



Tanya D. Lane
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Helen Nelson Room (Main Level) – Town Hall
131 Cedar Street

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room, Town Hall.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Anest
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Serra
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Attendees

Tanya Lane, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Marocchini moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 9 – 0.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Gary Bolles, 26 Burdon Lane: Mr. Bolles indicated that there is a lesson to be learned that next time the Council appoints a Town Manager there should be a contract in place upon appointment.

Councilor Anest read the attached letter into the record from Robert Larsson.

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL

Councilor Manke moved to go into Executive Session re: Personnel at 7:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 9-0. All Councilors present at the regular meeting were in attendance for the Executive Session, as well as Labor Attorney Brian Giantonio, Town Attorney Ben Ancona (via telephone) and would also include Town Manager Tanya Lane, if needed.

Councilor Nagel moved to exit from Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Consider and Take Action on Employment Agreement with Tanya D. Lane

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

Resolved:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes Mayor Roy Zartarian and the Majority Leader and Minority Leader to sign and execute the attached agreement between Town Manager Tanya D. Lane and the Town of Newington.

Mayor Zartarian indicated that the contract includes the following provisions:

- Annual salary of \$137,000
- \$500 per month car allowance
- Moving expenses
- Home purchase cost reimbursement up to \$5,000

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0 on a roll call vote:

Councilor Anest - yes
Councilor Budrejko - yes
Councilor DelBuono - yes
Councilor Klett - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Marocchini - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Serra - yes
Mayor Zartarian - yes

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ON AGENDA

Michael Fox, 1901 Main Street: Mr. Fox stated that it was wrong to hire a Town Manager without having a contract in place.

IX. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor DelBuono congratulated Town Manager Lane and stated that it was a good faith negotiation. She stated that Ms. Lane is a valuable employee.

Councilor Budrejko remarked that she is pleased the process is over and indicated her support for Town Manager Lane. She stated that there was a missed opportunity for more intensive discussion on the various elements of the contract. She stated that the Council will learn from this process.

Councilor Klett thanked Labor Attorney Brian Giantonio for his assistance with the matter.

Councilor Nagel thanked and congratulated Town Manager Lane. He stated that the Town can now move forward.

Mayor Zartarian congratulated Town Manager Lane and thanked Attorneys Giantonio and Ancona.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jaime Trevethan
Asst. to the Town Manager

Dear Councillors,

As I see it, we now have new qualifications to be the Town Manager of Newington.

1. There is no need for a college degree because 5 months of dependence on others within the Dept. have made the candidate qualified.
2. It doesn't matter if other department heads have bachelors or masters degrees, they don't count. The CEO of Newington is qualified with a high school diploma and no experience as a town manager. Interesting to note that The Supt. Of Education has advanced degrees to name one, as does the Library Director and various other library department heads and the Supt. Of Parks and Recreation.
3. The candidate can threaten to withdraw if council doesn't make a decision by a certain date, and it doesn't matter that the town has not negotiated a salary or benefits package. The candidate can make her own demands.
4. The Town Manager is required to live in Newington. As a property owner in Westbrook she can rent in town, thus avoiding real estate or personal property taxes to the town of Newington.
5. Public relations expertise is not necessary. Town Managers do not have to have skills to communicate with residents in a positive way. This has been seen in various Council encounters when negotiating the 2016 budget for the town of Newington. Insulting to those who pay the Town Managers salary through their taxes.

In summation, this is a sad time for the town of Newington. The council has rammed through this appointment without any concern for listening to the advise of the advisors they hired to help them through the process. It appears to have been a done deal before they even started.

I request that this letter be incorporated into the minutes of the June 28, 2016 minutes of the town council meeting.

Thank you,

Robert J. Larsson
41 Buckingham St.
Newington, CT 06111