



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

**MINUTES
NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
November 10th 2009' 8:00 p.m.**

Councilors Present	
Councilor Christopher Banach	X
Councilor Tony Boni	X
Councilor Meg Casasanta	X
Councilor Myra Cohen	X
Councilor Maureen Klett	X
Councilor Mike Lenares	X
Councilor Scott McBride	X
Councilor Kristine Nasinnyk	X
Mayor Jeff Wright	X

Staff Present	
Town Manager - John Salomone	X
Executive Assistant - Jaime Trevethan	X
Town Clerk - Tanya Lane	X
Council Clerk - Scott Coleman	X

- I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Town Clerk Tanya Lane**
Town Clerk, Tanya Lane, called the meeting to order at 8 PM in the Council Chambers.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Town Clerk Lane administered the Oath of Office to the following inductees:

A Mayor

- Jeff Wright

B Town Council

- Christopher Banach
- Tony Boni
- Meg Casasanta
- Myra Cohen
- Maureen Klett
- Mike Lenares
- Scott McBride
- Kristine Nasinnyk

C Board of Education

- Sharon Braverman
- Daniel W. Carson, Sr.
- R. Clarke Castelle
- Beth A. DelBuono
- Marc B. Finkelstein
- Mary Niro
- Nancy Petronio
- Pamela Raynock
- Stephen R. Woods

D Constables

- David G. Pruett
- John Richter

E Fire Commissioners

- Robert Seiler, Sr.
- Chester J. Bogacz, Jr.

III COMMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Wright thanked the public for the great turnout. He spoke about the difficult economy, the tight budget last year and possibly even more challenging budget year ahead. He commented on the state budget and how the Council would have to work together all that much harder for the people of Newington.

The election, he felt, demonstrated that the voters expressed confidence in Council leadership, but wished greater bipartisanship. He committed that he would endeavor to work more closely with his Democratic and Republican colleagues to do great things for the people of Newington.

One of the primary concerns he expressed was a continuing effort to maintain a low tax rate. He said had this loud and clear from both sides of the aisle during the campaign. He held out his hand to his fellow Councilors, the Board of Ed members, and Fire Commissioners, to work together to find solutions, and ways to stretch the dollar further in an effort to save residents. He stressed economic development, investing in downtown revitalization and for finding ways to increase the number of jobs available in Newington. He stated that he is looking to position Newington, for when the economy improves and businesses are looking for expansion and investment opportunities.

He also stressed the importance of demanding and expecting excellence in Education.

He thanked former Councilors Dave Nagel and Jay Bottalico for their service, and welcomed new Council members, Maureen Klett, and Scott McBride. (The Mayor later added his welcome of Councilor Meg Casasanta who had been inadvertently omitted.)

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

Mayor Wright requested a maker for the motion to table this agenda item until the next meeting.

MOTION TO TABLE BY: Councilor Banach

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 9 – 0; Motion was tabled

V APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Wright made the following appointments

A Town Attorney

- Town Attorney: Ben Ancona of Ancona & Siegel – Mayor Wright complimented the firm on its work for the Town over the past two years.
- Labor Counsel: Ken Plumb with the firm Siegel, O’Connor, O’Donnell & Beck, P.C.

B Clerk of the Council

- Scott Coleman

C Designation of Deputy Mayor

- Mike Lenares

VI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Judy Igielski Resident 23 Old Musket Drive Newington

- Congratulated the Mayor, welcomed new Council members, and incumbents. Reminded the Council of all residents who depend on them.
- She stated that she was encouraged by the bipartisanship expressed by Council members this evening.

Maddie Kenny Resident 53 Crestview Drive Newington

- Hoped that the Council would work together and listen to the residents.
- Asked the Council not only to share their votes, but also their thoughts.

Michael Fox Resident 1901 Main Street Newington

- Congratulated the inductees.
- Reminded the audience of Veteran’s Day events which commence at 10:30 am on the 11th

Esther Eddy Resident Church Street Newington

- Speaking on behalf of Newington’s Republican Women’s Club, Ms. Eddy congratulated the Council and Board of Ed.
- The women Councilors and BOE members were given red carnations to acknowledge their positions and their work ahead.

Sandy Lallier Resident 27 Elton Drive Newington

- Offered congratulations
- Her interpretation of the recent election outcome was that the public wanted a bipartisan government in the Town of Newington.
- Wished the Town to continue to grow and flourish, but to maintain its character; also for a Town that bonds and works together
- Encouraged greater participation on the part of residents.

Rose Lyons Resident 46 Elton Drive Newington

- Congratulated inductees.
- Advocated that all work together.
- Asked for greater public participation.

VII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Maureen Klett

- Thanked the Republican Women’s Club for their thoughtfulness.
- Welcomed Meg Casasanta.
- Mentioned her history as a former Councilor on the 1987 Council; how previously Councils had compositions similar to that of today, and that how working together and learning how to get along would be important to a successful two years

Kristine Nasinnyk

- Thanked the audience for attending
- Encouraged by Mayor and public comments about working together for the betterment of the whole Town
- Thanked the Women’s Club
- Thanked former Councilor Tom Bowen who had worked tirelessly over the past four terms
- Challenged members of the public to come out and participate
- Suggested the possibility of a call-in phone line similar to the Board of Ed.

Christopher Banach

- Thanked Tom Bowen for his contribution to the Town.
- “Politics is the art of possible.”

- Expressed confidence that the Council can work together in a full-fledged bipartisan effort to the betterment of the Town of Newington.

Mayor Wright welcomed the Councilor Casasanta who he had previously omitted from his welcoming speech.

Meg Casasanta

- Thanked the voters for giving her the opportunity to serve the Town as she had served the Board of Ed for the previous term.
- Is privileged to serve under the leadership of Mayor Wright
- Feels that, as a unified body, the Council will face challenges ahead, and serve the people of Newington well.

Myra Cohen

- The Council will have its work cut out for it during the challenging economic times ahead.
- She's grateful for the "reaching out" and the spirit of cooperation which had been expressed during the meeting.
- Thanked Tom Bowen and expressed her appreciation for his hard work.

Scott McBride

- Thanked his family, friends and the voters for being so supportive.
- Promised to work tirelessly and across party lines to achieve the greater good for the Town.

Tony Boni

- Thanked supporters and promised to work in the best interest of the people of Newington
- Thanked Jay Bottalico and David Nagel for their hard work over the past two years stating tha they always had the best interests of the residents of Newington

Mike Lenares

- Thanked his wife and family for allowing him to serve the residents of Newington. Also thanked the Town Attorney and Council Clerk.
- Welcomed the new Council members.

Mayor Wright

- In the spirit of bipartisanship the Mayor thanked former Councilor Bowen for his eight years of service and a well-fought campaign.
- Welcomed State Representative Sandy Nafis, and Senator Paul Doyle for their attendance this evening.
- Thanked his wife, Marina, and his parents and children for their support, as well as that of the voters of Newington.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Deputy Mayor Lenares moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm

SECONDED BY: Councilor Banach seconded the motion

Vote: 9-0; Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted



Scott Coleman
Clerk of the Council

November 17th 2009