



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

May 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Banach
Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Castelle
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor McDonald
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He thanked the Mayor for his service over the past 20 years. He stated the Mayor had mentioned the Town had to grow the grand list but Mr. Bachand stated that since the Town was almost maxed out regarding development perhaps the Town should address that issue now instead of trying to grow the grand list. Councilor Borjeson had mentioned that Enfield was in favor of Transit Oriented Development at the last meeting, and Mr. Bachand indicated the Town Planner in Enfield had resigned over the issue of high density housing and condemnation of private property. He was in favor of the resolution opposing 6851 and did not feel it was a partisan issue. Nobody should feel the need to toe the party line.

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: She thanked the Mayor for his service to Newington and for his respect and welcoming of public participation during the meetings. She was in favor of the resolution opposing H.B. 6851 since the intent of the bill, even with some wording changed, had not changed. It would create an 11 member political appointed board with no ties to local communities. It would have sweeping powers over what should be local power. It could create government overreach and not allow Newington to develop the area as it wanted. Newington had the responsibility to create development that would maintain the character of the town. The Town had a 20/20 plan which was clear and created after input from commissions and local residents.

Maddy Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: She welcomed Mr. Banach back to the Council and felt he was thoughtful and open to dialogue. She watched the previous meeting on TV and was distressed to hear the words spoken "it was a distraction when you have a certain number of people who come here and say negative things and public participation should be what is good for the Town." During the meetings she attended she did hear negative things but felt the overwhelming comments were positive. Loyal opposition provided diversity of ideas and was an important part of the democratic process.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He thanked the Mayor for his service and thought he had done a great job. He also welcomed Councilor Banach to the Council and had heard good things about him. He wanted to mention 1) H.B. 6851 and S.B. 1 – The resolution focused only on the car tax and there were other parts of concern. In particular, pilot funding and that funding would never be less than in 2014. Also it allowed current assessments on properties and indicated the assessment on the Department of Transportation had not changed in years. 2) Statistics on the Library – he found that the municipal spending per capita in Newington was \$80.23, which was 60% higher than Rocky Hill, West Hartford, and Berlin and the only Town in the area that was higher was Farmington at \$86.93. He felt the funding was high on a per capita basis.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: He thanked the Mayor for his service and welcomed Councilor Banach back to the Council. He asked the Council to support the resolution opposing 6851 and hoped it was a non-partisan issue that all could support.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She thanked the Mayor for his service and although she did not always agree with him they could both agree that the public had a right to speak. She stated that she had called the police a year ago regarding suspicious people around a vacant house on Mountain Road and was asked if the house was on the blight list. Mrs. Lyons felt the police should be given information about the list in the future so they could watch the areas involved. She requested an update on Veterans' Landing and whether funding had been received. She welcomed Councilor Banach back to the Council.

Roy Zartarian, 25 Stuart Drive: He thanked the Mayor for his service over the years and enjoyed butting heads with him. He was in support of both resolutions and hoped the Council would support them as well. S.B. 1 contained some frightening provisions, which could have a damaging impact on the Town's revenue flow. He felt a portion of the money that went to the State would remain with the State.

- IV. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**
- A. Establish Library Renovation/Addition Building Committee**
- 1. Establish and Charge Committee**
- 2. Appoint Members**

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED; that in accordance with Section 8-40 of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby establishes a Library Renovations/Addition Project Building Committee, comprised of seven (7) members; of which two (2) shall be representatives of the

Town Council, two (2) shall be representatives of the Library Board of Trustees and three (3) shall be members of the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that said Committee is charged to work with the Town Manager (or his/her designee) and other appropriate Town staff in the oversight of renovations to the Lucy Robbins Welles Library, and shall do such work in accordance with Chapter 8, Article X (Project Building Committees) of the Code of Ordinances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that said Committee is charged to work in cooperation with the Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee regarding the current Town Hall Renovations/Addition Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the following members to the Library Renovations/Addition Project Building Committee:

Name	Address	Party	Term
Library Board of Trustees Rep: Maureen Lyons	(TBD)	TBD	Library Board Term
Library Board of Trustees Rep: LeeAnn Manke	(TBD)	TBD	Library Board Term
NTC Rep: James Marocchini	75 Michael Lane	D	NTC Term

Note: Public members of the Committee will serve terms of May 12, 2015 – indefinite; Town Council members of the Committee will serve terms concurrent with the Town Council term; Library Board of Trustees members will serve terms concurrent with the Board term.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Banach and the motion passed 9 – 0.

