



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

Minutes

Newington Town Council

April 27, 2010

Deputy 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
Ann Harter, Finance Director
Ed Meehan, Town Planner
Bruce Till, Parks and Recreation Superintendent
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager
Mary Richard, Council Clerk

III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A Retirement – Community Service Officer Michael Webster

WHEREAS, Michael Webster was hired as a Police Officer for the Town of Newington on April 2, 1990 and graduated from the Police Academy on July 24, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Michael Webster served as Sergeant from 1997 - 2000 and as Community Service Officer from 2006 through his retirement; and

WHEREAS, during his career with the Newington Police Department Officer Webster also served on the Gunfire Suppression Team, the Midstate Traffic Enforcement Unit, and the Bike Patrol and was also appointed as a Crime Prevention Officer and a Field Training Officer; and

WHEREAS, Officer Webster has received many Commendations for Superior Performance and Letters of Recognition throughout his career, including a Commendation in 1990 for the investigation of a burglary that led to the arrest of one individual, a Letter of Recognition in 1993 for actions when responding to a disturbance involving members of the Los Solidos Street gang, a Commendation in 2008 for an outstanding and professional job performed in the apprehension of suspects involved in a robbery of a local restaurant

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507
townmanager@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

and many others; and

WHEREAS, Officer Webster created the "Step-Up" program to replace the DARE program in the elementary schools to teach students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco and to emphasize the importance of decision making, internet safety and personal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, as the Community Service Officer, Officer Webster participated in organizing "Stuff-A-Cruiser" events for holiday gifts for the underprivileged and to replenish the Food Pantry for the Human Services Department, and participated in the Annual Waterfall Festival; and

WHEREAS, Officer Webster has received numerous letters from residents and businesses acknowledging his professionalism and exemplary service to the residents of the Town of Newington; and

WHEREAS, Officer Webster will retire from the Newington Police Department on May 1 , 2010 after twenty years of service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Newington Town Council hereby extends heartfelt appreciation to Michael Webster for his many years of service to the Town of Newington, congratulates him on his retirement and wishes him much success in his future endeavors.

MOTION BY: Councilor Lenares

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

Officer Webster thanked the Town of Newington and residents for their support, coming to Newington back in 1990 he remembers the residents telling him stories about his grandfather and father. He said it has been a good twenty years, got a lot done and he believes that Newington is far ahead of a lot of other communities and continues moving forward.

Councilor Nasinnyk thanked Officer Webster for the things he has done, having worked with Officer Webster on the original Safety Committee she commended him on all the great work he has done. Councilor Cohen said that Officer Webster was also involved with the kids and she thanked Officer Webster for everything he has done. Councilor Klett said that she knows his parents are looking down and are very proud of him. She stated that Officer Webster has been an exceptional role model for all the children of Newington and will be a loss to our community and she wished him great success in his next career. Councilor Casasanta said that Officer Webster is leaving a job where he can honestly say he has left an impact. She believes that the Town of Newington has truly benefited from his work and wished him the best in the future. Councilor Nagel extended his thanks to Officer Webster and stated that Officer Webster has presented the best of what a Policeman can be and Newington Policemen are also being an integral part of the community and thanked him for his services for going above and beyond what traditionally expected. Councilor Nagel wished Officer Webster the best in the future. Councilor Banach said that to give your life's work to the service of others is one of the most noble things one can do from the simple to the most extreme conditions and Councilor Banach thanked Officer Webster for his service. Councilor McBride also thanked Officer Webster for his active role in Town and helped to create what we want for this Town.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive said that she remembers Officer Webster's Mom and Dad and thinks they are looking down at what Officer Webster has done for this Town and are very proud. She said that she appreciates the Officer's listening, caring, working together with the residents to help clean up areas in our Town. She believes that officers should be hands-on experience with our problems and she stated that Officer Webster did an outstanding job and will be missed.

III.B Pop Warner All American Scholar Program

Councilor Banach moved to table this item - Seconded by Councilor Casasanta – Vote 8 -0 Mayor Wright absent

IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mark Shipman representing Hayes Kaufman, Newington commented on Item VI.A Plan of Conservation and Development. He submitted a written presentation and in summarizing he stated that there is a parcel,

been included. Councilor Klett asked under the equipment replacement reserve, the replacement has to have a life expectancy of at least seven years. Mr. Salomone explained that one reason is a normal accounting definition of capital equipment, a common accounting term and it would be between the Manager the Director and the Public Works people to determine that it fits their criteria. Councilor Nagel asked about optimum life expectancy, does this have to do with Police cars and vehicles used by Parks & Rec. Mr. Salomone said that's why some of the Capital equipment is not included in the operation budget. Councilor Nasinnyk mentioned that this is something that should be on the horizon and being under old business she thinks we should take action now and we do have the ability. Councilor Nasinnyk said that because we don't have to be concerned with the Municipal election this November, we'll be talking about the bonding part of these projects it will give us a bit more time and not have to be crunched for time. She thinks we should go forward.

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby adopts the "Town of Newington Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan 2010-2011 through 2014-2015," a final copy of which will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

NOTE: This vote is binding only for the funds committed for fiscal year 2010-2011 (attached); the proposed funding for 2012-2013 through 2014-2015 is for planning purposes only and is subject to change through future budget deliberations.

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

Councilor Banach moved to amend Item XIV – to add Personnel to the Executive Session portion of the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk - Vote 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

V.B ESTABLISH PROJECT BUILDING COMMITTEE: Artificial Turf Field Project

Mr. Salomone invited Mr. Bruce Till, Superintendent Parks & Recreation to the table.

Mr. Salomone stated that with all the discussion on the turf field, and through the budget process we now have funds to begin. Council suggested that the committee be composed of 7 members. Attached he said the Parks & Recreation Department submitted a Needs Assessment Statement for the Clem Lemire Synthetic Turf Field (statement enclosed in packet)

Mr. Till stated that the important that you've heard from several youth organizations and listened to what they feel is in need in Town, since then the numbers and registrations of all these programs are still increasing. There's a real problem with that field not having a growing season. He said that there's a real need to have a time where we can get some germination on the field and presently we don't have that on this field. It's used 24/7, 9 months of the year. Having football part of the year and LaCrosse on it another part of the year, two tough sports on a field that never gets any rest. Across the street, he stated that the little league fields are in much better condition and that's because they do have a growing season. He continued that if this project were to go forward and get a synthetic field, then there would be an opportunity to give some other fields a rest and could rotate the fields and bring them up to a higher standard. Councilor Banach asked what is the latest that field is used into the fall. Mr. Till said that it's used until the snow flies. Councilor Banach asked about the earliest in the Spring. Mr. Till said that the Spring activities want to get started in April. Councilor Klett said that looking at the area, she realized just how much really needs to be tackled and she is comfortable supporting this and this is a matter of moving up some of the money already allocated and rearranging some of the funds. She believes that this is the right thing to do.

WHEREAS, the Town Council discussed the possibility of establishing a project building committee to deal with the needs associated with the planning and construction of a synthetic turf field at Clem Lemire park in the Town of Newington; and

WHEREAS, with the DECD State grant of \$500,000 and \$250,000 in funding authorized for the FY 2010-11 the project cost will exceed \$250,000; and
 WHEREAS, the Town of Newington's master plan for the Parks and Recreation Department recommends construction of a synthetic turf field;
 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council establishes the Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Field Project Building Committee consisting of seven (7) members and composed of two (2) Town Council members, two (2) members from the Board of Parks and Recreation, and three (3) members from the public at large.
 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby appoints the following members to the Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Field Project Building Committee

Name	Address	Party	Term
Town Council Rep: Michael Lenares	76 Stonehedge	R	Immediate – 11/15/11 NTC term
Town Council Rep: Maureen Klett	104 Harold Drive	D	Immediate – 11/15/11 NTC term
Board of Parks and Rec. Rep: Don Woods	82 Ivy Lane	D	Immediate – To end
Board of Parks and Rec. Rep: Bill DeBlasio	68 Harold Drive	R	Immediate – To end
Public:			Immediate – to end
Public:			Immediate – to end
Public:			Immediate – to end

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta

SECONDED BY: Councilor McBride

VOTE: 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

Mr. Salomone stated that the three members of the Public will be determined at a later meeting

V.C FAIR HOUSING POLICY

Mr. Salomone that this yearly resolution reaffirms our Fair Housing Policy and has not changed.

Councilor Casasanta moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, all American citizens are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and
 WHEREAS, State and Federal Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, lawful source of income, sexual orientation, or familial status, be given equal access to rental and homeownership opportunities and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
 WHEREAS, the Town of Newington is committed to upholding these laws and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice;
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing for adequate housing of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager of the Town of Newington or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of any illegal discriminatory housing practices in the Town of Newington.

