Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

   Staff Attendees:
   - Keith Chapman, Town Manager (via Zoom)
   - Ben Ancona, Town Attorney
   - Jeff Trommer, Fire Chief
   - DJ Zordan, Fire Marshal (via Zoom)
   - James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk
   - Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk (via Zoom)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the agenda as amended (accept revised Proclamation for Item 4A; accept revised Proclamation for Item 4B; add item 8.B – Fire Department Apparatus Replacement – Engine 2; add Item 16B – National Night Out flyer). Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent)

4. PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS
   A. Proclamation – NCTV 2022 Hometown Media Award

   Introduction by Mayor DelBuono

   WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc., known locally now as NCTV, was founded on June 23, 1986 as a local affiliate of the Cox Communications Community Access System; and

   WHEREAS, NCTV is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation staffed primarily by volunteers and dedicated to providing Newington residents with non-commercial public, educational and government access television programming; and

   WHEREAS, NCTV, by televising numerous local government meetings, veterans' and local election programs, community and public service announcements and a wide variety of locally produced
programs of local interest, has advanced civic awareness, has encouraged citizen participation in the
electoral process and has promoted public safety and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, NCTV, in the cooperation with the Newington Emergency Medical Services (NEMS),
produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) entitled "Alcohol Poisoning: When Drinking Turns
Dangerous", which was submitted to the Alliance for Community Media Foundation; and

WHEREAS, NCTV and NEMS, through its volunteers, created an informational video which
highlighted the dangers of alcohol and the role that friends play in keeping each other safe; and

WHEREAS, the informational video was one of nearly one thousand entries, of which it was one of
one hundred award winners; and

WHEREAS, the PSA has been viewed by over 15,000 Connecticut High School students to highlight
the dangers of alcohol poisoning; and

WHEREAS, without the support of Producer, Director and Writer: Sandy Austin Goldstein,
Director of Photography and Postproduction Editor: Scott Allo, Writer: Jason Goldstein; Writer and
Host: Ferris El-Tayyeb, Writer and Production Assistant: Hannah Crary, Production Assistant: Ella
Shand, Cast member and Production Assistant: Jared Goldstein and Cast members: Ian Rothauser,
Ben Lee, Gillian Murdock, Jen Owens and Warren Strong, the final project would not have been
possible in portraying the realistic view and the true impact of alcohol surrounding everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes NCTV for its PSA, "Alcohol Poisoning: When
Drinking Turns Dangerous" and congratulates them on being a 2022 Hometown Media Award
winner from the Alliance for Community Media Foundation.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated we are very proud to have you in town. We all recognize the
  wonderful work you do and to be recognized nationally is an honor.
- Councilor Page stated he can’t thank NCTV enough for providing this message to our youth.
- Councilor Manke stated he appreciates NCTV’s efforts.
- Councilor Nagel wanted to add his congratulations to NCTV. Good to see that they are
  recognized nationally. We appreciate what you have done.
- Councilor Radda stated that this is a volunteer run organization and now you are recognized
  nationwide.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she had the pleasure to be a part of the unveiling of the video. I could see
  the passion behind the topic. The video is incredible. Hope everyone looks at it on the NCTV
  website. Appreciate the collaboration between NCTV and NEMS. Appreciate everything that
  NCTV does.
- Sandy Austin Goldstein. Thanked the mayor and town council for this honor. Alcohol poisoning
  kills 6 people per day in the United States. As the producer and director of this video my goal was
  simply to provide needless suffering and death. NCTV, NEMS and the community made this
  video to show that wingmen can save lives and empower young people to take action and call 911
  if needed if they have an alcohol emergency. Thankful to cast and crew. NCTV relies entirely on
  volunteers. Ask town council to provide strong budget to NCTV.

B. Proclamation - NEMS 2022 Hometown Media Award

Introduction by Mayor DelBuono
WHEREAS, the Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (NVAC) was originally founded in 1969 and was renamed to the Newington Emergency Medical Services (NEMS) in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Emergency Medical Services began serving the citizens of Newington in 1969, with a handful of staff volunteers, a converted firehouse and a used ambulance; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Emergency Medical Services now serves the citizens of Newington, with over 50 staff volunteers, a modern facility headquarters, 4 active ambulances and a dedicated Mass Casualty Incident response vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Emergency Medical Services is the primary provider for the Town and responds to 911 calls, fire rehabilitation, mass casualty incident, community standby events and performs community education; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Emergency Medical Services is committed to the continuing education of their members, to ensure that the highest level of service is provided to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Emergency Medical Services partners with several organizations to provide training for their members and the public in basic life support, CPR, first aid, babysitting courses and pet first aid in addition to complete Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses; and

WHEREAS, through the collaborative efforts between NEMS and NCTV, the dangers of drinking for teens and young adults, was highlighted through a realistic approach to the effects of alcohol poisoning and the impacts that it has upon friends, family and the community; and

WHEREAS, without the support of EMT Hannah Crary, EMT Ferris El-Tayyeb and NEMS Chief Scott Mangan, the project allowed for a realistic view of the true impact of alcohol surrounding everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes NEMS for its support and assistance in the creation and submission of the PSA, "Alcohol Poisoning: When Drinking Turns Dangerous" and congratulates them on being a 2022 Hometown Media Award winner from the Alliance for Community Media Foundation.

