



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
7:00 P.M.
Helen Nelson Room**

October 9, 2012

Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett (absent)
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff in Attendance:

Paul Boutot, Director of IT
Steve Juda, Assessor
Jamie Trevethan, Executive Assistant
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Teacher of the Year

Mayor Woods moved the following:

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carol A. Duggan, a first-grade teacher at Anna Reynolds Elementary School, has been designated as Newington's 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year; and
WHEREAS, Mrs. Duggan was selected based upon her exceptional skill and dedication to children and the teaching profession; and
WHEREAS, Mrs. Duggan is intelligent, a strong communicator, an advocate for all students and a strong believer that public education is the vehicle to prepare all children for participation in our society; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Duggan earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Connecticut State University, a Masters of Science in Early Childhood Education at Central Connecticut State University and completed additional graduate level education classes at the

University of Connecticut, Southern State University and has also completed additional graduate level canter education classes at the University of New England; and
WHEREAS, Mrs. Duggan began teaching in Newington in 1991 at Anna Reynolds Elementary School as a kindergarten teacher and has been teaching first grade at Anna Reynolds Elementary School since 2003; and
WHEREAS, Mrs. Duggan has been involved in numerous school and town-wide committees, all of which contributed to enhancing the education of our children; and
WHEREAS, Mrs. Duggan piloted a one-to-one computing program in her first grade classroom using iPads to provide the students with stimulating and meaningful ways to practice skills and concepts, resulting in tremendous growth for each of her students; and
WHEREAS, Mrs. Duggan makes a conscious effort to provide the best learning environment possible for her students through lessons that encourage children to begin each day with excitement and enthusiasm, to learn through discovery and to learn more about the world around them by creating a positive and supportive atmosphere where children are encouraged to question, explore, experiment, wonder and discover;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Carol A. Duggan as Newington's Teacher of the Year and extends its sincerest congratulations and appreciation to her for her dedication and commitment to Newington's children.

Mrs. Duggan thanked everyone in attendance and the Town Council for all they have done for the Town with regard to parks, Library, the programs for children of all ages and for being honored as the Teacher of the Year in Newington.

Councilor Nagel congratulated Mrs. Duggan on the honor and as a former high school teacher expressed the difficulties teachers like Mrs. Duggan faced. Teachers like her helped to inspire children to become teachers. Councilor Cohen stated she had three children who had already gone through the Newington school system and had missed having Mrs. Duggan as a teacher but congratulated her on the award. Councilor DelBuono stated her children had had Mrs. Duggan as a teacher, which was an experience that had enriched not only the children's' lives but also her family's. Mrs. Duggan went above and beyond for her job both inside and outside of school.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent).

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Alan Brown, Newington Hardware: He expressed his thanks to the residents of Newington for their support over the last 31 years. He grew up in Town and found it hard to retire and would miss all the people who went into his store on a daily basis. He commented on the recent State highway construction that was done on New Britain Avenue, which created chaos for two weeks and interfered with his and other businesses on the street. Mr. Brown expressed the belief the Town Council and Town Manager should review these situations ahead of time and notify the residents who would be impacted in advance of the construction. Mr. Brown stated that he had planned his closing two months ahead of time and did not know in advance about the road being closed, which severely impacted the ability of people to get to his store.

Juan Ortiz, 416 New Britain Avenue: He expressed his concern about the recent State construction that was done on his street and stated there was only one driveway being paved, which was the supermarket. He felt it was a shame that only one store had gotten their driveway paved and to inconvenience so many others. Mr. Ortiz requested the Council look into having flags on New Britain Avenue flown on Memorial Day, Veterans' Day and the Fourth of July as well as a welcome sign. Many years ago the flags were flown on the street and wanted it brought back. His third comment was to keep Cedar Mountain undeveloped for children, hiking and for learning experiences. Mr. Ortiz also suggested that the Mayor should be paid \$10,000 and each Town Councilor should be paid \$5,000 per year, which he felt would hold the Council accountable.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She commented that the utility company had shut off power for the busway construction on Chapman Street without prior notification to residents affected by it. She stated the only notification received by residents was a piece of paper found on the driveway the night before. Mrs. Lyons agreed with Mr. Brown that notification should be given ahead of time and perhaps by mail. She expressed her support for the Veterans' tax exemption resolution but hoped it would held within the limits of surrounding towns, since it would be an added burden on other residents of the Town. Mrs. Lyons requested information on whether or not the Town had received reimbursement for the storm related damages from last October.