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta

SECONDED BY: Councilor Banach

VOTE: 7 – 0 Councilor Nagel absent for vote – Mayor Wright absent

VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. 2010-2010 Plan of Conservation and Development – Draft 3

Mr. Salomone stated that this is the third draft of the 2010-2020 Plan of Conservation and Development. It's important to note that the Council can endorse or reject the entire plan or any part of the plan which bring recommendations back to the Council. If it does go back to the Town Council there is the opportunity to entertain other recommendations. The TPZ will keep the hearings open through May 12. This meeting is more informational and there will not be any decisions made tonight and any recommendations from the Council would be at the first meeting in May.

Mr. Dave Pruett, 189 Littlebrook Drive, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission and Mr. Ed Meehan, Town Planner submitted a Power Point presentation (attached) regarding the Plan.

Councilor Casasanta asked about hindering the growth and progress of our Town with a visionary plan she thinks does serious damage by not allowing ourselves the opportunity to look ahead and see what could be beneficial. Mr. Pruett said that after hearing what the public said, that they do not want high density housing but want to maintain the character of what we have. He said that they look at all proposals and those who have merit and substance will be considered. Councilor Lenares asked Mr. Meehan can we take this plan and look at it like we do the CIP long range plan. Mr. Meehan said that this is a micro view guide based on opportunities for the next ten years. CIP budget plan might be an implementation tool for long range plan but we need to be visionary because we can't anticipate everything that might happen. We can anticipate that we're running out of land and know we have to be more creative with what we've got left. Mr. Salomone said that the CIP does address some issues about implementing the master plan for Parks & Rec, looking at planning of the Town for various areas, and there are parts of the CIP that are part of the long term process of this. Mr. Meehan said that the Commission is looking at the big picture and the plan cannot so wide open that anything goes, but not so restricted that nothing goes. We all need to be on the same wave length with this for redeveloping and after hearing from the public and sometimes the public paints things with a broad brush. Every project will be looked at based on its surroundings. Councilor Nagel said from the presentation, the idea of restricting zoning and allowing any change can work another way where there might be something where land might be given for open space if the zoning could be changed. He would like to look at this as a benefit to the Town in terms of open space. Some residential or commercial space may come up which may be opposite to what is stated here. Mr. Pruett reiterated that changes in the zoning districts will be evaluated based on the characteristics of the surrounding area. Any good plan will go forward on its merits. Councilor Klett feels that if there is a good plan that may suit that area she doesn't think we should say 'no'.

Councilor Cohen asked what the Council does next on this matter. Mr. Salomone said that any suggestions and/or changes should be made at the next meeting and entered into the record for Planning & Zoning. Councilor Cohen feels that Newington is overly developed residentially and if we want to increasing our Grand List won't be done with housing. Councilor Nasinnyk said she was pleased too this presentation because she had been concerned with only 92% of the Town being developed and she appreciated the wording for reuse and smart use of what's there now, not necessarily a new spot. What she didn't see was any 'absolutes' or 'thou shall not' and she appreciates that. Councilor Klett doesn't believe that there's any reason to hold a public hearing. Mr. Salomone said that if there are some recommendations to make some changes, then we need to hear from the public. Mr. Meehan that the TPZ will keep the hearing going and if the Council wants to have a hearing that would go forward and those results would be reported to the TPZ so the public would have a chance to comment. Councilor Klett commented that Mr. Meehan and Mr. Pruett have done a phenomenal job in keeping the public informed. Councilor Banach asked at the public hearing that they identify themselves and

minutes are taken, does Mr. Pruett recall the public asking for high density housing. Mr. Pruett answered 'no'. Councilor Casasanta asked that if anyone came to him and asked for high density housing could come before you and express their concerns. Mr. Pruett answered 'yes'.

Councilor Cohen stated that at this point there's no need for a Council public hearing and at the next meeting when we hear some of the comments from the table we'll know what we're dealing with. Council McBride thanked Mr. Meehan and Mr. Pruett for their work and both past Town Planners and TPZ's, this Town has been planned and developed so well and hearing 'small town' should be 'small town character'. He thinks it's important that with the leaders we have now and in the past we will succeed.

B CEMETERY FEES

Mr. Salomone submitted an attachment on proposed amendments for grave sites and other maintenance of the cemetery. He said that the Code of Ordinances gives the Town Manager authority to set fees, it's a matter of checks and balances and the Council has 60 days prior to it's effective date to raise any questions or concerns. These fees have been revised, and there are new structures that would necessitate additional charges just for those alone. The goal of the Cemetery Fund is to be self sustaining and to provide sufficient funds for perpetual care without a burden on the tax payers. The Council now has 60 days to examine it and bring it back to the agenda with any recommendations and/or changes. Mr. Salomone said that these fees are still lower than other regional cemeteries. Mr. Salomone stated that based on historical usage we probably have another 30 to 35 years of capacity presently.

VII RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Banach moved to resolve under section 12 – Human Rights Commission to appoint

12. Human Rights Commission

9 members, 3 year term
 Party Max.: 6
 Remaining members: 2 Rep., 5 Dem

Audra Ekstom	281 Faith Court	D	IMMED.-11/30/11	Vacant (Jeffrey Cultrera res. 1/27/09)
---------------------	------------------------	----------	------------------------	---

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

VIII TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Banach moved the following

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$5,443.32 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

IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of March 17, 2010 Special – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 Mayor Wright absent

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of March 22, 2010 Special – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 Mayor Wright absent

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2010 Public Hearing – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 Mayor Wright absent

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2010 Regular – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 (with changes noted) Mayor Wright absent
Councilor Nasinnyk noted that Dwayne Thomas is a Rocky Hill resident.

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of March 31, 2010 Special – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 (with changes noted) Mayor Wright absent
Councilor Nagel noted changes in his comments – Page 15, Line 10 - ...like it or not, (add comma) also on Line 12 Proposed here. (add period) Cross out 'not say'.

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2010 Public – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 (with changes as noted) Mayor Wright absent
Councilor Nasinnyk noted on Page 10, Line 7 should read “she will”_vote..... Also on the same line change “you” to “we”, and end the paragraph with ...to vote on the budget.

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2010 Special – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 (with changes as noted) Mayor Wright absent
Councilor Cohen noted that on Page 4, 7th line up from bottom, created should read 'creative'.
Also on Page 10 Line 2 should read.....will also be honored at the Chamber dinner.

Councilor Banach moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2010 Special – Seconded Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 - 0 (with changes as noted) Mayor Wright absent
Councilor Banach noted on Page 5 Line 3 – should read “in terms of”. Also Line 6 should read “he is reminded one year ago” – Line 8 – should read this “year” in the minority.

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

A Town Managers Report

Mr. Salomone submitted a monthly report and the only addition to that is that the Library is up for the grants from the Hartford Foundation, it's a non-competitive grant as long as they meet the deadline which is the first week of May. They will be eligible for a \$30,000 grant and will be using it to promote digital literacy, computers, laptops and software at the Library.

XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS –
No reports

XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive – she wondered if there is a change in the policy, the gentleman that spoke out of turn was asking for a dialogue and no one mentioned it. She noted at the last meeting public participation was announced and people had finished and she wanted to speak again. She was ignored.

Steve Woods, Board of Education Chair, thanked everyone who supported the budget for the Board of Education. He realizes that it is a difficult year but the Town is still moving forward. He is happy it's over and doesn't look forward to next year.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – has thoughts about the 2020 POCD but will save her thoughts for tomorrow TPZ's Public Hearing. She noted that we have the Parks & Rec master plan that people keep talking about with the synthetic turf field and the grant for that, we have 2020 plan for conservation and development. One of her concerns is, is there a master plan for the maintenance for residential as well as commercial properties. For years she has been mentioning getting some clean up for a pathway running by St. Mary's Church to the High School and also up now to the Senior Center. She hopes that we maintain what we have here and put some

money into maintaining areas such as those. She stated that nothing ever gets maintained and at the Church one day, apparently the Church is maintaining a lot of that pathway area. She thanked everyone for their time and effort put into the budget.

XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Casasanta was offended by the statement made about anyone who didn't vote for the Board of Education budget did not support it, and she takes that very personally and Mr. Woods knows that she supports education.

Deputy Mayor Lenares made a motion to move to Executive Session RE: Contract Negotiations & Property and Personnel – Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

Present at the Executive Session were –

- Councilor Banach
- Councilor Casasanta
- Councilor Cohen
- Councilor Klett
- Councilor Lenares
- Councilor McBride
- Councilor Nagel
- Council Nasinnyk
- Town Manager John Salomone
- Town Attorney Ben Ancona
- Labor Attorney Ken Plumb

Councilor Casasanta moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:20 PM – Seconded by Councilor McBride – Vote 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Casasanta moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 PM – Seconded by Councilor McBride – Vote 8 – 0 Mayor Wright absent

Respectfully submitted

Mary Richard
Council Clerk