Councilor DelBuono was concerned that the Library Committee worked in conjunction with the Town Hall Renovation Committee since it was important to look at the projects as a campus. Mayor Woods indicated the Library had made their recommendations for their appointments, Councilor Marocchini would be on the committee and Councilor Nagel was considering being named to it. A decision would be made by the next meeting. She asked if the Library Board members would be voting members or non-voting members like the Park and Rec representatives to the last committee. The Mayor indicated he thought they should be voting members but the Library Director would be a non-voting member.

Councilor Klett was concerned the Town staff would be spread too thin in overseeing these projects and suggested hiring a Clerk of the Works. The Mayor indicated the Town Manager would have to make a recommendation on that when appropriate.

B. Agent of Record

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to §8-28 of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the firm of USI Insurance Services as Agent of Record for the Town of Newington for the period covering July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 for the purposes of soliciting, negotiating, placing, overseeing and monitoring the Town's property, casualty and liability insurance package. The fee for this appointment shall be as follows:

**2015-16 \$ 22,500.00
2016-17 \$ 22,500.00
2017-18 \$ 22,500.00**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 9 – 0.

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Trash and Recycling Disposal Contract Extensions

John Salomone indicated there were two options for the removal of waste 1) Covanta Energy, the current supplier and 2) MIRA in Hartford. Since the market was in a state of flux, he did not recommend going more than three years. MIRA's quote was significantly higher than Covanta in tonnage and bulky waste costs with a total cost difference of \$66,893. There would be a new recycling rebate with two options; 1) Murphy Road Recycling or 2) MIRA. The annual rebate would be reduced to \$5 a ton. Trash removal would increase from \$58.16 to \$61.11 in the new contract. A resolution would be made available to the Council at the next meeting.

Councilor Castelle wanted to know if Mr. Salomone was pleased with the present supplier and he indicated they had no local financial problems.

B. Town Council Resolution Opposing House Bill 6851 (Establishing a Transit Corridor Development Authority)

Councilor Nagel stated the bill could be voted on at any time during the legislative session and felt it was best to pass the resolution now instead of after a vote by the State legislature.

Councilor DelBuono said she had been hesitant in the past to suspend the rules but in the case of H.B. 6851 there was a sense of urgency since they did not know when a vote would occur.

Councilor Klett had called Rep. Byron about when it would be voted on and was told bills were released about two hours before a vote would be taken with representatives given only an hours' notice before the actual vote. There was no way to know if either of the two bills would be voted on within the next two weeks and agreed there was a sense of urgency for this vote.

Councilor Klett moved to suspend the rules to consider the resolution opposing H.B. 6851. The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and passed 8 – 1 on a roll call vote.

Yes: Councilors Banach, Borjeson, Castelle, DelBuono, Klett, Marocchini, McDonald, Nagel

No: Mayor Woods

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

WHEREAS, the House Bill 6851 as amended in April 2015 would establish a Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority would have broad powers to establish a Connecticut Transit Development Authority development district within a one-half mile radius of a transit station; and

WHEREAS, there are two transit stations in Newington whose surrounding area would fall under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newington would have limited representation in deciding Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority actions affecting the town; and

WHEREAS, local land use and development decisions are best made by town residents themselves; and

WHEREAS, town residents have publicly expressed opposition to this bill;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council strongly opposes House Bill 6851; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Town's legislative delegation.

Councilor Nagel stated that although the wording had been changed in the bill the intent of the bill had not changed. He hoped the Town Council could stand together to represent the will of the residents.

Councilor Banach was in support of the resolution and had several reservations regarding the bill. Several years ago Newington was told it would retain total control around the busway and that seemed to have changed with H.B. 6851. He questioned the real intent of the bill since Newington had developed other commercial areas with and without the help of the State. He did not understand the need for the bill or why the State wanted to get involved in construction around these corridors. He felt local control was the best control.

Councilor Castelle disagreed with Councilor Banach since in the amended bill local control of land use stayed locally and would get involved when requested to by the local town. He understood that the original wording could have caused some alarm but with the amended version he was comfortable with the bill. He stated there were some towns like Windsor Locks that were in favor of this bill and it would be a disservice to those towns to oppose this bill.

Councilor DelBuono stated the intent of the bill had not changed even though some wording had been changed. Newington had a Planning and Zoning Committee to defer to and a 20/20 plan developed by officials and the public and was not sure what this bill would do for Newington.

Councilor Klett was not concerned about doing a disservice to the other towns but was concerned about doing a disservice to the residents of Newington. The second draft of the bill was still alarming since the intent of the bill had not changed. The same resolution would be brought up at the next TPZ meeting and thought the committee would pass the resolution. If the bill passed, a group of individuals who did not live in Newington would make decisions for the Town.

Councilor McDonald was concerned with the original wording of the bill with the heavy emphasis on the State having eminent domain in the context of the bill. In Section 2 of the revised bill language was included that the chief elected official or alternate would sit on the body and the intent of the bill did not supersede local control by the TPZ or the 20/20 plan. She felt it was clear that no plan would replace the local control of the TPZ or goals around the 20/20 plan. The Councilor stated the bill was still evolving and wanted to see the bill in the final version before voting against it.

Councilor Marocchini stated the Town had involved the CRDA in an agreement that was similar to this bill in dealing with National Welding, which went well. He was in support of H.B. 6851.

Councilor Banach stated CRDA did help out the Town and asked why another State agency would be needed. He stated it was a matter of opinion whether TOD would benefit the Town or not. Just because another agency was created did not mean they would automatically benefit from it.

Mayor Woods did not support the resolution and did not believe H.B. 6851 would limit local control in any way. It set up a regional authority to help communities as Newington did with the CRDA. The reason CRDA could help the Town was because it abutted Hartford, and if a town did not have a border with Hartford, CRDA could not be utilized.

Public participation on resolution –

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He was very disappointed, except for Mr. Banach, that the Councilors were grasping at straws in a very weak argument to toe the party line. He stated there were actually four transit stops in Newington and not just two. The one in New Britain partially encompassed Newington property and the planned stop for Amtrak would be in Newington. He stated the CRCOG website indicated plans for the Amtrak corridor, which was larger than the busway corridor with ¼ mile and ½ mile buffers calculated. Newington got one vote out of twelve, which would not accomplish anything. He felt the Councilors obligation was to the residents and not to the State or Windsor. Councilor Castelle said that Windsor was in favor of the bill but that was the only town in the area that was for it as far as he had heard. He congratulated the TPZ in bringing this bill to the attention of the Town since it would have continued to be under the radar and no language would have been changed and no discussions had.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: He stated that once again the Democrats had the vote and indicated they did not get it. On March 24 the residents were overwhelmingly against the bill and felt the Councilors should be concerned with Newington and not other towns.

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: She said people know that a State agency does not guarantee stellar results. There were strategic agendas for TOD, housing and regional planning and most people knew that local authorities and politicians could be pressured publicly and behind closed doors. Newington did not need outside pressures to develop areas in the town.

Scott Greczkowski, 46 Miami Avenue: He asked the Council how H.B. 6851 benefitted the Town. Newington would get one vote against the rest of the authority and felt it made that one vote useless. The Governor had his own personal agenda, which did not look out for what would be best for Newington. After reading the papers recently he found most of the people opposed to the bill and the only two people he found in favor of it were the Borjesons.

Steven Silvia, 45 Basswood Street: He was discouraged with the position of the Town Council on this resolution. He stated there was language in the bill that was scary. It referred to the ability to take over land in consultation with elected officials and had tax authority to forgive taxable revenue. If that would happen, Newington would get no tax benefit but would still have to provide services.

Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue: She stated that language in the bill gave the authority the ability to develop transit stations as they saw fit. A current commuter lot could be turned into a transit station and the agency might have authority over the center of town. This bill should not be passed.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She stated 1) that if Newington could go to CRDA for help, why Newington couldn't be excluded from the plan. 2) It was not reassuring that the Town would have a representative on the new agency since if the Town's representative to CRCOG had brought it to everyone's attention when it was being discussed and claimed no knowledge of it then, things could have been clarified at that time.

Maddy Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: It concerned her that there was no mention in the bill giving public participation in whatever was developed and asked what recourse was available if there was disagreement on the development along the busway. She did not want to be like Shaker Heights or Boston and was concerned with having power in the hands of a few

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and failed on a roll call vote 4 – 5.

Yes: Councilors Banach, DelBuono, Klett, Nagel

No: Councilors Borjeson, Castelle, Marocchini, McDonald, Mayor Woods

C. Town Council Resolution Opposing Substitute Bill 1 (Establishing a Statewide Motor Vehicle Property Tax Collection System)

John Salomone indicated it was a broad bill and was not comfortable debating it at this time. He thought it might have items that could possibly benefit Newington and other items that might be detrimental. The property tax on autos is onerous and a difficult tax to implement. The State had been looking for solutions for many years to the issue. Sharing revenue needed more study before he could state an opinion on it. CCM had not given a final recommendation on it and would defer to them.

Councilor Nagel the bill could be voted on at any time in the legislature and felt the Council did not have much time to get background on the bill and would not ask to waive the rules. He felt that revenue that went first to the State and then to the Towns would not be in the best interest of Newington. Larger communities might be helped with it. He asked Mr. Salomone to get back to the Councilors when CCM had reached a recommendation.

Councilor DelBuono considered the proposed resolution a draft and encouraged input from others on the Council. Councilor Banach asked who among the Councilors thought the State would be a better fiduciary agent than the Town.

Councilor Castelle appreciated Mr. Slusarski's comment regarding inequalities in taxation. He felt this was a good faith attempt to remedy things. He stated the amount of tax paid on a car varied quite a bit from town to town. Wealthy towns paid less than poorer cities. He was not stating support for the bill but felt the spirit of the bill was a positive one.

Councilor Klett indicated that CCM stated the bill was highly problematic. She thought CCM would have communicated this to the towns since there was concern about S.B. 1. Councilor Borjeson wanted to take a look at the bill to fully understand it. He agreed there were inequities in the car tax and asked the item be moved to the next meeting.

Mayor Woods indicated the bills discussed were State bills and no action taken by the Council would weigh heavily at the State level. The bills could be packaged with other bills, which would pass or not collectively.

D. Blight Update

Jaime Trevethan gave the annual update on the blight situations in Town. The attached gives the statistics and information reviewed.

She explained that Blight Officer Mike Damato was doing a good job in handling these cases in reaching out to residents. She indicated the Town could now use a new tool called Compliance Connections. It was a database of mortgage servicers that was notified when a property was 45 days late on payment of mortgage. This helped Newington in determining who was responsible for a particular property that might be vacant but not yet owned by a bank. She also explained that when blight was due to hardship the Town did not want to add to their hardship but Human Services information would be given to all property owners. At present they were hoping to rework the notice to make it simpler for people to reach out. They were looking at ways to streamline the enforcement process for multi-offenders as well. She explained the difference between hoarding and blight and that hoarding could not be enforced under blight regulations. Blight usually pertained to the outside of properties and hoarding to the inside of a house. If a resident allowed the Town officials to enter their residence, the Town would try to work with them on the hoarding issue.

Councilor Borjeson was pleased with the way the blight ordinance had worked out by addressing residents' concerns on properties throughout the Town. He thanked Jamie for doing a great job and was pleased there were only two properties currently on the list.

Councilor Castelle asked if multiple departments were involved in handling difficult cases of blight and was told that Police/Fire/Human Services and the Building Departments were called on.

Councilor McDonald asked if the hoarding issue extended to the resident's vehicle if it created an unsafe condition with lack of visibility, could it be covered under blight. Jamie Trevethan indicated it was not covered under blight but could be referred to Human Services or the Police for follow up.

Councilor Klett asked Jamie Trevethan to send the councilors the Supreme Court ruling she referenced. She indicated some neighbors complained about rodents around vacant property which was caused by hoarding in most cases. It was explained the Town would try to help in that instance by contacting various departments to clear up the issue.

VI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken) - none

VII. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

Councilor Marocchini moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 307.82 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.

The motion was seconded by Councilor McDonald and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor DelBuono not in the room).

VIII. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Special Meeting, April 21, 2015

B. Regular Meeting, April 28, 2015

Councilor Nagel asked the minutes from April 21 reflect his and Councilor DelBuono vote in favor of the transfer of funds from Garfield Street to the Town Hall Improvement Fund and the Library and Town Hall site.

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the revised minutes for April 21, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilor Marocchini and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Banach-abstained).

Councilor Castelle wanted to add names to residents who participated but did not give their name at the time they spoke, 1) the gentleman who spoke regarding development around the busway was former Mayor Raddich and 2) the resident who spoke about the Open Space Committee was Gail Budrejko.

Councilor Castelle moved to accept the revised meeting minutes from April 28, 2015 and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. The motion passed 9 – 0.

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

Mr. Salomone stated the Ethics Board had met on May 7, 2015 and had no complaints from April 2014. The Code of Ethics and complaint forms could be found on Newington's website. The Board would meet once a year unless there were complaints received.

X. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel attended the Commission on Aging and Disabled and said they were in the process of approving their self-assessment project, which would be completed by early June. Mr. Boutot reported at the meeting that the Senior Center was in the process of being rewired so that wi-fi could be utilized. They were working on connecting some of the library's services to the Senior Center. The giving garden would be used again this year to distribute fresh produce to the Human Services Department. He wanted everyone to know there was a Volunteer Dinner on May 26 to be held at the Senior Center. Councilor Nagel had attended a recent NCTV meeting and they were updating forms regarding compliance. The public could take cameras and mikes out and would be updating the compliance forms so everyone would know what the responsibilities were. NCTV was testing the Cloud so residents could get the channel through other devices. He indicated the Memorial Day Parade would be broadcast from in front of Liberty Bank.

Councilor Borjeson said the Performance Evaluation Committee had planned to have Mr. Salomone's review completed by June. Councilor Castelle would be sending out the forms shortly so the Town Manager could give some feedback. Residents had asked about the status of Newington Junction, and he indicated it was not an in-depth study; however, it was available on line but in an obscure place. He hoped to have it placed in a more readily assessable location on line for everyone to read.

Councilor Marocchini said the Town Hall Renovation Committee had met and received the structural and hazardous reports which indicated there were PCB's and caulk around windows would require removing bricks, and asbestos. They were currently working on the dollar amounts involved in correcting the issues. There were a lot of bad brick which meant there was water behind them that had to be dealt with as well. The next meeting would be held next Tuesday at 7 p.m.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He commented on S.B. 1 and that CCM had a seven page report online that asked the committee for a detailed financial analysis of each town and the impact. He reminded Councilor Castelle a report was still owed to the Council on the recent pension fund meeting.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She inquired as to how people were appointed to the Library Committee and was told each party made recommendations and the Town Council approved them. She said that in the past there was money available through housing rehab grants for seniors and there currently was no money available. She asked if money was made available that Newington apply for the grant to help seniors who wanted to remain in their homes.

Steven Silvia, 45 Basswood Street: He apologized to Councilor Marocchini for his lack of composure at the recent Town Hall Renovation meeting. The report on abatement was a reality check on the building but the structural report was not really a structural report. Brick was removed and acknowledged that spaulding was being experienced but no final report was available to make a final determination at the present time. He indicated there was a wide range, from 130,000 square feet to 88,000 square feet, for the building. At \$300 a square foot the project would cost from \$27 million to \$45 million and hoped the Town Council would give the committee their guidance in planning.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He commented on 1) H.B. 6851 resolution – he hoped that if someone changed their mind about the resolution, it could be brought back to the Council for another vote, 2) S.B. 1 – this would create a shortfall for Newington since some of the money would be consumed by the agency administering the fund, 3) there were inequities in the vehicle tax but Newington was not obligated to fix that and already subsidized area towns, 4) Town Hall Renovation – he intended to become involved in the committee since he was not happy with what he had heard. He did not feel the building should be torn down since it was solidly built just to make it easier for the architect, 5) did not understand why the Library renovation should be linked to the Town Hall renovation since they had done well on their own in the past.

XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor DelBuono asked if members to the Library Committee had to be residents of the Town and the Mayor indicated he would check with the Town Attorney but was confident it was allowable. She said the Council should give guidance to the Town Hall Renovation committee to ensure the original charge was upheld. Rose Lyons had brought up confusion in language in the Charter regarding 2/3 of the Councilors present or 2/3 present. She asked if the Rules Committee could meet to resolve any confusion. The Councilor said the Republican representatives had written a letter to the Governor expressing their opposition to 6851 and continued to oppose it. Many individuals had come forward to express their opposition as well and wanted to reassure them their concerns were heard.

Councilor Klett asked if the Memorial Day Parade was on May 23 at 11 a.m. and the Mayor confirmed that. She asked about what had been done with the \$1 million grant the Police Department had received from money from drug seizures. She wondered if the Police were in favor of vehicle cameras and body cameras as well. She stated there was a bid out for sidewalk construction repair and wondered since no specific sites had been picked, how they knew what exactly was required. John Salomone indicated that there was a standard cost for sidewalk construction and once received, it is applied to specific sidewalks.

Councilor Nagel said the Republicans had brought the resolution regarding 6851 in good faith and thought it was in the best interest of Newington. He and Councilor Banach would be meeting in the future regarding the Open Space Committee and wanted to congratulate the high school scholars celebrated today at a morning breakfast.

Councilor Borjeson commented on 1) resolution on 6851 – There had been a lot of discussion and it was not a political decision since he thought it was a good bill, 2) the past seven weeks had been difficult and after getting advice from individuals, he agreed he had responded to criticism in harsh tones and did not have a poker face. In the future, he would not comment on any personal attacks and only on items pertaining to the best interest of the Town.

Councilor McDonald said she was not a State representative but a Town Councilor in Newington and had not voted on the resolution lightly. She had talked to the State representatives regarding H.B. 6851 and with the updated language in the bill, she was comfortable that it was a good one. She urged people to contact their State legislators whether they were in favor or not of the bill.

Councilor Banach indicated he felt the people who spoke on 6851 were well informed and it was important to keep focused on Newington and not towns they did not represent. From past experience it was a slippery slope and although it might have good intentions it might turn out that way.

Councilor Castelle apologized to Mr. Slusarski regarding the report on the pension meeting and assured him he would have it ready for the next meeting.

Mayor Woods agreed with the Republicans that the Council needed to protect the residents of Newington but differed since he thought the bill did do that and they didn't. However, he respected their opinions. He said he had been respectful of the public and had been offended that when a vote was taken and it did not go the way some in the public wanted, it was claimed that there was an agenda. The public may not like his opinion, but they should respect it. He may not agree with the public's opinion but listened to their concerns respectfully. He did not feel the body was dysfunctional and stated there was only one vote during the meeting that was not unanimous.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council



John Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

To: Newington Town Council
From: Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Admin.
Date: May 12, 2015
Re: Blight Statistics

Following are statistics regarding blight complaints and enforcement through May 12, 2015:

Total blight complaints received since August, 2012: 153

Total open complaints: 21

Total closed complaints: 132

Open Complaints

In warning phase: 12

In citation phase: 1

In notice phase: 1

On blight list: 2

New Complaints (awaiting initial inspection): 4

Other: 1

Open Complaints by Violation Type

Overgrown vegetation: 4

Junk/debris: 7

Structural issues: 3

Combination of two or more issues: 7

Closed Complaints

Did not meet blight criteria: 39

Enforced under zoning: 6

Remediated by Town: 8

Remediated by property owner: 79