



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.

June 28, 2016

Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

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

Staff Attendees:

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Marocchini moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 9 – 0.

IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Retirement: Senior Public Safety Dispatcher Kimberly King

Mayor Zartarian moved the following:

WHEREAS, Kimberly King was hired as a Public Safety Dispatcher for the Town of Newington on November 26, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Ms. King was promoted to Senior Public Safety Dispatcher on September 2, 2001; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years, Ms. King has provided exemplary, caring and professional service to Newington residents and staff and has received numerous letters from other police departments, Town residents and local businesses acknowledging her skills and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Ms. King was the Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management Systems Administrator and handled the vital task of training all new dispatchers in the system;

WHEREAS, Ms. King served as the Communication Liaison to the Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corps; and

WHEREAS, Ms. King offered her expertise and advice by participating in focus groups for the Chief of Police hiring process; and

WHEREAS, Ms. King served as an interview panelist for oral boards in surrounding towns including Wethersfield, Farmington, and CCSU; and

WHEREAS, Ms. King retired from the Newington Police Department on March 31, 2016 after twenty-five years of service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Ms. Kimberly King for her many years of service to the Town of Newington and sends its warmest regards and best wishes for her retirement.

Councilor Anest seconded the motion and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

Mrs. King thanked the Mayor and the Town and stated she found the job very rewarding and was everything she had hoped it would be. The Mayor indicated he was sorry to see her go since she was the go to person in that department. Chief Clark thanked her for her service and was sorry to see her leave. She was also presented a clock for her service from the Town Manager.

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

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill: He said he had received a message in his tax bill indicating there would not be further notification of the date of the second payment. He felt vulnerable people would be affected and the interest on a missed payment would be an additional burden. Mr. Bachand also mentioned there had been discussion about social media and some claimed a higher ground by not following Facebook, which he thought was a mistake. Several times in the past Facebook had made a difference in the outcome of situations.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: He wanted to clarify the issue of DMV tax bills and wanted people to check their envelope to be sure that the bill came from Newington and not another town like Newton, New Britain, etc. The bill would have the tax rate from the town that it came from and not Newington.

VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councilor Budrejko was concerned about no further notification on payment of the tax bill and thought the Finance Director had indicated there would be a plan for communication to the public about the second payment and the due date. She asked for an update on what was planned so the public could be informed.

Mayor Zartarian said the problem was not caused by Newington but was the State DMV Department that had the issue that needed to be resolved.

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

A. Fee Updates: Planning/Zoning & Zoning Board of Appeals

Councilor Marocchini thought a fee of \$350 was too high. The cost to the town was \$315.25 and wondered if the fee could be a lower amount. Councilor Anest said that not every application had two notices to be sent out and thought \$350 was too high as well.

Tanya Lane indicated the amount could be amended if the Town Council wanted to. The amount had been approved by the ZBA. Councilor Serra said Southington was the highest at \$340 and all towns were lower with the exception of Berlin at \$370.

A motion was made by Councilor Marocchini to table the item until the next Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

B. Discussion: Cemetery Operations

Mayor Zartarian said it was an inherited problem and the ordinance was last updated in 2010. Enforcement was not done at the staff level in the past and with the change in staff, there was a major breakdown in communication. The Town needed to get information to the residents as to the rules and regulations of the cemetery and thought the appointment of a sexton by the Town Manager would help the situation.

Councilor Marocchini indicated the ordinance had been loosely enforced and with a new Superintendent the ordinance would be enforced. Councilor Klett asked the Mayor if a sub-committee would be appointed, and he said a decision had not been made. Councilor DelBuono did not think there needed to be many changes made to the ordinance but thought better communication with the residents was important.

Councilor Nagel said it should be made clearer to people what would happen to mementoes and how they would be given back to the residents. Councilor Klett indicated the ordinance should be looked at by the Council and the public to review what should be allowed and how and where they should be removed. Mayor Zartarian said items had been placed at gravesites in violation of the ordinance, had been allowed to remain and when recently removed it created the issue.

C. Job Description: Civilian Evidence Officer

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby approves of amendments to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving the job description for the newly created Civilian Evidence Officer (A4) position as recommended by the Town Manager in her capacity as Personnel Director.

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

Mayor Zartarian explained this was a new position which would allow a detective to be freed up for police work rather than evidence custody work. It was not a sworn position, the individual would not have a badge or gun. It was a civilian position that would cost the Town less money.

Councilor DelBuono said during the budget sessions the police chief had recommended this position to save the Town money and thought it was a good one.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)
A. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Document (Action Requested)

Councilor Klett moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to the Capital Improvement Committee's recommendation, the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the modification of the FY 2016-17 Capital Improvement Plan document to include the following bonding projects:

- **Town Hall/Community Center/Library Improvements**
- **Anna Reynolds Renovate as new**
- **Park Improvements**
- **Fire Houses 3 & 4**

Councilor Klett moved to waive the rules in order to vote on the above resolution and was seconded by Councilor Marocchini. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

Tanya Lane said the purpose of the resolution was to handle potential building projects and to allow the Town to bond money over a period of years to accomplish a particular building project. She stated Table 7 had been dropped from the CIP and Table 3 created. A new formula had been created which was 5.8% of the budget. The CIP committee had met and agreed on the above priorities for Newington and added them to the long range plan.

Councilor DelBuono said they needed to do this so it could be done by the end of the fiscal year.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

B. Discussion: NHS School Career Technical Program Renovations Plans & Specifications

Superintendent Collins presented the proposed plans and renovations to the Council which is attached.

