



Tanya D. Lane
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2019

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Adam O. Krupinski
Town Clerk

Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room L-101.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest
Councilor Arace
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Manke
Councilor Miner
Councilor Serra
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Attendees:

Tanya Lane, Town Manager
James E. Krupinski, Town Clerk
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda, as amended, by Councilor Manke seconded by Councilor DelBuono.
Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent).

Councilor Anest made a motion to remove Item VII.A. Consideration of New Business, Annual Visit from State Legislators, they were not all able to attend tonight's meeting. Seconded by Councilor Manke.
Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent).

IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. 2018 Volunteer of the Year – Kevin L. Mason

Motion by Councilor Manke

WHEREAS, each year the Town Council recognizes someone who has voluntarily dedicated time and/or resources for the benefit of others and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, this year Attorney Kevin L. Mason is being recognized for his active and continuing involvement with so many volunteer organizations; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Mason has been a licensed Attorney for over thirty-three years and a lifelong resident of the Town of Newington for over sixty years; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Mason has supported the Parks & Recreation Department programs as a baseball umpire, a summer camp counselor, ice skating and sledding supervisor; and

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WHEREAS, Attorney Mason was instrumental in acquiring two (2) properties adjacent to the Lucy Robbins Welles Library for future expansion as a Library Board Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Mason has continued to support the library's annual fundraiser, as Co-Chair of the Newington Library 5K Challenge Road Race, for over 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Mason has volunteered his time on the: Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board of Trustees (1994-2001); Lucy Robbins Welles 5K Road Race (1997-2018); Newington Housing Authority (2001-2015); Newington Children's Theatre Company (2007-2017); Newington Parks & Recreation Basketball Coach, Boys (1995-1999), Girls (2002-2009); Newington Little League Manager, Boys Baseball (1996-1998), Girls Softball (2003-2018); Newington Little League Softball President (2008-2018); Newington High School Summer Softball Manager (2014-2018); Newington High School Winter Assistant Coach-USSSA (2015-2018); and

WHEREAS, Attorney Mason embraces the most powerful traits of a volunteer, working a little harder and encouraging others to do the same, never seeking recognition or acclaim and always having kind words of support and smile on his face; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Attorney Kevin L. Mason as its 2018 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his volunteer activities for the welfare of the community and for serving as a positive role model and an example of all that can be accomplished through the spirit of volunteerism.

Seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent)

- Attorney Mason stated he is rarely at a loss for words. Thank you everybody, all my friends and people I have seen throughout the years, my family. I am stunned. Thanks to Bill DeMaio (and Lisa) for submitting my name. Overwhelmed, everything I did was because I enjoyed doing it. Thank you everyone for coming, I truly appreciate it.
- Bill Conchitello (sp?), 12 Sugar Maple Lane, Berlin, CT. I have been friends with Kevin over 50 years. One word I use to describe Kevin is integrity. He is always fair and honest. Mr. Conchitello stated that the town is lucky to have Kevin as a volunteer and congratulate him on this honor.
- Daniel Fox, 44 Welsh Road, Wethersfield. I have known Kevin for over 50 years. Kevin got me involved with volunteering with the Summer Playground; to this day kids from the program still ask how Mr. Mason is doing. Thank you inspiring me.
- Emily Guion, 20 Kirkland Street stated that she would not have done this for everyone. Super pleased to see your name as volunteer of the year. Unaware of all you have done, know you through softball. You have been asset to the softball program. You have inspired us to do more. Newington is very lucky to have you.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that she was not able to attend tonight's meeting in person. I have known Kevin for over 30 years, 20 years at probate court, unaware of all the programs Mr. Mason was involved in. After listening to all he has town for the town over the years, not sure how he did it. I thank you and couldn't think of any one better to work with our youth. Thank you very much.
- Ms. Gonzalez, Senior at Newington High School stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Mason on his award. Doesn't know anyone more deserving to be named volunteer of the year. Thanked Coach Mason for all he has done for the softball program. Congratulations on your award.
- Bill DeMaio, 28 Burden Lane stated that he wanted to thank the council for awarding Kevin the Volunteer of the Year Award. Kevin is the most exemplary person for this. Whatever he does, he does it 100%. Newington is thankful and lucky to have Kevin. Thank you to his wife Sherri for sharing him with the town for all these years. On behalf of everyone, thank you very much. You are a wonderful guy and deserve all the accolades in the world.

- Eric Rothhauser, 28 Partridge Drive stated that is here speaking on behalf of the Newington Children's Theatre; it would not exist today without Kevin's help. On behalf of the theatre and the community we are truly grateful for the time you have spent. Thank you.
- Steven Mangifico, 43 Cinnamon Road stated that he has known Kevin for approximately 10 years and the recognition is will deserved. Kevin has always given to this community. The honor you receive tonight is will deserved. Congrats.
- Mayor Zartarian read a letter in to the record from Steve Marke, Newington High School Softball Coach thanking Kevin for all the work he has done for the Newington community over the years and the girls softball program.
- Councilor Anest presented a citation from the CT General Assembly in recognition of being named the Newington 2018 Volunteer of the Year.
- Councilor Manke stated he wanted to add his congratulations. You have gone out of your way to make this community a better place to live. I appreciate it on behalf of the town.
- Councilor DelBuono stated that she was very happy to see Kevin as volunteer of the year. My daughter has played softball for Kevin and had the honor of being a parent for those teams over the years. Always provided stats and comments to the players at the end of the season. True that you are rarely at a loss for words, except when you are being thanked for something. Can't thank you enough for all you have done for my daughter, my family and the community, Don't know how you found the time to do all you did. Thank you.
- Councilor Anest stated that it says a lot that you were nominated by so many different individuals. You volunteer your time to all different aspects of the community and that is what Newington is all about. Thank you for being a role model and encouraging others to volunteer. Our community is fortunate to have you. Remember you from summer playground. That was the time of our lives when we were growing up.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that it is a testimony to you by the number of people came out to honor you. It seems like you have touched every demographic group in this town one way or the other. Thank you.
- Mayor Zartarian congratulated Mr. Mason and thanked him for all the things he has done for our community.

B. Proclamation – Johnathan Aselton

Motion by Councilor Anest

WHEREAS, Johnathan Aselton was hired as a Police Officer for the Town of Newington in March 1, 1999, he transferred from Torrington Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton was assigned to Motorcycle Patrol in May 2005; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton was appointed to Master Police Officer in September 2010 as well as Field Training Officer in June 2012; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton was Licensed Public Safety Telecommunicator; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton served in the United States Airforce; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton was actively involved with the Officer Brian Aselton Memorial Scholarship Fund; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton served in various union positions, including President; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton served on the Police Benevolent Association Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton was recognized for Outstanding Performance in January 2009 and September 2011 for his proactive patrol enforcement and investigation; and

WHEREAS, Johnathan Aselton received commendation letters from surrounding police departments including Glastonbury, Manchester, Waterbury and West Hartford for his assistance and exceptional work; and

WHEREAS, Officer Aselton received various letters of commendation recognizing his work and various thank you notes and letters of appreciation from residents and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Officer Johnathan Aselton will retire from the Town of Newington on February 28, 2019 after 20 years of full time service;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Officer Johnathan Aselton for his professional service and dedication to the Town and wishes him the best in his retirement.

Seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent)

- Office Aselton thanked the Town Council, Mayor, Chief Clark and the residents for being able to serve the past 20 years. It is has been a great career. Got paid for riding a motorcycle around. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve.
- Steven Clark, Newington Police Department wanted to thank Office Aselton for all his years of service and Union President. Enjoyed all of our discussions, they were dialectic, each of us having an issue and coming us with a common solution. Also your advocate for officer safety, thank you for that. Good luck to you and your family on your retirement.
- Derek Lovano (sp?), Sargent, Newington Police Department wanted to congratulate Officer Aselton on 20 years of service. This job takes its toll, we spend a lot of holidays, nights and weekends away from our families and feel like they are retiring too. Congratulations and good luck.
- Councilor Anest presented a citation from the CT General Assembly offering congratulations in recognition of your retirement and hope for continued success.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that Officer Aselton has served the department well in the many positions over your career; you also had the residents back every time you stepped out for duty and we appreciate that. Many of us pray for you and your brothers and sisters on a daily basis. It is more than a career, it is your life. And we thank you for that. Hope you can enjoy some time in retirement.
- Councilor Anest stated that she wanted to congratulate Officer Aselton and wish him a retirement he is so deserving of and to spend quality time with his family. You have endured a lot and have kept us safe in this town and we, as residents, truly appreciate it.
- Councilor Manke stated that he also wanted to thank Officer Aselton for his service to the town and wish him the best in his retirement.
- Mayor Zartarian stated thanked Officer Aselton and congratulated him for his 20 years of service. Also his best wishes for the future. It's not always evident, but the community really does appreciate the work you and your fellow officers do keeping our town safe.

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)**

- Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street wanted to congratulate Mr. Mason and Officer Aselton on their awards and recognition. Wanted to talk about last Tuesday. Want to say to the Majority and those of you that voted to go on with the town hall construction project for having the fortitude and foresight. The town attorney stated that he didn't think it was legal and that is just an opinion, that is what he is hired for. Do believe that that Bond Counsel, who probably knows the Charter well enough, came up with the opposite opinion. I personally think you did the right thing. When I went in to that voting booth, I don't care how much we approved that day, we know construction projects like this are going to need additional money for overruns. According to the town manager you have spent \$2.2 million so far and it is not going to stop until you get started. I think with adjustments it should come back down to a more reasonable amount. I say

nice work to the three of you that voted against it; it is just as nice and that is what you are there for. Thank you.

- Neil Ryan, 237 Brocket Street wanted to take the opportunity to thank the town council for the general support and idea for the construction of a railroad station in the Cedar Street. Was especially impressed at the bipartisan support by Mayor Zartarian and Gary Turco at the legislature in support of the proposed railroad station. Also blown away by the Hartford Courant article in which Town Manager Lane describes the transit oriented district she envisions adjacent to the proposed railroad station. Really do hope this projects move forward. Cannot understand why, after 5 ½ years, the General Welding site is still vacant. Can't believe that in that time no one has approached the town to build something there. TOD at both the railroad station and bus station should not be seen as being in conflict with each other. My dream scenario would be the construction of a multi-model transportation center in the Cedar Street area that would serve as a hub for commuter rail and passenger bus service. Thank you for your time.
- Councilor DelBuono read a letter in to the record from Dana and Garret Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue regarding the funding for the new town hall (*attached hereto*).

VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councilor DelBuono wanted to address a couple of things that Mr. Fox mentioned and do appreciate him for acknowledging both sides of the aisle in terms of the vote and acknowledging that there were reasons for both. In his statement he mentioned a Bond Council letter. Unfortunately, the opinion came to us after the vote had taken place. My understanding is that it was received by Ms. Lane at 4:30 on February 19th, the day of the meeting, and we did not have a chance to review it before the vote. Want to read a part of it because I think there is a misconception of what it says. It states: "I agree with a lot of what Attorney Ancona states in his opinion including the ascertain that voters by vote at referendum limited the amount that could be spent on the town hall renovation project to no more than \$28.8 million." So he agreed with Attorney Ancona's statement that people voted on \$28.8 million and that was the appropriation. He goes on to state that he is correct that "a special appropriation exceeding \$975,000 must be approved by the voters at referendum." He also goes on to say "there is however another method for the town to obtain additional monies that doesn't require a referendum vote." The method is contained in Charter Section 8.05 which permits the town to seek an additional appropriation through its annual budget process. This assumes that no additional bonds or notes will be issued to finance such appropriation." When I read this after the fact, one, I was angry that we did not have this before the meeting and two, I am reading that there is a section of the Charter that allows for more monies, however, Attorney Ancona's assertion that the amount of spending was limited based on the referendum votes stands, based on that opinion. That is the way I read it, that is my opinion. It does, based on my idea, back up some of the votes that happened last week; the three of us that voted no, I know that there is going to be an opposite opinion based on what is said on the opposite side of the aisle. I wanted this to be read so that everyone understands it is not just oh yes, the bond counsel agrees with everyone else, because that wasn't the case and he very much agrees with what Attorney Ancona said. Thank you.
- Mayor Zartarian stated he wanted to respond to Mr. Ryan's question about the corner of Cedar and Fenn. There is a developer which is very interested; one of the hold ups is the state budgetary situation. We have been trying since the inception of Fastrak there, the developer would like to build a parking garage, and have the DOT commit to leasing spaces to offset the cost of the garage which would help with easing up the parking situation. So that is one of the reasons for the hold up. What the new legislature will do is anybody's guess at this point. I hope we see it, we have been in mind long enough. The same thing with the train station. I know I have been raked over the coals on Facebook for supporting the train station, I don't care. I think

it will be an asset for the town. Then again, we are looking at \$55 - \$60 million and at least 4-years down the road.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)

A. Central CT Health District-Annual Presentation

- Charles Brown, Health Director for Central Connecticut Health District introduced Dr. Patricia Checko, new Board Chair. Dr. Checko stated that local health departments are here to prevent, promote and protect. We are the local health department for Newington, Berlin, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield and serve just under one hundred thousand people. We have been in service for 26 years. Our offices moved to our new location at 2080 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100 in Rocky Hill, which is the St. Francis Medical Building. We have 11 employees, 9 full time and 2 part time. We have over 50 active professional and lay volunteers, many of whom you see when you come to the annual flu clinics and participate in our preparedness readiness. Oversight of the board is made up of board members appointed by the towns, and are based on population; Newington has 4, Berlin has 3, Rocky Hill has 3 and Wethersfield has 3. Dr. Checko introduced two board members, Shelly Sadlosky and Kevin Borup. Things have changed for the health department in many ways. In 2014 the legislature introduced C.G.S. 19a-207a which states that each health department must have health programs that include but is not limited to the 10 essential public health services: (1) Monitoring of health status to identify and solve community health problems; (2) investigating and diagnosing health problems and health hazards in the community; (3) informing, educating and empowering persons in the community concerning health issues; (4) mobilizing community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems for persons in the community; (5) developing policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts; (6) enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety; (7) connecting persons in the community to needed health care services when appropriate; (8) assuring a competent public health and personal care workforce; (9) evaluating effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services; and (10) researching to find innovative solutions to health problems. Important that we see each other as partners, that we will work closely together, and we have been already been working closely with the folks here in Newington on the opioid epidemic that involves us all. Thanks to the Mayor for his letter of support that helped us get this grant. A larger problem we are now working on is hoarding and that takes a team effort. In the last several years, something we have been talking about for 50 years in public health, has caught the attention of people and we are now talking about something called the social determinance of health. People are beginning to understand that your health is whether or not you have a house, whether or not you have a job that pays; your health is whether or not you live in a community that supports people with illnesses. Dr. Checko explained the difference between health care and public health. Dr. Checko stated we are all in this together; we will be only getting \$1.45 per capita in 2019. Dr. Checko turned the floor over to Dr. Brown. Dr. Brown stated that in 2017-2018 the total revenue they brought in was a little over \$1.1 million, most of that coming from the member towns. Program revenue brought in another \$66,000 and grants (federal and state) brought in a little over \$300,000. Our expenditures were a little over \$1.1 million, with a majority of that being salary and benefits. Newington is very important in the opioid epidemic with the Berlin Turnpike being a high use area of opioid use. Our inspectors did over 1,700 inspections last year. We responded to 221 complaints from the public, with the majority being housing, property maintenance and hoarding. We are working with the Newington Housing taskforce to address issues within the town of Newington. Another program is our Putting on Airs program which is home asthma health. We do radon kit distributions, and lead poisoning prevention which is not just peeling paint. A lot of cases have been in the immigrant communities with spices, jewelry, religious artifacts and even pressure cookers, there is lead in the pressure relief valve that people

have imported from their home countries. We sell bike helmets for \$10 each. Promoting and encouraging healthy behavior is where we want to be. We have had our walking program for several years now and last year Berlin won the overall competition. Rocky Hill actually won the impact award for highest participation. Encourage you all to get your teams together for the competition which begins in April. We have been pushing complete streets, which allow for multiple modes of transportation – biking, walking, cars and buses. Craig Minor has been a great help in working with us on this. We do senior dental screenings; last year we did 117 clients. We continue to look at national public health accreditation. Thank you to our home towns for your continued support.

- Mayor Zartarian thanked Dr. Brown and Dr. Checko for coming out and giving this informative presentation. This is an example of regionalism really works, don't think of it that way, but when you come right down to it, it is multiple towns working together saving money.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that this question is from our Environmental Quality Commission. We have been talking about Earth Day and litter pick up, but another issue is overall blight. You mentioned housing, and unsanitary conditions and you mentioned your role in this. What is your role with the blight enforcement officer. Who contacts you? Can a member of the public contact you? It is a significant issue at some sites in Newington.
- Dr. Brown stated that they do work with the Newington Housing taskforce on a number of issues. We can be contacted directly if there are unsanitary conditions or things that would cause an issue with rodents or insects. Sometimes things are brought to us by the town manager and sometimes other departments. We look to work with property owners and deal with the situation. Most of the time we are successful and we are able to bring properties up to compliance. There are some challenges. We have been proactive in trying to get information out to the public.
- Councilor Budrejko asked if this involved commercial properties.
- Dr. Brown stated that they do work with commercial properties as well. It is usually something that is case by case.
- Dr. Checko stated that there are specific pieces of state statute that require health departments to respond, especially relating to rental properties, so we deal a lot directly with the tenant in that situation.
- Deputy Mayor DelBuono thanked the CCHD for coming out tonight and giving this presentation. She also thanked them for all that they do.
- Dr. Checko invited everyone to an Open House at their new offices on March 6th from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Come visit us, check us out and meet the staff.

Presentation available on the Town of Newington website.

B. FY 2018-2019 Budget Transfers (Waiver Requested)

- Town Manager Lane stated that these adjustments are related to wage increases for the fiscal year 17-18. It includes wage increase for the administrative group, part time and the IBPO. The contract negotiations for the IBPO were completed after the budget was approved last year, and these funds were approved in the special contingency and not included in the departments operating budgets. These funds need to be transferred from the special contingency to the respective departments.
- Mayor Zartarian read from the rules of procedure which say: (a) no vote shall be taken under an agenda item listed under new business. In an emergency or special situation, which this is, this rule may be waived by the council members with a 2/3 vote approving and in this instance public participation should be added, should be, it doesn't have to be, prior to, before the council votes on a new business item. I hope that answers the question to the one who always raises the issue.

Motion by Councilor Miner

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with Section 12 of the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, adopted May 10, 2016, hereby moves to allow action on Agenda Item VII.C, to approve General Fund budget transfers for FY 2018-2019.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent)

Motion by Councilor Anest

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>
960	Contingency	\$304,926.00

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

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

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
154	Revenue Collector	\$2,165.00
170	Town Clerk	1,880.00
191	Facilities Management	2,355.00
211	Police Administration	9,135.00
212	Police Patrol	161,578.00
213	Police Investigation	36,941.00
215	Police Communication	29,456.00
217	Police Education/Training	6,162.00
218	Police Support Service	24,167.00
231	Fire Department Admin	335.00
238	Fire Marshal	1,700.00
310	Engineering	715.00
321	Highway Administration	4,160.00
352	Transfer Station	285.00
430	Planning & Zoning	95.00
450	Building Department	3,095.00
460	Conservation Commission	37.00
472	Development Commission	14.00
610	Human Services	3,225.00
644	Senior & Disabled Service	6,140.00
645	Dial-A-Ride	166.00
711	Library Administration	3,565.00
712	Library Children's Service	650.00
713	Circulation	55.00
810	Parks & Recreation	<u>5,400.00</u>
	Total	\$304,926.00

Seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent)

Public Participation

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that not to disappoint you Mr. Mayor, but I am watching, and I am taking it personally, you pointing a finger at me and stating I need to know the rules. You explained it to me last time, three times as a matter of fact and I ask you not to speak to me like that again. I understand what is going on, I am perfectly fine with the way you are doing it. I went back and looked at other times you were waiving the rules and sometimes you have public participation and sometimes you don't. So go ahead and do as you wish, I just want to know what the emergency is. Thank you.

C. Earth Day Update

- Deb Krawiec, 267 Cottonwood Road, Commissioner on Environmental Quality Commissioner and Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street, Commissioner on Environmental Quality Commission, also in attendance Michael Camillo, Chair of the Environmental Quality Commission. We are here to share with you things going on with Earth Day and some of the ongoing events we have surrounding Earth Day. Earth Day this year is on April 27th at 9:00 a.m. and the rain date is May 4th. Volunteers are asked to meet at Churchill Park. On the litter pick up day where we are inviting the community to participate we will identify around town areas. We are also working with our library and will have a reading program during the week of Earth Day. The library will be taking efforts to teach our students, or teach the young children about pickup within their area. A letter has gone out, through the Chamber of Commerce, notifying business that we are inviting them to participate in Earth Day, or Earth Week, in coming forth and volunteering to go plastic bag free that day and certainly any businesses that acknowledges and ongoing efforts in keeping their property litter free, this year we are actually going to give out our Pride in Newington posters
- Mr. Fox stated in addition to the items Deb mentioned. For the poster contest again this year, we have been working closely with Assistant Superintendent Muraca. We will exhibit these posters at the Extravaganza and at the State Capital. We are trying to make Earth Day every day, using media and print advertising. We will have an initiative to use other types of bags in lieu of plastic bags; we may ask the council to think of that for Newington. Want to thank Deb and Councilor Budrejko for all their efforts with this.
 - Councilor Budrejko stated that Earth Day is actually April 22, but in Newington we are celebrating it on April 27th with our litter pickup.
- Mr. Fox stated that Earth Day is April 22 which is a Monday this year, which is convenient, so for that week leading up to the pickup initiative we will have things going on with the schools, the scouts and other organizations to take partake in and educate as to why it is important to save our environment.
- Ms. Krawiec stated that is a holiday weekend, that is why April 27th was chosen. It is our goal not to have to come here and do litter pickups. We want educate our children and bring them up to be more mindful of the environment. We have the poster contest, and legislation. There are surrounding towns that have placed a ban on plastic bags. It's not only about getting rid of plastic bags, but looking for something to replace them.
 - Councilor Manke asked if people want to volunteer they go to Churchill Park on April 27th at 9 o'clock and from there you will disperse them.
- Ms. Krawiec stated yes and we will also be announcing the winner of the poster contest. Part of this poster contest is to have the school children draw posters for the "Think before you toss, keep Newington litter free" initiative. We do have t-shirts this year, you will notice that on our t-shirts what we have done is we have selected a logo from one of the winners from last year. so I hope you enjoy them. This year we will select a new winner and will pick a logo for the following year.
- Mr. Fox stated that he has been contacted by Patty Foley, they are getting a lot of these programs started, so we will be uploading pictures from last year and have them on NCTV.

- Councilor Anest stated that she wanted to thank the commission for this initiative it is getting bigger and better each year and looking forward to this year. The t-shirt is an awesome idea because that logo will be forever and that child that is chosen, it will make a huge first impression and next year you will get more participants, so I applaud you for that. Just an idea, have you ever thought about adopting a street and having different organizations or schools adopt a street of their school grounds to keep that litter free. That is something you can grow on year after year.
- Mr. Fox stated that they hadn't thought about it recently, but that is a good idea. Years ago, we were trying to start the Adopt a Highway program, but that would be on state highways, and there is a lot of stuff involved with that, insurance liability and such. But, the neighborhood would be ideal, when you are out on pick up your street, keep it clean.
- Mr. Krawiec wanted to give two shout outs to Michael (Camillo) and the Conservation Commission. They have been our ongoing partners with us on the litter pickup in taking roles as team leaders and doing a lot of the heavy lifting, literally, so just a shout out to them.

D. Save the Date – Joint Meeting

- Town Manager Lane stated that CERC, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, is an entity that provides data, planning and implementation strategies to foster business recruitment and growth and that was the idea of putting this workshop together. It is something that Andy Brecher spearheaded and it is designed to teach us how we can all work together to achieve our common goals. It will be held on Saturday, March 30th from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the Jefferson House. If Council concurs, we will also include members from TPZ, the Economic Development Commission, Pete Forcellina and Kathy Braga from the Chamber, myself and a few other staff members. We are hoping everybody will be available to come out and partake in this workshop.
- Mayor Zartarian stated that sounds good to him. We are all talking about building the grand list.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

- None

IX. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of February 26, 2019 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$4,507.48 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.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent)

X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. January 8, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes
- B. January 22, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent)

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

- Town Manager Lane stated she wanted to give some updates on items previously discussed. She wanted to start with the Lime Bike issue, as you can see from the Courant, Hartford has decided to opt out of the program. It was a pilot program to start with, there weren't any reasons given, but they are issuing an RFP for other companies to provide a program. West Hartford has withdrawn from discussions after they were told that only e-scooters and e-bikes were allowed in communities as a new entity to work with. Bristol was looking in to this but that is on hold. I still think this is an exciting opportunity, not willing to jump in with both feet at this point, but suggest we watch it and move slowly with a goal towards eventually getting on board. The TVDD, the Transit Village Design District regulations, the town planner has received a draft from our consultant, he is reviewing as they are very complicated and once he is through reviewing them, they will be presented to council. There was a meeting scheduled with DOT regarding Myra Cohen way for February 14th which has been postponed to March 1st because a lot of the public entities were attending a transit oriented development summit. I did talk to Representative Turco and he has spoken with Patty Stewart from the DOT and she is committed to a hybrid approach in taking care of the maintenance issue which is really the stumbling block in this whole thing. The next step is to set up a meeting and I will follow up with that.

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Miner stated that he and Councilor Manke (as well as Councilors Anest and Serra) attended the Fire Commissioner's meeting. Captain Craig Stegmier (sp?) was promoted to position of Deputy Chief and First Lieutenant Pedro Michaud (sp?) was brought up to the level of Captain.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736) (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

- None

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Councilor Miner stated he wanted to bring up a few things that were a follow up to last week's discussions regarding the town hall. It has been a very personal project to me, I have been involved from the beginning of this current committee. There has been some either misinterpretation or intentional misinformation, whatever the case may be, regarding some of the issues, so I just want to bring up a few bullet points and try to clarify it on the record. First of which is per Subsection C-805 A of the Town Charter, the Town Council is obligated to adopt a budget annually that covers the costs of all anticipated expenditures for the fiscal year and to set a mill rate to produce the revenues to pay for the anticipated expenditures; those expenditures shall include all costs for each department, offices, agency and board commission of the Town. Subsection C-805 B of the town Charter, the Town Council is deemed to be the budget-making authority with respect to "Reserve Funds for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures." Subsection C-806 of the Town Charter, states that the adoption of the annual budget shall constitute the appropriation to each commission, board, office and department. Subsection 807 of the Town Charter states that the Town Council may make special appropriations, that is appropriations that are not included in the annual budget subject to the limitations imposed in Subsection C-408 of the Charter. Subsection C-407 of the Town Charter, a referendum is required for any special appropriation in excess of \$975,000. So I guess the greatest question is why is this all important? The town attorney told us at the last council meeting that we would be acting illegally if we appropriated more money for the town hall and community center project that was approved at referendum. I disagree, in fact, we were, as a council, are and were acting legally, and in my opinion, moreover responsibly. The referendum question was based on the best information available to us at the time. The overall cost estimates were believed to be reliable, not padded, not bloated and certainly not intended to be intentionally underestimated by

anyone. I guess the lesson learned here is what have we learned in the past sixteen months since the referendum. Certainly the construction manager could not have foreseen tariffs being imposed on construction products and materials; tax cuts that resulted in massive Federal borrowing that has dramatically driven up interest rates, both of which directly affect the construction costs as we recently received. The separation of the police department was an unknown prior to the referendum and after further investigation, detailed to be more involved. Water table, after underground exploratories, indicated may be an issue as well. Foundations that were found, that were known to be in the area, were not known to be quantified prior to the referendum. So we have a building project that is going to cost more than we anticipated. No one is happy about that. We are not allowed to borrow any more than the amount approved by the referendum. But as the sections of the Charter I just referenced indicate, we have several avenues for appropriating the funds necessary to cover the overruns, including an appropriation in the annual budget. We appropriate millions of dollars for capital projects in the annual budget every year and usually the amounts we budget are close to the actual costs. Sometimes we underspend and return a surplus to the fund balance, sometimes we need to spend more than anticipated; in either, make capital transfers or commit additional funds through the budget process. All completely legal, open, and transparent and above board. The Town Hall Community project is too important to abandon when there is nothing to be gained when slowing down the project. We have come too far and spent too much already. We don't want inflation resulting from further delays to increase costs any more than have already occurred. So we appropriate additional funding through the upcoming budget to solve the problem. Fortunately, the town has solid financial footings to do so and if we are blessed by the state to receive reimbursements which could be equal to or more of the cost overruns presented. I just wanted to try to get these few points on the record. Thank you.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Arace to adjourn meeting at 8:59 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent).

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk

Dear Town Council Members,

I respectfully request, on behalf of my children, that you adhere to our Town Charter, the Statutes of the State of Connecticut, and the result of the vote for the referendum.

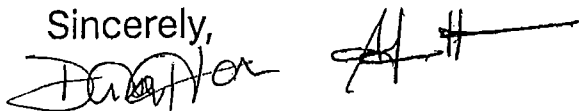
My husband and I are raising our children to be civic minded, to respect the laws under which we are governed and that we are lucky to live in a democratic country where the will and the votes of the people matter.

We encourage our children to be active in their community. Because of this, our children stood up and waved signs to save their park and have followed the progress of the town hall and community center since they were 10 years old. They are now 15.

Your decision to go against the advice of our town's attorney, to ignore the limitations of the referendum, and in turn the will of the citizens of this town, is teaching them instead that those in power decide unilaterally for the people if it doesn't meet their will.

I implore you to follow the statutes and bring to referendum the additional figure needed to build the town hall and community center we were promised.

Sincerely,



Dana and Garrett Havens

217 Stoddard Ave


Town Clerk

2019 FEB 25 AM 11:31

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