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

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that sadly this is not an act, must see situations like this more than you would like to. Thank you so much.
- Councilor Page stated he wanted to thank NEMS and appreciate all that you do. This project is doing so much and it’s going to save live. Thank you for everything you do for our town.
- Councilor Manke stated that he wanted to congratulate those who acted. Young people talking to young people - that will make a difference. May never know the true impact this may have; someone will be helped.
- Councilor Nagel wanted to offer his congratulations on this project. You are a vital part of the volunteer organizations here in Newington (NCTV and NEMS). Thank you and congratulations.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to offer her thanks and congratulations. It’s amazing to see how far NEMS has come. So many teens are affected by alcohol; not a lecture but acting out real life scenarios. Very appreciative of all that you put into this project. Appreciate all that you do for us.
- Hannah Crary stated that they thought it was an important message to share and that our perspective would bring something interesting to the table in a non-judgmental and educational way. Glad we got to work with so many great people.
• Scott Mangan stated he wanted to thank everyone involved, especially the council for their support of NCTV over the years. When I was approached about this, I stated it needs to be presented as a non-judgmental way. Ferris ad Hannah helped come up with a great message. When I heard that they won the award, they deserve it. It will make a difference.
• Ferris El-Tayyeb stated he wanted to thank NCTV. It was weeks of filming, but worth it. It was a great project and happy the way it turned out.

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

A. Public Comments
• Stewart Calais, 641 Willard Avenue have lived in Newington for 15 years. Very passionate about the town. Not in favor of having a train station on Cedar Street. Need to build a more pedestrian friendly Newington.
• Sañar Kahn, Hartford resident. Would like to have Cedar Street, Fenn Road and Ella Grasso Boulevard more pedestrian friendly. Would like no crossing signs removed. Would like crosswalks at every stop light.
• Sandra, 29 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford. You have done a great job with Newington. Don’t try to change anything. Newington is a beautiful town. Listen to the people.
• Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. Surprised the NCTV is not broadcasting the meeting. Wanted to hear what the people against the train station had to say. Need to have an informational session with DOT and town with intentions of what they want done.

B. Email Correspondence
• None

6. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
• Councilor Page stated he appreciates everyone coming tonight. Wonderful to see the room full of people. Come out and express your opinion. Think we should have ongoing dialogue about mass transit. Will review flyer.
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko thanked everyone for coming out. Totally agree that traffic on Cedar and Fenn Road is a problem and it’s an issue that needs to be resolved immediately, traffic is abhorrent.
• Councilor Radda thanked everyone for coming out. You all have opinions and voices. Encourage people to come out and speak; may not always agree with one another. Very interested and concerned about TOD. Want to make Newington pedestrian friendly. Some of our roads are well traveled and traffic is an issue.
• Councilor Manke stated thank you for coming out and sending in emails. Want to make clear a misconception out there - this council has not voted on anything about a train station at this point. I will do what I think is best for Newington. Agree that traffic sometimes is a nightmare and difficult and that needs to be addressed.
• Councilor Nagel stated he would like to echo what has already been said. This council has not made a decision one way or the other; waiting on the state to see what their intentions are. As a member of CROG - no decision has been made about Newington. Train coming from Hartford/Springfield to New York has been shut down for repairs. Want to make Cedar Street as a safe a street as possible. I have not made my mind up one way or the other.
• Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to say a sincere thank you. We make our decisions on what we hear from the public. Have not had a lot of input on the train station; thank you for bringing your views to us. I have not had any direct communication with anyone at the DOT;
only Senator Lessor; have kept door open and stated I believe here is a general interest for a
train station in Newington. Originally advocated for train station at Newington Junction only
with public support. Not sure if funding would be made available to Newington. More work
needs to be done. Mayor DelBuono stated that Councilor Page put something up on Facebook
with the town seal. It is not a town document and does not represent the council at all. This
fact sheet states it was in response to Councilor Donahue’s opposition flyer, he presented flyer
to the council for information. Flyer on Facebook is not factual – not a council or town
document.

