



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

**Auditorium – Town Hall
8:00 P.M.**

November 10, 2015

Councilors Present:

- Carol Anest
- Gail Budrejko
- Beth DelBuono
- Maureen Klett
- Tim Manke
- Jim Marocchini
- David Nagel
- Diana Serra

Town Staff Present:

- John Salomone, Town Manager
- Tanya Lane, Town Clerk
- Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

I CALL TO ORDER – Town Clerk Tanya Lane

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by Tanya Lane, Town Clerk.

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

A Mayor

- Mayor Roy Zartarian

B Town Council

- Carol Anest
- Gail Budrejko
- Beth DelBuono
- Maureen Klett
- Tim Manke
- Jim Marocchini
- David Nagel
- Diana Serra

C Board of Education

- Jane Ancona-Siegel
- Sharon Braverman
- Emily Guion
- Nancy Petronio
- Joshua Shulman
- Steven Silvia
- Cindy Stamm
- Robert C. Tofeldt, Sr.
- Paul Vessella

D Fire Commissioners

- Jerry Langille

E Constables

- John Jay Bottalico
- Fred H. Callahan III

IV COMMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Zartarian: Thank you Tanya and thank you to everyone for coming out tonight. I know the weather is not the best but the way the seats are filled here, shows that Newington really cares about its community. If you were at the Peanuts movie last Friday, you heard Billy DeMaio talk about the theme he is working on of building a stronger community and it looks like tonight we already have a head start on reaching that objective.

A year ago I would be very incredulous if somebody told me I would be sitting here tonight but here I am elected Mayor of Newington. For that I am both grateful and humbled, and I pledge to you that I will do my utmost to fulfill the confidence the community has shown in me. Newington, as we know, is facing major challenges in the days ahead. During the campaign, both sides took the high road and stayed focused on the issues ahead of us. To Carol, Jim, Diana, Gail, Maureen, Beth, Tim, and Dave, to the new and returning members of the Board of Education, I say, let's work together as we campaigned with dignity and respect for each other. Yes, we are going to have disagreements. We can agree to disagree but at the same time, let's work together for the community. Let's work together to make Newington a better place. Thank you.

V TO CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPOINTMENTS TO A SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mayor Zartarian: The next item on the agenda (can you hear me OK, am I coming through the speakers OK?) is to consider and take action on appointments to a subcommittee on council rules of procedure. I really think this is better tabled until our next meeting, which would be on November 24. Can I get a motion to table?

Councilor Klett: So moved.

Councilor DelBuono: Second

Mayor Zartarian: Councilor Klett made the motion and Councilor DelBuono seconded the motion. All those in favor? Motion passed 9 – 0. We will put that on the agenda for the meeting on November 24.

VI APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR

A Town Attorney

Mayor Zartarian: First off Town Attorney, Ben Ancona, who is sitting somewhere. Assistant Town Attorney will be Anthony J. Palermo and Labor Attorney will be Brian Giantonio.

B Clerk of the Council

Mayor Zartarian: We are most pleased that Linda Irish-Simpson has agreed to continue in her role and again thank you very much Linda.

C Designation of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Zartarian: The Deputy Mayor will be Maureen Hogan Klett. The Majority Leader will be Beth DelBuono and the Minority Leader will be Carol Anest.

VII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Clarke Castelle: I am going to start by poking a little fun at myself. The composition of this Town Council does not look a whole lot like the ballot I cast a week ago. I meant for that to be a joke. But it is no matter since you have earned your votes, and you are to be congratulated, and I certainly wish you all success for your sake and for the sake of the Town. We can't hope for anything else. Whenever an election is won this decisively there is a super majority it has happened a couple of times. I remember an antidote, a history buff like Roy Zartarian, may remember this. The cavalry officer after the battle of Cannae as some of you remember if Hannibal had marched straight into Rome, we would today be boasting of our Carthaginian cultural heritage and ancestry. His very disappointed cavalry officer said to him, you know how to win Hannibal but you don't know how to use your victory. I point that out, not as a warning, but I just want it kept in mind and I hope sincerely that all of you will use your victory wisely and work together and do great things for the Town of Newington. I do have a couple of suggestions in mind but I don't want to ruin the party tonight but actually since the Board of Ed is here, I do have one that I think I would really like to pass along. That is, go up to the third floor as quickly as possible and please if it is lawful, start talking about the budget now so that it is not such a traumatic experience in March and April. Congratulations to everybody and I hope I can work with you a little bit from the sidelines in the future.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: Mayor Zartarian and members of the Newington Town Council: as most of you might be aware, it has been going around that you will collectively will be known as the New Day Town Council. It reminds me of the Greg (inaudible) song, There Will Be a New Day. Think about that. For most of us that is true. When we wake up the day ahead is a new day. The day may be filled with

challenges, commitments, promises, sadness, joy among other things. We all have the power to make the most of that day and to do the best we can. You have been elected to your respected posts by the great citizens of our beloved Town of Newington. You now have a chance to do great things and to continue to make Newington our town that we can all be proud of. I commend the citizens of Newington for adding their voices to the process because it is so very important especially in the realm we live in today. So back to the song: (sings) – There will be a new day, there will be a new day, there will be a new day. Change is coming be strong. You won't have to wait long, there will be a new day. There will be a new day, there will be a new day, there will be a new day. Every voice lift up and sing til the hills and valleys ring. There will be a new day.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: Good evening Town Council and Councilors, Mr. Mayor. I just want to say congratulations. I think it is a pretty nice mix that I see here, and I do have good feelings about this and about the majority; I'm not talking about political parties, I am talking about the women versus men. I think that will be interesting too. Thank you.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Former Mayor Lenares, would you like to give my address? I just want to say congratulations to all of you. As you know Maddy and I have been around for a while and we have seen, the good, the bad and the ugly. I hope this is the best of the best and for the next two years go forward and do what you can to make this a better Newington. Now the good news for the Town Council is that Maddy and I took a vote tonight and we have decided that we can leave you in the capable hands of Roy Zartarian. Bad news is – Board of Ed, here we come!

VIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Marocchini: First of all I would like to thank the Town for coming out and voting showing your faith in all of us at this table. I have to thank my family. Election time is a very busy for all of us as we all know. It's a lot of time away from home. My daughter, Isabella, my sister, Katherine, my father, my mother, my wife, Jill, all came out to congratulate me this evening and all of us for that matter. And I am looking forward. Let's get to work. Thank you.

Councilor Serra: Again I would like to thank everybody in Newington for coming out to vote. I hope I will do what you want me to do up here. This is what I am here for for the people not for me. I would like to thank my parents, my brother, my husband, Bob. I spent many hours away from home without them while campaigning, and I appreciate them standing behind me through all of this, and I look forward to working with everyone here.

Councilor Anest: I again would like to thank everybody for the confidence you have in all nine of us to lead Newington into the future. I think we have a really well mix of personalities and ideas and education and thoughts and I think we will do really well for the Town. I thank you for that. I want to thank my husband, John, my parents, Sam and Al, my sister, Kathy, my niece, Emily who is not here. She is at the high school practicing for the play. For all their support they have given me, I have for many years been away from home and missed a lot of family things and I truly appreciate the support that you guys have given me and you continue to give me. I hope I don't disappoint anybody in the town because Newington does come first to me. Thank you.

Councilor DelBuono: I too would like to thank everyone. This is difficult going in a row like this. We all have very similar thoughts I think so good luck Gail thinking of something unique down at the end there. I too want to thank everyone. The last six months or so we have had an incredible turnout of people to our meetings, and we always have certain people who come out to every meeting, and we know them very well but the Town of Newington really took notice the last several months and really started paying attention to things at the Council table, at the Board of Ed table and just really started letting us know what they wanted. I just want everyone out there to know how much we appreciate the input from you because we all don't know what to do up here unless we hear from you. So, I always like to remind people that we do have email addresses on the Town website, and we are easy to reach that way. So, please as you think of things, please let us know because the only way we know is if we hear from you. Thank you to everyone who not only voted but has taken the time to let us know what you expect of us

and what you want from us up here. We appreciate that. A special thanks to my family; my husband, Scott, my kids, Matthew and Kinsey, and my mom. Thank you.

Mayor Zartarian: OK I will mix things up a bit and call on Councilor Budrejko.

Councilor Budrejko: I would like to thank all the people who came out. It was an off cycle election and the fact that we (inaudible). You care about this Town as much as all of us do, and I would like to thank Dave, Beth and Maureen who got me through this whole campaign. Showed me the ropes, showed me what to do and I really appreciate it. I am excited about this Council. I think it will be collaborative. I think it will be bi-partisan and it already showed me downstairs when Jim, Diana and Carol were helping me with my iPad. It just shows that I think we are all going to help each other out and work together so thank you.

Councilor Klett: I would like to thank the people of Newington for having the trust in all of us to this role. I would also like to thank Chris Banach, Kevin Borrup, Scott Soares, David Wemett and Kent Stoddard. They are not sitting up here tonight but without them, I cannot say enough to thank all of them for the time they have given for being willing to put their name up on a ballot. It is never easy to lose. I certainly can attest to that myself and sometimes you just have to pick yourself up, brush yourself off and know that it isn't anything that you or one person did wrong. Sometimes it is just the luck of the draw on a ballot. I am a big believer in line up. Ask Tim. He was sweating it out for the last 2 ½ months even though I told him he was going to be up at the top. I hope these individuals will have the courage to come back and run again because they are all good people and they are all capable of doing good things for the Town of Newington. So I surely hope that they will have the courage to come back at some point and give it another try. Can I just say that I feel that we have worked really well together as a team throughout this whole process. There are a couple of people that deserve special thanks for getting us through and listening to us and that is our Town Chairman, Dominic Pane, who really stood by our side and helped us every step of the way throughout this campaign. It isn't easy to be getting the phone calls from all of us you know, concerned we were running out of literature, concerned we weren't going to make it to all the houses we needed to hit. We did a lot of leg work, and I am really proud of the team and am proud of all of us for sitting up here for wanting to make sure that Newington stays the kind of community that we all want to call home.

Councilor Nagel: I thought I was going to be last but that's OK. We will save Mr. Manke for last. I too want to extend my thanks to all the people in Newington who came out and voted no matter how they voted. I appreciate the comments people made pro and con as I and all of us went to doors and heard the comments from people that indeed we listened to and take seriously and indeed will keep in our minds and implement if indeed possible. I especially want to thank my wife, Jerilyn, who hasn't seen much of me over the last 2 ½ months. I have been the person who was compiling all the literature for the campaign on our side, and I can attest that we went through over 9,000 pieces of literature. That is a lot of leg work. I want to make certain that you know that all of us will work together. We have all seemed to express that in one way or another to try to do what is in the best interests of Newington. Not just what is in the best interests of ourselves or one select group over another as best we can. Thank you again, and I do humbly appreciate my being able to be here and speak to you tonight.

Mayor Zartarian: Last but by no means least because he was the top vote getter, Councilor Tim Manke.

Councilor Manke: I have to say, like Roy, if you had asked me a year ago I would be sitting here, I would have said you were crazy. I have been in this room many times. I have sat in the audience many times and have to admit that it is a different view from up here. It is awful humbling to have all of you stare at us as opposed to me staring at you. But I do pledge to work hard for the trust that was put in me by the voters of Newington, and I think it is time that Newington works together as a team and we believe in each other again. I want to thank certainly the voters that have sat me here but also my family who have put up with a lot of short weekends and a lot of angst on my part when my feet were tired and I wanted to do other things than walk door to door. I want to also thank my fellow running mates who showed me how to go door to door and showed me parts of Newington I hadn't seen before and encouraged me to get out there and meet the people. I do appreciate that and that was for me an interesting event, and I really liked meeting the people and I think that is what we are here for. We are here to work for the people of Newington and that is what I pledge to do to work for the people of Newington with my other councilors and certainly the Mayor. Thank you.

Mayor Zartarian: I have one very brief comment divided into three parts. Don't forget there is a reception in the Town Hall Lobby immediately following this meeting. Tomorrow is Veterans' Day and there will be a ceremony also in the Town Hall Lobby that begins at 10:30 a.m. and finally the Library Book Sale begins Friday evening. With that I will call for a motion to adjourn.

IX ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Manke moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

Cc: T. Lane, Town Clerk