E DiBattista, 308 Hillcrest Avenue: He expressed his support for the Veterans' Tax Exemption and as a Korean Vet felt the Town should do more for the veterans in Town. He stated that he heard a lot from people saying they should praise the veterans' for the sacrifices they made but when it came to doing something it would go the opposite way. He stated that if you had not served, you would not know the agony, brutality and pain of war. People had freedom because of the sacrifices the veterans made and hoped that the Council would use common sense and vote accordingly to support the veterans' in the Town. Mr. DiBattista commented he read in the paper about thousands of dollars spent on turf fields, tennis courts, etc. which was fine but that veterans needed the support as well. A \$2,000 exemption was given to him when his home was worth \$22,000 and after 54 years his home was worth \$260,000 but his exemption was still only \$3,000. He hoped that the Council would examine their conscience and do what was right for him and for other veterans.

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS
A. Veterans' Tax Exemption

Steve Juda reviewed various tables and options the Council had regarding increasing the benefit to veterans in Town. He passed out Table 4 which explained what the veteran exemption was worth. It was a difficult question and tried to explain it via Table 4 since there were many different levels of veterans. The basic veteran (2,026) under the law got an exemption of \$2k, because of a revaluation that occurred in the 1980's. The State said that if the Town increased the amount to \$3k the State would reimburse the Town, but the reimbursement went away ten years ago. The standard veteran exemption was currently \$3k and provided a tax saving to an individual veteran of \$97, no matter what their income.

Low income veterans were a moving target because people would move, transfer, etc. The number at the last meeting was 187 and since the Council implemented a program in April to provide approximately \$50k in tax reduction through the assessment, that brought in an additional nine people who applied to date. The current number was 196. The 2011 base \$2k veteran tax exemption was doubled by the State for those who met the income qualification, which was the same that applied to the elderly who had an maximum income of \$39,500 for a married couple. Mr. Juda explained that box 2 indicated those individuals who passed the means test and were eligible veterans and the basic exemption went from \$2k to \$4k (State to reimburse) and \$2k additional exemption provided through the Town. The total exemption was \$8k per veteran who met the means test. The Town in April provided up to \$10k exemption for the same group of people. The 187 became 196 and the exemption moved from \$8k to \$16k and the corresponding saving was \$261 which doubled to \$522. Mr. Juda explained box 3 would open the exemption to income levels higher than \$39,500. By State law the Town could increase that amount in increments up to \$25k. A single veteran level was currently \$32,500 and could go to a maximum of \$57,500 and a married veteran could go from \$39,500 to \$64,500. Box 3 indicated what would happen to the exemption. They would go back to the basic exemption even though it is a means test that no longer would meet the State's means test. Rather than getting the original \$8k, the veteran would revert back to the \$3k and in the 2012 column, if the Council considered adding increments of \$10k, they would get a \$13k exemption, which ultimately would save \$424 where the veteran would have been saving \$97. The Council would then be providing \$325 additional exemption.

Mr. Juda explained further there were four degrees of disability rating from the VA Department and indicated that on the chart in 25% increments. The basic exemption changed from \$3k to \$4,500 to \$6k to \$7,500, which was current State law. He stated there were 14 veterans who qualified at below \$39,500, so their exemption would be \$19,000, \$22k, \$25k and \$28k. There were 132 veterans who made more than \$39,500 and who qualified for additional veteran exemptions due to disability. The State authorized \$4k in additional exemption with a promise to reimburse the Town. That amount times the mil rate equated to \$130 per resident times 196 residents equated to a total tax loss of \$25k and the State paid \$10,399 on the promise to pay \$25k or 40% of the total. The amount of reimbursement Mr. Juda explained went down each year.

Mr. Juda stated he hoped he answered the question to the Council's satisfaction about what an exemption was worth and could not explain it quickly since there were all kinds of veterans who got all sorts of benefits. The majority of veterans got \$3k or \$97 in exemption. He commented that 146 veterans got slightly more because of a service connected disability (less than 10% are in that category).

Mayor Woods stated that if the Council did nothing further the Council had already increased the exemption to a low income vet in Town from \$261.12 to \$522.24, which was double. The last time a Council reviewed the exemption was at least ten years ago Mr. Juda stated. The Council went to a multiple of five times over what

previously existed. The Mayor wanted the public to be aware the Council gave an additional \$261.12 meeting the guidelines of the \$39,500.

Councilor DelBuono pointed out that in saying the Council doubled the benefit it was really only doubling the amount for 196 (9 more than the original 187) and did not increase the amount for all veterans.

Councilor Borjeson commented that even with an MBA he was confused reading the tables presented by Mr. Juda. He asked if the \$10k was the maximum the Town could give by State law. Mr. Juda explained there were over 100 numbers on Table 4, and he had hesitated to present it to the Council. He stated there was no vanilla veteran getting the same exemption. The \$10k limitation would need to be addressed at the State level and what the Town was looking to accomplish was restricted by State law. The basic veteran could get \$3k according to the State; and if the Town had veterans who met the income threshold, the Town could increase that \$2k exemption in any increment up to \$10k, which was the maximum by State law for only people who met the income requirement. The law did not allow the Town to change it for the 1,800 veterans who did not meet the income requirement. The Council would be discussing what percentage of Newington's population would exceed \$39,500 and whatever level to fund to \$50k, \$60k or \$100k in annual income. Mr. Juda explained the Town had the ability under State law to take a single taxpayer from \$37,500 and make a single taxpayer earning up to \$57,500 eligible and a married veteran earning \$64,500 eligible. He stated there were two State laws: 1) what a basic veteran was and 2) if a veteran passed a means test, the local town had the authority to raise the income threshold. The Town did not have the authority to raise the exemption on anyone other than through the means test.

He had previously given projections of various tax loss amounts. The amount was not a line item expenditure amount. He would be taking the amount off the Grand List and would be a net before the Council saw the Grand List. It would be a tax loss to the Town. Mr. Juda explained that the Council had the ability (Table 1) to impact what would come off the Grand List to the extent of someone's income up to the threshold of \$64,500. He indicated the charts gave the Council a sliding scale (roughly 200 veterans now), and could impact up to 400-500 veterans from the population of 2,000 by increasing the income levels.

Mr. Juda commented the State needed to be engaged in what a veteran exemption should be. The table showed that there were so many different answers for what a veteran was. He stated that Mr. DiBattista's exemption was \$2k on a value of \$22k (10%) and now the property was worth \$260k and the exemption was \$3k. Not much had happened to the exemption in that period of time.

Councilor Castelle commented he had not known the Town \$2k exemption was on top of a \$3k exemption and that low income veterans got an additional \$6k exemption. The total exemption went from \$8k to \$16k and raised the tax reduction to \$522, which would be a considerable savings to veterans in that income group. He said they would have to determine the tax loss to the Town. He realized the \$10,399 figure from the State would have to be an estimate in the future. He asked Mr. Juda if, when the exemption was raised to \$10k, did he put the \$10,399 in to decrease the liability to the taxpayers and Mr. Juda replied that he had. The number was approximately \$51k, and he took away the \$10,399 (State reimbursement). He said that essentially the promise to pay \$50k became \$40k. Councilor Castelle stated he voted for the exemption six months ago on the basis, partially of misunderstanding, and wanted to have a discussion so the Council would understand the foundation of the tax exemptions. Mr. Juda explained the \$50k exemption was untouchable unless rescinded by the Council and the group of approximately 200 people would retain the exemption. Where the Council slid down on the scale, at what number or any number, would correspond to how many veterans would be impacted.

In answer to Councilor Cohen's question Mr. Juda explained that 196 are low income and 146 get more because of a disability so that out of the 2,026 veterans approximately 350 veterans were getting something more than the basic exemption so approximately 1,700 were getting the base. She asked about the PILOT money in the budget (decrease of \$26,600 in PILOT) and Mr. Juda explained the number just happened to be correspondingly close to the tax loss.

Councilor Bottalico asked about Table 1 and the \$100k Council allocation which would allow for a pick up of approximately 433 veterans or 21% of the population per Mr. Juda. He stated the tax loss to the Town would be \$113k and would cost each taxpayer \$5.93. Mr. Bottalico commented it would actually be an increase of \$3.57 since the Council had already moved to the \$50k amount and the difference would be \$2.36, which Mr. Juda agreed was correct. Mr. Bottalico said that to help the veterans at a cost of an additional \$3.57 per taxpayer was very likable to him. He asked Mr. Juda for an explanation of the exemption on motor vehicles, which had been brought up at the last meeting. Mr. Juda stated that in Table 2 (2011) it showed that 1,753 veterans got an

exemption for real estate and 273 received the exemption on motor vehicles, which amounted to 85% receiving a real estate exemption and 15% receiving the exemption for a motor vehicle. Mr. Juda stated that the entire program cost \$16.45. The Town added to that \$2.36 by resolution in April and would add an additional \$3.57 if the Council raised the amount to \$100k.

