



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

Minutes

Newington Town Council

June 22, 2010

Deputy Mayor Lenares called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach
Councilor Casasanta
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Klett
Councilor Lenares
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Council Nasinnyk

Mayor Wright - Absent

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager
Mary Richard, Council Clerk

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive – addressed the subject of time constraint placed on members of the public during Public Participation. She said that the public does not have the luxury of being able to speak for an unlimited time on any given subject; also the public does not have the luxury of a give and take dialogue, nor of speaking unfettered by time constraints. Most of us spend time organizing our thoughts to present them in a timely manner, and sometimes there is not enough time to say what is needed to be said in the three minutes allowed. In the past Rose Lyons and Gail Bodrayco read their comments so quickly that the important information could not be digested. She understood that 30 extra seconds were built in for such an occasion. She feels that the constant interruptions were disrespectful. She noted that at a meeting of December 22, 2009 a motion was brought before this Council to increase the time limit from three minutes to five minutes for Public Participation. Those members of the Council thought that three minutes was enough and counted on the Mayor to enforce the three minute limit. Also she commented on the phone system not being working, when a member last week tried to phone in was not able to get through and was not acknowledged. She requested that the Council reconsider the three minute rule so all members of the public will have the opportunity to be heard.

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IV CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Placement of Coverage – Liability Insurance

Mr. Salomone said that we have the final quotes from CIRMA and we need to place this insurance before July 1, 2010, the policy runs through June 30, 2013. Councilor Nasinnyk said that this is a great advantage to the Town of Newington because that \$744,000 is based on current workers comp rates that may change, and she feels that this is a much better program. She asked if this is the final number. Mr. Salomone said that it might be adjusted a little bit. Councilor Nasinnyk said that there didn't seem to be a down side to this program and she believes that one of the reasons is that working with CIRMA will create a good relationship. Mr. Salomone said that it does reflect that we have a low loss ratio, and CIRMA wants to retain their best customers. Councilor Nasinnyk thinks we should go ahead with the program. Councilor Nagel asked if there had been any changes from the previous meetings. Councilor Nasinnyk said that it was more of a comfort level and wondered why CIRMA is being so good, and as Mr. Salomone said, they are taking care of good customers.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, in conjunction with the Town's Agent of Record, and following review of insurance proposals by the Standing Insurance Committee, is authorized to accept the proposal from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) for Workers Compensation, Liability, Automobile, and Property insurance coverage, and to secure the best possible coverage for the Town for all other liability coverage. The Town Manager is further authorized to accept a Budget Stabilization program through June 30, 2013 for the Liability, Automobile and Property coverage with CIRMA, and to accept a premium stage in program for the Workers Compensation coverage through 2013-14 with CIRMA. The Town Manager is further authorized, in conjunction with the Agent of Record, to see that all insurance coverage for the Town of Newington is in place by July 1, 2010.

**MOTION BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nagel
VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent**

- B Year End Transfers**
 - 1. Transfers to: Town Council/Library/Fire Department Fund**

Mr. Salomone said that the Street Lighting account had an excess of funds and should be moved into three accounts, the major one being the Fire Department which is good news because they have done so well with the volunteers with a higher projection than previously.

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the General Fund, the amounts listed below:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Amount</u>
250	Street Lights	\$31,910
	Total	\$31,910

Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds to the following accounts in the General Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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110	Town Council	\$2,000
230	Fire Department	20,000
700	Library	9,910
	Total	\$31,910

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

2. Transfers to: Regional Fire Training Tower Fund

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the General Fund, the amounts listed below:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
230	Fire Department	\$10,391
	Total	\$10,391

Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds to the following accounts in the Miscellaneous Grants Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
20242	Regional Fire Training Tower	\$10,391
	Total	\$10,391

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

Councilor Nasinnyk noted that with the previous resolution we transferred money into the 230 account and inquired about why the money was being transferred out of the 230 account in the second resolution. Mr. Salomone said that this is a revenue item and we get revenue from other municipalities that use the Fire Training Tower and we're moving it from one fund to another.

C. 8-24 Referral Report: State of CT Replacement Bridge Land Acquisition – Cedar Street

Deputy Mayor Lenares asked if this is the parcel of land that the State is buying from us. Mr. Salomone said yes, at this point all we're doing now is referring it to the Town Planning & Zoning Commission for 8-24 review. It will come back to the Council at some point for further review. He said that before any land is sold by the Town it must go through the TP&Z Commission so this is the first step.

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24, the Newington Town Council hereby refers to the Newington Town Plan and Zoning Commission the proposed acquisition by the State of Connecticut of a 5,479 square foot parcel of property at 690 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut, for the express purpose of providing a report to the Council as required under Section 8-24.

