



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

February 26, 2013

Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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 Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Executive Assistant
Marie Fox, Registrar of Voters

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: Mr. Slusarski expressed his appreciation for the Council's hard work but expressed concern with the Town's fiscal situation, particularly the under-funded police pension fund and unfunded medical fund for retirees. He also expressed concern over information he read in the newspaper about a potential \$8.5 million recreation center, even if it will not increase taxes. Mr. Slusarski also expressed concern over the purchase of the Cedar Mountain property at one-million dollars over appraised value as well as \$1.5 million renovations in the High School auditorium.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons encouraged all residents to attend meetings and speak their opinions or just listen to what others have to say. She also cautioned that the local newspapers don't always correctly report all of the facts and/or may take comments out of context. She also noted past requests for written follow-up whenever possible to residents' questions during public participation.

IV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Deputy Mayor McBride stated that he would have to read the article regarding the recreation center that Mr. Slusarski was referring to in his comments, and would then make any necessary clarifications.

Councilor Castelle noted the increase in building permit fees year-to-date over last year. Town Manager Salomone explained that the increase is due in part to fees collected from the Victory Gardens housing development. Councilor Castelle also noted that gun permits have nearly doubled and noted a high-level of foreclosure registrations and Human Services casework.

Mayor Woods clarified a recent newspaper article about the community center. He stated that there has been no decision as to where the community center will be located and regardless of the proposed location, it must pass public referendum to proceed. He stated that the citizens will have a say and stated that any construction, if approved, is still at least 18 months away. Regarding Mr. Slusarski's comments, he indicated that the renovations at the High School are State-mandated for handicapped access and also stated that he would contact Mr. Slusarski regarding his other questions and concerns.

Mayor Woods made the following statement regarding a recent newspaper article and his comments made during the State of the Town Address on February 7, 2013:

On February 7, the Town Manager and I presented the annual State of the Town Address at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast. At this event, I stated several facts regarding the development of Cedar Mountain as well as other land parcels. The presentation of such facts was an important part of that address. Some citizens of Newington have implied that my remarks indicate that I am promoting Cedar Mountain development. This is not true. I neither endorse nor oppose the project. The proposal is in the competent hands, tonight, of our land-use commission and the Conservation Commission. The office of the Mayor has no authority, and I believe no influence, over these bodies. My remarks were strictly to inform and not to persuade. What the paper reported was accurate but completely out of context. We were just trying, the Town Manager and myself, to relay to the people in the audience, what is going on up there, how many pieces of land are up there. There are actually 14-15 pieces of property out of which Balf has 7-8 parcels. Some they are keeping and one in particular is 73-acres that is the controversial site that they are looking to sell and develop.

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Drainage Easement, Mill Street Ext.

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council referred a proposed storm water drainage easement to be granted to the Town of Newington for placement of a redesigned storm water drainage system at Newington Housing Authority property located at 26 Mill Street Extension to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 report;

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Plan and Zoning Commission's 8-24 Referral report to the Town Council, dated January 9, 2013, expressed unanimous approval to report to the Town Council favorable support for the easement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to enter into an agreement to accept said easement to the Town of Newington as identified on a map entitled "Storm Drainage Easement Re-alignment across land of Town of Newington & Newington Housing Authority, 50 Mill Street Extension, Newington CT dated 5-4-12 by The Bongiovanni Group Inc."

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

B. Elections Emergency Contingency Plan

Registrar Marie Fox reviewed the proposed plan with the Council. The Councilors expressed appreciation for the plan.

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby adopts an Elections Emergency Contingency Plan, a copy of which is attached to this resolution, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-174, Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections.

Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

C. Consideration of Canceling the March 26, 2013 Town Council Meeting

Town Manager Salomone reiterated that the Council is voting to cancel the March 26 regular meeting due to the Passover holiday, and will hold regular business at the March 28 budget meeting. He noted that an additional budget review meeting will be scheduled on March 21.

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by canceling its regular meeting scheduled for March 26, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby schedules a special meeting for March 28, 2013 to address regular Council business in addition to previously scheduled budgetary items.

Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Education CIP Ordinance Revision Proposal

The Town Council discussed a request by Dr. Collins, Board of Education Superintendent, to revise the Town ordinance Chapter 48, Funds, with respect to the cap on the Board of Education CIP fund. Mayor Woods provided a background on the ordinance and cap, which dates back to the 1970s. He stated that the dollar amount cap of \$450,000 hasn't been updated since the 1980s. He noted that Dr. Collins requests that the cap be raised to \$1 million to \$1.2 million. He expressed support for the proposal. Councilor Cohen noted that the intent was to use the fund for small repairs and projects that might otherwise be cut from the budget.

Town Manager Salomone indicated that this is not a Charter item; the cap is dictated by ordinance. Councilor Bottalico stated that he would be in favor of increasing the cap but inquired whether there should be a time factor be placed on the cap. Mayor Woods replied that the funds are spent on a regular basis and that the fund can't be built up past the proposed \$1.2 million. Councilor DeIBuono agreed with the proposed increase, since the current cap is not serving its intended purpose.

Town Manager Salomone stated that the ordinance amendment process follows several steps, the next of which being to formally introduce the ordinance and set a public hearing date. Mayor Woods inquired whether the proposed cap should be listed as \$1 million or \$1.2 million. The Council agreed by consensus with the \$1.2 million cap.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

EMS Committee

Name	Address	Party	Appt. Party	Term	Replaces
NPD Rep: Matthew D'Esposito	131 Cedar Street	D	D	Immed. – 12/31/13	Vacant

Human Rights Commission

Name	Address	Party	Appt. Party	Term	Replaces
Phyllis DiCara	29 Crown Ridge	D	D	Immed. – 11/30/14	L. Rikard (resigned 2-2013)

Motion seconded by Councilor Castelle. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

Board of Ethics

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Andrew Follo	183 Williamstown Court	R	IMMED – 11/30/16	Vacant

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

VIII. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$1974.73 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 seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting, February 12, 2013

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Klett absent, Mayor Woods abstained)

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

Town Manager Salomone indicated that the Town will be eligible for FEMA reimbursement for two days' worth of expenditures related to the February blizzard. Councilor Castelle inquired about the FEMA reimbursement listed in the January financial monthly report. Town Manager Salomone indicated that the payment was a portion of the reimbursement for Storm Sandy.

Mayor Woods noted that the State will hold a busway information meeting at Newington Town Hall on Monday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m.

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Borjeson indicated that he and the Town Manager attended a CTfastrak meeting and he had suggested that an advisory subcommittee be formed among the four area busway towns, the DOT and CRCOG.

He stated that he is now the chairperson of the advisory subcommittee and urged people to attend busway meetings.

Councilor Borjeson also reported on a recent CRCOG meeting with State Legislators:

- Legislators have stated that there may not be a State budget until as late as July
- The Governor's car tax proposal has met with a negative response from Legislators

Councilor Castelle reported that the Friends of the Library were very pleased with the recent beer, wine & cheese fundraiser and announced that the next book sale will be held April 26-28 and there will be a concert at Town Hall on April 7.

Deputy Mayor McBride indicated that the Town Hall Project Building Committee met on February 19 and continued discussions on the selection of a construction manager.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons noted that there are many other committees, such as TPZ and Parks and Rec, in which the liaisons don't report back to the Council. She requested that the liaisons report on those committees.

XIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Cohen requested that the footnote on the bottom of the budget meeting calendar (regarding the Charter requirement for budget adoption after the second public hearing) be highlighted and placed in large print. She expressed concern over the State budget and indicated that the Council has the option to extend its budget deliberations as needed within the Charter specifications.

Councilor Borjeson noted that the ceremony at the Iwo Jima memorial went very well despite the poor weather.

Deputy Mayor McBride indicated that Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Cathy Bowen have been chosen as the Irish-persons of the Year and Mr. Bob Seiler has been chosen as the Honorary Irish-person of the Year. He also noted that a fundraiser for Newington's involvement Hartford's St. Patrick's Day parade will coming up soon. He noted that the parade honors various civic groups that take part in the parade and stated that it's a great family day. Councilor Borjeson added that all Councilors are invited to participate in the parade. Deputy Mayor McBride invited any civic groups who wish to participate to contact him through the Town Manager's Office.

Councilor DelBuono noted a letter of thanks that was sent to the Council regarding the Town's response and cleanup to the recent blizzard. She thanked the resident for taking the time to write. Mayor Woods noted that he also received several compliments about the Town's response to the storm and said that even the complaints were handled very quickly.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: REAL ESTATE

Councilor Bottalico moved to go into Executive Session re: Real Estate at 8:07 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent). All Councilors present at the regular meeting, Town Manager Salomone and Town Attorney Peter Boorman were present at the Executive Session.

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:39 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Castelle. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent).

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Borjeson. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager