



Tanya D. Lane  
Acting Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN**

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Conference Room L-101 – Town Hall  
131 Cedar Street**

**Thursday, March 10, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

## Minutes

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Mayor Zartarian called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in conference room L-101, Town Hall.

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- II. ROLL CALL

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

### **Staff Attendees:**

Tanya Lane, Acting Town Manager  
Steve Clark, Chief of Police  
Karen Futoma, Director of Human Services  
Dianne Stone, Senior and Disabled Center Director  
Chris Schroeder, Fire Marshal/Chief  
Carol LaBrecque, Human Services Coordinator  
Roxanne Verbridge, Administrative Asst. to the Chief  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager  
Illona Oslund, Administrative Secretary III

- III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS
  - A. Retirement Proclamation: Illona Oslund

Mayor Zartarian moved the following:

**WHEREAS, Illona Oslund was hired as a Secretary to the Fire Marshal for the Town of Newington on July 5, 1988; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund transferred to the Police Department working for the Chief of Police on January 2, 1990; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund worked closely with four Police Chiefs; Chief Thomas Ganley, Chief Richard Klett, Chief Richard Mulhall, and recently Chief Stephen Clark; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund is commended for her 26+ years of dedication, loyal service, and commitment to the Newington Police Department, the public, and public officials; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund has been instrumental in the implementation of the hiring and testing process for Police Officer positions in the department, as well as the coordination with various outside agencies for testing of candidates; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund is acclaimed for her ability to work in an environment that demanded confidentiality and complex administrative duties; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund has attended various training classes to enhance her abilities to perform her duties in an efficient manner; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund is commended for her coordination of event planning for hiring, promotions, and retirements within the department; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund has received various letters and thank you notes in appreciation of assistance during the hiring process from candidates and other agencies, as well as the general public; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Oslund will retire from the Newington Police Department on March 18, 2016 after 26+ years of service; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Illona Oslund for her many years of service to the Town of Newington, congratulates Mrs. Oslund on her retirement and wishes her much success in her future endeavors.**

The Councilors commended Mrs. Oslund for her many years of service.

Motion seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0.

#### IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons thanked Mrs. Oslund for her service.

Hal Whitney, 31 Old Hatchery Lane: He urged the Council to exercise fiscal responsibility in the budget process.

Police Chief Stephen Clark thanked Mrs. Oslund for her service and expertise throughout the years and wished her many happy years in her retirement.

#### V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

- A. Budget Review: Public Safety (Fire, Police, Street Lighting, Emergency Management, EMS, Hydrants)

Acting Town Manager Lane, Chief Schroeder, Chief Clark and staff reviewed the following items in the Town Manager's proposed budget (see the Town Manager's Proposed FY 2016-17 for details):

- 230 – Fire Department Administration Personnel
- 231 – Fire Department Administration
- 232 – Fire Fighting

- 233 – Fire Prevention
- 234 – Fire Training
- 235 – Fire Stations
- 238 – Fire Marshal
- 240 – Fire Safety Officer
- 242 – Regional Fire Training Tower
- 250 – Street Lighting

Councilor Klett inquired about required physicals for fire fighters. Chief Schroeder indicated that these are specialized physicals as required by OSHA. They are different than general physicals. Councilor Klett expressed concern over CCM's stated opposition of a bill that would increase liability to the Town for firefighter illnesses.

Chief Schroeder spoke about the creation of an elite regional rescue taskforce.

- 260 – Emergency Management
- 270 – Emergency Medical Services
- 280 – Hydrants
  
- 210 – Police Department Personnel
- 211 - Police Department Administration
- 212 – Police Patrol
- 213 – Police Investigation
- 214 – Traffic
- 215 – Police Communications
- 217 – Police Education & Training
- 218 – Police Support Services
- 220 – Police Vehicles
- 222 – Animal Control

The Council and Chief Clark discussed the possible elimination of the School Resource Officer (SRO), which was considered for removal after careful consideration. Chief Clark stated that it is his hope to reinstate the position to the budget due to breakage (retirements) savings. Councilor DelBuono stated that the reinstatement should be a Council priority. Councilor Anest inquired the amount needed to reinstate the position. Chief Clark replied that about \$35,000 will needed once the breakage is applied. Councilor Anest agreed with Councilor DelBuono.

Councilor Klett inquired about the starting salaries of new police recruits, citing recent public comment that new officers make \$72,000. Chief Clark replied that the starting salary for new recruits is approximately \$60,000 and stated that it is a competitive salary. He remarked that a competitive salary is important in order to attract qualified candidates. The Council and Chief Clark discussed the proposed Civilian Evidence Officer position.

- B. Budget Review: Human Services
- C. Budget Review: Senior and Disabled Center

Acting Town Manager Lane, Human Services Director Karen Futoma, Senior and Disabled Center Director Dianne Stone and staff reviewed the following items in the Town Manager's proposed budget (see the Town Manager's Proposed FY 2016-17 for details):

- 610 – Human Services Operations

Mrs. Futoma spoke about funding for youth programs, most of which are funded by State grants. She expressed concern over cuts to the State budget in this area, particularly with increased usage of youth programs.

- 644 – Senior and Disabled Center Operations

Ms. Stone spoke about the cuts to exercise equipment budgets.

Councilor Klett requested to have a Town Manager Search Subcommittee meeting at the Senior Center.

- 645 – Dial-A-Ride

Councilor Nagel inquired about Dial-A-Ride usage. Ms. Stone replied that there are on average 1,600 trips per month, among about 110 users. She stated that many residents rely on the service and indicated that the demographics and needs of the users are changing.

- 671 – Commission on Aging and Disabled
- 673 – Human Rights Commission
- 674 – Youth-Adult Council

#### V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: Ms. Kenny asked the Councilors to make sure to use their microphones. She spoke about the exercise equipment at the Senior Center and inquired whether it actually belongs to Parks and Recreation. She praised NEMS for their efforts.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons spoke about streetlights and asked who to call to report streetlight problems.

#### VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Nagel noted that the exercise equipment at the Senior Center is owned by the Senior Center.

Councilor Klett disagreed with an earlier speaker who indicated that one political party is not fiscally responsible.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan  
Asst. to the Town Manager