- Councilor Page stated that my Facebook posting stated I did present my fact sheet, my nine
points at a previous council meeting. Asked James to send that along to you, town manager
and town planner. I’m an elected official and it is town business. Take full responsibility for
Fact Sheet. James sent us all an email stating that Councilor Donahue was distributing the
flyer. At our previous council meeting, Councilor Donahue never cited the specific source of
that, nor did he or anyone at this table refute the flyer filled with falsities and inaccuracies.
With all due respect, no one had problem with taking emails and distributing a flyer filled with
inaccuracies. I have a problem with that. This flyer seems to be more fact-filled and I
appreciate that.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that the flyer was presented by Councilor Donahue to us was for
informational purposes and he clarified that at our last meeting himself, as did several of us at
the table. Councilor Page you chose to post your fact sheet citing it has his flyer after our
meeting when we made it very clear to you that was not his flyer. It was distributed by a
member of the public and until tonight I was not sure who and as you said there is no name of
who wrote it on the flyer.

- Mayor DelBuono respectfully requested that Councilor Page remove the town seal from the
document since it is not an official document.
- Councilor Page stated that he is free to use the town seal on correspondence as a town official
and will continue to use the seal as I see fit.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she has reached out to the town attorney and I will share his
opinion with you.
- Councilor Manke stated that I looked at the agenda and noticed that New Business should be
Item 11. Can we make that change to the agenda?

7. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS
   A. Amendment to the Adopted Meeting Schedule- Cancel August 9, 2022

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby amends the approved 2022 annual meeting schedule
and approves the cancellation of the August 9, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT:

The Newington Town Council hereby schedules a Special Meeting, in the town council room
at 7:00 PM on August 16, 2022.

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Budrejko. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she thinks that the meeting should be moved to the 16th.
- Councilor Manke stated that he would prefer to move the meeting to the 16th.
• Councilor Radda stated that she agrees that the meeting should be moved to the 16th.
• Councilor Braverman asked this would give us enough time.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated that the charter revision commission will be meeting on August 2nd.
• Councilor Nagel asked if this room was available.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated that the Conservation Commission normally meets on that night but they should be able to move to room 201.

B. Accessory Dwelling Unit Opt-Out of PA 21-29

1. Review of Public Hearing Comments
   • None

2. Resolution – Adoption of the Opt-out Provision of PA 21-29

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council, after careful consideration, and in accordance with the Public Act 21-29, and Connecticut General Statutes (New) Section 6(f) as amended by Public Act 21-29, hereby moves to Opt-out of the act's provisions overriding the local Accessory Apartment zoning regulations and finds the following:

1. Based on the unique characteristics of Newington's neighborhoods, the small size residential lots and the dense population, and, the potentially significant increases to the density of our residential areas through the establishment of the act's mandatory provisions, opting out of PA 21-29 is appropriate for Newington.
2. By opting out, the Town, will continue to allow the accessory apartments under the purview of the Town zoning regulations.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

• Councilor Page stated he is agreement with this. Think the intention is to provide more options for our residents. Should look at intent, but tailor to Newington's needs. Glad we are taking this step.
• Councilor Manke stated that he also agrees we should opt out. Thank you to the town planner for guiding us through this process.
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that as stated at the last meeting and the state one size fits all is not appropriate does not apply to everyone. In Newington we have very small lot sizes in some of our neighborhoods. So many things will need to be considered. This does not negate the fact that accessory dwelling units expand affordable housing. Newington already has accessory dwelling unit regulations. Want to encourage and allow creative ways of finding housing availability.
• Councilor Nagel stated that he concurs, one size does not fit all. Those who want to add on to their dwellings vary depending upon the situations.

C. Referral of Proposed Language Recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission

Motion by Councilor Manke to remove the following language:

§ C-404 Procedures.
B. The Council may call at its discretion "work session" meetings to discuss and review pending legislation and may consider other items of concern to the Town or its citizenry. The Council's rules of procedure will determine the conduct of these meetings. No votes may be taken at a work session meeting except to adjourn or to go into executive session.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent)
• Councilor Page asked if this was regarding meeting without the public present.
• Mayor DelBuono stated this is language from many years ago, when council was allowed to have work sessions and meeting. FOI regulations do not allow this.

****

Motion by Councilor Manke to remove the membership numbers from § C-604 Board of Assessment Appeals, § C-605 Board of Parks and Recreation, § C-606 Development Commission and § C-608 Commission on Aging and Disabled.
Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 7-1 (roll call vote) (Councilor Donahue absent)

• Councilor Page stated that he got information from CCM regarding this issue. Do we assign membership based on ordinance or keep it in the Charter. I’m leaning on keeping it on the Charter. Both the Republican and Democratic parties need to do a better job of getting more people to participate on our boards and commissions; don’t think we are doing our job.
• Councilor Manke stated the intent is not to limit the number of people or who is on a commission. Removing this from the Charter and moving it to an ordinance it makes it easier.
• Mayor DelBuono asked James how many committees and commissions we have in town. We are looking to move majority of committees, etc. to ordinance other than those created by statute, we will be leaving those created by statute as is.
• Councilor Radda stated she feels we are putting the cart before the horse. Maybe need to discuss removing numbers first. Why are we voting on language and then delete it?
• Councilor Manke stated that we are removing “consisting of five regular members and three alternate members.” Removing from this and several other commissions the membership; just the number of people on it. Not for TPZ or Inland Wetlands. Also by making these an ordinance, we can more easily change the charge of the commission is necessary.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated that five of these already have existing ordinances. Can’t change the ordinance without changing the Charter. Membership is not mandated by statute.
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that we recently had this issue with the Environmental Quality Commission. They were not able to get quorum because of qualification issues.

****

Motion by Councilor Manke to remove updated § C-711 Department of Police by removing Dog Warden and replacing it with Animal Control Officer.

§ C-711 Department of Police.
C. All police officers of the Department shall have the same powers and duties with respect to the service of criminal process and enforcement of criminal laws as are vested in police officers by the Connecticut General Statutes. The duties of Animal Control Officer Dog Warden as provided in the Connecticut General Statutes shall be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Police. The Chief of Police shall appoint and may remove the Animal Control Officer Dog Warden in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Chief of Police shall be the executive officer of the Department of Police; with the approval of the Manager he/she shall appoint and may remove, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article IX of this Charter, all other officers and employees of the Department and make rules and regulations concerning the operation of the Department and the discipline and the conduct of all officers and employees thereof.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

****
Motion by Councilor Manke to remove the following language from Section C-606 Development Commission. This is best to be in an ordinance where it can be easily updated and changed. “The Development Commission may conduct research into economic conditions and trends within the municipality, recommend actions to improve the economic conditions and development within town. They may seek to coordinate the activities of and coordinate with unofficial bodies organized to promote development. The Development Commission may advertise, print and distribute pamphlets and other media that will further its official purposes. The Development Commission shall annually prepare and transmit to the Town Council, a report of the activities and recommendations for improving the economic conditions and development.”

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

- Councilor Page shouldn’t the language read “powers and duties and provide by CGS and the town council.” Wouldn’t that cover what we need it to do? Don’t think this body is doing this now.
- Mayor DelBouno stated that the Charter Revision Commission wanted this language added.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that impetus for this was that most members are unaware of the duties they can do. The Chairman of the committee brought this forward.

****

Motion by Councilor Manke to add definitions of “shall” and “may” to the Charter.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

- Councilor Manke stated that prior council’s had a question on shall or may and the way we were funding the Open Space fund. Shall meaning you have to do it and may mean’s you can do.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko to update the language in the last paragraph of § C-412 Removals and Suspensions to be more specific, i.e. “Mayor and member of opposing party.”

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

****

Motion by Councilor Radda to amend the language in § C-303 Appointments to include “and the town council.”

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion failed 5-2-1 (via roll call vote)

- Councilor Manke stated that he is opposed to this change. The mayor needs to appoint the town attorney and the mayor needs to have confidence in the town attorney. Can’t envision as a nine member council how we would do this. Attorney’s need to have one boss and that is the mayor. It’s confusing and shows lack of confidence. It’s been this way and it works well.
- Councilor Radda stated that there are many references as to how the attorney interacts and works with the town council throughout the section. My feeling is we reinforce that statement. I’m not seeking divineness or discord. I see the mayor and town council as an entity, not nine separate individuals.
- Mayor DelBouno stated that in dealing with the town attorney and the legal aspects of things, and in order to conduct business on a daily, weekly, monthly basis the town attorney will frequently need either support moving in a certain direction to represent the needs of the town or has a conflict of interest and needs assistance on a case and to wait for the council process would be detrimental to the functioning of the town. Now it is the Mayor’s job to do that. I don’t think it would be in the best interest of the town for conducting town business for the council to have to weigh in on every issue brought forward by the attorney. The council does get updates on legal matters through executive session.
• Councilor Page stated that it just specifies appointment for Town Attorney and the Clerk of the Council. It doesn’t specify needing to consult and delay business.

****

Motion by Councilor Page to remove the term “General Fund Appropriation” in § C-408 Obligatory Referendum and Ordinance.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion failed 5-3 (via roll call vote).

• Councilor Page stated that “general fund appropriation” is not defined and does not appear in our budget book. What is the 1.5%? Motion is to change language to total appropriations town and board.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that this language was brought forward by the Chairman and the Finance Director and based on current day standards.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated she didn’t have an issue with changing of language. The 1.5% is inclusive of CIP, Town Budget and BOE Budget. Current budget year we would be at $2,110,351.
• Councilor Page stated it would be more specific the way he suggested.
• Councilor Braverman asked if it made sense to add “by the town” so we know it’s our money, not state money.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that the intention is the entire total budget. The general fund appropriation is the total amount, the bottom line.
• Mayor DelBuono stated she doesn’t have a problem leaving it as it is. The committee did their due diligence and discussed it a good length. Personally I think general fund appropriation is pretty clear and the finance director did weigh in on this.

****

Motion by Councilor Page to keep the residency requirement for the town manager §C-501 and not accept their proposed changes.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion failed 5-3 (via roll call vote).

• Councilor Manke stated that he knows that this has been an issue for a while and have had thoughtful consideration into this. The Charter is not a document for today, but a document for the future. The Charter should be an avenue for us to be able to get the best town manager we can. This should have nothing to do with our current town manager. I’ve listened to all reasons why they should live here in town and one is that they should be part of the community, last week heard member of the public disrespect the town manager’s office and the town manager. What would happen if I was the town manager and I was walking in the park with my grandchildren and someone came up and showed that same disrespect for the office or me personally - how would I explain that to my grandkids. Why would anyone subject themselves to that? I think this would hold us back from getting qualified candidates. The other thing I heard is that with the town manager living in town he’d be available for emergencies. This made sense back when we had horse and buggies. I see the town manager’s job as making staff have the equipment, they work together in a cooperative manner and the get the job done. He doesn’t need to be at the emergency as it happens. We had an emergency center call over the winter and a couple people on the call weren’t even in the state, they were on vacation and they had people here in town to handle the situation. It was also suggested the town manager live within a 10 mile radius of the town, what if the best qualified candidate lived 11 miles away and we couldn’t hire them because is says 10. The town manager is chosen by the town council and putting in a residency requirement ties the council’s hand and it makes it unable for them to hire the best person possible. The other thing I
heard is that the town manager should be in town to see how his policies affect the town. I would
buy that argument if we required the superintendent of schools to live in town and required her to
have school aged child, but we don’t. There’s no one to check the superintendent of schools to see
how their policies affect the town and the superintendent of schools controls a much bigger budget
that the town manager does. What if the town manager had a school aged child and decided to keep
the school budget at zero. You think that would affect his child or children in school? I’d like to
think not, but I knew from personal experience that it does. At one point I voted to hold the school
board budget at zero, and my son’s best friend, who was a teacher at the time, never spoke to him
again. I think it’s best for this council to get the best qualified town manager, bar none. It doesn’t
matter where he lives. It’s our decision to choose the best qualified town manager and we
shouldn’t be restricted based on a residency requirement of that fact that he lives within a 10 mile
radius. Our goal, as a council, and on behalf of the town, is to get the best qualified town manager
and if we determine he doesn’t need to live in town, maybe there are some good reasons for that.
As we heard last Wednesday, there are some people in town who can be really disrespectful to the
position and to the person.

- Councilor Page stated we do this job for free and we submit ourselves voluntarily to going to the
store and getting negative or difficult feedback. We’re in the ring, we signed up for this and I’m
proud to serve the town. I love this town and I welcome feedback, critical feedback, supportive
feedback or especially critical feedback so I can do a better job in this town and I sometimes make
mistakes and that feedback is important. I would expect that the CEO of our town, the town
manager, on a day-to-day basis policy wise. He makes very important decisions which have
implications for our quality of life. Think that being in town and willing to take the good, the bad
and the ugly is a critical quality or characteristic of a leader. I think that home rule and our leaders
collectively here and our CEO be a person living in our town is critically important. How did we
get by for all these years with this and get the best candidates. Our town managers, including the
current one, have done a nice job for us, have worked hard and we appreciate all of their efforts.
We’ve not had this issue under previous mayors and previous town managers. This was not an
issue until this current controversy with Mr. Chapman living out of town and not being in
compliance with this Charter. This was not an issue before and I’m concerned that all of a sudden
it is and we now have to do things differently. I disagree and appreciate your time.

- Councilor Manke stated that this is not my livelihood, not how I feed my family, not how I support
my children. For the town manager it’s his livelihood, it’s his profession. How many town
managers will pick up their families and move to Newington with the knowledge that every two
years they can get fired? A new council comes along and they are gone, for whatever reason.
Would you pick up your family and move them knowing you only a two year stint, and maybe not
even that long. We limit ourselves to qualified candidates. Would believe this argument if you
were asking the superintendent of schools to live in town, but you’re not. I think it’s an archaic
requirement and had nothing to do with the current town manager.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she wanted to echo a lot of what Councilor Manke said. You asked
why now Councilor Page, the opportunity presents itself, the Charter is open for revision and
allowing us opportunities to make changes or revisions to things that no longer apply or should
apply. I firmly believe that the residency requirement is a vestige of former time. COVID showed
us that people can work and stay in touch at all times and can respond to emergencies even if they
live in another community. There is a shrinking pool of qualified candidates and we have to
accept that fact. The council can dismiss a town manager at any time for any reason, it’s an
occupational hazard. I think a lot of candidates are thinking twice now and don’t want to uproot
their families. A lot of towns are looking at changing the requirement. There isn’t a residency
requirement for the superintendent of schools who manages a much larger budget and impacts the
children in our schools. Where does it stop? What about the chief of police? What about the town
planner? If you required every professional to live in town, you are not going to get the best candidates. Truly think this is a vestige of prior times and the residency requirement needs to go.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this is an outdated requirement. The Charter was written back in the 60’s and it could be difficult to get ahold of someone. We have Zoom meetings and there are many ways to conduct business without someone living in town. It’s the sitting council’s job to make sure that the town manager is doing their job. The requirements of the contract would require they uphold the Charter, conduct business and themselves in a certain way, those things won’t change. The only thing that would change is the location of their address. My children have been negatively affected by my role in politics over the years, there’s no doubt in my mind, and my entire family has. When former Mayor Mortensen came to the charter revision meeting and it struck me when he said he questions if this is unconstitutional, he questions how we can dictate that for a person’s job they have to move to child out of school, how you dictate where someone’s child goes to school. It seem archaic. I’m not in favor of this motion.

****
Motion by Councilor Radda to add “disabled persons” to the end of the last paragraph in C-710 Department of Senior and Disabled Center Services.
Second by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent)

- Town Clerk Krupienski stated 7-127B - Municipal Agents for the Elderly. That’s actually the title of the statutes.
- Town Attorney Ancona stated that he thinks adding that is appropriate.

****
Motion by Councilor Radda to change “but only one vote” to “and only one vote” in C-403 Organization.
Second by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent)

****
Motion by Councilor Radda to remove “but only one vote” in C-403 Organization.
Second by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent)

****
Motion by Councilor Radda to remove “provided however, that such” and adding “Such bond...” in C-408 Obligatory Referendum and Ordinance.
Second by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent)

****
Motion by Councilor Radda to remove “which petition shall be filed with the”; add “The town clerk...” and “of the petition filing” in C-410 Right of Referendum on Ordinance.
Second by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent)

8. NEW BUSINESS
A. Proposed Fee Schedule for Fire Department & Fire Marshal’s Office
   - Town Manager Chapman stated that he has been in discussion with the Fire Department and Fire Marshal’s office for a while regarding getting a fee system in place.
   - DJ Zordan stated that the fees proposed are to offset costs. There is considerable amount of work that go into things we do - fire investigations and fireworks permits. We are required to be on site for firework and for the Extravaganza that’s approx. 12 hours, our operating budget covers that, but realistically anyone who wants to do that should be covering the costs. Hours of work go into putting Fire Investigation Report together and
the $200 fee would take our work and the insurance company can use it for their purposes. Blasting permits are a state statute, just putting it in the fee schedule. Open Burning is if someone wanted to burn brush, it's not like a backyard fire pit. The other fees are strictly for offsetting expenses. The fees will be integrated into the fire marshal’s office for billing purposes. Not meant as a money maker but to offset expenses incurred in the performance of our duties. Regarding the Expedited Plan Review fee, by state statute we have 30 days to review plans, but we often get calls the day after the plan is submitted, we will offer the service but they will need to pay for it; just offsetting expenses.

- Chief Trommer stated he wants to reiterate that this is not a money maker for the fire department, it does not go against the taxpayers themselves, it goes against the insurance companies, especially on the fire department side. We would have a third party submit to the insurance company. Other towns are doing this right now and they are seeing a significant amount of money coming in from the insurance companies.
- Councilor Manke asked for the fireworks permits for $250. How many other fireworks permits have been issued other than parks & rec?
- Fire Marshal Zordan stated that there’s been none. Wouldn’t want to impose a fee just for parks & rec, but if someone wants to do them. A fireworks permit does include special effects; in the event a bar wanted to have a performance with special effects this would be covered under that. We are required to be on site from the time the explosives arrive on site until the time they are discharged.
- Councilor Manke stated it just seems like we are charging ourselves. For the Fire Watch, the $50.00 per hour fee.
- Chief Trommer stated that is for a fireman, but the fees would be charged through the fire marshal’s office.
- Councilor Manke asked if they bill the insurance company and they don’t pay, who is then responsible for the payment? Is it the consumer? Think we need to have this run by the town attorney. We can’t have separate rates for people who do and don’t have insurance.
- Chief Trommer stated that Rocky Hill is using this system. I can reach out to them to see what they do.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that some of these fees will billed to the resident, like open burn fees. Generally I support this, but how much compensation do you think you can get over the course of a year?
- Chief Trommer stated it all depends on what type of incidents you have each year? I can reach out to Rocky Hill to see what they have received.
- Commissioner Whelan stated that state has as of July 1 granted certain parts of the state to pay volunteer fire departments for their services on certain roads. The Berlin Turnpike is one and Cedar Street from...
- Chief Trommer stated you have Route 9, the Berlin Turnpike from the Wethersfield line to the Berlin line and from Patricia Genova up to the Wethersfield line.
- Fire Commissioner Whelan stated that it is $500 per call.
- Chief Trommer stated that we need to submit a form every time we are called to those areas and the state will pay us $500.
- Councilor Camillo stated that we are glad to see you are finally doing this. Other towns in the area have been doing this for a while now. Would like to see you charge per apparatus, hourly. Also, work with the police department.
- Chief Trommer stated that we do have those rates listed.
- Councilor Manke stated he thinks this is a great idea. Makes insurance companies pay to offset costs. Who will be billing this?
- Chief Trommer stated that it would be billed through a third party vendor.
• Councilor Bravennan asked what is the fee for fire watch.
• Chief Trommer stated it is for anytime a fire alarm system is disabled and you have people within the building.
• Councilor Page stated he understands that you will be billing the insurance companies, but for the open burning, the $20 would be billed to the resident?
• Chief Trommer stated that the opening burning would be billed to the resident if they are doing a large brush.
• Councilor Radda asked for a distinction between a stand by fee and an apparatus stand by fee.
• Chief Trommer stated the stand by fee is for personnel.
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked if the blasting permit was exclusive of Balf.
• Fire Marshal Zordan stated the blasting permit is for when new sites are being developed, so it will probably be limited. For Balf, we charge when each blaster comes in; currently they have 3 blasters on file and each one has come and the $60 fee.
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated you are already getting these fees.
• Fire Marshal Zordan stated yes, it is through state statute, just being integrated into the town's fee schedule for administrative purposes.
• Councilor Manke stated this is like if hit a pole, I get charged for the pole. Now the insurance company is getting billed for your time too.
• Chief Trommer stated that is correct.
• Councilor Camillo stated that knowing the cost of the apparatus, think your rate are too low. You need to increase them. Engines should be $800 per hour; Ladder should be $1,200 per hour.
• Chief Trommer stated that most of these fees we actually took from surrounding towns. But if you want to increase these numbers we have no problem doing that.
• Councilor Camillo stated that also includes two to three fire personnel as well. A regular tow truck today is $300. I would definitely look at that. Maybe do it gradually.
• Chief Trommer stated that we will look at the fees.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that she is skeptical charges higher fees. This is something new that we are doing and we want justify it and be in line with other towns. I look at it as municipal versus private industry.
• Chief Trommer stated that DJ and I researched the fees in surrounding towns and that is how we came up with the fee schedule.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that we can always readdress this next year.
• Councilor Page stated that it's worth looking into higher fees.

