



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

This meeting will be presented as a Zoom Webinar/Hybrid Meeting.

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 Donahue
- Councilor Manke
- Councilor Nagel (*via Zoom*)
- Councilor Page
- Councilor Radda
- Mayor DelBuono

Staff Attendees:

- Keith Chapman, Town Manager (*via Zoom*)
- Jeff Trommer, Fire Chief
- James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk
- Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk (*via Zoom*)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Manke remove Item 7.A. Resignations/Appointments. Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0. Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passes 9-0.

4. 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 concerned about the Alumni Road/Fenn Road. Hope that any communication to the council is forwarded to DOT. Also concerned about the proposed roundabout on Fenn Road. No need to train station, Cedar Street too busy as it is. Don't understand why there are so many no crossing signs on Fenn Road by CCSU, need to take those down.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive (*via Zoom*) thanked the Charter Revision Commission for all the work they did, wonderful job. Wish more people showed up to express their concerns. Would have liked to see referendum question read differently. Accept as whole or line by line choice. Hoping the wording is presented to residents well in advance of question on ballot in November, on NCTV or the town website. Need to get residents' input on DOT plans.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
 TOWN OF NEWINGTON
 2022 AUG 30 PM 12:49
 Susan Gibbon
 Council Clerk

- Barry, 75 Ponderosa Lane stated you have a dangerous situation between Maple Avenue and Fenn Road on Cedar Street; need sidewalks.
- Jim Perrotti, 175 Hillcrest Avenue (*via Zoom*) wanted to comment on one question for referendum; have multiple questions, have separate question regarding town manager residency requirement.
- Hogan, 106 Old Pond Drive, I've lived in Newington for 59 years. Putting up condos/low income housing down the street from us. Didn't see anything about that; just putting them up.
- Steve Joyce, 540 Maple Hill Avenue stated that in and some of his neighbors are in support of the train station and closing the end of the road off the end of the road.
- Brian Major, 373 Lloyd Street stating he is totally against the low income housing being built on Cedar Street. Not happy about making Robbins Avenue a one lane road. The train station you are proposing is not good. A train station is a liability. All my neighbors are moving out. Don't like what is happening in Newington.
- Henry Sardilli, 85 Saddle Hill Road, live in Newington from 1964. What are the procedures for the town manager allowing tax assessments, do you approve? I was instrumental in getting red light on corner of Old Farm Drive and Maple Hill. Over the years Cedar Street has turned into a freeway; just a fast way to get to I-84 and Route 9. How did these 108 units get approved? We never heard about this. I love Newington. Can't let zoning keep doing what they are doing.
- Patrick Flaherty, 414 Maple Hill Avenue stated he's lived in Newington for 88 years. These changes don't get done without your approval. The flyer stated that approval was by the town engineer and DOT.
- Bob Fritch, 158 Old Farm Drive stated his neighborhood is top notch, small town America. The Maple Hill / Alumni Road will really change the neighborhood. Really perplexed as to what is going to happen. We all appreciate open spaces more – they are healthy and good for us. Hoping it will stay open. Concerned about traffic on Cedar Street. Not in favor of change.

B. Email Correspondence

- Amy Perrotti, 175 Hillcrest Avenue regarding Charter referendum (attached hereto)

5. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mayor DelBuono asked for a flyer that Dr. Calais distributed. Nothing has come forward as a plan to the council for the realignment of Maple Hill Avenue. If it does come to us, there will be neighborhood meetings. Some of the development concerns, if it is a privately owned piece of property and meets TPZ requirements, no room for the council to stop the development. The Dakota project which started 4-5 years ago, it did go to court, town tried to stop due to safety issues, no sidewalks, many concerns and many meetings. We don't have the final say on what is built, that is the town planning & zoning. In terms of development, we may discuss an abatement if that's necessary. Regarding the train station – we have not, as a council, taken a stand on a train station. I've spoke on the record a number of times that I don't think Cedar Street is the appropriate place for a train station. If one were considered, my opinion is that Newington Junction would make more sense. For anyone to say the council has proposed a train station is false. No plan for a train station or Maple Hill alignment. Urge you to email us, our information is on the website. If someone could please leave a flyer I would appreciate it.
- Councilor Donahue stated that they've had technical issues with a new piece of equipment at NCTV that cause audio issues. Flyer says put sidewalks on Cedar Street. The units on Fenn

Road are all leased; not finished yet. Regarding the train station, they'll talk about it for 20 years and then another 10, no one is going to care what I had to say 30 years from now.