Mayor Zartarian said the Council needed to approve the project before it could go to bid and would be on the next Council agenda.

IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Central CT Health District Board of Directors

1. Accept the Resignation of Kristine Nasinnyk

Councilor Anest moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Kristine Nasinnyk as a member of the Central Connecticut Health District Board of Directors and a de facto member of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board of Trustees in accordance with a communication dated June 16, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Budrejko and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

- 2. Appoint a Replacement**
- B. Library Board of Trustees**
 - 1. Accept the Resignation of Kristine Nasinnyk**
 - 2. Appoint a Replacement**
- C. Environmental Quality Commission**
 - 1. Accept the Resignation of Stein Ramstad**

Councilor Anest moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Stein Ramstad as a public member of the Environmental Quality Commission in accordance with a communication dated June 14, 2016.

Councilor Serra seconded the motion and it passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

**2. Appoint a Replacement
D. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Councilor Serra moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s)

17. John Wallace Middle School Wing Reconstruction Project Building Committee

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
NTC Member: Carol Anest	30 Harding Avenue	D	NTC Term	N/A

The motion was seconded by Councilor Budrejko and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

Councilor Serra moved the following:

24. Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee - 2016

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Public Member: Walter Przech	24 Forrest Drive	U	Immediate - Indefinite	N/A

The motion was seconded by Councilor Budrejko and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

- X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Action Requested)**
 - A. Special Meeting, June 13, 2016**
 - B. Special Meeting, June 14, 2016**
 - C. Regular Meeting, June 14, 2016**

Councilor Marocchini moved to accept the above minutes and the motion was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

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

Tanya Lane said the Library Building Committee would be working with Library Development Solutions for a feasibility study. Mayor Zartarian stated he had received a letter from Robert Larsson, which was critical of the new Town Manager and would be included in the minutes.

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel said the Town Hall Renovations Committee had met and elected officers. Meetings would be held on the first and third Wednesday at 5 p.m. The Committee would be reviewing the previous study. He stated the Audit Committee had met to review the rules of the audit and how it would be conducted.

Councilor Budrejko attended a recent TPZ meeting and said the Newington Arena would be adding a mini rink for premier skaters and small children. The Open Space Committee met and had questions regarding lot sizes and other items to be discussed at the next meeting. There was also a proposal to allow subdivision of existing back lots in Newington.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She wanted to thank the Newington Fire Department for going to her house recently to check on a CO detector. She said the tax bills could hurt the vulnerable in town if they missed the second payment. An insert could have been put in the bill notifying people.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill: He thought the Town was going backwards in regards to the tax bills and indicated many people pay their bills automatically and that might be considered. He said it would be a good idea if the Councilors responded to each of the public participants comments during their remarks portion of the agenda. Mr. Bachand commented that the evidence officer would probably be a retired officer since it required a minimum of five years police experience. He also suggested that notifications might be put on Facebook since a large portion of the town was on the site.

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Mayor Zartarian said that advertising hearings was governed by State law and had to be published in the newspaper. Changes had been suggested to the law but to date, no change had been made.

Councilor Budrejko thanked the library and park and rec staff for their kick off to summer reading. She thanked them for a good job.

Councilor Klett commented on Mr. Bolles and Mr. Bachand's statements regarding the tax bill. She attempted to pre-pay a bill for her mother but had it returned since they indicated it was illegal to pay in advance. She said that Councilor Anest had suggested bills could be paid on line, and she thought it was something that would benefit a portion of the residents. The Councilor said there had been a report of fish dying at Churchill and Mill Pond and wondered if someone could tell the Council what was the cause and what could be done. Councilor Klett did not feel the Council had given the public a clear idea of what it was going to do regarding the cemetery. She asked the Town Manager to get back to the Council on what the plan will be.

Councilor Marocchini said when the appointment of the sexton was made it would be the first step in developing a plan for the cemetery to better communicate with the public.

Mayor Zartarian read an item from Facebook regarding the good customer service he received at the Town Clerk's office.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL

Councilor DelBuono moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. to executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke, absent).

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

attachment

Dear Councillors,

As I see it, we now have new qualifications to be the Town Manager of Newington.

1. There is no need for a college degree because 5 months of dependence on others within the Dept. have made the candidate qualified.
2. It doesn't matter if other department heads have bachelors or masters degrees, they don't count. The CEO of Newington is qualified with a high school diploma and no experience as a town manager. Interesting to note that The Supt. Of Education has advanced degrees to name one, as does the Library Director and various other library department heads and the Supt. Of Parks and Recreation.
3. The candidate can threaten to withdraw if council doesn't make a decision by a certain date, and it doesn't matter that the town has not negotiated a salary or benefits package. The candidate can make her own demands.
4. The Town Manager is required to live in Newington. As a property owner in Westbrook she can rent in town, thus avoiding real estate or personal property taxes to the town of Newington.
5. Public relations expertise is not necessary. Town Managers do not have to have skills to communicate with residents in a positive way. This has been seen in various Council encounters when negotiating the 2016 budget for the town of Newington. Insulting to those who pay the Town Managers salary through their taxes.

In summation, this is a sad time for the town of Newington. The council has rammed through this appointment without any concern for listening to the advise of the advisors they hired to help them through the process. It appears to have been a done deal before they even started.

I request that this letter be incorporated into the minutes of the June 28, 2016 minutes of the town council meeting.

Thank you,

Robert J. Larsson
41 Buckingham St.
Newington, CT 06111