B. Fire Department Apparatus Replacement – Engine 2
• Town Manager Chapman stated that we’ve been working closely as a team on how to address this issue and we found what we think is a solution to the long lag time. What used to take a year, now can take 3-4 years from time of order. This proposal is for a piece of equipment that is scheduled in CIP already. This was to be ordered next July, but would like to order it now since the lead time is 29 to 30 months from time of order. This is going to be the wave of the future for a lot of what we purchase on a large cost basis.
• Chief Trommer stated that our supplier stated that price increases are just astronomical. If we don't lock this in now, they can adjust 6 months from now. It is on the replacement schedule for next year, but we would like to get a purchase order in now and start the process. Not money needs to be put out now, just when they start to build the apparatus.
• Right now the current build time is 24 – 30 months. Engine 5 has rusted frame rails and it's becoming a safety issue. We are having trouble getting parts just for repair jobs. Not
going to get this any sooner, just want to get the process started and save the town money. We are told that costs will increase anywhere between seven to fifteen percent. Cost increases are across the industry. Our current vendor has a backlog of 3,000 apparatus. We use the Houston Consortium last year and would like to use that same process again.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that in terms of the financial pieces it looks like it would be through an ordinance need.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that this is the first time he’s ever had to draft a special appropriation ordinance and this was sent to the town attorney to review and the accounts listed are accurate based upon the review of the finance director. We would need to set the public hearing for August 23rd.
- Mayor DelBuono asked if procedurally we could set a hearing date.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that yes, if you waive the rules, but you would be introducing the ordinance. This it not part of the online packet.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she is hesitant to waive the rules because this was not published.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that we will amend the packet online so they will see this language but at this point this is new to everyone.
- Councilor Page asked what this the downside of us waiving the rules tonight?
- Mayor DelBuono stated if it’s in the packet and someone sees it they can comment on it. I’m just thinking about scheduling the public hearing, that’s not a big deal. We could schedule a special meeting if needed.
- Councilor Manke asked how long they will hold the price for.
- Chief Trommer stated he can find out, but doesn’t think they will hold it for longer than 30 days. I think if we get this in by the end of August we will be all right. Let me verify that.
- Councilor Manke stated his angst is that we’ve never done this before and don’t want the perception to be that we are trying to shove this through.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she’d rather go through the process as it needs to be and if we need to schedule a special meeting we can do that.
- Councilor Page stated that it sounds like this is also a safety issue and it needs to be done.
- Councilor Manke stated that this is already in CIP?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that we have the money in the CIP plan for next year. We are not going to be paying any bills or invoices until that kicks in next July. We are not concerned about that at all.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that we can hold a special meeting on August 9th if necessary.
- Town Manager Chapman stated he doesn’t think it’s that crucial, don’t think that they are going to raise the price if they know we are going through this process. So I wouldn’t worry too much about the time frame.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we will address this and introduce the ordinance on the 16th. It is still the same timeline to do on the 16th and the 23rd.

9. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Appointment – Zoning Board of Appeals

Motion by Councilor Page

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council here by makes the following appointment:
Zoning Board of Appeals

5 Members - 5 year term
3 Alternates - 5 year term
Member Max: 4
Alternate Max: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Replaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Hutvagner,</td>
<td>32 Old Hatchery Lane</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>7/26/2022-11/30/2023</td>
<td>Resignation of A Eksirom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

10. REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of July 26, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of $8.40 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 Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

12. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

• Town Manager Chapman stated that we received an inquiry about speed and traffic around Brookside and Woodbridge, we did a study and found only one vehicle with excessive speed. Will continue spot radar, but don’t anticipate this problem will get any worse and is not being viewed as a danger at this point. The town hall pilot working hours have been implemented - we have not received any negative comments, but will only positive ones. We will readdress this in September

13. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that the TPZ had a presentation by the Greater Hartford Mobility Project. In 2020 the greater Hartford transit district recognized that there were a lot of initiatives going on in the greater Hartford area regarding mobility and different forms of transportation such as the I-84, Fastrack expansion, rail corridor enhancements, I-91, east coast greenway extended bicycle and rail networks. DOT decided to address all these initiatives and brainstorm to come up with other initiatives for mobility improvement and create one study and is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year or early 2023. The report will identify how to prioritize these projects and to work on them with available resources. Their website lists over 120 different initiatives that they are studying and it’s very diverse. The reason they presented to TPZ, four specifically mention Newington. One is the reconstruction of Cedar Street (Route 175), the second is a new road connection between Fenn Road and Alumni Road, the third was a rail station in Newington, and the fourth was creating a Newington to Wethersfield greenway from Newington Junction, through Newington center to Wethersfield Cove. TPZ will be reviewing this and coming back with comments. However, what is interesting is that this mobility project is collecting comments from the public. You

11331486
Newington Town Council Meeting Minutes (7-26-2022)
14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)  
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ITEMS IN GENERAL)
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that this her third round of Charter Revision, would have liked to see Town Attorney position go out to bid, feel it’s a political appointment. Can see both sides of argument regarding residency requirements for town manager. We need to vote for people who we believe will choose the best town manager and best attorney for the town of Newington.

15. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS
- Councilor Page thanked the people for coming out and voicing their opinions. It’s encouraging. Thanks to Rose for raising her concerns and consultation with the state. I too share everyone’s concerns about traffic on Cedar Street. I also appreciated Councilor Budrejko’s report regarding the hartfordmobility.com and I’ll do some research on that. Thank you.
- Councilor Camillo stated we keep talking about traffic in Newington; years ago the DOT had plans to take 5/15 southbound, just before the curve, bring it to the east side of Balf, back down Jordan Lane to Hartford Avenue. We should look into that again too. Most people coming down Cedar Street to cut across to get to West Harford / Hartford and that would take a lot of congestion away.

16. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
A. Mayoral Appointment to the Greater Hartford Flood Commission
- Mayor DelBuono stated she reached out to John Bachand and he agreed to take the appointment.

B. National Night Out (August 2nd 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.)
- Mayor DelBuono stated this is a free event for the whole family and it is being held in the police department parking lot.

17. ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Page. Motion passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk