronic audio/video recordings of Town Council Meetings made by the public. Any audio/video recordings made by the public are not public records under Title 38 Public Records.*
- III. MINUTES** There were no minutes.
- IV. WARRANTS** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **Payroll Warrant #1** for \$36,710.33.
- John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **Payroll Warrant #2** for \$29,303.03.
- John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **General Warrant #2** for \$34,471.59.
- John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **General Warrant #24** for \$9,048.75.
- John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- V. MONTHLY REPORTS** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the June monthly reports from Building & Zoning, Department of Public Works, Finance, Human Services, Police, RIRRC and Tax Assessor.
- John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- a. Liquor License Transfer**
- John L. Lewis, Jr., stated that the Town had received a request to transfer the existing Class A license of Lorraine Healey, d/b/a The Watering Hole, to the new business name of The Watering Hole, LLC. He further stated that this was a change in name only, and not in location or ownership. Mr. Lewis opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.
- Mr. Lewis asked Lorraine Healey to identify herself. Mr. Lewis asked if there were any persons in the room who had any objections to this transfer. There were none. Mrs. Healey answered in the negative to the solicitor's inquiry regarding any bankruptcy proceedings. The public hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.
- Pamela Fontaine moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to approve the license transfer from the Lorraine Healey, d/b/a/ The Watering Hole, to The Watering Hole, LLC, as presented.

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John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**b. Liquor
License
Expansion**

John Lewis stated that Brad Smith, d/b/a/ Helen's Place, had applied to the Council for a permanent expansion of an outdoor patio to his establishment. Mr. Smith had met the necessary requirements for and been approved by the zoning and planning boards. Mr. Lewis asked if anyone was there to represent Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith's wife and attorney were present.

The public hearing was opened at 7:12 p.m.

Several people asked questions for clarification regarding the definition of a permanent expansion, how the egress from the patio was achieved and if there was to be music.

The public hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the permanent expansion for the patio, for alcohol and food consumption to be brought out to the enclosed patio by patrons only, and not by the wait staff.

Pamela Fontaine moved, John Lewis seconded, to amend the motion to state that future music is not included at this time.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Amended motion passed 4-0.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Main motion passed 4-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

**a. Additions/
abatements
Tax Assessor**

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the abatements as presented by the tax assessor, in the amount of \$949.71.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**b. Planning
Board Letter
of
Appreciation**

John Lewis read a letter of appreciation from the Planning Board, expressing their regrets that Ann-Marie Ignasher was leaving the position of Town Planner, and thanking her for her years of service. Julia Parmentier of the Planning Board personally voiced her gratitude.

**c. Planning
Board
Request for
Consultant**

John Lewis read a letter from the Planning Board requesting funds to hire a consultant or technical writer to assist in finalizing the group's efforts to update the Town Comprehensive Plan. Joseph Carey of the Planning Board spoke and outlined some of the assistance required.

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, that the Town Council further investigate available funding, the cost and feasibility of hiring such a person, and to include members of the Planning Board in that discussion.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**d. Appointment
of Negotiating
Committee,
IBPO**

John Lewis stated that the Council needed to establish a negotiating team for the next Police Contract. Denise DiFranco and Roger Hawes volunteered. Kelli Russ and Renee Bevilacqua would be available as consulting parties.

John Lewis moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to appoint Denise DiFranco and Roger Hawes to the Police Union negotiating committee.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**e. Hiring of
Part Time
Dispatcher**

John Lewis read a letter of recommendation from police Chief William Ziehl recommending the appointment of Nicholas Famulari as a part time dispatcher.

Denise DiFranco moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to honor Chief Ziehl's request for the appointment.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

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- f. Appointment of Fence Viewer** John Lewis read the request from Thomas D'Agostino to be appointed fence viewer for the Town, and gave background information about Mr. D'Agostino.

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to appoint Mr. D'Agostino as fence viewer.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

- g. Appointment of Deputy Town Clerk** Mr. Lewis read a letter from the Town Clerk requesting the appointment of Susan E. Sprague of South Killingly Road as Deputy Town Clerk.

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to appoint Ms. Sprague as Deputy.

John L. Lewis, Jr. aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- VIII. a. Update on Winsor Road Bridge** DPW Director Joseph Cardillo was unable to attend the meeting. He had left a written report with the bid award letter and a status report, which was read aloud by John Lewis. (see Exhibit A)

FUTURE

- IX. AGENDA ITEMS** Minutes from June 26, 2014, July 10, 2014 and July 24, 2014.

- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION** There was no executive session.

Pamela Fontaine moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

- XI. ADJOURNMENT** John L. Lewis, Jr. aye, Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

A digital sound file is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted by

Jane H. Christopher
Town Clerk