

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown, County of Washington, and State of Rhode Island, held in and for said Town, County, and State this 5th day of December, 2022 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Gregory A. Mancini, President
Katherine K. Anderson
Mary K. Brimer
Kerry P. McKay
Dr. Kimberly Ann Page

ALSO PRESENT: A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager
Jeannette Alyward, Town Clerk
Susan A. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk
Matthew F. Callaghan, Jr., Town Solicitor

An audio recording and video recording of this meeting was made to supplement the written record.

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown held on December 5, 2022 was called to order by President Mancini.

2. Notice of Meeting being posted

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-6(c), notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's Website.

3. Salute to Flag

President Mancini led those in attendance in a salute to the flag.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

I. NEW BUSINESS

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2022 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

6. Presentation to Outgoing Town Council Members

President Mancini presented gifts to Councilor Brimer and Councilor McKay for their dedicated years of service on the Town Council and is proud of all that they have accomplished over the years.

7. Administration of Oath of Office to the Town Council Elect

Treasurer Seth Magaziner thanked the Council for the opportunity to swear in the Town Council Elect and looks forward to working with the Council in his elected position of Congressman.

Mr. Magaziner administered the Oath of Office to the newly certified Town Council, to wit:

Katherine K. Anderson
Gregory A. Mancini
Lawrence C. Mandel
Matthew B. McCoy
Kimberly Ann Page

8. Administration of Oath of Office to the School Committee Elect

Mr. Magaziner administered the Oath of Office to the newly certified School Committee, to wit:

Thomas G. Briody
Erin West Earle

The Council and School Committee Elect thanked Mr. Magaziner for attending tonight's meeting and swearing in our newly elected officials.

The School Committee left the meeting.

Clerk's note: Signed copies of the oaths are filed with the back up materials for this meeting.

9. Election of Town Council President

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To elect Councilor Mancini as President of the North Kingstown Town Council.

10. Election of Town Council President Pro-Tem

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To elect Councilor Page as Town Council President Pro-Tem.

11. Town Council President's Remarks

President Mancini made the following statement:

"Tonight we are back in this chamber where our ancestors participated in democracy dating back to 1889. It is an honor for all of us to be here and carry on this tradition. Before I get into my remarks, I would like to recognize some folks for being here tonight:

- My aunt and uncle—thank you both so much for sharing this evening with me. I want you to both know that my senior campaign advisor was an inspirational part of my journey to be here today. I think of him often and I know you do too.
- I want to thank my family and in particular my wife Suzanne for all of their support during this very time-consuming endeavor. I appreciate your sacrifice to my campaign and our community.
- The town manager, town clerk, all of the department heads, as well as the representatives of our local municipal unions. You are all the backbone of our community.
- Treasurer Magaziner, Representative Craven, Senator DiMario, School Committee Members
- Mark Schwager
- And of course, the public at large who came here tonight

Lastly, I want to recognize and thank outgoing Councilors Mary Brimer and Kerry McKay for the service to our community. Public office requires tremendous commitment, hard work, and selflessness in service to your community. On behalf of NK's citizens, elected officials, and town staff, we thank you for your years of service.

This past election, the voters of North Kingstown elected 5 candidates from the same party. That is the first time that has happened since 1984; however, it has happened at least 15 times previously. Speaking of the last 2 years, between COVID and controversies, our community has been challenged. However, I believe we are turning the corner. As a consequence, in 2023 this Council has a lot of work to do. That starts with performing our core government responsibilities. We will:

- Make sure our buildings are properly maintained
- Ensure we continue to have quality schools, and
- Develop a responsible budget

It is my hope we move forward with:

- A recreation center
- Renovation of Yorktown Park
- Develop a new website
- Renovate our municipal office building
- Address deficiencies in our public safety complex
- Work collaboratively with Quonset to continue to grow our local commercial tax base
- Work collaboratively with DOT to:
 - Complete the Post Road/West Main sidewalk project
 - Address the Route 4 stop light challenges
 - Complete the roundabout
 - Develop a bike lane from the Wickford Junction parking garage

I hope we also:

- Improve communication with our advisory committees
- Take another stab at dealing with the challenges of Post Road, and
- Research open space acquisition opportunities

My fellow councilors and members of our community also hope we address:

- Our housing shortage and climate change challenges
- I assure those issues will be openly vetted

There are several important projects that are out of the Council's hands such as the proposed apartment complex near the train station and the Wickford El condo projects, but, to the extent we can assist, we will. As you can see, our list is long and ambitious.

