Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL
   Councilor Braverman (via Zoom)
   Deputy Mayor Budrejko
   Councilor Camillo
   Councilor Donahue
   Councilor Manke
   Councilor Nagel
   Councilor Page
   Councilor Radda
   Mayor DelBuono

   Staff Attendees:
   Keith Chapman, Town Manager (via Zoom)
   Bill DeMaio, Parks & Recreation Superintendent (via Zoom)
   James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk
   Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk (via Zoom)
   
   Also present:
   Lou Jachimowicz, Newington BOE, Chief Finance and Operations Officer (via Zoom)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   Motion by Councilor Manke to remove Item 7 - Executive Session and 9A - Appointment - Conservation Commission; also add 12.C. Anna Reynolds School Final Project Budget Acceptance. Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

4. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

   A. Proclamation – Patty Foley, Volunteer of the Year 2022

   Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

PROCLAMATION

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 Patricia (Patty) J. Foley is being recognized for her active and continuing involvement and support of many volunteer jobs, especially with Newington Community Television (NCTV) and the Lucy Robbins Wells Library; and
WHEREAS, Patty Foley has also been involved with the environment and is currently the chair of Newington Environmental Quality Commission and is working hard to make Newington a part of Sustainable Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Patty Foley, a certified CPA, has shared her expertise by helping seniors with their financial needs as well as other non-profits; and

WHEREAS, Patty Foley is the person to go to if you want anything done. Her dedication to NCTV is unmatched, and her reason for volunteering is simply because she wants the Town of Newington to shine; and

WHEREAS, Patty Foley has been asked by Boards and organizations to be a volunteer spokesperson to promote their interests because she is the person to go to if you want things done and done well; and

WHEREAS, Patty Foley is a beacon of light for volunteering in Newington and truly personifies what it means to volunteer to improve the lives of all individuals that live in, work or visit the Town of Newington; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Patricia J. Foley and her commitment to the Town of Newington as she represents the very best of Newington as its 2021 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of her 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.

Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 24th day of May, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko: Patty Foley defines the word volunteer; has given hundreds of hours of time to Newington – NCTV, Environmental Quality Commission and Lucy Robbins Library. Well-deserved honor. On behalf of the town, thank you.
- Councilor Nagel – Well deserved and long overdue. You’re passion and desire is for the betterment of the town. Hope you continue to do all the good works you’ve done in the past.
- Councilor Manke – Extend my congratulations you and applaud your volunteer spirit. Congratulations.
- Councilor Donahue – Thank you for all your service to NCTV. Thank you for everything else you do to the town.
- Mayor DelBuono – Thank you for all your years of service. Only a few things listed in proclamations. If you want it done and done well, you ask for Patty Foley. Thankful for the role model you are for our community.
- Patty Foley stated she wanted to thank the people that nominated me. Thank you to the mayor and town council and thank you to volunteer organizations I’ve contributed to over the years. Volunteering is a big deal. I have 31 years of volunteering for the town. We do this because the rewards we receive are countless. You can start at any time. Join an organization – the Environmental Quality Commission, NCTV. Thank you for this honor.

B. Proclamation – CERT, Volunteer of the Year 2022

Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, this year members of the Newington Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) are being recognized for their active and continuing involvement and support of so many local events; and
WHEREAS, Newington CERT supported all 36 of the Central CT Health District’s COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all four towns in the district. They were also critical in the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment and at home rapid test kits; and

WHEREAS, Newington CERT members also supported other various community events such as Motorcycle Madness, the Extravaganza, the Town’s 150th Anniversary Walk; and

WHEREAS, many of these same individuals also supported other CERT activations, including shelter supply staging, storm preparation as well as volunteering for other groups and organizations that benefit Newington; and

WHEREAS, Newington CERT members attend training in a variety of emergency response functions, such as sheltering and evacuations, and are critical in the successful implementation of the Town’s Emergency Operations’ Plan; and

WHEREAS, the value of the Newington CERT is highly significant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes members of the Newington Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and their commitment to the Town of Newington as they represent the very best of Newington as its 2021 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of their volunteer activities for the welfare of the community and for serving as positive role models and an example of all that can be accomplished through the spirit of volunteerism and teamwork.

Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 24th day of May, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Manke stated CERT held 36 clinics during the height of COVID – not just in Newington, but Rocky Hill, Berlin and Wethersfield. 1,700 hours of time spent. Did provide services passing out gloves, masks and home test kits. These people volunteer their time, not just for Newington but three other towns. During the height of COVID, these people were out there to help others.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko time is a precious commodity and when you volunteer you offer you time and resources to help make life better for those you come in contact with. Individually and collectively CERT members have donated many hours to our community. You’re at many community events to help keep people safe. You play an important role by assisting CCHD COVID efforts. CERT is an extraordinary volunteer team.
- Councilor Nagel echo what previous councilors have said. You’ve done an outstanding job during difficult times and not asking for anything in return and selflessly giving in all kinds of situations. Aside from what you did during the pandemic; there are events where you direct traffic, help people out, including the parade that’s coming up. Applaud you for all you do. One of the most outstanding CERT teams in the state. Blessed to have you.
- Mayor DelBuono congratulated and thanked the CERT team. You’ve done a great job throughout COVID but are also active during storm events to assist. I had the opportunity to be on calls during the COVID and over and over again our CERT team was mentioned; other towns thanked us repeatedly for the help they provided to their towns.
- CERT Member: It’s an honor for all of us to give back and serve the town of Newington and we appreciate this recognition.

C. Proclamation – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 32nd Anniversary

Introduction by Mayor DelBuono

PROCLAMATION

Americans with Disabilities Act – 32nd Anniversary
WHEREAS; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law 32 years ago on July 26th, 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, and

WHEREAS; Newington, CT affirms the principals of equality and inclusion for persons living with disabilities as set forth for the State of Connecticut and as embodied in the ADA, the laws of the State of Connecticut and ordinances of Newington, CT, and

WHEREAS; the ADA has transformed the lives of the more than 61 million American people living with disabilities, and

WHEREAS; the ADA has promoted equal access to employment, government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and public transportation, and

WHEREAS; the ADA has prohibited discrimination against people living with disabilities, and

WHEREAS; the ADA has guaranteed that people living with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life, and

WHEREAS; all of Newington's governmental departments work with constituents and residents to bring forth the promise of hope, freedom, and independence that is envisioned by the passage of the ADA, and

WHEREAS; in addition, the ADA Coalition of Connecticut (ADACC) has granted funding to provide education and awareness at a celebratory anniversary special event at Mill Pond Park on July 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED; the Newington Town Council renews our commitment to empowering Americans with disabilities through equal access so they can achieve their full potential and have every opportunity to realize the American Dream while we hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing July 26, 2022, as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day.

Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 24th day of May, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

- Mayor DelBuono stated it is a priority of the council and town to make sure all facilities and parks are ADA accessible; it’s an ongoing effort.
- Bill DeMaio thanked the council for bringing this to Newington residents. You have funded all kinds of projects to make things accessible. Hope you will read the proclamation on Thursday, July 21st. Working with Lisa Madsen, Carol LeBrecque and Jaime Trevethan.
- Jaime Trevethan thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing you on July 21st.

D. Chair Recognition – Town Council Members

Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Carol Anest served during the 2015-2021 Newington Town Councils and voluntarily provided service to the Town and did so professionally and proudly; and

WHEREAS, Chris Miner served during the 2017-2021 Newington Town Councils and voluntarily provided service to the Town and did so professionally and proudly; and

WHEREAS, these community leaders placed the interests of the Town above their personal lives, sacrificing major events in the daily activities of their spouses, children and families to attend numerous Town Council, Board, Commission and other public meetings and gatherings; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated public servants diligently performed their role, knowing that the future of our Town was affected by their actions; and
WHEREAS, former Town Council members Carol Anest and Chris Miner, are hereby recognized for their loyal and dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, over the years an official Town of Newington chair has been presented to former Councilors in recognition of their work and to serve as a symbol of the Town’s gratitude;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council, on behalf of the residents of the Town of Newington, hereby present an honorary chair to the former members of the Town Council and extends sincere appreciation to them for a job well done.

Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 24th Day of May, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Manke stated it's not a free chair – you pay for it over and over again. You miss a lot of times with your family. Glad we can give recognition of the chair. Always respected you – you always had the best interest of Newington at heart.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko wanted to express years of service, not only to council, but other organizations in town. Both of you care about Newington. Were able to talk civilly and respectfully. As Councilor Manke said your volunteerism took time and commitment. Able to work civilly and respectfully.
- Councilor Nagel stated that although we disagreed at times, we worked cordially and respectfully managed to serve together without rancor. Contribute for the betterment of the town.
- Councilor Donahue echoed what everyone else said. You helped guide me in the right direction. Thank you for that.
- Councilor Radda stated as a new councilor, there's a real learning curve and only begin to understand the amount of work until you sit in this chair. Thank both of you for all the work you've done over the past several years.
- Councilor Camillo stated thank you to Councilor Anest, without you I wouldn't be here.
- Mayor DelBouno stated that this is an emotional night. Whether we agreed or not we always worked together and in collaboration. This is a generic proclamation about the council; doesn’t mention anything about being on other committees, boards and commissions. You are both still doing hard work out there and representing Newington.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ITEMS IN GENERAL)

A. Public Comments
- Richard Lavariere, 3 Winterberry Court. Thank you to Patty Foley for all you do. Thank you to the CERT team; thank you to Mr. DeMaison. Regarding the John Paterson parking lot, initial budget was $260,000; don't understand why it's $400,000 now. Need to review.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. To Patty Foley, NCTV, CIP budget meetings – you’re amazing. To Carol & Chris – so much more to them than on the proclamation; look to them for guidance and understanding. Congratulations to others that received awards; especially during COVID.
- Danielle Drozd, 74 Glenview Drive. Hope that at some point the town and the BOE can get together and work on the town taking care of facilities. Hope we can come up with a way for that to happen. Want to concentrate on educating our children. Thank you also to all the people who got recognized tonight.
- Anastasia Yop, 138 8th Street – Chairman of Finance for BOE; thank you to the volunteers for all you do. Talk about John Paterson parking lot - original price was $200,000, up to $260,000 now at $400,000. Board needs to review.
- Jerilyn Nagel, 1175 Willard Avenue. Wanted to let you know about the Newington Town Wide Tag Sale – June 11th – 40 people signed up so far. Sponsored by the Newington 150th Anniversary Committee.
B. Email Correspondence
- None

6. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- None

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Tabled

8. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS
   A. Health Update – COVID-19
   - Town Manager Chapman stated that COVID is growing and getting very serious. We’ve had reports daily of employees getting COVID.
   - Meghan Manke stated we would not have gotten through COVID without our CERT volunteers. Have had the opportunity to work with the since 2012. Incredibly proud and constantly amazed by them. Numbers are continuing to rise – 41.4%; had to take some pretty aggressive actions – lots of internal cases. The reality is this is going to keep going. If you’re sick stay home – have lots of community events coming up the next few months. Shelf life on test kits were either early June or July. Did issue notice – extended shelf life by three months.
   - Councilor Manke asked if we have the number of people in Newington that has had COVID in Newington.
   - Ms. Manke stated that the health district can provide that.
   - Town Manager Chapman stated that way people are handling COVID now, numbers are far lower than the reality. Many people don’t report getting it. Could be higher numbers that reported.

B. Update on ARPA Project Funding

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby endorses the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the following programs/uses:

1. Town Fiber-Optics/Broadband Network
2. Town Land Records Back Indexing;
3. Drainage Improvement Projects; Pheasant Run, Fisk-Gilbert and Moreland Avenue and CCTV Inspection Equipment.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Radda stated it should be Moreland Avenue.

C. Annual Appointment of Auditor

Motion by Councilor Nagel

RESOLVED:

Per Section 610 of the Newington Town Charter, the firm of Clifton Larsen Allen LLP, formerly Blum Shapiro, is hereby appointed as auditor for the Town of Newington for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022; said firm agrees to file a complete report on or before December 15, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

D. John Patterson Parking Lot Improvement §8-24 Referral
Mayor DelBuono stated Mr. Jachimowicz made a presentation at the last meeting regarding the plans for a parking lot extension at John Paterson Elementary School. Asking the council to consider sending to TPZ for an 8-24 referral. There were some concerns by BOE members about the cost of the project and I did state at the last meeting I was surprised to see the price at $450,000. That’s not under our purview as it’s being paid for the by the BOE CIP and approved through their body. Do hear questions and understand why. BOE needs to discuss at their table. We only approve dollar amount for budget, up to BOE to decide how to spend.

Lou Jachimowicz stated the project the BOE is considering doing is an expansion of parking lot area at John Paterson School. Increase number of parking spaces; corrects ADA deficiencies; current ADA spaces will be moved to the front of the main office doors; overall configuration will eliminate on-street backup of cars queuing in the morning. The original design and concept was changed to correct all access issues and traffic considerations in conjunction with Security Director, Mike Morgan. All traffic will exit onto Halleran Drive. The blacktop is deteriorated and all of the front will have complete milling and paving. Staff members and visitors should have ample parking. It will be helpful during youth sports. This is something that will do justice for the school and benefit everyone in town.

Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated it is not out of the Council’s purview to question cost of the project as guardians of the town’s money. Thank you Mr. Jachimowicz for this explanation. Seems to be valid costs. It concerns me that three members of BOE seemed to be unaware that cost almost doubled; would want explanation. Support moving project forward.

Councilor Camillo asked about ballards, security cameras, connected to fiber optics within town, any electric vehicle chargers – pre-pipe and add conduits.

Mr. Jachimowicz stated the ballards will stay or relocated to fit the new design; all to CL&P standards. Highest need for cameras area will be at the student drop off; building mounted cameras will suffice. We could certainly look at installing electric vehicle chargers.

Councilor Camillo stated that there is money from the state regarding charging stations.

Councilor Manke asked if there will be a dedicated pick-up for preschool.

Mr. Jachimowicz stated that there will be safe path for all kids and for the benefit of the school and community. Hopefully this will eliminate chaotic situations which occur now.

Councilor Manke asked if the project has already started. Saw trees cut down.

Mr. Jachimowicz stated that those were cut down because they were diseased. Will be cutting down two trees on west side; those will be replaced.

Councilor Manke asked about parking on the grass. Assume that there will be signs stating that there is no parking on the grass.

Mr. Jachimowicz stated we are trying to alleviate that by having an adequate number of parking spaces.

Councilor Manke stated he has no problem sending this to TPZ.

Councilor Page asked about conversations with the police department regarding how this will improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

Mr. Jachimowicz stated that the school has a dedicated security guard and traffic proctor to address comings and goings, keeping people in line and providing a safe cue. Also, Michael Morgan is well versed in what his needed for safe and appropriate conditions, along with Principal Gaydos, along with relevant information. Ran this by Officer Ryan Dean of the police department for his evaluation and opinions – fully in favor of it.

Councilor Page stated he appreciates what you, the superintendent and BOE are doing with this project to keep our kids safe. Thank you.

Mayor DelBuono stated that at the last meeting she asked about the cost of the library parking lot as a comparison and that cost $286,000, including drainage issues. Is the timing right for this, or is there a temporary solution until prices come down. Sound like changes were made to the plan. Food for thought. Didn’t mean we don’t have the right to ask about costs; just sending to TPZ tonight for consideration. Our role as a council is to send to TPZ for approval.
Mr. Jachimowicz stated that of the three major things that changed is the addition of sidewalk all the way around the school (cost is in excess of $80,000); intruding into front parking lot now with mill and overlay, not in original budget (cost approx. $50,000); third is the insidious cost of inflation (10% increase since January) – 90% of cost difference from starting point.

Councilor Camillo asked that he provide that information to the board, and council, in a timely manner.

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby directs and authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager to refer the matter of the John Paterson Elementary School Parking Lot Expansion Project to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for its report in accordance with Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

E. Agent of Record for PCL Insurance Coverage for the Town of Newington

Motion by Councilor Donahue

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to §8-28 of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the firm of USI Insurance Services as Agent of Record for the Town of Newington for the period covering July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 for the purposes of soliciting, negotiating, placing, overseeing and monitoring the Town's property, casualty and liability insurance package. The fee for this appointment shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022-23</td>
<td>$17,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023-24</td>
<td>$17,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024-25</td>
<td>$17,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

9. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)
   • None

10. REFUNDS (Action Requested)
   A. Approval of May 24, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of $63.53 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 Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
   A. May 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
   B. February 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Radda to approve the above referenced minutes. Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

12. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Tax Fixing Agreement – Pike Apartment Complex
Town Manager Chapman stated this has been developed between the assessor's office and myself and the developers have requested this. In the best interest of the town. Negotiated over a number of months.

Steve Kosofsky stated the company is smaller than most developers brought before you; the process took longer than expected; further complicated this was supply chain issues with significant cost issues. As such we did agree at a fixed 43% for 10 years. Developer was pleased with this and we billed in safeguards. This is for 10 years, the town will still be netting out approx. $4.4 million over that 10 year period.

Town Manager Chapman stated that after the 10th year, the tax abatement goes away. It’s along Pane Road and Maselli Road. It’s a $40 million project, 151-units apartments; (4) story, (2) building development. It’s going to be a very nice development. Will increase the value of grand list and will increase revenues.

Mayor DelBuono stated that she is happy to see 10% of the units will be designated as workforce/affordable housing. Appreciate everyone’s effort and work on this; certainly worth the efforts.

Councilor Page asked how much retail in involved in this project?

Town Manager Chapman stated none. It’s solely residential. It’s a benefit in all regards. No negative to it.

Councilor Page asked how this was different than the other apartments we are building.

Town Manager Chapman stated none. It will supply necessary housing, it will provide revenue. It’s a benefit in all regards. No negative to it.

Mr. Kosofsky stated that the price point is on this is different on this than 3333 Berlin Turnpike. This is exactly what the town needs.

Councilor Page asked who sets the standard for affordable housing.

Mayor DelBuono stated that is set by the state.

Town Manager Chapman stated that this will help alleviate our deficiency.

Councilor Page asked for information on the affordable housing information. Also, who owns the property?

Town Clerk Krupienski stated that is Birch White, an LLC.

Town Manager Chapman stated that the name of the company is in the agreement we provided to you. What are you looking for?

Councilor Page stated he wants to know who owns the property. Just curious.

Town Clerk Krupienski stated that town just approved an affordable housing plan, will provide that to you.

Deputy Mayor Budrejko this is a small developer, should they sell property this tax fixing agreement will be in force, regardless of owner.

Town Manager Chapman stated that is correct.

Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she was interested in the fact that supply chain issues has added complication in terms of calculating tax abatements for developers. Wouldn’t that be reflected in the rent?

Town Manager Chapman stated he is sure that will happen. This developer has worked on this in anticipation of inflation and a shortage of supplies. The tax abatement should be able to help the developer get this project underway.

Councilor Radda stated to confirm these are all rental units.

Town Manager Chapman stated yes.

Councilor Radda asked if all the units will be filled.

Town Manager Chapman stated based on my understanding these apartments will be fully occupied.
• Councilor Radda stated she doesn't see any indication for sidewalks. Is there a thought to provide them?
• Town Manager Chapman stated possible in the future. Pane Road doesn't have any sidewalks now. That would involve a major investment to the town. The town engineer may look into that as an improvement down the road.
• Councilor Camillo stated that there are going to be approx. 150 units. Will have personal property for taxes for car who live there.
• Town Manager Chapman stated that personal property tax on cars.
• Fauna Eller stated that it will be approx. $100,000 in personal property taxes.
• Councilor Braverman asked if school busses will be able to pick up.
• Town Manager Chapman stated he will get that information.

B. Job Description – Assistant Town Manager (A-12)
• Town Manager Chapman stated that this has been updated and designed with the way we have it in our operations. The earlier version was probably done back in the 90s. It has been reviewed by a number of individuals and addresses what we anticipate the position will entail. It’s an A-12 Salary with a range of $84,000 to $153,000. I believe you budgeted $140,000. Hopefully we will be able to hire an assistant town manager that will be able to perform at these function.

C. Anna Reynolds School Final Project Acceptance
• Steve Woods apologized for coming to you last minute. Got very favorable bids. Back on track. Reason in such a rush; would like to have contractors in place for June 6th start. Critical to get work done in the summer for phase 1.
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked if supply chain issues affected this as well.
• Mr. Woods stated that is has. That is why we want to get contracts signed. This is a 27-month project; once contract signed price cannot change. Very confident with the bids; solid contractors. The town has no objections to the list of contractors.
• Councilor Manke thanked the committee for their work on this. What is the plan to get done this summer?
• Mr. Woods stated it is prep work for major construction to get completed the following summer.
• Councilor Manke stated the maximum price is what they get paid. What happens if there something we didn’t anticipate?
• Mr. Woods stated that there are contingencies and allowances built in. More than enough funds to cover unforeseen conditions. Not building new building; only additional is elevator shaft. Sure we will find things.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that this agenda item was added last minute. Would rather not waive rules this evening and would like to add a special meeting this week for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday.
• Mr. Woods stated that he has no problem with that. Our meetings are open to the public. There has been very little input from the public.
• Councilor Page asked what was removed to get to this price.
• Mr. Woods stated that most of it was finished, except for an elaborate courtyard which was removed due to inflation. Some other things were roofing; a four foot fence used to be $15 per foot; now $75-80 per foot; it wasn’t necessary. The building now is going to be fully air-conditioned; only two operable windows per room. It was a long list; no safety items on this list.
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she thought there wasn’t going to be any relocation of students – just heard pre-school moving.
• Mr. Woods stated that it was always going to be pre-school moving.
• Councilor Radda asked about the owner’s contingency.
• Mr. Woods stated it is $1,179,000; should be $1,456,000; only 3.3%. We are aware of contaminants, a lot of the school has already been abated. Is there going to be asbestos encapsulated, yes. We have a good handle.
• Councilor Manke asked if we could get a list of what was removed to get the number.
• Mr. Woods stated he can get that to you.
• A lengthy discussion was held regarding this.
• Councilor Nagel asked what types of operable windows are being proposed.
• Ms. Jennifer stated that they are single hung aluminum store front systems. Want to have good warranties.
• Councilor Nagel asked if they were crank windows, slide windows, full length.
• Mr. Woods stated they are single hung window and the bottom will slide up.
• Councilor Nagel asked if there have been changes to the exits; safety in terms of getting kids in and out.
• Mr. Woods stated that we can’t talk publicly about security measures in the school but would be glad to have that conversation with you offcamera.
• Councilor Donahue stated that he’d like to see a finished drawing of the school.
• Mayor DelBuono asked James to provide the referendum language.

13. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER
• Town Manager Chapman stated that Chief Clark is with me regarding staffing levels and he is here to give you a brief overview of what has been accomplished over the past several months.
• Chief Clark stated that we are seven officers short of number; our number of 52. Since January have lost one lieutenant, three sergeants and four police officers; all due to retirements. We had a probationary officer dismissed because of performance issues; an officer leave due to a physical disability; and an officer resign to join another police department that had a better pension. We look for entry level, no precious police experience and since January 2021, tested 377 applicants and have hired only two one at police academy (graduating July) and one attending academy in July. Have had 58 certified officers apply, we hired only five. Indication of our hiring standards.
• Mayor DelBuono asked if you able to cover things adequately, the way you are staffed.
• Chief Clark stated that patrol is the most important role in the police department. That’s what people expect when they dial 911. All other areas in the department suffer – community outreach programs; detectives following up. Another issue we are having now is supervision – down four supervisors. Will be making a promotion within 4-5 weeks; need extra supervisor on the evening shift. Chief Clark listed staff shortages. Having issues with supply chain for body worn cameras; new public act on police accountability requires officers to be accredited by 2025. A lot needs to be done behind the scenes. Doing the best we can to hire people. Couple of friends of my teach criminal justice – only 9 or 10 in class – majority want to be involved in probation; not police officers. Not only a challenge in Newington; nationwide. Working conditions are terrible. There’s many reasons why people don’t want to be police officers. If things don’t change it’s going to be difficult. Believe we may have to move to a metropolitan police; consolidate and share resources. We have a very competitive contract; officers paid well; community support.
• Mayor DelBuono asked what else they can do to help as a council to support you in hiring and attracting applicants.
• Chief Clark stated absolutely. Hired three officers which were paid the $5,000 sign on bonus. Now proving a $2,500 bonus to any of our officers that get an officer to come to our department. The officers are the best recruiters; they know who they want to work with; who will fit in. Hopefully that will be an incentive to bring in more applicants. Public safety day in a couple of weeks. Officers are being vilified. Vast majority of officers will give their life for a stranger; bad incidents overshadow the good. Received emails after demonstration – one sees police as greatest adversary
to her safety. Police don’t want challenges that come with being a police officer – would you want a camera recording everything you did while working?

- Councilor Page thanked Chief Clark for the information. Are we doing enough salary wise to be competitive?
- Chief Clark stated salary wise we are extremely competitive. It’s not just they pay. It’s wanting to take on everything involved with being a police officer.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she doesn’t think money is the issue. It’s the continual scrutiny; lack of respect; lack of support; it’s an incredibly stressful position. Appalled at the mugging on Main Street in Newington at 8:30 in the morning; certainly changing as a community.
- Chief Clark stated that was false. I can’t comment any further but that didn’t happen.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that makes me feel about the community in general. What is your opinion about the legislation recently passed regarding catalytic converters?
- Chief Clark stated that it will help. Dealers will go underground. The criminal justice system, the court systems, are seriously understaffed. The Hartford Superior Court has had a 35 percent reduction in staff; cases are going to slip through the cracks, no follow up. That’s what we are seeing now. We have all this emphasis and new laws to keep people in check and when you arrest them and send them to court nothing is happening. What’s the point of making all these investments, if you’re not getting any return? Until the state steps up and gets more judges, more prosecutors, to handle cases, hold people accountable; getting them services; you’re just spinning your wheel. Until the courts step up and dealing with these issues, nothing is going to change. They’re not prosecuting cases; we’re getting warrants kicked back. Not a lot of follow up on the other end.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that there are a lot of nuisance calls, not life and death, can someone non-certified be hired to handle these calls?
- Chief Clark stated you could probably create a community services position, but then you’d have to bargain with the union and things like that. People in Newington have a certain level when it comes to service.
- Councilor Radda stated that she is concerned about the level of stress and moral issues you and the department are experiencing.
- Chief Clark stated he is fine. Not a lot bothers me. We have a peer support team in the department; part of certification is psychological screening. A lot different now than when I started. Not just stress of the job, but stress from negative comments from public officials and the public. Having nothing but respect to the people who come into this profession now.
- Councilor Nagel asked about what is the department doing to reassure everyone about the safety of children in Newington.
- Chief Clark stated we have a youth officer and work very closely with the board of education. They have a wonderful security system. As far as outside school, we work with parents and human services to get as much information. Do the best we can with circumstance we are faced with.
- Town Manager Chapman reported that this spring and summer we have milled and paved almost 7 miles of road. In the past we would paved only three and a half miles of roads. Most of the roads that have deficiencies will be corrected. Example of reorganization and focus in town
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he rescinded his resignation; intend to stay on as long as you want me to be your town manager.
- Councilor Page stated that was a rescission of your resignation doe that include you moving to Newington or establishing residency?
- Town Manager Chapman stated he has until June 22 to decide that and if I need to have established residency I will.
- Councilor Page stated it isn’t up to me, it’s up to the charter and took an oath on November 9th to uphold the charter. Hoping not to have this conversation. Charter is our constitution. You should have received extension during COVID, that was the right thing. But now a year past that and in
violation of the charter. It’s not just you, but anybody, the language of the charter is clear and we are all in violation of it. This is about me and my promise to the voters. I ask that you comply with the charter and we don’t have to go to a vote.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she believes Mr. Chapman stated that we will do what he needs to do come June 22nd.

- Councilor Page that’s great. He said he would before and it should never have been past a year, past the charter requirement. You gave an extension which is in violation of the charter.

- Town Manager Chapman stated let me just say a couple of things coming from me and no one else. Nobody has to defend my actions. I was given the extension because it was declared a state of emergency in the town of Newington because of COVID and that state of emergency continues today. COVID is back on the rise again and I may request, as early as two weeks from now, that I receive an extension because of COVID again. Now, if the council feels that my residency overshadows the work that we’re getting accomplished then that’s your call, I’m not going to debate it with you. You’re my bosses, you want me out of here, vote me out, it’s no sweat off me. But know what you’re doing when it comes to operating this town efficiently and show me a town manager in the history of this town that has done better work than me. You decide.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that we know what the expectation is and we know the expectation of that deadline is June 28th or 22nd, I have to look at the contract and you have indicated in conversations with me that you intend to comply with the expectation of the charter, you indicated that earlier in the conversation and I would expect that’s what this council expects, that’s what’s on the table and I think that’s kind of enough said at this point. Mr. Page you made your point pretty clear and the town manager state that he will comply come the time that he needs to.

- Councilor Page stated that he would like to add one more thing and would like to just respond to Keith. This isn’t about my feeling and this isn’t about a state of emergency. We have a legal document called a charter and there’s a case in New Haven recently that was decided by a court about a police chief who was in violation of their charter and the court fired the police chief, not the council, the court. I’m afraid that someone in our community will file a lawsuit against our town for being out of compliance with the charter. This isn’t about our feelings or whether you are a great guy or not, or doing a wonderful job or not, it’s about it’s about a legal document called our town charter. Which we all swore to on November 9th and I’m done. Thank you.

- Mayor DelBuono stated yeah, we are all very aware. Thank you.

- Councilor Page stated well you haven’t acted like it for the last year.

- Councilor Manke stated yes we have.

- Councilor Donahue stated that if we stop hammering on the issue continuously, it will resolve itself.

- Councilor Page stated that this is the first time I’ve brought this up since I’ve been in office; the first time; I’ve never hammered anything and I feel passionate about our charter and I wish you all did too.

- Mayor DelBuono stated, all right, order, order. Enough. First of all I will address this. Mr. Page, I understand your opinion, you’ve made it very. To insult the rest of the council, to insinuate that we don’t take the charter seriously is ridiculously insulting.

- Councilor Page stated you’re not following it, it’s a fact. You can be insulted if you like, but that’s a fact.

- Mayor DelBuono stated to Mr. Page he can have his opinion. We did take an action, we got attorney’s opinion and we moved forward as a council during a state of emergency to the best of our ability and handle the situation that we thought was relevant. You can disagree with that, but you can’t insult me. That’s not...

- Councilor Page stated that he’s not disagreeing, the charter is, I didn’t write it. I live under the charter, as do you.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that you are correct, I live under the charter.

- Councilor Camillo stated you do this every meeting.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that we have already made it clear what the expectation is.
• Councilor Page stated I’m following the charter and I ask that you do the same.
• Mayor DelBuono stated order...excuse me, but this is not how we conduct the meeting. We do not argue between councilors, that is it. I am in charge of this meeting, I will call on you as I see fit. That is how this meeting is run. Thank you. Written/Oral Communications from the Town Manager is completed, we will continue on with our agenda. There is no way that I will entertain at this table slanderous comments and arguments back and forth between councilors. I won’t do it.

14. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she and Councilor Radda have attended TPZ meetings; tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. there are two public hearings one regarding accessory apartments, to opt out of state regulations and revise our own and the second one is for a special permit for cannabis sales at the old Bonefish Grill. Chamber of Commerce awarded annual awards.
• Councilor Nagel stated that the CROG meeting is tomorrow and the scholarship breakfast is tomorrow as well.
• Councilor Donahue stated that NCTV won a national award for its PSA on alcohol poisoning. The wared ceremony is in June and we are going to be sending a couple of people out there. It’s a big deal for NCTV.

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ITEMS IN GENERAL)
• Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all. Good night.

16. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS
• Councilor Manke stated that this Saturday is our Memorial Day parade. It’s about recognizing the people who gave their lives. Parade steps off at 10:00. Attend Rose Ceremony after parade.
• Councilor Donahue apologized to Mayor DelBuono.

17. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
A. Newington Summer Youth Adventures on June 9, 2022
B. Newington Goes Country on Thursday, June 9, 2022 from 6PM-10PM
C. Food Truck Friday, June 10, 2022
D. Motorcycle Madness on Saturday, June 11, 2022
E. Public Shredding Event June 11, 2022 from 9 AM - 12 PM
F. Newington Public Safety Day on Saturday, June 11AM-3PM
G. Town wide Tag Sale on June 11, 2022
H. Car Show on Thursday, June 9, 2022, Market Square 6PM-9PM

18. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Councilor Manke to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

[Handwritten Signature]
Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk