



Keith Chapman  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

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MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

## NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

*Beth DelBuono*  
Town Clerk

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

*This meeting was 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 *(via Zoom)*

Deputy Mayor Budrejko

Councilor Camillo

Councilor Donahue

Councilor Manke

Councilor Nagel

Councilor Page

Councilor Radda

Mayor DelBuono

Staff Attendees:

Scott Hoagland, Network/Application Specialist

Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk *(via Zoom)*

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Manke moved to table Item 10 Approval of Minutes. Seconded by Councilor Nagel.

Motion passed 9-0.

4. AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS

A. Proclamation – Newington Kiwanis Club

Introduced by Mayor DelBuono

**WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Newington is a part of Kiwanis International, a worldwide service organization, founded in 1915, and dedicated to serving the children of the world and making one's community and the world a better place in which to live; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington Kiwanis Club was established in 1953, to provide local residents an opportunity to work for the betterment of the Town of Newington; and**

**WHEREAS, Kiwanis Club members have dedicated more than 18 million hours world-wide each year to strengthen communities and support children; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington Kiwanis Club is celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Newington Kiwanis Flea Market, formerly the "Big K" flea market, to raise funds for scholarships for students and community outreach; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington Kiwanis Club has sponsored and supported many activities over the years, including the Friends of the Library, the American Legion, Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Newington Volunteer Fire Department, Newington Community Television Channel 14, the Memorial**

Day Parade, Newington Human Services, Newington High School Scholarships, the Newington Hunger Action team, as well as other civic and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Kiwanis Club supports the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, by promoting Dairy Queen "Kones for Kids"; IHOP "Pancake Day" and Ace Hardware "Miracle Bucket Days", and

WHEREAS, the Newington Kiwanis Club was instrumental in the installation of the monument honoring the Town's veterans, which was relocated to the new Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Kiwanis Club has sponsored the Newington High School Key Club since approximately 1971, to assist High School students in performing acts of community service and building leadership skills through project planning, running meetings and holding elected positions in the club, district and international levels; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Kiwanis Club also funds speakers to provide public awareness on many social and civic issues, during their "Kiwanis Hour" show, broadcast on Newington Community Television.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, THAT, I, Mayor Beth DelBuono, on behalf of the Newington Town Council and the residents of the Town of Newington, hereby congratulate the Newington Kiwanis Club on the celebration of its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Newington Kiwanis Flea Market and extend heartfelt appreciation from the entire community for the many worthwhile and charitable enterprises it has undertaken.

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Budrejko. Motion passed 9-0.

- Dan Henry thanked the council for the recognition. Would like people to consider working with them. At our last flea market we added crafters; huge success. Hopefully we can do more of that there. Appreciate the support of the town in helping us move the flea market to Market Square.
- Councilor Page thanked the Kiwanis for all they do. Appreciate their support of the scouts.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that Kiwanis has given a lot of support to the community. Part of many events and services. Attended last flea market; it was a huge success. My favorite, a blast from the past, the Kiwanis block party. Kiwanis membership is good citizenship. Hope Kiwanis has 70 more years of service to our community.
- Councilor Manke offered congratulations. Especially enjoy flea market; have many treasures from there.
- Councilor Radda offered her congratulations on all these milestones. Thank you for your support the Friends of the Library and to the library. We appreciate all you do.
- Councilor Nagel echoed the previous councilor's appreciation. Organization is part of the central good qualities that Newington has and hope people join to help and keep that tradition alive.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she too wants to offer her appreciation to Kiwanis for all they do. People don't know how much community service Kiwanis does in Newington.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS

### A. MDC Budget Update

- Scott Jellison, CEO thanked the council for the invite. The MDC is trying to be proactive. Have reduced employee count to 438. Doing everything we can to control cost without compromising the integrity of the system. Bob Baron has been our CFO for two years.
- Robert Barron, CFO stated that the ad valorem tax and water rate for 2023 will be decreasing. Mr. Barron continued to review the PowerPoint presentation. Debt service will increase. The clean water surcharge will increase by a minimal amount.

- Mr. Jellison discussed the ongoing mandates from the EPA. Working on conjunction with town's programs.
- Councilor Page asked if the water bills will be decreasing.
- Mr. Jellison stated we are mandated to do this and need to get storm water out of the pipes. Water is consuming our system and bring the pipes back to capacity.
- Mr. Barron stated that MDC has the most competitive water rate of all water suppliers in Connecticut.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that the price of water went down; every year we hear MDC is concerned that they are not selling enough water – how could price go down not up?
- Mr. Jellison stated because we are a non-profit don't dictate water prices. Water consumption has been going down due to new water saving appliances. We've decreased our employees; doing more with less. Our costs are lower and we're able to keep rates low.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that Newington's infrastructure is old. We have a lot of development going on in Newington; concerned that we haven't added any new pipes.
- Mr. Jellison stated that our pipes serving your homes should not have any storm water in it. Our goal is to improve storm water infrastructures. It's a long term issue. Have been replacing ten miles of pipe a year; break history has decreased. MDC does not want to take control of sewer system. Just a matter of reducing storm water coming into the system.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she is glad for the MDC – water quality is great, no need to worry about water shortages, water it clean and you get what you pay for. People in other parts of the state have issues.
- Mr. Jellison stated that we are subject to increased costs of goods. Looking at ways to reduce our expenditures and keep rates low.
- Councilor Manke stated that over the summer water supply was an issue; can you speak about our water capacity.
- Mr. Jellison stated that the governor's office created a drought advisory committee and they consider drought at 75% capacity. We have 40,000 millions of gallons in our reservoirs. Drought affects wells quicker than reservoirs. Water shed is pitched towards the reservoirs.
- Councilor Page asked if there are plans in Newington for repairs to our infrastructure project.
- Mr. Jellison stated that we have met with Newington and a majority of what we will be doing is lining pipes and getting storm water out.

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

A. Public Comments

- None

B. Email Correspondence

- None

7. **REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- None

8. **CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

A. Job Descriptions - Town Planner (A-11) and Groundskeeper Foreperson (LT-19)

Motion by Councilor Manke

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby approves the amendment to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving a job description for the Town Planner (A-11) position, as recommended by Keith Chapman, Town Manager, in his capacity as Personnel Director.**

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Page asked who the town planner supervises and does that include the town engineer, and chief building officer – do they report to the town planner?
- Councilor Manke stated that the engineer is its own department.
- Councilor Page asked if we should be mention affordable housing and open space. Should be add something about commercial and residential property land use change.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we need to be careful to not be too specific. Not comfortable changing the language without discussing with staff.

Motion by Councilor Manke

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby approves the amendment to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving a job description for the Groundskeeper Foreperson (LT-19) position, as recommended by Keith Chapman, Town Manager, in his capacity as Personnel Director.**

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Page stated he appreciates the town manager and staff for their hard work in doing a better job with the cemeteries.

9. REFUNDS (Action Requested)

- A. Approval of November 22, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$3,769.39 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Tabled

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Amendment to the Adopted Meeting Schedule- Cancellation of the December 27, 2022 Regular Meeting

- Mayor DelBuono stated that it has been past practice to cancel this meeting to allow everyone a chance to enjoy the holidays. We can take action on it our first meeting in December.
- Councilor Manke reiterated that this has been past practice. Does not preclude us from calling a special meeting if necessary. We will certainly make up for it during budget season.

12. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- None

13. **COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Councilor Nagel stated he's met with CROG twice since our last regular meeting. First on October 26<sup>th</sup> – there was a presentation on regional mobility feasibility study re biking routes, electric scooters and ebikes and how to handle. The Windsor town train station funding has been dropped from the draft plan. At the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the DOT stated that there was a Greater Hartford Mobility study which included Newington and how to move around. Claim they have collected information from surrounding towns. On CROG website models to see about possible affordable housing plans developed by CROG. Now implementing CERT programs. There were two meetings of the Senior and Disabled Center. They had a special meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>; have 1,200 members, gift shop open, trips have started, Dial-A-Ride is open for service in town; concerned about the window project. The disabled center is investigating stage renovation project. Want to do away with stage itself and use space for additional services. Discussion concerning reducing the number of persons on the board. The Library Board of Trustees met recently regarding communications and students visiting. The Winterfest is almost sold out. The book sale raised almost \$10,000.
- Councilor Page stated Human Rights Commission is sponsoring a presentation on economic justice on December 1 at the library; also would like an update on radio system; at the fire commissioners meeting they discussed cost of living increases for pension.
- Councilor Manke stated that the Town Manager Search Committee has met; sometime next week will schedule Zoom meetings. Will have recommendation to council soon. Should have this as an ongoing agenda item.
- Councilor Donahue stated that the NCTV production on alcohol poisoning took first place in local awards and Robert Blank did a documentary on the Eddy Farm Museum and took third place.

