

Construction noise debated at council session

New ordinance will limit hours, days for contractors

By Sam Bari

The Town Council heard Monday from residents annoyed by constant construction going on near their homes. The discussion prompted the town solicitor to suggest an ordinance that would limit the number of hours per day contractors could show up for work on their sites.

Peter Vetter, of 359 East Shore Rd., and his wife Laura addressed the council and complained of noise and disruption of their lives due to a construction crew working across the street at 366 East Shore Rd. Vetter said that the construction crew started work at 6 a.m. every morning and continued to work for 16 to 18 hours a day, and often on weekends.

His wife said that she continually called the police, but the workers kept working and did not stop. Vetter said that it was time for the town to step in and do something because they needed to get some sleep.

Councilman Sutton said that in the past construction companies were told that there wasn't an ordinance, but the practice in Jamestown was to work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and never on Sundays. He said that most construction companies complied with that request and considered it to be reasonable.

Vetter brought residents from other neighborhoods with him who suffered from the same problem. Some said that security lights burned all night long into their windows while the people who owned the house weren't even there. Others complained about the unrelenting noise and beeping created by trucks backing up.

Vetter added that the vehicles often blocked mailboxes and the mail carrier would not deliver mail because the box was not accessible. When he complained about it to the construction crew, Vetter and his neighbors found their mailboxes moved across the street the next day.

Town Solicitor Peter Ruggiero said that he could draft a zoning ordinance governing construction hours and noise and have it ready for a Town Council vote by the next meeting. Vetter asked if he could include dust in the ordinance because there was so much dust created by the construction that his family hasn't been able to open their windows for months.

The councilors agreed that ordinances were necessary and approved the preparation of a draft designed to regulate hours, noise, and impact on surrounding areas by construction crews.

Licenses and permits

The Town Council sitting as the Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Board approved license renewal applications for: Class A,

Grapes & Gourmet, Jamestown Wine & Spirits; Class B – Tavern, The Bay Voyage; Class B – Victualer, Chopmist Charlies, Jamestown Oyster Bar, Inc., Narragansett Café, Jamestown Golf and Country Club, Portuguese American Citizen's Club, Tricia's Tropigrille, Slice of Heaven, Trattoria Simpatico and Class D, Conanicut Yacht Club.

The licenses were approved under the conditions that debts, taxes and appropriate signatures as well as, when applicable, proof of insurance were all in place. The licenses included multi-license renewal applications, virtualing license applications, exhibition licenses, and one day peddler license applications.

Public hearing

The board also held a public hearing and approved the applications for extended hours and the renewal of the licenses for Jamestown Mobil on Narragansett Avenue and the Cumberland Farms Store on North Main Road under the conditions that debts, taxes and appropriate signatures as well as, when applicable, proof of insurance were all in place.

Installation of poles

The council voted unanimously to approve a petition by Verizon Communications and the Narragansett Electric Company to place three joint poles and one anchor guy at a location on Court Street.

Paiva Weed wins caucus endorsement for Senate president

M. Teresa Paiva Weed, the Rhode Island Senate majority leader and Jamestown senator, won the endorsement of fellow Democrats on Monday night to hold the position of Senate president when the full Senate returns to session in January.

Although the vote is not a binding vote and must be deciding on by the full Senate, the Democrats control 33 of 38 seats in the senate almost ensuring Paiva Weed the position.

Paiva Weed garnered 30 out of 33 possible votes to win the endorsement, making her the first women who will hold the title.

"I am very humbled by the endorsement of my fellow senators," Paiva Weed said. "The defeat of Joe Montalbano on election night was unexpected, so I did not expect or prepare for this ahead of time."

Paiva Weed said her focus will be to move forward quickly on economic issues facing the state. "Getting an early supplemental budget from the governor is priority. I would like the opportunity to meet with the governor to map out steps we can take to ensure the best possible outcome."

She said it was very meaningful and overwhelming to her to

earn a place in legislative history as the first women president of the Rhode Island Senate.



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Thank You

My sincere thanks to the Jamestown and Newport communities for trusting me to continue representing your interests in the Rhode Island State Senate.

It has been my honor to serve you and I look forward to the hard work ahead.

M. Teresa
PAIVA WEED
Senate ★ Democrat



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