



Tanya Lane  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN**

## MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL  
L101 – Lower Level  
8:00 P.M.**

**March 15, 2017**

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Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Anest  
Councilor Budrejko  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett - absent  
Councilor Manke  
Councilor Marocchini – absent  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Serra  
Mayor Zartarian

#### **Staff Attendees:**

Tanya Lane, Town Manager  
Ann Harter, Finance Director  
Lisa Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director  
Jamie Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Manke moved to accept the agenda and the motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett/Marocchini – absent).

**IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS**  
**A. National Public Health Week**

Mayor Zartarian moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has proclaimed April 3 through April 9, 2017 as National Public Health Week;**

**WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Healthiest Nation 2030" and focuses on rallying around the goal of making the United States the Healthiest Nation in One Generation by 2030;**

**WHEREAS, for over 20 years the annual celebration of National Public Health Week reminds us of the fundamental role that our own state and local health departments play every day in the health of our communities; and**

**AND WHEREAS, the Town of Newington, together with its neighboring towns of Wethersfield, Berlin and Rocky Hill, receives quality public health service through its regional health department, the Central Connecticut Health District, now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year of service.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Roy Zartarian, on behalf of the Newington Town Council, do hereby proclaim**

**April 3 to April 9, 2017 as  
National Public Health Week**

**in Newington, CT. I encourage all our citizens to join me in this celebration and in acknowledging the critical role of public health in prevention and in helping individuals and communities to achieve and maintain good health.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Manke and approved 7 – 0 (Councilor Klett/Marocchini – absent).

Mayor Zartarian thanked the District for all the work they had done in the past. Councilor Nagel said the District worked very efficiently and had done an incredible job over the years. He hoped the Town would continue to support this well-functioning group in the future. Councilor Budrejko said she had come to appreciate and learn about the Health District and what they did over the years. She said it was very impressive what they did.

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

None

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

None

**VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)**  
**A. Administrative Group Wages**

Councilor Anest moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the Council adopted FY 2016-17 budget contains funding in the contingency account for salary increases for certain eligible administrative employees not otherwise allocated in union agreements; and**

**WHEREAS, the Town Manager has implemented a performance review process for full time non-union Administrative staff; and**

**WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds in the budget to implement these changes in the Classification and Pay Plan;**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to amend the Classification and Pay Plan to reflect merit wage increases of up to 2.5% for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said increases shall be retroactive to July 1, 2016.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Budrejko and passed 7 – 0 (Councilor Klett/Marocchini – absent).

The Town Manager urged the council to approve the resolution since the employees were not covered by a union contract and worked many long hours without overtime pay. Councilor DelBuono was in favor of the increases since she felt the employees did a good job and in many cases went above and beyond. Councilor Manke stated the money had already been budgeted in the 2016-17 fiscal year and would not impact the current budget. Councilor Nagel wanted to commend the hard working town employees for the job they did throughout the year.

**B. Departmental Budget Review: Revenues**

The Town Manager indicated she was proposing a mill rate of \$37.36 which was a 1.61% increase.

Councilor Budrejko asked if there had been an increase in delinquent taxes due to only sending out one mailer to residents. Ann Harter indicated they did not see a difference from last year to this year in collections.

Licenses – no change

State aid – overall \$500k less than the previous year

6011 & 6026 – these are funded by sales tax revenues and offset by money from municipal projects.

7012 – to offset expenses and comes from the cemetery funds

**C. Departmental Budget Review: Insurance/Misc.**

930 – no change

940 – Employee Benefits

Medical insurance is flat with an increase of .31%.

943 – includes the administrative and others contribution plan.

962 – increase due to potential wage increases

#### **D. Departmental Budget Review: MDC**

#### **E. Departmental Budget Review: Employee Leave Liability**

This was established by ordinance for use of accrued sick leave liability. It was being funded at recommended levels.

#### **F. Departmental Budget Review: Special Revenue Funds/Other Funds**

These funds do not directly affect the mill rate.

Recreation Programs Fund – frozen until further notice

Public School Capital Improvement Program – the \$370k budgeted is less than previous year.

Health Benefits Fund – decrease in amount from previous year and hoped the high deductible plan would be effective in lowering costs.

### **VIII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)**

#### **A. Discussion: Town Council/Board of Education Budget Committee**

Councilor DelBuono indicated this had been discussed at the last meeting. The Town Attorney said the committee was to be public and FOIA available. Since time was short, it was decided to have the liaisons from the Council meet with the liaisons from the BOE for this budget season. All communications between the two would be brought back to the Council and communicated to all. A decision to create a committee would be delayed until next budget year. The consensus of the Council agreed with that action.

### **IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**

#### **A. Commission on Aging and Disabled**

- 1. Accept the Resignation of Matilda DeMaio**
- 2. Appoint a Replacement**

Councilor Anest moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Matilda DeMaio from the Commission on Aging and Disabled in accordance with a communication dated February 28, 2017.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra and passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett/Marocchini-absent).

**X. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

Councilor Budrejko moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$13,316.78 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.**

Councilor Nagel seconded the motion and it passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett/Marocchini-absent).

**XI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- A. Special Meeting, February 16, 2017**
- B. Regular Meeting, February 28, 2017**

Councilor Manke moved to accept the meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett/Marocchini – absent).

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

Tanya Lane thanked the Councilors for approving the raises for the administrative group.

**XIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Nagel reported the Fire Department Anniversary parade would be held on September 23 in late afternoon. The Library Board discussed state funding regarding card usage and the ability to use a library card in other libraries. On March 25 there will be an author’s get together and anyone interested should contact the Library. National Library Week will be held April 9 – 15, 2017. The Town Hall Renovation Committee’s architect presented a preliminary vision of what the town hall would look like. The next meeting of the committee would be held next Wednesday.

Councilor Manke said the annual Hoopla event would be held on March 24 at 5 p.m. at the high school. It raises money for scholarships.

Councilor Anest said the Open Space committee would be presenting, next Thursday, to the TPZ the revised ordinance for open space and a memo of understanding that they would like the Town Council to sensitive to open space throughout Town.

Councilor Serra said the Democrats held their award dinner and thanked all the council who attended.

**XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She wanted to thank the town employees for doing a good job in clearing the streets after the recent storm. She reminded everyone to clear a path to any fire hydrants on their street. In response to the letter read into the record regarding duplication of town services, she thought it would be a good idea to review all departments to determine if there were any other areas of duplication that could be eliminated.

## **XV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Budrejko thanked the Town Manager for her presentation and how vital it was to see what the State budget would be. She thanked town employees for the good job they did during the recent snow storm. Councilor Manke agreed with her comments regarding the removal of snow.

Councilor DelBuono indicated the administrative raises were well deserved and praised the department heads for their efforts in maintaining low increases in their departments during the budget season. She said they had a good time at the NEMS dinner and were able to see what they did for the Town. Regarding the DMV tax she said although it was wonderful for residents, in reality it was tough for towns to make up for the money lost.

Councilor Nagel also agreed that the town workers had done a great job during the recent storm and thanked the NEMS for the invitation to their dinner and for the work they do.

## **XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: REAL ESTATE**

Councilor DelBuono moved to go into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett/Marocchini – absent).

Councilor Nagel moved to go out of Executive Session at 9:12 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett/Marocchini – absent).

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Manke. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett/Marocchini – absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council