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 had a question. Is the land line at the council chambers hooked up so we can call in from our house phones?
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the landline is not something we can access; will follow up and see if we can do that in the future.
- Ms. Lyons stated that she called into BOE meeting, a lot easier for me to call in on land line. Thank you for appointing James as acting town manager, he'll do a great job. Wish you a happy and health thanksgiving.

15. **REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this is our last meeting with Town Manager Keith Chapman. Want to acknowledge how much I've appreciated working with Keith. We've had less than zero percent increase in mill rate; biggest challenge he faced was his work throughout COVID; he remained calm and continued to provide services to our residents. I will miss Mr. Chapman dearly as our town manager. Thank you.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she wanted to echo what Mayor DelBuono said. Major achievement was his work during COVID. Got economic development going. Took budget very seriously and got us to keep our mill rate even; believe that he loved this town; his style was different. Thank you Keith for all you did. Thanksgiving is my favorite holidays and believe that there is always something that we can be thankful for. Wish everybody who's watching, those here on the council and staff, a happy thanksgiving and many more blessings in the year to come.
- Councilor Manke stated he appreciate Keith's sage wisdom and leadership. Thank you to those people picking up the leaves. My wife and I participated in the food distribution for human

service; appreciate those who donated food and the organization of human services to make it happen. Plenty of opportunities for people to donate. Donate something, many people depend on those donations.

- Councilor Page echoed his gratitude to Keith Chapman. My wife and I moved to Newington in 1991 due to the school system. On October 25<sup>th</sup> at our regular council meeting disparaging remarks were made about our board of education, superintendent, teachers, staff, students and families. Asking mayor and other leaders to reject the councilor's words that may be hurtful, potentially dangerous and born of ignorance and fear. On a regular basis our BIPOC and LGBTQ communities are under attack in the US and around the world. More than ever we need our students and adults to be educated in an ongoing way about respect, love, caring, inclusion, equity and working with people different from ourselves. My wife and I are grateful for the diversity in Newington. We thank the superintendent, the board of education and all the staff and teachers for everything they do for all of our children. Happy Thanksgiving.
- Councilor Radda again echoing what everyone has said so far. Mr. Chapman, thank you for your many years of service; did a great job during the pandemic. Good luck as you move ahead. wish you well. Also have some remarks regarding comments made at the October 25<sup>th</sup> council meeting regarding the superintendent and the board chair – in my opinion this type of rhetoric serves as divisive. During COVID education suffered, but Newington is ahead on many academic levels. Newington has become more and more diverse over the years. We need to support our BOE and teachers as they meet the needs of all students. When we sit at this table we are elected officials, no longer a private citizen and we must speak in our role as councilors. Ask that the council reject the inflammatory statement made at our October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. As we move towards the budget season suggest forming a council and BoE committee. Wish everyone a happy, healthy Thanksgiving.
- Councilor Camillo thanked Keith Chapman for all his work for the town. School buildings are town buildings but in care of the BOE; would like facilities manager to come forward and discuss the asbestos in the school buildings.
- Mayor DelBuono thanked Scott Hoagland for his help this evening running the meeting. Don't feel I need to defend myself, I support the board of education, but also support the right to free speech. Everyone has a right to speak if they feel it is necessary. Do feel that the BOE is working hard for our students and look forward to my continued relationship with them. Wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

#### 16. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Lucy Robbins Welles Library Info
  - Winterfest – Friday, January 20th
- B. Newington Parks & Recreation Info
  - Night of Lights is Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>
- C. Senior & Disabled Center Info
  - Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – COVID vaccine clinic at the senior center

#### 17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Nagel to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully submitted

  
Susan Gibbon