- Councilor Radda thanked everyone for coming. Don't always agree, but necessary process to hear what everyone is saying. I travel Cedar Street several times a week, completely understand issues and problems and speed is a problem. Biking, walkability and safety for town residents is a concern for me. TPZ and Conservation Commission both have opportunities for public participation at the beginning and end of the meetings. Decisions are made and voted on at TPZ and then we are notified. Always interested in developments that come around that there are places to walk and remain open. Have seen how Newington has changed over time. We are growing and becoming more diverse. The Cedar Street development is mixed income housing with 10% affordable housing required – not a low income development. Concern that there is misinformation being given to people. Thank you for taking the time to come out tonight.
- Councilor Manke thanked everyone for coming out. Can't comment on a flyer that is not something the town provided. Regarding the Dakota property, we went to court and lost; no way to stop the project now.
- Councilor Page stated I would make any decision based on my values. One of them is the climate issue and I encourage mass transit, including the Fastrak and the trains. Real valid concerns, valid concerns for the species on our planet. With the Hartford mobility presentation, need to hear from all stakeholders. We need to make sure that the town has pedestrian and bikeways. Cedar Street is a nightmare; need to look at ways to calm and slow down Cedar Street. Mass transit busses and trains are consistent with an increased pedestrian friendly town. To Dr. Calais' point regarding the rotary – they are safe and do work well.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated regarding the Dakota project on Cedar Street, there were a lot of public hearings regarding that. Because it is workforce housing, the issue was that people wouldn't have access to public transportation. The town and TPZ tried to stop the project and the state law 830-G overruled that. Lots of issues regarding zoning going on at state level, pay attention to that as well. Thank you all for coming out tonight, these ideas are out there. We had the Greater Hartford Mobility study come to use last week, there are over 100 proposals based on town input. The train station was mentioned, alumni road realignment was mentioned – you need to make your voices heard.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we did get a presentation from the Greater Hartford Mobility study, they are collecting information. Urge you to go onto their website and provide your feedback. The rotary piece was many years ago, they did a presentation, not looking for approval, just a presentation, it is a state road. I apologize for getting upset and frustrated earlier. In future if you have an issue email or call us.
- Councilor Page stated that he wasn't shocked by anything that the state had to say and have a holistic view of the way transportation is around the state. It's refreshing to see what may work better. We have a lot of problems in this region regarding transportation and mobility; it hinders economic growth.

6. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Fee Schedule for Fire Department

- Mayor DelBuono stated that these fees were discussed at our previous meeting and these are fees to be recouped from the insurance companies when responding to calls. The town attorney reviewed this and he is ok with the fees and stated it's discretionary as to whether residents are billed.
- Commissioner Whelan stated we are not trying to go after the residents; hopefully the insurance companies will pay these, it's a growing trend; want to be ahead of the trend. Not going to bring in a huge amount of money.

- Councilor Manke stated that he thinks this a good way to recoup costs and benefit the town treasury. Make sure you pick someone who has a good track record.
- Commissioner Whelan stated that through the town manager's office we will do an RFP.
- Chief Trommer stated that in firefighter magazines these fees are discussed and are the trend of the future.
- Commissioner Whelan stated that pieces of equipment don't last forever, they need to be replaced approx. every 10 years.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby approves changes to various fees on the Town of Newington's "Schedule of Fees and Charges" in accordance with the Newington Town Code, Chapter 225, Fees, and as indicated in the attached document, Fire Department Fees Listing, August 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

- Mayor DelBuono thanked the Chief and Commissioner for their effort and their patience regarding this. This is no different than NEMS billing.
- Chief Trommer stated that Mr. Chapman suggested doing this, need to thank him.

B. Ordinance Adoption -Fire Department Apparatus Replacement for Engine #2

Motion by Councilor Donahue

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby approves the Special Appropriation Ordinance #2123-04, an "Ordinance Adopting a Special Appropriation for the Purchase of Fire Apparatus", for the purchase of a replacement engine for the 2003 Pierce Dash Pumper, known as Engine #2.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

C. Financial Information Access MOU (Town & BOE)

- Mayor DelBuono suggested in number 1, removing "no later than July 1, 2022" and in number 3, removing "no later than July 1, 2022" and for number 4 add "this agreement becomes effective upon the signing by the town manager and superintendent of schools." This MOU will help reduce inefficiencies the ways funds are managed, allows either body to retrieve reports and will hopefully provide transparencies.
- Councilor Radda asked if we need to vote on those changes or just state as amended in the resolution.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager, to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as amended, between the Town of Newington and the Board of Education, to allow for Financial transparency. This MOU shall be relative to the FY 2022-2023, but may be extended by agreement of each party. A copy of the fully executed MOU shall be attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-1.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that the BOE chairman was ok with changes the dates as noted.

D. Charter Commission – Final Charter Language and Report

- Mayor DelBuono stated that Charter Revision Commission met over several meetings. Everything we suggested was approved expect for adding the definition for shall and may.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated they felt that the terms were explanatory and a common reading of the language people would understand the action to be taken.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the resolution is below is for acceptance of the final report.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she is concerned about not having the definition of shall and may in the Charter.

Motion by Councilor Manke

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received a draft report from the Charter Revision Commission, through the Town Clerk pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 7-191(b); and

WHEREAS, one public hearing on said draft report was held no later than forty-five days after the submission of the draft report to the Town Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, upon review of the Draft Report, recommended review of ten additional changes based upon the draft report to the commission; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Revision Commission reviewed the recommended changes at their August 18, 2022 Special Meeting and recommended the acceptance of nine out of the ten changes; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has now supplied their Final Report of the Proposed changes and the Final Draft of the Newington Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has complied with all conditions precedent to the review of the said draft reports and the supplied final reports pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 7- 191;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that said Final report , as supplied, is hereby final and the appointing authority shall act on said final report in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 7- 191.

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Page stated that this is acknowledging the final report.
- Mauro DelBuono stated yes.

Motion by Councilor Radda

WHEREAS, the Town Council has before it the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission, and

WHEREAS, said Final Report contains a proposed charter drafted pursuant to and in compliance with Chapter 99 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has complied with all conditions precedent to approve said proposed charter pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 7- 191;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §7-191(d) the proposed charter is hereby approved.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 7-2. (Roll call vote)

Motion by Councilor Donahue

WHEREAS, a proposed charter shall be submitted to the electors for approval or rejection at the State Election to be held on November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 7-191(f), the proposed charter shall be prepared for the ballot by the Town Council and may be submitted in the form of one question;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the form of the one question on the ballot at the November 8, 2022 election shall be in the following form:

1. "Shall the Town of Newington adopt the proposed charter that was approved by the Town Council on August 23, 2022?"

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (Roll call vote)

- Councilor Braverman asked what we are now approving.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that you've already accepted the charter from the commission. That effectively disbands the commission and you are now placing the charter before the electors on the November election and setting the question that will be placed on the ballot.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that there were a number of changes proposed initially. Inclined to go with one question. Looking at ways to get the information to the public ahead of time.
- Councilor Page stated that having 18 separate questions would seem counterproductive. Combing the residency requirement along with the other changes may negate the work done by this commission. In favor of having two separate questions.
- Councilor Radda asked if it is possible to pull one or more items out. Think having to go over 18 separate items will be too overwhelming. Concerned that we give the residents ample time and materials to review the changes in plenty of time before the election.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated you either approve the charter or the amendments to the charter. You are proposing having the charter approved.
- Councilor Manke recommends we move ahead with this tonight and just have one question. The Charter Revision Commission did their due diligence, held public hearings, and all meeting were opened to the public. We need to send it to the voters to either vote it up or vote it down.
- Councilor Radda stated it is incumbent upon us to make as much information as possible before the election.
- Councilor Manke stated that is the plan. We all agree that we need to give the public as much information as possible.
- Councilor Page stated he appreciates the clarification from James. I'm in favor of moving this to the voters even though I'm not in favor of all of the content. Disagree with certain elements. Should have the voters make their decisions on the merit of this.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the council did not put forward the residency requirement for the town manager; the two brought forward by the town council were for residency of the town planner and police chief. The commission brought forward the town manager residency piece.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that explanatory text would need to be voted on and sent out to the public and will be need to be discussed and voted on.
- Councilor Manke asked for if you will have the draft explanatory text for us at the next meeting.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated you will be directing me to draft the text.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked if the text could be made via audio.
- Councilor Page thanked the Charter Revision Commission for all their hard work.

7. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

- None

8. REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of August 23, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,041.99 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 9-0

9. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- Town Manager Chapman stated that the high school roof project is almost done, on time and under budget. We will be meeting with you regarding the public safety radio system, been going on for a long time now. In process of hiring an assistant town manager. Anticipating doing a citizen survey before the end of 2022, you will have input on questions you would like to see on survey. We haven't done a citizen survey in over 25 years. Need to get input from our residents. The development at 3333 Berlin Turnpike is underway. Dakota is underway now. Proud of what we've accomplished. Many disgruntled people about development in town, but that is what I was hired to do.
- Councilor Donahue asked if there were any updates on Anna Reynolds.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that I was told that the school will be ready on school opening day.
- Councilor Page stated he wanted to thank the town manager and everyone else involved regarding the updating of our public safety equipment. Agree that we need a citizen survey. Regarding affordable housing, that is one thing that makes Newington attractive, you could afford to live in Newington and that's a good thing. There was a recent article about the mayor of New Britain and the grants she's received for improvement around the bus stations. Would like us to not miss that opportunity again. Would like to look at complete street grants for Cedar Street between Fenn and Alumni Road.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that complete street grants are being used for the Maple Hill / Robbins Avenue project and the Main Street / Hartford Road project.

10. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Radda stated that Anna Reynolds is on budget and moving along on time and the school will be ready. Teachers are already in the building.

11. 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 she remembered how she got involved in local government, disappointed people did not show up at meetings or public hearings to voice their public concerns. Concerned that people won't know what they are voting on. Some information could be better presented. Signed up on the town website to get notice of all the meetings that are held. DOT puts out public notices. Just because it's not on the council agenda, doesn't mean it's not on someone's agenda. Would like to ask when getting the town attorneys opinion, please have that in writing. Who at the DOT spoke to about this mobility study; not shocked at results.

12. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- None

13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

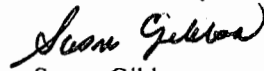
- A. 150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Information
– September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

- B. Clem Lemire FitLot Outdoor Fitness Park Celebration
– September 10, 2022 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- C. Newington Water Lantern Festival
– September 10, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passes unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk

Gibbon, Susan

From: DelBuono, Beth <BDeIBuono@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 10:26 PM
To: Krupienski, James; Gibbon, Susan
Subject: Fw: 8/23 meeting public participation

EXTERNAL EMAIL

The below email is for tomorrow evenings meeting.

From: Amy DeVoe <amyedevoe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 2:53 PM
To: TownCouncil
Subject: 8/23 meeting public participation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Newington. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Please read or mention this email for the record into the 8/23/22 town council meeting.

I would like to suggest that the charter revision ballot question be separated into 2 or more questions instead of a single question as listed in the proposed motion for this meeting. There are many who have strong opinions on one particular section and I know there was a lot of good work (and necessary changes) put into additional sections of the charter. It would be a shame to ask one single question and have it potentially voted down because residents don't agree with all of the changes made.

I also hope you can confirm that details of the proposed changes will be provided ahead of time to ALL voters and available at ALL Polling stations so it is clear what is being voted on.

Thank you!
Amy Perrotti
175 Hillcrest Ave

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