



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.

March 28, 2017

Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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, Town Manager
Ann Harter, Finance Director
Lisa Rydecki, Asst. Finance Director
Craig Minor, Town Planner
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Manke moved to accept the agenda and the motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 9-0.

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

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons asked for clarification on which projects requested from department heads will be included in the CIP plan and which will be funded this year versus funded from previous projects' surpluses. She asked for a clarification of the CIP approval process in general.

Amy Alexander, 16 Brentwood Road: Ms. Alexander urged the Council to consider funding the Board of Education's funding request. She stated that she supports the BOE and indicated that any additional cuts will affect programs and students in a negative manner.

Neil Ryan. 237 Brockett St. Mr. Ryan urged state that the town must spend money in order to remain a vibrant and successful community. He expressed concern over the proposed flat budget and stated that he would be in favor of having his taxes increased in order to support the parks, library and education in the town. He stated that families looking to buy a home would look at these three areas.

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Set Tentative Budget for FY 2017-18

The Councilors considered several adjustments to the Town Manager's proposed budget. Each adjustment was considered as a separate line item with a roll call vote for each item. Councilor Anest made a motion for each of the line items proposed by the Council Democrats, with each motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Councilor DelBuono made a motion for each of the line items proposed by the Council Republicans, with each motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Councilor Klett also made three motions, which were seconded by Councilor Anest. A full listing of each proposed line item adjustment is attached, along with a record of the vote and whether each motion passed or failed.

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

A. Alumni Road Study Update

Town Manager Tanya Lane and Town Planner Craig Minor provided an update of the Alumni Road Study project. Mr. Minor indicated that the consultant has obtained traffic count in the area and has explored the impact of traffic at the high school area as a result of the project. Mr. Minor indicated that a Public Information Meeting on the project is scheduled for May 31. He indicated that this date was chosen so as not to conflict with any other board meetings. Councilor Anest requested an earlier date for the Public Information Meeting, if possible.

B. Mid-Year Transfers

Finance Director Ann Harter indicated that per the Charter, transfers among departments may only be done in the second half of each fiscal year. She indicated that the transfers are requested from the contingency budget for contractual and budgeted administrative wage increases, attorney's fees and CIP projects. Mrs. Harter indicated that fund balances for completed projects may be transferred to fund current CIP projects. The Council discussed the proposed transfer as well as the method for paying the Town Attorney versus assistant attorneys and special attorneys. The item will appear on an upcoming Council agenda for approval.

C. Lease Purchase Agreement – Fire Apparatus

Town Manager Lane and Finance Director Harter indicated RFPs were submitted for lease purchase financing of a new fire pumper truck for the Fire Department. The lowest proposal was received from TD Equipment Financing with an interest rate of 1.84% for the five year term. The annual expenditure for the lease will be approximately \$148,000. The item will appear on an upcoming Council agenda for approval.

D. Memorandum of Understanding: Digital Signs on Town Property

Town Planner Craig Minor discussed the proposed MOU with the Council. Mr. Minor indicated that the MOU would call for the Council and TPZ to agree that the Town will not place any additional digital signage on Town property without the approval of the TPZ. TPZ members have approved the MOU and it has been signed by Chairperson Frank Aieta. If the Council concurs, Mayor Zartarian would also execute the MOU.

Councilor Klett recommended that the MOU have an expiration date in order to avoid tying the hands of future Councils and TPZs. Councilor Anest requested that the Board of Education also be a party to the MOU. Mr. Minor indicated that he would bring these items back to the TPZ prior to Council approval of the MOU.

E. STEAP Grant: Constance Leigh Drive

Mr. Minor indicated that this project was funded with a previous grant, however, the funds from that grant were not enough to complete the project. The Town is eligible to apply for \$500,000 in additional STEAP grant funding this year and M. Minor stated that estimates indicate that this will be enough to fund the remainder of the project. Councilor Budrejko stated that the completed project will tie the center commerce area together and stated support for the application. A resolution will appear at the next meeting for Council consideration.

F. Fair Housing Month Resolution

Mr. Minor indicated that this resolution must be passed by the Council each April for Fair Housing Month. This resolution is a requirement for the Town to be eligible to receive Small Cities grant funding, among other funding. A resolution will appear at the next meeting for Council consideration.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

Councilor Anest moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Kenneth St. Onge as a member of the Economic Development Commission, in accordance with a communication dated March 20, 2017.

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

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting, March 14, 2017

Councilor Anest moved to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 9-0.

XI. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC - none

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel reported on the recent CRCOG meeting, in which a regionalized water survey was discussed.

Councilor Marocchini reported on the recent Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee meeting, in which the architect discussed square footage and the process for putting cost estimates to the project. He indicated that the Committee is meeting weekly.

Councilor Manke indicated that he attended the Youth-Adult Council annual Basketball Hoopla, which was a success. He thanked the volunteers for making the event happen and stated that the money raised is used for scholarships for high school seniors.

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

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons stated that she hopes the budget process is not as contentious between the Town and the Board of Education as it was last year. She reiterated her earlier question regarding CIP.

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: Ms. Kenny warned the Council that cuts made to the Board of Education and other programs would have to be made up for in future years. She also stated that digital signage is ugly.

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Budrejko stated that she attended a conference on regional cooperation in Connecticut, which was attended by various Mayors and other officials. She stated that in order for regionalization to be successful, the communities must be compatible and willing to scrutinize and study what will work. She stated that some of the larger communities are discussing combining police, fire, dispatch, etc. and urged the Council to stay informed.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: CONTRACTS & REAL ESTATE

Councilor Manke moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. to go into executive session and the motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 9:58 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor Marocchini. The motion passed 9-0.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn from the meeting at 9:59 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor Anest. The motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan
Asst, to the Town Manager

Attach.

ADJUSTMENTS TO 2017-18 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET

**NOTE: Figures in parenthesis decrease "Amount to be raised by Taxes";
figures without parenthesis increase "Amount to be raised by Taxes".**

Proposed Mill Rate FY 2017-18: 37.36
 Amt. to be raised by taxes: 87,597,141
 Net Adjusted Collectible Grand List: 2,344,554,887
 Value of mill: 2,344,555

Item #	Account #	Description	Change In Tax Burden	COUNCIL VOTE		For Reference Only			
				Yes	No	Amount to Be Raised By Taxes	Revised Rate	Mill Change	Percent Change
						87,597,141	37.36	1.61	4.5%
1	11100 8501	Decrease Transfer to Capital Non-Recurring for School Bus Reserve	(\$364,376)	9	0	87,232,765	37.21	1.46	4.1%
2	11100 8501	Decrease Transfer to Capital Non-Recurring for Snow Removal/Roadside Mowing Equipment	(\$175,000)	6	3	87,057,765	37.13	1.38	3.9%
3	14000 8601	Decrease Board of Education to 0.3% increase	(\$1,200,000)	5	4	85,857,765	36.62	0.87	2.4%
4	10154 8103	Decrease Revenue Collector Part Time	(\$13,282)	9	0	85,844,483	36.61	0.86	2.4%
5	10180 8204	Decrease Personnel	(\$1,000)	6	3	85,843,483	36.61	0.86	2.4%
6	10197 8204	Decrease Information Technology Conferences, Meetings, Training	(\$500)	9	0	85,842,983	36.61	0.86	2.4%
7	10197 8302	Decrease Information Technology Technical Supplies	(\$500)	9	0	85,842,483	36.61	0.86	2.4%
8	10832 8220	Decrease Parks & Ground Cemeteries - disposal of soil	(\$3,000)	9	0	85,839,483	36.61	0.86	2.4%
9	10151 7012	Transfer from Cemetery Fund to reflect adjustment to Account 10832	\$3,000	9	0	85,842,483	36.61	0.86	2.4%
10	10151 6013	Increase Telecommunications Tax	(\$35,000)	9	0	85,807,483	36.60	0.85	2.4%
11	10810 8103	Reduce Parks & Recreation part-time - use SRF Recreation Enterprise Fund	(\$11,500)	9	0	85,795,983	36.59	0.84	2.4%
12	11100 8501	Additional prior year po closed to help offset CIP	(\$4,000)	9	0	85,791,983	36.59	0.84	2.4%
13	10270 8204	Add EMS Conferences, Meetings & Training for awards banquet	\$1,000	9	0	85,792,983	36.59	0.84	2.4%
14	10328 8102	Reduce Leaf Collection Overtime	(\$20,000)	9	0	85,772,983	36.58	0.83	2.3%
15	10324 8306	Increase Snow/Ice Construction & Maintenance Materials	\$20,000	9	0	85,792,983	36.59	0.84	2.4%
TOTAL			(\$1,804,158)						