Councilor DelBuono commented she did not feel there was much new information presented and in April the Council talked about the different levels of income. The Council at that point wanted to do more and wanted to revisit the issue to increase the income levels in October. She stated she would not be changing her mind based on revisiting figures and felt strongly the veterans had given everyone freedom, the ability to be a governing body, the ability to be elected officials, and the ability to be free and to pay taxes. The veterans should be helped in any way the Council could she stated. In order to reach all the veterans it would have to be done at the State level which was not something the Council had control over. She felt then that it was up to her to do what she could to increase the benefit levels. Councilor DelBuono felt very comfortable in suggesting a raise in income level to the \$50k mark at a cost of \$100k to the Council. She was ready to make the motion but would defer to the Mayor.

Councilor Cohen stated the cost to the individual taxpayer should not be hurtful. The Council was looking at elderly and veterans but families were not being helped and that \$5.94 could be a meal for some of them. The Council must keep in mind that someone was paying for the exemption.

Councilor Nagel agreed with Councilor DelBuono and would support the \$100k amount and wanted to make a comment regarding low income veterans, who were all ages not just elderly, but from recent wars and could be relatively young. The disabilities increase because they are either emotional or physical and should not be penalized in terms of increasing the amount simply because of the dedication and sacrifice they made and the consequences of what they did. Councilor Nagel stated the increase amounted to about \$3.50 per residential taxpayer. He wanted to know with the additional \$50k where would Newington fall in relation to other towns in the area. Councilor Nagel thought with the increase the Town would move from near the bottom of the scale to somewhere in the middle. Mr. Juda explained there had been no study on veterans just for the elderly but could canvas the other towns and get back to the Council.

Councilor Bottalico stated he supported the \$50k increase in the exemption. He stated although he was a veteran he was not pushing the exemption, did not qualify for the exemption and it did not have anything to do with him personally. He agreed with Mr. DiBattista that veterans needed the help and felt the Council was trying to take care of all the residents and were doing the best they could.

Mayor Woods stated if the Council increased the amount an additional \$50k and reached a total of 433 or an additional 237 veterans the Town would lose an additional \$50k in tax revenue and asked Mr. Juda since the benefit was \$522.24 and the Council doubled the number of people why the (inaudible) benefit did not shrink. Mr. Juda stated the problem was trying to ID the line item. What the Council did was move the exemption to \$10k so everyone who got an exemption got the \$10k. They get an exemption; the Town did not write a check to each veteran. The Council was looking at a dollar amount and stated more money was put in and that automatically there should be mathematically some prorated relationship which interferes with the lower level. That cannot happen because their exemption as exhibited in #2 was \$16k in total and for those 196 people they would continue to get \$16k in exemption times whatever the mil rate was.

Councilor DelBuono indicated the \$16k was an amount taken off the veterans assessed value so the benefit to them on average was \$522.24, for low income veterans. The veterans that did not qualify for low income their benefit was on average was \$97. She wanted to be sure that when talking about \$8k, \$10k, \$16k it sounded like a lot of money but was on the assessed value.

Mayor Woods asked when the Council had to vote on the resolution, and Mr. Juda answered he finalized the Grand List at the end of January and for new applications the Council would want the process to happen in mid-November. Mayor Woods stated that if the Council delayed a vote until the next meeting it would not be an issue and Mr. Juda agreed.

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council wishes to provide additional exemption for those veterans who meet the requirements of subdivision (19) of section 12-81;

WHEREAS, section 12-81f of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as may be amended from time to time, grants municipalities the authority to provide veterans eligible to an exemption under subdivision (19) of section 12-81 an additional exemption up to ten thousand dollars ; and

WHEREAS, section 12-81f of the General Statutes of Connecticut additionally grants municipalities the authority to provide this additional exemption to veterans at an income level that does not exceed the maximum amount under said section 12-81/ by more than twenty-five thousand dollars; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby enacts an additional veteran exemption up to \$10,000 to veterans whose combined family income is less than \$50,000, which would have an annual approximate tax loss of \$100,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this additional veteran exemption shall become effective commencing with the Grand List of October 1, 2012 and shall be applied to each assessment year thereafter until changed by future resolution. This exemption will commence to eligible veterans effective with the billing date of July 1, 2013.

Councilor DelBuono stated the Council had reviewed this item several times over the past months and every time it had been put off. Originally the Council wanted to increase the exemption in October for the Grand List and now it was maybe November. She felt the Council kept putting the item off and was not quite sure why but was very comfortable voting on it and that the Council needed to make a decision on it.

Mayor Woods disagreed and felt the Council had not exhausted the discussion, had great a discussion around the table and were getting to a point where everyone might not agree on a dollar amount but were getting close to a point to move the item forward. Councilor Borjeson made two points: 1) The Council had already done something 2) the biggest question in his mind was where they stood in relation to other Towns. If they voted in two weeks there would be no financial impact on the veterans. He felt indignation which he did not think was fair to the rest of the Council. The Council was trying to do what was right and what was best for everyone. In March the Council made some very difficult decisions and tried not to increase taxes. There was a bare bones budget for Education and to the Town. The Council would be back at the table in March having the same discussions so he thought it was important the Council understood exactly what was being done.

Councilor McBride thanked Mr. Juda for his presentation and as someone not versed in mathematical charts he found them very complicated. He now understood much more and appreciated the discussion. He felt it was responsible for the Council to delay the vote until everyone was comfortable voting.

Councilor Cohen thanked Mr. Juda for answering all her questions and needed time to think about everything that was said at the meeting. The Council was looking at doing something but thought the question was at what level and to who the Council gave it to as far as the income levels of the veterans they wanted to reach. This was not about the services the veterans should get, which should be a lot. The Council was looking at incomes and exactly who needed it more.

Councilor Bottalico stated the Council had discussed the item over and over again and how much more information did the Council need. He felt the Democrats wanted to go lower but he wanted to go to the \$100k level. He could not understand where the Council could vote on a \$500k tennis court in five minutes and drew this item out for months. Councilor DelBuono expressed her concern about waiting an additional two weeks and the short period of time veterans would have to apply before the mid-November deadline. She felt if the Council was going to give a benefit, they should give it and let the people know about it to have time to apply for it. Councilor Borjeson stated that to assume there was an ulterior motive for waiting so that less veterans would hear about it and apply, was disgraceful. The Council was trying to do it correctly and responsibly and was getting beat up for it. He did not think it was fair. Councilor DelBuono apologized if it sounded as though she was accusing the Council of not wanting veterans to apply, but her concern was that there would not be enough time for that to happen.

Councilor Castelle stated he came very close to supporting the resolution and since receiving more information at the meeting needed time to review it.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and failed on the following roll call vote:

Yes: Councilor DelBuono, Councilor Nagel, Councilor Bottalico

No: Mayor Woods, Councilor Castelle
Abstain: Councilor Cohen, Councilor McBride, Councilor Borjeson
Yes: 3 No: 2 Abstain: 3 (Councilor Klett – absent)

B. Salary Integration for Active Duty Military Service

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council, pursuant to the Town of Newington Personnel Rules, Section 9.16 “Military Leave”, and the recommendation of the Town Manager in his role as Personnel Director, hereby extends the military leave differential pay for Officer Yuri Branzburg for the duration of his current active military deployment.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

a. Expansion of the Town Hall Project Building Committee

Mayor Woods stated that the Parks and Rec Department would either be renovated or moved out of Town Hall into a standalone building. He said that either way it made them a requesting agency by default, and he thought it would be important to get two members from the Parks and Rec on the Committee to have a vote. He discussed it with Councilor McBride, the Chairman, and the Chairman of the Parks and Rec who were in favor of the additional members. The next step would be in two weeks to vote on a resolution expanding the Committee from five to seven members and the members would be picked from the Parks and Rec Committee by the Chairman of the Parks and Rec board. The members would be one Democrat and one Republican. At the present time there was a super majority on it because Nancy Petronio had to leave, which made it four Democrats to one Republican. He stated there were no Republicans who could fit the meeting into their schedules. Mr. Till would become an ex-officio member of the Committee as well.

Councilor McBride said the new members would be welcomed especially because of their knowledge of the Parks and Rec Department. The more people who wanted to sit in on meetings to have a say on the project were welcome.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee
1. Accept Resignation of Nancy Petronio (BOE Member)

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Nancy Petronio from the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee per a communication dated October 2, 2012.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

2. Appoint Sharon Braverman (BOE Member)

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:

Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee

Name	Address	Party	Appt party	Term	Replaces
BOE REP: Sharon Braverman	39 Churchill Way	D	R	IMMED – Conclusion of BOE Term	N. Petronio (Resigned 10- 2012)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

- B Appointments to Boards and Commissions
 - 1. **Human Rights Commission – Tim Manke**

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:

Human Rights Commission

**9 members, 3 year term
Party Max.: 6**

Name	Address	Party	Appt Party	Term	Replaces
Tim Manke	65 Rosewood Drive	R	R	IMMED.- 11/30/13	Vacant

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

VIII. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor McBride moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$10,840.88 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (**Action Requested**)

- A. 9-11-12, Regular Meeting

Councilor Nagel had a change on page 6, paragraph 2, last sentence: the name should read Councilor Nagel and not Councilor Borjeson.

A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Councilor Nagel and seconded by Councilor DelBuono and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

X. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

None

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel stated the cameras were installed in the meeting room and connectivity to the NCTV central control tech room in Town Hall. The Ambler Room will soon be completed as well and the present meeting was the first time the new cameras were in use. He stated that although the School Code Compliance Committee

had not met recently, if a resident went to the grounds at the High School they would see progress was made. The tennis courts and other projects were continuing. Councilor Bottalico expressed concern regarding the condition of the pathways and Councilor Nagel indicated it was a work in progress and the contractor had until the end of the week to complete.

Councilor McBride stated the Town Hall Renovation Committee had met and discussed potential locations for the Parks and Rec Department and will be reviewed over the next several weeks. He urged anyone interested in the project to attend the next meeting of the committee, which would be October 15, 5:30 in Room L101 of Town Hall.

Councilor Borjeson updated the Council on his recent CRCOG meeting. They were close to finalizing a grant for Newington Junction and secondly, there will be a meeting on Friday with consultants for the busway project. The CRCOG will be hosting an all day workshop on October 29 around transportation and have asked all key elected officials of the towns impacted to attend.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She remarked that during the discussion of veterans' exemptions she was not able to follow the discussion since Table 4 was not included in the attendees' packet. She stated that she had called various towns in the area regarding veterans exemptions and was told that each town varies and thought it was a good question to be asked and answered. Mrs. Lyons called the Department of Transportation regarding the busway. Calling the number listed on the website she was told if her choice was not part of the automatic selection, she could look in the blue pages to find someone to call regarding the project. Mrs. Lyons called Transit/Ride Sharing and was told the best thing for her to do was to go the contractor. After some discussion, she was given another person to talk to regarding the intersection at Chapman Street, which was horrendous. The woman told Mrs. Lyons there were no plans to do anything at the intersection other than having a light to enable people to get in and out from where the bus station would be and there would be a pedestrian crosswalk. Mrs. Lyons felt someone should look into the intersection and what could be done.

Rose Lyons & Madeline Kenny, 46 Elton Drive and 53 Crestview Drive: They recently attended the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee meeting and wanted to commend Councilor McBride for keeping the meeting on track, listening to public comments and allowing committee members to answer the questions and comments. They encouraged all residents who had thoughts about the project to attend the meetings.

Sue Mazzocolli, 149 Harris Drive: She commented on the new cameras in use but the microphones were still an issue. She congratulated the Council on their hard work.

XIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Bottalico said he had talked to Councilor Klett and thanked everyone for the cards and letters she received. He commended the Highway Department for the paving done at Clem Lemire Field, which was done beautifully. His third comment was to sympathize with Mr. Brown with regard to the New Britain Avenue construction.

Councilor Cohen wanted information on how the veteran exemption could be brought up and by whom for the next meeting. Since it had to be brought back by the winning side and there was no winning side, how could it be done. Mayor Woods explained it would be researched by the Town Manager and Mr. Boorman.

Councilor Borjeson attended a meeting at the Library with approximately 50 volunteers and felt proud that Newington had that sort of support from its residents.

Councilor Castelle indicated there would be groundbreaking event on Wednesday, 1 p.m. for the Victory Gardens.

Councilor McBride mentioned that Diane Rubino recently passed away who was a lifelong volunteer in Town. She spent many years working at the Senior Center especially teaching seniors computer skills.

Mr. Boutot explained the microphones would be much better quality once the meetings were moved to L101. The equipment selected would give the ability to get the audio feed from the new equipment to put out a clearer quality product.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Bottalico and seconded by Councilor Borjeson to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent).

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

CC: T. Lane, Town Clerk