MOTION BY: Councilor Nagel
SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen
VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Downtown Revitalization Committee Recommendation: Market Square Engineering Consultant

Deputy Mayor Lenares suggested that the rules be waived. Councilor Cohen moved to waive the rules. Councilor Nasinnyk seconded. Vote 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, to execute appropriate contracts with Milone & McBroom, Inc in the amount of \$43,000 to perform engineering consulting duties described in the specifications prepared by the Town of Newington and as in the document entitled “RFP No. 5, 2009-10, Newington Town Center Streetscape Project (Market Square).”

MOTION BY: Councilor McBride
SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen
VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

Councilor Cohen said that the fee of \$43,000. includes all the services and the cost of inspection services and the reason it's partial is because we had budgeted \$700,000 based on the information we had received. At the time had we known it might cost more we might have budgeted more. The Committee felt that it should be a first class project and if the \$700,000 is not enough, then at the time we could get additional grant money that would allow us to finish the project. She said that they will divide it and the inspection will include whatever we're able to fund now, and in the future if there is additional inspection there will be an additional fee for them. Whatever is built at this point will be covered by their inspection fee.

Councilor Banach said that some of the preliminary drawings that the firm has done are very attractive and that's another reason why we should move this along quickly.

Councilor McBride said that overall the consensus of the committee was favorable based on the ideas and had a good sense of what we wanted to do with Market Square. The issue was that we weren't pleased with the fees. At the meeting with myself and the Town Engineer they restructured those fees to an amount that we were very happy with and look forward to working with them. Councilor Klett asked that with the negotiation and restructuring the funding, did we follow the proper RFP proposal. Deputy Mayor Lenares said yes the proper procedures were followed. He said that as mentioned we want this project to be first class item, being the center and main stream of the Town.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, to execute appropriate contracts with Milone & McBroom, Inc in the amount of \$43,000 to perform engineering consulting duties described in the specifications prepared by the Town of Newington and as in the document entitled “RFP No. 5, 2009-10, Newington Town Center Streetscape Project (Market Square).”

MOTION BY: Councilor McBride
SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen
VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

B. Consideration of Cancelling the July 27, 2010 Council Meeting

Mr. Salomone said that most upcoming business can be discussed in the July 13th meeting and suggested that the Council might want to cancel the July 27th meeting. He said there is a meeting scheduled previously and will have more to do after that so the July 27th meeting might not be necessary.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that the Town Council meetings are not only for the business of the Town but also for the public to have the opportunity to come and speak, and she has reservations about cancelling but thinks that maybe it's not a bad thing to cancel a meeting as long as if something does come up there can be a special meeting called. Councilor Cohen said that she doesn't object to cancelling the July 27th meeting as long as there can be a special meeting called if something special comes up. She said that if there is a big issue from the public they can always contact any one of the Councilors.

VI RESIGNATION/APPOINTMENTS - None

VII TAX REFUNDS

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$743.05 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.

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

VIII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - TABLED

Mr. Salomone said that it will not be a problem to table the approval of the minutes, and we can make corrections and changes at the next meeting. Jaime Trevethan said that any corrections/changes would have to be entered into the record so any changes could be forwarded to her before the next meeting but they will become part of the record of whichever meeting the Council votes to approve the minutes.

Councilor Nasinnyk noted that on the minutes for June 8 or May 25 there were comments added after the minutes were submitted and she asked would there be some kind of cross reference. Mrs. Trevethan said that there would be a reference to find the changes. Mr. Salomone said that there is a 'search' program with the minutes and with a key word you could find those meetings and changes. Councilor Klett said that she had worked hard to check these minutes and it was just pages and pages of solid text. She asked if the Councilor names could be bolded to be easier to find individual comments. Councilor Cohen asked if the revised minutes would be a separate piece. Mrs. Trevethan said that the verbatim section has not been filed yet because the original, non verbatim minutes had been filed with the Town Clerk as they were submitted, which was prior to the request for verbatim minutes. The verbatim section will be filed at another meeting if the Council approves them, with a note to ...refer to section....to review them. Councilor Nagel asked that at the next meeting we vote to approve of minutes, will that also include approving the 'verbatim' section that were added, or do we need something else for the 'verbatim' section to be added. Mrs. Trevethan said that anything pertaining to the June 8th minutes should be mentioned when approving the June 8th minutes. Councilor Klett said that she thinks we should be careful in asking for 'verbatim' minutes, that's what we have the tapes for. She said she's not sure if we pay anyone enough to ask for 'verbatim' minutes, she said she wasn't sure we could keep someone to want to do Council meetings with a continued request for 'verbatim' minutes. She said also that video of the meetings are available on www.NCTV.org.

Councilor Casasanta stated that the request for 'verbatim' minutes for that June 8th meeting was appropriate because during that discussion we needed to be sure that everyone had access to the 'verbatim' minutes. Councilor Cohen said it was doubtful that this would come up again, that this was a one time thing. She thinks this instance was appropriate, and that the interpretation is not left up to the person typing. Councilor McBride stated that a lot of his comments were listed under Councilor Nagel's name, and had to go through it all and needed more time to do that. Councilor Nasinnyk noted that the minutes submitted did not reflect what she had said, but the 'verbatim' minutes did, so she wasn't sure if she should correct the regular minutes where the 'verbatim' minutes were more detailed and made more sense than just the one sentence. Councilor Nagel said that it clarifies having the minutes 'verbatim' on both sides of the issue and lets the person reading them make their decision based on what both sides are.

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

A. Town Manager Reports

Mr. Salomone said he will be meeting with the President of the Library Board next week and will start the process for selecting the new Library Director. He said that how the Charter works, the Library Board has concurrence with the selection of the Director and it will probably take most of the summer to do it. He has appointed an interim Director until the permanent selection. Councilor Klett ask if Mr. Salomone could explain the process followed.

Mr. Salomone was not sure of the process, as it has not been utilized in a number of years, but it is important that we have good communication in the decision, and the worst thing to have is an appointment not agreeable to both parties.

X COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Klett said that the Clem Lemire Turf Field committee met and will meet again on July 15th at 7 PM and with the preliminary estimates were asked to go back and sharpen their pencils and she thinks their presentation to the Committee was very good. Deputy Mayor Lenares said that they were very knowledgeable and brought samples and pictures, and the nine member committee was impressed with what they showed us. He said he is pleased that the project is moving along and is looking forward to the July 15th meeting.

NOTE: TAPE MALFUNCTIONS AT THIS POINT – NO RECORDING AVAILABLE

XI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons spoke about the importance of public participation and urged members of the public to share their opinions with the Council, either by attending or calling into meetings or contacting a Councilor by email or telephone. She also noted that the Council rules of procedure call for public participation whenever the Council waives the rules to vote on an item.

XII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Klett requested that the Council rules committee be activated to discuss amendments to the rules of procedure to allow for public participation prior to the Council's vote on an item. She stated that this will effectively double the amount of participation allowed. She also suggested adding wording to the Council agenda specific to public participation via the telephone line. She inquired about whether there are any updates to the vandalism case on the Saint Mary/New Meadow pathway. Town Manager Salomone replied that the police are pursuing some leads in the case and that there have been no further incidents of vandalism in the area.

NOTE: TAPE RESUMES AT THIS POINT

Councilor Cohen said that this week-end Saturday June 26 at 2 PM to Sunday June 27 at 2 PM will be field day for the Newington Amateur Radio League. She said that what they do is practice and demonstrate what is done in an emergency situation if the Town has lost all communication for whatever reason. The public is invited to attend.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that Marion Amodeo had a wonderful send off, and she will be greatly missed but the Town will keep marching on and will continue moving forward. She also wanted to note that the public members who are here, regarding the time allowed to speak, seeing that the vote did not pass in December. Maybe other alternative ways can be considered which may come up on future agendas. Also regarding the path and she knows that Ms. Lyons has been speaking on that subject for some time and it took someone like Travis to be able to do the project, and was maintained, but unfortunately as Mr. Salomone said with that awful devastation, it may not be something that should be divulged by way of security. She asked that the public and Ms. Lyons keep the Council informed. Councilor Cohen stated that the Police are very much involved and cannot divulge exactly how they're proceeding. Because of the overturning of the rock that was dedicated to the two Police Officers, she believes the Police Department are taking this very personally.

Councilor Nagel said he wanted to congratulate all those who were involved in the recent "Cruising Newington" event, and once again a very good community event, also provided an opportunity to chat with some people in Town and find out some of their concerns.

Councilor Casasanta said that she had gone on a ride-along with Officer Jordan, and commented on the dedication of these individuals, the Police men and women as well as the Fire Department and the expertise and the caring that they have. She said they did ride along the pathway and said Hi to a couple of individuals, and she thanked the Police Department for the opportunity.

Deputy Mayor Lenares congratulated the Newington High School Class of 2010 graduating this Thursday evening. He said each year he enjoys seeing Clem Lemire with the banners, it's a great thing for the Town and in a couple of years maybe his son's will be up there.

XIII ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Casasanta moved to adjourn at 8:05 pm

Councilor Nasinnyk seconded.

Vote 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Richard
Council Clerk

