

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
MINUTES-REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.
145 TAUNTON AVENUE-CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

City Council:

Council President, Bob Rodericks – At Large
Council Vice-President: Frank Rego – Ward 1
Councilwoman Anna Sousa - Ward 2
Councilman Frank Fogarty - Ward 3
Councilman Rick Lawson - Ward 4

City Solicitor, Michael Marcello
City Clerk, Jill Seppa

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Fogarty A Lawson X Rego X Sousa X Rodericks X

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS-

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council of East Providence may meet in Executive Session,
pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)- personnel, notice given

A. City Clerk

RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) litigation

B. Claims

1. Mario Correia
2. William Nichols
3. Edward Tanguay

C. Sewer Charge Abatement

1. JMB Enterprises

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Second, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Motion, X	
Rodericks	X	

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Fogarty _____ Lawson X Rego X Sousa X Rodericks X

V. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Second, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Motion, X	
Rodericks	X	

Councilwoman Sousa reported that the City Clerks position was discussed and no vote was taken.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR - For discussion and possible vote –

A. TAX ABATEMENTS

Year	Amount
2024	\$444.56
Total	\$444.56

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Motion, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Second, X	
Rodericks	X	

VIII. LICENSES - For discussion and possible vote

A. Motion to bundle licenses 1-6

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Motion, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Second, X	
Rodericks	X	

B. Motion to approve licenses

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Motion, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Second, X	
Rodericks	X	

C. NON-PUBLIC HEARING

1. Special Events – One Day Entertainment

Applicant: Diane Sullivan

Location: 610 Waterman Avenue (02914)

Event: East Providence Winterfest

Date & Time: December 14, 2024 3:00pm-7:00pm

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

2. Special Events – One Day Entertainment

Applicant: Melissa Miceli

Location: 33 Linden St (02914)

Event: Sixtieth Birthday Party

Date & Time: October 5, 2024 4:00pm-11:00pm

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

3. Special Events – One Day Entertainment

Applicant: Celeste Bremer

Location 7 Forbes St (02915)

Event: Gluten Free Food Fest

Date & Time: October 4, 2024 5:00pm-8:00pm

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

4. Food Truck Event

Applicant: Tracy Johnson/Crescent Park

Address: 700 Bullocks Point (02915)

Date & Time: October 5, 2024 11:00am-6:00pm (rain date October 6, 2024)

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

5. Special Event – Alcohol

Applicant: Jahdae Thomas

Address: 680 Waterman Ave (02914)

Event: Alumni Dinner

Date and Time: October 18, 2024 6:00pm-10:00pm

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

6. Mobile Food Establishment

Applicant: Caitlin White

Business: Iggys Food Truck

Business Address : 860 Oakland Beach Ave (02888)

D. PUBLIC HEARING**1. Liquor License-Class BV**

Applicant: Victor Foley

Business: The Outsider Cooking Company

Address: 1055 South Broadway (02914)

*Council Vice President recused himself and left the chambers for the hearing.**Applicant was present and gave an overview of his business.*

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Second, X	
Rego	Recused	
Sousa	Motion, X	
Rodericks	X	

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Any person who submits a communication to the Council and wishes to speak on it must indicate this in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. the Thursday prior to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. A person who lists more than one topic on their communication will be allowed to speak on the first one listed.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

All persons wishing to make public comment shall sign a public comment sheet stating their name, address and the subject of their comments. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes. The order of speakers will be on a first come, first serve basis and the maximum time for public comment shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes per meeting.

- 1. William Lewis – Water Sewer Billing-not present*
- 2. John R Peters re- Sabin Point Health Hazard*
- 3. Candy Seel spoke on public safety at the parkway*
- 4. Nancy Hale spoke on recycling and sustainability*

XI. APPOINTMENTS - none**XII. COUNCIL MEMBERS**

1. City Council - Administration Communication – discussion – Council President Rodericks

Council President raised this matter highlighting that he had a conversation with the Solicitor. He noted that the charter says that Council should not interact with City Staff. He clarified the point that the word in the charter inquiry means that the council can conduct an inquiry into a department. Solicitor Marcello confirmed it means that the council can conduct an inquiry of a department. Council President reiterated that.

the elected officials have an obligation to get information for their constituents. Councilman Lawson asked for clarity if he can email Department Heads. Councilman Lawson read the piece of the charter in question. Councilman Lawson confirmed with the Solicitor and asked if the council is not allowed to contact department heads directly. The Solicitor confirmed that this is correct, the Council can not contact department heads.

Chief of Staff Resendes said her view is that we are all a team. She highlighted that she gets text messages at 7am. and it would be helpful if the council all contact her in the same way.

Councilman Lawson said it seems in conflict with the concept of transparency to not be able to ask for information.

2. Open discussion on the proposed plan to disperse \$1.2 million meant for small business impacted by the bridge closure – discuss – Councilman Lawson
Councilman Lawson reported that business owners are not happy with the small business grant amounts. He said he would like to ask RI Commerce if the amounts can be increased for availability to small businesses.
3. Update on Volkswagen Settlement Funds for Sabin Point-discuss – Councilman Lawson
Councilman Lawson said a few years ago and is looking for an update.
4. Update on crosswalk light repairs and replacement citywide – Discuss –
Councilwoman Sousa revisited the crosswalks at Reynolds/Broadway and Warren Ave/Purchase in the Seventh Street area. She highlighted that these are high traffic areas with schools and a lot of pedestrian traffic. She reported that several months ago she was told a piece was ordered to repair. She requested an update with detailed information.
5. Councilwoman Sousa shared that she has been asking for months for the non-functioning crosswalks Warren Avenue, Broadway and Reynolds
Councilwoman Sousa discusses the on-going safety issue that is the crosswalks, emphasizing that the community is confused on why there has been no solution. DPW last update was that the piece for the lighting fixture has still yet to come in. Councilwoman Sousa again asks respectfully that the administration expedite this safety concern and brings proof that something has been done to start the repairs. Councilwoman Sousa highlights that sometimes the safety patrol vehicle put in place to stop cars from blocking the box, sits on the sidewalk which obstructs the walkway for pedestrians.
Councilman Lawson updates that the Washington Bridge destruction is being halted to preserve evidence for the state lawsuit.
6. Update on Ward 1 traffic study requested 9/3/24 – discuss – Council Vice President Rego
VP Rego updates the public on the inquiry sent to the mayor's office via letter and reiterates that he has not received any communication relating to the process for the study getting started.
7. Update on opening contract with East Providence Fire Department for implementation of Fourth Rescue – discuss – Council Vice President Rego
VP Rego reads into record a letter to The Honorable Roberto DeSilva, the Mayor of the City of East Providence. In the letter, VP Rego follows up on the request made on

the 5th of December 2023 for the planning and implementation of a fourth full time rescue. This was followed up by the Resolution 137 signed on June 4th, 2024, with unanimous council support. In a recent press release, there was an announcement that the City of East Providence will receive a \$3.75 million Safer Grant to hire 12 new firefighters and VP Rego requests information on where the money has been placed in the budget, updates, and other questions.

Councilwoman Sousa asks the docket to be moved to Section E: Introduction of Ordinances, number 1.

XIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS – Ordinance for final passage - For discussion and possible vote-

1. Ordinance - Sec. 18-307 No Parking - Somerset Avenue, Arrowhead Avenue and Kingsford Avenue

Sponsor: Council President Rodericks, Councilman Lawson

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Motion, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Second, X	
Rodericks	X	

Council President Rodericks speaks on getting signage in and the legalities for this ordinance. Council opens the public hearing. Council closes the public hearing after no takers for discussion.

XIV. CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. Standing Item - Discuss impact of Washington Bridge closure in the City of East Providence – *City Council*

Councilman Lawson and VP Rego received a text from a reporter detailing that the Washington Bridge demolition work is being halted to preserve evidence for the state lawsuit. The original plan was to close Waterfront Drive at 10 p.m. until 9/23/24. Councilman Lawson reiterates that the halt of the work should not affect the current traffic patterns and is mainly only affecting the timetable.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

A. MAYOR COMMUNICATIONS-

1. Items for announcement/discussion
 - FY 24/25 Capital Budget Proposal – Letter to Council
October 1st is the first public hearing/advertisement, after that hearing then the Council can begin making changing and discussing. October 8th for another hearing as well. Another workshop is scheduled for the Council on September 24th as well.

Motion made for October 1st to be first advertised public hearing on the mayor's proposed budget by Councilman Lawson. Seconded by Councilwoman Sousa. Motion passes 4-0.

21st of October is the absolute last day for final public hearing on the vote for the budget if the day is needed.

Councilwoman Sousa makes a note that on November 5th there is a scheduled council meeting, but due to it being Election Day, the Council will not be in session.

Next workshop is scheduled for the 24th of September.

Dates being held for meetings about the budget are as follows, workshop on 24th of September, advertised public hearing on October 1st, hearing on October 8th, hearing on October 15th, and final decisions/absolute last hearing on the budget on October 21st.

- East Providence High School Bond /Capital – Letter to Council

B. REPORTS OF OTHER CITY OFFICIALS-

1. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2025 East Providence School Budget / Dr Forand & Director of Finance Craig Enos – Review & Discuss
2. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget Proposal- Review & Discuss
3. City Solicitor - Claims Report
4. City Council to schedule and select date for Public Hearing on Mayor's proposed FY25 budget (October 1, 2024)

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Motion, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Seconded, X	
Rodericks	X	

C. REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE LIAISON-

D. RESOLUTIONS - For discussion and possible vote

1. A Resolution To Authorize The Mayor To Purchase New Helmets For The Fire Department From Firematic Supply Co., Inc

Sponsor: Council President Rodericks, Councilman Fogarty

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	X	
Rego	Motion, X	
Sousa	X	
Rodericks	Second, X	

Councilwoman Sousa addresses the skip over of the election day council meeting on November 5th and asks City Clerk Seppa to add it to the docket for the next council meeting unless the council makes decision now.

Council decides to hold session November 12th in replacement of the meeting on the 5th.

E. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - For discussion and possible vote-

1. Motion To Remove From Table And Set Hearing Date For Potential Zone/Comprehensive Plan Change

Summary: Petition for zone change from I-1 to C-2

Petitioner: JAG Properties LLC

Street address: 0 Wampanoag Trail

Location: Map 709, Block 1, Parcel 1

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson	Motion, X	
Rego	X	
Sousa	Seconded, X	
Rodericks	X	

Agenda moves back to Public Hearings

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

Motion to go into executive session about the aforementioned subjects in IV. Executive Session. Motion made by Councilwoman Sousa, Seconded by Councilman Lawson. Motion passes 4-0.

Council ends in Executive Session as there is nothing further to discuss for this meeting through public hearing.

Approved by Council: October 22, 2024

Attest:

City Clerk