

**NARRAGANSETT TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2017 MINUTES**

At a Work Session Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Narragansett held on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 6:04 p.m., at the Narragansett Town Hall.

Present: Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, President

Matthew M. Mannix, President Pro Tem arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Jill A. Lawler, Member

Michael T. Moretti, Member

Patrick W. Murray, Member

James M. Manni, Town Manager

Laura Kenyon, Finance Director

Allan Booth, Tax Assessor

Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, President opened the work session on Tax Classifications that was scheduled at the August 8th council meeting where the first reading was read to amend the Ordinance of Chapter 70 of the Code of Ordinances entitled "Taxation and Finance (Class 2 Tax Classification) that was proposed by Councilors Moretti and Murray. Laura Kenyon, Finance Director remarked that the work session was specifically for the cap on the commercial rate as it relates to the residential rate. She noted the proposal was to change the cap from 150% to 125% of the residential rate. She said it was explained at the last council meeting that the commercial rate is currently up to 150% and could be brought down to the 125% without changing the ordinance however by changing the

ordinance to the cap of 125% would make it the high end and the council would not be able to raise the cap unless there was another ordinance change.

President Buonanno asked for comments from the public and the following individuals spoke on the matter:

Councilor Moretti commented that the current residential tax roll stands at \$.4.2 Billion and the current commercial tax roll is \$298 Million Dollars. He said that the rate for the current budget established to fund the town's priorities were: Homesteaders rate \$9.50, Non-Homesteaders \$10.56 and the Commercial rate was \$15.84. He noted that only in a reevaluation is a town able to adjust the rates. He noted that the proposal was to change the 150% of the lowest rate to 125% of the lowest rate was within the council's authority. He said it would be as follows: Homesteaders \$9.69, Non-Homesteaders \$10.77, Commercial rate \$13.46 all for \$1,000 of assessed value. He noted it would be an increase of 19 cents and for Homesteaders and increase of 21 cents for Non-Homesteaders. He said that an example of a home assessed at \$350,000 with a homestead exemption would be an increase of \$66.50. He noted that the town did also offer other exemptions for property owners if needed.

Stanley Wojciechowski, Harry Schofield, Richard VanGermeersch, Raymond Kagels, Carol Stuart, Joseph Lembo, Annemarie Silveira, Betsy Cournoyer and Steve Ferrandi

A discussion was ensued on a three-tier tax rate that was a proposal from resident Harry Schofield.

Councilor Moretti commented that the proposal was only to lower the commercial rate to 125% and he has spoken with many small business owners who also live in town, which the proposal was to help, and the impact to the residents was not a big impact. He said it was appropriate for a reduction in the commercial rate for the town.

A discussion was held on the process at budget time and the timeline for the evaluation year.

Allan Booth, Tax Assessor addressed the history of property increases in 2002 forward regarding both commercial and residential properties. He noted that the commercial property was stagnant for years while the residential properties were not.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ends at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:



Anne M. Irons, CMC
Council Clerk

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS
PRESENTED 10-02-17



Anne M. Irons, CMC
Council Clerk

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaXrjLKjolyaFtqVXBLwEfg>