Now, I know that there is a lot of uncertainty in our world. There is a war in Ukraine, a question of whether we are in a recession, concerns about inflation, COVID is still around, and there is even still uncertainty at the federal government level. This uncertainty was very evident when I went door to door this campaign.

After working with Kim Page and Katie Anderson these past 2 years, and getting to know Matt McCoy and Larry Mandel these past 7 months, I can say with a high degree of confidence that this Council will be a dependable branch of government that this community can have confidence in.

We will focus in a businesslike manner on the issues. We will not shy away from issues that need to be dealt with. We will educate ourselves on these issues by listening to staff and outside experts. We will solicit public input, and then we deliberate in an open and transparent manner. And we will do so without fear or favor that is in the best interests of our community. Personally, I can't wait to get started.

Thank you.”

12. Appointment of Municipal Court Clerk/Magistrate

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Jeannette Alyward, Town Clerk as Municipal Court Clerk/Magistrate to December 2, 2024.

13. Appointment of Municipal Court Judge

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint David F. Reilly, 20 Woodward Road, as Municipal Court Judge to December 2, 2024.

14. Appointment of Town Sergeant

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Joel Rocha, 1955 Boston Neck Road, Saunderstown 02874, Mailing Address: PO Box 174, Saunderstown, as Town Sergeant to December 31, 2024.

15. Appointment of Town Solicitor and Assistant Town Solicitor

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the law firm of Callaghan & Callaghan, 3 Brown Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852, to represent the Town of North Kingstown with Matthew F. Callaghan, Jr. reappointed as Town Solicitor and James M. Callaghan reappointed as Assistant Town Solicitor.

16. Appointment of Town Solicitor and Assistant Town Solicitors for Labor Relations

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That the law firm of Adler Pollock & Sheehan PC, One Citizens Plaza, 8th Floor, Providence, RI 02903-1345, is reappointed to represent the Town of North Kingstown for labor relations. Attorney Robert P. Brooks is reappointed as Town Solicitor for labor relations and additional members of the law firm are appointed as Assistant Town Solicitors.

17. Appointment of Bond Counsel

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: That the law firm of Taft & McSally LLP, 21 Garden City Drive, Cranston, RI 02920, is hereby reappointed as Bond Counsel for the Town of North Kingstown with David Ferrara reappointed as Solicitor for Bond Counsel.

18. Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2023

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2023.

19. Adoption of Budget Policies and Procedures for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the proposed Budget Policies and Procedures for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Town Budget as follows:

- All budgets submitted for consideration must be prepared on the zero-based budgeting method.
- All expenditures passed by the Town Council within the FY2024 Budget shall be noted as such within future Consent Agendas when associated expenditures for items that were approved within the budget are submitted for Town Council approval of bids.
- If the Department Head's budget calls for an increase of greater than 4% over last year (FY 2023), documentation needs to be provided to the Town Manager to show the critical need of expenditure(s) that must be met which allows for/creates this increase of greater than 4%.
- That the Capital Improvement Program shall be filed by January 31, 2023.
- In addition to zero based budgeting, the budget shall also be prepared based on a Budgeting for Outcomes Policy.

- Budgeting for Outcomes is a process designed to create a government that works better and contains costs.
- It is designed to prioritize controlling the percental of personal income the public is able to pay for their government through taxes, fees, and other charges.
- It is focused on results and priorities. It puts citizens and their priorities first and emphasizes accountability, innovation, and partnerships.
 - ✓ As a result, annually, the Town Manager shall request from the Council (members) a list of their priority initiatives and programs they wish to see considered within the upcoming budget.

20. Letter of Resignation

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Matthew McCoy resigning as the Veterans Affairs Representative.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk