Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in 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. Krupienski, Town Clerk
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Councilor Manke stated that they want to move Item VIII.C to before Item VIII.A.

IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Proclamation-Newington High School Boys Volleyball Team

Motion by Councilor Anest

WHEREAS, The 2019 Newington High School Boys Volleyball team finished their regular season with an 18-2 record; and
WHEREAS, the team defeated the 3-time defending Massachusetts State Champions; and
WHEREAS, the team was the #1 seed in the CIAC Class M State tournament draw; and
WHEREAS, the team won their 6th CIAC Class M State Championship in the last 8 years;
and
WHEREAS, the team finished with a 23-3 overall record; and
WHEREAS, the team was ranked the #1 overall team in Connecticut by MaxPreps.com;
WHEREAS; the team has won the most high school boys volleyball State Championships in Connecticut (6) for the current decade of 2010 thru 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Newington Town Council recognizes the Newington High School Boys Volleyball Team for its outstanding efforts and record-breaking accomplishments and wishes the team members the best of luck in upcoming seasons!


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

- Student stated he was here last year; we have fun, going out there and playing and we enjoy each other’s company.
- Student stated how volleyball is very important to him and that he is grateful that he was able to be on this team and win three state championships.
- Student stated that many kids are going on to play volleyball in college.
- Coach stated that he hopes to be back next year.
- Councilor Budrejko congratulated the team on another great season. You talked about having fun, but there is a lot of hard work and practice behind that; when you are having fun, it doesn’t seem like work. Good luck to those leaving for college and making Newington proud.
- Councilor Manke congratulated the team on their great season and for making our town proud. Important lessons learned.
- Mayor Zartarian stated that he was a volleyball player at one time. Congratulations. We are looking for a four peat.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION — IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)
- None

VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- None

VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)
A. Boards, Committees & Commission Guidelines Booklet

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby adopts the “Information and Guidelines for Boards, Committees and Commissions” Booklet, as revised by the Commission Guidelines Subcommittee.

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

- Councilor Anest stated that the Committee met at the end of June after the town attorney reviewed the booklet. Most of the comments he made were citing statutes, making items uniform; using “TON” for the Town of Newington and making references to other sections of the booklet. Highlighted major changes the town attorney recommended.
- Councilor Manke stated asked about the Attendance section.
- Councilor Anest stated that the official policy is that each member of a board or commission must attend 75% of the meetings held each year. The Town Council has the ability to take action and rights if there are continued absences by members or alternate members. Attendance is important for quorums.
• Councilor Manke stated that when you sign up to be on a board or commission, you know when the meetings are and should have no problem attending them.
• Councilor Budrejko stated that there is also language that corresponds with this in the Board of Ethics, Section 32.3 Standards of Service and it points out that "individuals who consent to serve on town boards or commissions are expected to devote the necessary time to meet these commitments", so it is not like we are imposing standards that weren’t already expected.
• Councilor Anest thanked Gail and Diana for all their hard work; we spent a lot of time and for the most part were all on board with everything in the booklet. Great working with the two of you. Thank you.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)
A. Presentation & Discussion Conceptual Design: DOT Roadway Improvement: Intersection Fenn Road, Ella Grasso Blvd, Holly Drive and Route 9 Northbound

• Marissa Washburn, Project Manager; Edward Sabourin, Project Engineer and Daniel Haptas, Project Engineer with the Department of Transportation presented information on a DOT roadway improvement project at the intersection of Fenn Road, Ella Grasso Boulevard, Holly Drive and Route 9. Presentation available on the Town’s website.
• Councilor Budrejko asked about existing traffic lights.
• Mayor Zartarian stated that they have these on the Cape and they work well.
• Councilor Anest stated that they have these in Glastonbury.
• Ms. Washburn stated that when these are installed, people who live around them really like them.
• Councilor Budrejko asked where the sidewalks were and about crossing.
• Mr. Sabourin stated that there were only two places to cross; didn’t want people crossing over two lanes of traffic.
• Councilor Serra asked about the bus stop and what the planned design was. Also about people turning into the gas station.
• Ms. Washburn stated that the island actually shields the left turners and hopefully will alleviate the number of crashes.
• Councilor Miner asked if there were any discussion about expanding the sidewalks to the Fastrak.
• Ms. Washburn stated that sidewalk connectivity is a consideration.
• Councilor Manke asked about the timeline.
• Mr. Sabourin stated that the project, if approved and funded, will not be completed until 2025.
• Councilor Budrejko asked if New Britain was aware of this.
• Mr. Sabourin stated prior to public hearings; New Britain will be informed.
• Ms. Washburn stated that a modern roundabout is different than the older rotary islands. Seeing benefits around the country. Significant crash reductions. Major safety benefit and congestion relief. Very effective tool for traffic.

B. Ordinance Amendment - Don’t Block the Box, Article VII, Chapter 404-24

1. Introduce Ordinance - Set Public Hearing Date

INTRODUCTION,
I hereby introduce for the Town Council’s consideration the proposed ordinance amendment to Chapter 404, Vehicles & Traffic, Article VII, “Don’t Block the Box”, a copy of which has been filed with the Clerk of the Council.

Introduced by: Councilor Miner
Motion by Councilor Miner

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby schedules a Public Hearing on August 13, 2019 at 6:50 PM to consider the proposed ordinance amendment, Chapter 404, Vehicles & Traffic, Article VII, “Don’t Block the Box”, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

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

C. Tax Deferral for Low Income Seniors

- Town Manager Lane stated that this program is not an ordinance; it was passed by resolution in 2006 and some revisions have been made to it over the years and this will be another revision.

- Steven Kosofsky stated that when he drafted the memo regarding this he took the language from the Town of Manchester. In April, at that time, the town usually reviews the outstanding tax list for liens. Upon reviewing that list, I noticed several liens on the list of people who are in our tax relief program. Currently we have 486 taxpayers in our program and the primary criteria is income. Some of the lowest incomes in town. For a married couple they can’t earn more than $42,000 and for an individual they can’t earn more than $32,000. We have people with incomes as low as $6,800; how they are making it I truly don’t know. In reviewing this list we are helping these people in our tax relief program, but 117 were unable to pay their taxes in a timely fashion; thus made arrangements with the tax collector to pay it over several months. Those 117 people, collectively, were charged $9,400 in interest. This makes no sense. We are giving them tax relief, but were charging them interest. All I am looking for is an option to our existing program that will allow these people to pay taxes over time, interest free. After 12 months we will place a lien. The Town of Manchester waives the lien fee to make it easier on the taxpayer. The only other criteria that would be part of this program is that they cannot have a mortgage; if they do, they are not eligible for this.

- Councilor DelBuono thanked Mr. Kosofsky for being proactive on this matter. Think it is great that you noticed a trend and found a solution to it. Thank you for bringing this to our attention; it you hadn’t we would not have known about it. It looks like a great program and it makes a lot of sense.

- Mayor Zartarian asked how much money the town would loose if we stopped charging interest.

- Mr. Kosofsky stated that he is not concerned about that. As I mentioned these 117 people had collectively $9,400 added to their bills. I recently completed a person property audit of the gas company that services Newington, the audit covered three years and the results of that audit is going to add over $180,000 in taxes.

- Mayor Zartarian stated that his question had been answered. Thank you.

- Councilor Manke asked if most of the people on the 12-month plan actually pay them off. It seems like a fair way out.

- Mr. Kosofsky stated that the way the option is set up, is called a deferral of the tax itself and they are paying their taxes over the 12-month period. Of the 486 people in our program; half of those people have incomes less than $25,000 and half of those have less than $20,000. It is just a way of helping these people out.

- Councilor Budrejko asked if we were flexible in how the people pay their taxes.

- Ms. Kosofsky stated absolutely. Ultimately the deferral will get paid. It is in an inheritance the inheritor will pay it; and if it is a sale, the only one the lien will protect is if it is a cash sale. No financial institution will lend money without getting taxes paid so the Town is 99.9% safe.
IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Resignation – 150th Anniversary Steering Committee

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Dennis Morgan MD from the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee, in accordance with correspondence received by the Town Clerk, dated July 12, 2019.

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

B. Appointment – Central Connecticut Health District

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:

CENTRAL CT HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Replaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

X. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Correct Approval of June 25, 2019 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby rescinds the prior adoption of Resolution 2019-66 adopted on June 25, 2019; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the revised property tax refunds in the amount of $597.76 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).

B. Approval of July 23, 2019 Refund for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of $8,025.47 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 Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent).

XI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. June 25, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
Motion to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2019 regular meeting by Councilor Serra. Seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent). Councilor Manke abstained.

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

Town Manager Lane stated that she was asked to give an update on the affordable housing moratorium. She stated that the Affordable Housing Appeals Act states that when a town has at least 10% of its housing stock listed as government assisted, or deed restricted, it is exempt from the 8-30g appeals process. If a town is close to the mandated 10% it may apply for a 3-year moratorium on any new 8-30g affordable housing applications. The moratorium is a safe harbor for towns for achieving that 10% threshold and those that have projects in the pipeline that will put them over the 10% threshold. If the moratorium is approved by the Commissioner of Housing, no affordable housing developer may submit an 8-30g application for 3 years. Right now we are in the process of going through the appropriate steps to achieve this. The Town Planner has completed the moratorium application and he has sent it to the town attorney for review; this is stipulated as part of the statute, part of the process. As a final step that moratorium application will come before council and a resolution accepting that moratorium will need to be passed. At this point the application will be filed with the Town Clerk’s office for at least 20 days; if a petition is signed by enough people then a public hearing will take place which can be conducted by the Town Council or the TPZ. One more thing; there is an issue with the MDC water main in Mazzocolli Way as part of our building project. Staff is working with the MDC to come up with a feasible and economic solution, so it is a work in progress. It is out there and we are aware of it and are working to resolve it.

Councilor DelBuono stated that she is trying to understand more about the moratorium, not familiar with these types of things. Why was it initiated, why did it start and what is the hope for the outcome of having a moratorium in place.

Town Manager Lane stated that it gives you a 3 year relief from that application process from developers. This is something that the Town Planner deals with. Thought there was interest and at the time wanted to see if we were at that threshold. Council doesn’t have to pass this, just a process and step we are going through.

XIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

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

Dennis Morgan, 944 Main Street stated that his purpose is to encourage participation in the planning 150th anniversary celebration by some members of the Newington population that is in that 23% that is demographically characterized as non-white – black, Hispanic, Asian. So the Steering Committee rejected my proposal to do this with a subcommittee, so I am going to urge the council alternative ways to accomplish that. And that is the extent of my remarks. [Mayor Zartarian stated that the council does not engage in dialogue during public participation; will respond during councilor comments afterward]. Mr. Morgan stated that one other issue he wanted to raise is that he spoke with the Town Clerk about the ability of the Steering Committee to appoint subcommittees and for what purpose and the issue in my mind is whether that is restricted to subcommittees to plan events only or is it a subcommittee for any purpose as may be necessary. I think that is a legal interpretation that is unresolved and I think that the Steering Committee presently is unaware of what the intent was. So, if there is no response, I have no further remarks.
• Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive asked if membership on the 150th Anniversary Steering committee, was anyone from any one particular or any ethnic group was denied membership on the committee, or if they even applied for it. Thought that they were having a hard time just getting people to serve on the committee. For the public information session for the proposed changes on Fenn Road, I spoke with the DOT people after their presentation and I asked if they could put it in some of the local papers, a lot of people don’t get the Hartford Courant; I don’t because of the cost of it. Would like to ask them if it would at Main and Robbins, that seems like a good solution to me. The Don’t Block the Box, so glad there is something they can do. Went back and forth with Elton Drive and Cedar Street was always an issue. Regarding your booklet for Boards and Commissions; I have found this past year there are two particular boards and commissions that people didn’t show up for meetings until it was time to elect officers and that was disturbing to me. If this TV can be fixed here, it would be great, if not I get it. In the new town hall, you may reconsider where it is placed, like in Wethersfield, I think that they have a screen that comes down. Know that the campaign season in underway and I am not liking some of the things I am seeing, not from the council members, but from supporters. As much as you can control yourself, try to control your supporters as well because that is where it starts, it gets to be a battle between supporters. Lastly, not to disappoint my daughter who sat in my driveway after the fireworks and said wasn’t that a great fireworks display and I said yes, I love watching them from here; she wanted to know when the next council meeting was and to ask to have 20 feet cut off the top of the trees to view them better. Thank you for everything you do and please have a clean campaign, can’t take all the negativity.

XV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

• Councilor Budrejko stated that having attended TPZ meetings, surprised no one has asked about it before, but can you look into getting that TV fixed and how much it will cost.
• Councilor Serra stated that she wanted to give a shout-out to Parks & Rec with the extreme heat during the Extravaganza and the incident that happened on Wednesday. The counselors were well trained and took care of the situation, there were some individuals sent to the hospital for dehydration but all-in-all there were 900 campers and only seven went to the hospital; think it is wonderful what they did. Sorry that Saturday’s events were cancelled, but don’t think anyone would have been there during the daytime. Would like to thank Parks & Rec for everything they did and EMS, the fire department and the police department. It was a great weekend for everybody.
• Councilor Manke stated that not to lose site of it, we are still working on the facilities committee, conflicting schedule have gotten in the way, but still working on it. Will get back to you during the next couple of meetings to let you know where we are at.
• Councilor DelBuono wanted to ask a question regarding the steering committee. Was anyone denied membership to that committee?
• Councilor Manke stated that they received 21 applications and they approved 21 applications; no one was denied.
• Councilor Anest stated that no one was denied.
• Mayor Zartarian stated that is was an open door process [interruption by Mr. Morgan]. Sir you had your chance. It was an open door process…
• Councilor Anest stated that yes it was, it was open for over 6 months.
• Councilor Manke stated that we did keep it open for two more months to get more people involved.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. PENDING LITIGATION §1-200(6)(B) - Camillo et al v. Town of Newington
Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(B) hereby moves to go into Executive Session, and invites the Town Council members, the Mayor and Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager, Asst. Attorney Anthony Palermino and Attorney Proloy Das of Murtha Cullina by conference call to discuss Pending Litigation: Camillo et al v. Town of Newington.

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

Council adjourned to executive session at 8:10 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 8:39 p.m.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor DelBuono to adjourn meeting at 8:39 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini absent).

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk