

Town Council Meeting
January 13, 2022

The January 13, 2021, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, in Foster, RI at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Denise L. DiFranco, President
Heidi Rogers, Vice President
Chris Stone
David Paolino, excused
Cheryl Hawes, excused

Also present:

Mark Tourgee, Solicitor
Julia Chretien, Assistant Solicitor
Kelli Russ, Finance Director
Michael Antonellis, Planner
Gordon Rogers, DPW Director
Chief David Breit

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT** Ron Cervasio spoke about Economic Development.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA**
- Approval of Minutes** for December 9, 2021
- Approval of General Warrants**
- General Warrant #9 \$121,323.64 General
Warrant #10 \$120,380.72
- Monthly Reports (November 2021)**
- a. Planning Department b. Building & Zoning c.
DPW d. Police e. RIRRC
f. Social Services
- Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
1. Recreation Committee Resignation
- Allyson Wojtaszek sent in a resignation letter from the Recreation Committee.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the resignation from Allyson Wojtaszek.
Motion passed 3 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
2. Planning Board Resignation
- Heidi Rogers read the letter from Helen Hardy. (See Exhibit A)
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept Helen Hardy's resignation from the Planning Board.
Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco stated that she had spoken with Ms. Hardy. She has been on the Planning Board for many years and her resignation is disappointing but she is willing to help in any way. It is accepted with regrets.
Motion passed 3 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

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3. Governor's Executive
Order 22-01

Denise L. DiFranco stated that we can do hybrid meetings or virtual. Heidi Rogers asked if they could take it meeting by meeting. Denise L. DiFranco said she did not remember how long the order was to take place. Atty. Tourgee said it was not long.

Denise L. DiFranco said the public hearing would be hybrid. Atty. Tourgee said it is in place until February 4, 2022. So you can say that if it is renewed on February 4, then you can vote on having it virtual by Zoom.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to have the meetings be by Zoom if the Executive Order is extended beyond February 4, 2022 and until the expiration of the order.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

4. Public Hearing for
January 27th

Denise L. DiFranco said this was on the agenda because it had been advertised as being at Paine School. She noted that an email blast had been sent out that it would be hybrid. Atty. Tourgee said that it has to be held at Paine School because it was advertised that way, and that at least three of them must attend.

5. Leasing of Nike Site
Building

Mr. Antonellis stated that Gordon Rogers had asked for the council's permission to see if there was interest in renting the building for a commercial use. We were looking for people who fit the model for office use. There should be a copy of the application from the interested party who intend to use it as a central location as a Housekeeping operation with storage of small supplies. If you are supportive of entering into a lease like that then we will proceed with background checks and things like that. Gordon Rogers said he was showing the property. There are also others interested. Heidi Rogers asked about the other parties that are interested. Denise L. DiFranco said she was glad about the background check and would want the solicitor to look at the lease. Julia Chretien said she would be willing to draft the lease. Denise L. DiFranco asked Kelli Russ about the Trust and if they had any guidelines.

Lynne Rider asked if there was a policy about storing hazardous materials. Denise L. DiFranco said they would look into it with the Trust. Mr. Antonellis said they would be mindful of that.

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, that they continue moving forward with the process.

Atty. Tourgee said to vote when they need to finalize when they have an applicant in mind.

Lynne Rider asked if they were going to lean more toward local people as opposed to someone outside of town. Said they would move forward if they have someone, they would not leave it empty waiting for someone local.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5A (2) Litigations,**

1. TOF v. R.P. Investment Company LLC d/b/a Price Auto – PC-2020-01954
2. National Opioid Litigation

Potential Litigation

1. 186 Danielson Pike

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Collective Bargaining / Negotiations or Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5-a (2) and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 & 5.

No discussion.

Motion passed 3-0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

The council reconvened in to Open Session at 7:40 p.m. Denise L. DiFranco announced that one vote was taken to grant an extension of 30 days at 186 Danielson Pike for demolition beginning today January 13, 2022. Motion passed 3 – 0.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

Foster Town Council
Clerk, Town of Foster

Foster Town Hall
Howard Hill Road
Foster, RI

December 13, 2021

Dear Town Council and Susan,

This is to let you know that I will be resigning from the Planning Board following the January 5 meeting. I wanted to let you know to allow time to find a replacement, so that the Planning Board is not short a member.

Please know that I will be happy to assist Michael Antonellis and the Planning Board members in any way they might need.

Sincerely,

Helen Hardy