



Tanya Lane
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL L101 – Lower Level 7:00 P.M.

January 10, 2017

Councilor Nagel called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

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

Staff Attendees:

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Budrejko moved to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session regarding Personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra and passed 6 – 0 (Councilor DelBuono and Mayor Zartarian – absent/Councilor Anest out of room).

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

Dave Goodale, 1741 Main Street: He gave a summary of the work that had been done recently to the Deming Farm and wanted the Council to know that he had not been notified the item had been added to the agenda.

The grant had first been mentioned back in 2015 but the work needed to be done and could not wait for the grant money. Since the item was on the agenda Mr. Goodale was invited to speak more fully when the item was discussed.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill – He sympathized with Hartford Mayor Bronin’s position but was concerned about the effect on area towns. He asked the Council if Newington received any PILOT money from the state. He mentioned there was talk around the country regarding budgeting every two years instead of every year and wondered what the pros and cons would be. Mr. Bachand was concerned about the sidewalk situation in Newington and recognized that Newington had made an effort but more work was needed. He also thought the Town should help the Deming Farm financially if possible.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – She had attended meetings in the past when people had stated they were disappointed in the condition of the Deming Farm. She stated it was a beautiful piece of property and thought they should be given some help.

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councilor Nagel stated he was glad Mr. Goodale had refreshed his memory with the details of the Farm and questioned why it came up at this time. There was a lot of misinformation regarding the subject and it should be looked into. He stated Mayor Bronin was scheduled to appear in the auditorium on January 30 at 6 p.m. and urged anyone interested to attend. Councilor Nagel indicated the sidewalk situation was difficult to fix and agreed with Mr. Bachand that something needed to be done since it was an on-going problem.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)

A. State Historic Preservation Grant: Deming-Young Farm

Councilor Nagel indicated the grant was to do repair work to the foundation and walls but some of which had already been done. The Town Manager was not sure why the subject came up at this time other than that Mr. Minor should be asked for further details. The grant was a matching grant and Dave Langdon indicated he had the matching funds (\$5k).

Councilor Budrejko indicated the grant was for substantial renovations to the Farm and asked Mr. Goodale if a lot of the major items had already been done. He stated a lot of work had been done since they could not wait for the grant from the State.

Councilor Klett stated there was need for better communication regarding the agenda and asked that both Mr. Minor and Mr. Langdon attend the next meeting for further clarification.

Councilor Klett moved to table the item until the next meeting and the motion was seconded by Councilor Manke. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilor DelBuono and Mayor Zartarian-absent).

B. 2017 Budget Meeting/Public Hearing Schedule

Tanya Lane explained the schedule aligned with charter provisions and took into account any holidays, etc. All public and special meetings would be held in time for approval of the budget on April 25. The item would be placed on the next meeting agenda. Councilor Klett indicated she would be calling in on April 18 since she would be out of town.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

None

VIII. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

Councilor Budrejko moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$427.97 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 Manke seconded the motion and it passed 7 – 0 (Councilor DelBuono & Mayor Zartarian – absent).

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Action Requested)

A. Special Meeting, December 27, 2016

B. Regular Meeting, December 27, 2016

Councilor Anest moved to accept the above minutes and was seconded by Councilor Manke. The motion passed 6 – 0 (Councilor DelBuono and Mayor Zartarian-absent/Councilor Nagel-abstained).

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

Tanya Lane stated Ann Harter had gotten back to her regarding a question posed by Mr. Bachand and MDC. He had asked if Newington paid the MDC \$781,100 what the effect would be on the mill rate. Mrs. Harter indicated the mill rate would go from \$35.75 to \$36.06.

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Budrejko gave a report from the EDC: 1) National Welding property was going out for request for information and it was due back in February 2) Eversource site was under contract to be developed for retail 3) Ruby Tuesday site would become a Chick-Fil-A 4) Brian’s Auto is moving into the former R & M Auto building 5) Goldberg’s would be expanding to do catering as well 6) Aldi was expanding.

Councilor Marocchini indicated there had been two Town Hall Renovation meetings and they decided on a manager at risk, which would give the Town more organization for the project. Mr. Baron was drafting an RFQ that would be due the first week of February. The architect was interviewing and gathering information.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She asked if the Council would be setting a list of goals for the year and if the Town Hall renovation was number one and where the other priorities would be listed like the Reynolds School, the Library and Churchill Park. She wanted to see a consensus from the Council on what the priorities were and felt a master plan needed to be developed. She stated that when the State legislators attended a Council meeting the public should have the ability to send questions to the Council that could be asked at that time since the public would not be able to ask the questions themselves.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill: He thanked the Town Manager for getting the answer to his question regarding the MDC. He felt it should be added to the bill as a separate line item for residents to see. He noted there was work going on at the bus garage and wondered what was being done. Mr. Bachand asked about any PILOT money the town received and was told Newington did receive money.

XIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Anest and Councilor Serra attended the Hartford mayor's meeting in Wethersfield and was looking for the area towns to work with him on Hartford's issues. He indicated that if the State paid the full PILOT money due, Hartford would get \$70 million and bring the city to where it needed to be. The mayor also said high speed rail would help the city. Mayor Bronin mentioned the possible sharing of 911 services but the Councilor indicated there were pros and cons to that system regarding public safety.

Councilor Klett mentioned residents asked if the lights in town could be kept on past the holiday season. The Town Manager indicated they were looking into it and determining what the cost might be but thought it was a good idea.

Councilor Budrejko asked the Town Manager if she knew what the effect of the recent State cuts would be to the Town, and she indicated it was about a \$176k loss and Ann Harter was reviewing the impact.

Councilor Nagel indicated the Mayor's office hours were still being held in Town Hall and indicated the hours were listed on the website. He was pleased both the Town Hall renovation and the Library projects were moving forward and said there was good communication between the two. The Library committee would be meeting with the architect to review the needs and wants of the Library. The date of the Council goal setting meeting has not been determined as yet. Councilor Nagel was not sure the legislators would be attending the next Council meeting, but they were still working on it.

Tanya Lane indicated a contract had been signed for the Alumni Road project and the contractor was gathering information for a future public hearing.

Councilor Nagel said the hiring of a Manager at Risk put the project manager at risk and accountable for not exceeding the budget allowed. Otherwise the Town would be more responsible for this. If there were unforeseen issues, the Town would still be responsible but the Manager at Risk was to oversee the project costs. Councilor Nagel hoped that before budgeting began, a conversation could be held on uncollected the revenues and look into a town sale of properties before the budgeting was completed.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL

Councilor Klett moved to adjourn to executive session re: Personnel at 8:10 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Marocchini. The motion passed 7 – 0. (Councilor DelBuono and Mayor Zartarian absent)

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn from executive session at 8:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 7 – 0. (Councilor DelBuono and Mayor Zartarian absent)

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn from executive session at 8:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Budrejko. The motion passed 7 – 0. (Councilor DelBuono and Mayor Zartarian absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council