



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.

August 9, 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
Bill DeMaio, Superintendent Parks and Grounds
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

Ben Ancona, Town Attorney
Anthony Palermino, Town Attorney

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Nagel moved to revise the agenda under old business (VII.B.1) to be an executive session regarding contracts. The Town Manager, Town Council and Attorney Palermino would be attending. He also said VII.C.1 would include a resolution regarding the contractual matter.

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

IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. National Parks and Recreation Month

Mayor Zartarian moved the following:

WHEREAS, parks and recreation provides positive life experiences for people of all ages in our community; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs provide outlets for physical activities, socialization and stress reduction through experiences such as summer concerts, pool parties and the community garden; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation activities and community services programs provide opportunities for young people to live, grow and develop into contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Parks and Recreation Department generates opportunities for Newington residents to come together and experience a sense of community through fun recreational pursuits such as yoga, fitness, running programs, sport and music camps and special events; and

WHEREAS, with the help of the Mayor and Town Council, the Parks and Recreation Department has celebrated various park and pool improvements and fun activities such as Touch-A-Truck, the weeklong Life. Be in it Extravaganza, Motorcycle Madness, Halloween Party, Visit with Santa and the holiday tree lighting; and

WHEREAS, parks make a community an attractive and desirable place to live, work, play, and visit and contribute to our ongoing economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, parks, greenways and open space provide a welcome respite from our fast paced, high tech lifestyles while protecting and preserving our natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Parks and Recreation “Building a Strong Community” initiative is demonstrated in four major areas: benefits to the individual, community, environment and economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby declares that July is Parks and Recreation Month and encourages all citizens to celebrate by participating in one or more of the multitude of activities offered by the Newington Parks and Recreation Department.

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

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

Pat Tanger, 8 Gilbert Road: As a member of the Newington Art League she asked the Council for help in finding a new location for them. They had to leave the Kellogg House for the caretaker and wanted to be able to continue their mission in Town.

Florence Dickie, 23 Frederick Street: She asked the Town Council to help find a new location for the Art League and also supported the Parks and Rec Department’s request for more space in the new renovation.

Maddy Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: She wanted to thank the Park and Rec Department for their senior swim. Regarding the grant funding, she stated she did not think the current equipment in the park was used and questioned the need for additional equipment. She thought the money could be better spent and asked if someone could review the food offerings at the snack shack in the Park. The items offered did not include healthy options like fruit.

VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Zartarian indicated he had a couple of ideas regarding a new location for the Art League and would meet with them to discuss the locations. He suggested the Economic Development Director be asked to look in the area for possible acceptable sites.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)
A. Ordinance Amendment: Chapter 182, Blighted Premises Code
1. Introduce Ordinance
2. Set Public Hearing Date

Jaime Trevethan indicated the changes included items to be in compliance with State statutes, and included pools, both above and below ground, clarified the appeals process, terms limits for the blight officer, extended definitions and reorganized the document for easier reading. Councilor Klett was concerned about a complaint she had received regarding a dumpster in a person's year for five years and if the revised ordinance would include that situation. Attorney Palermino indicated there was a section that could be used in that instance.

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

INTRODUCTION:

I hereby introduce for the Town Council's consideration proposed amendments to the Town of Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 182: "Blighted Premises", a copy of which has been filed with the Clerk of the Council.

Introduced by: Councilor Nagel

RESOLVED:

That a Public Hearing be held on September 13, 2016, at 6:50 p.m. in consideration of proposed amendments to the Town of Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 182: "Blighted Premises".

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

B. Executive Session Re: Contracts

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn into executive session at 7:26 p.m. which would include the Town Council, Town Attorney, Town Manager, Asst. Town Attorney and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke – absent).

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn out of executive session at 7:46 p.m and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke – absent).

The regular meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

C. Resolution: AMR Contract

Motion to waive the rules by Councilor Anest. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion to waive the rules passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

WHEREAS, American Medical Response (AMR) has been contesting fines assessed under the ambulance service contract for over four years; and

WHEREAS, the amount due according to the Town is \$179,250 through February 2016 and amounts due through August 16, 2016 are estimated to bring the total amount due to approximately \$200,000; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, the Town required AMR to add another ambulance vehicle to serve the Town; and

WHEREAS, AMR's performance is currently above the 90% contract compliance standard; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newington will continue to demand the presence of the additional ambulance vehicle during any agreement reached between the Town and AMR; and

WHEREAS, the ability to collect \$100,000 in fines without litigation of a complex compliance and fine system is an economic benefit to the Town; and

WHEREAS, AMR will pay the Town \$100,000 on August 16, 2016 upon execution by the Town and AMR of an Agreement, Release and Covenant not to sue for fines that have been contested by AMR;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the resolution between the Town of Newington and AMR and authorizes the Town Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

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

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

A. Ordinance Amendment: Chapter 8, Article VI: Environmental Quality Commission

Jaime Trevethan stated the 1987 ordinance established a commission of 11 members. It was decided to delete the Fire Department and Ambulance representatives, define industry, decrease public membership from six to five, increase the term limits from two to four years and remove the Town Manager and CCHD staff as ex officio members.

Attorney Ancona explained the Fire and Ambulance Departments were originally included because of underground storage tanks and possible leakage. Councilor Budrejko asked if the provision was redundant with town staff responsibilities and thought anyone from the public had to have knowledge in the area. Councilor Anest asked if they could have information on what was actually done by the commission.

B. Update: Indian Hill Country Club Lease Agreement Extension

Atty. Ancona gave an overview of the current lease agreement. In 2013 they had trouble with membership and were in arrears of \$22k. Modifications were made to allow the club to reduce the amount in arrearage and providing more services to the Town. The arrearage was brought down to \$10,334 and the Town Council wanted to obtain some of that back. A \$500 payment was added as payment back to the Town. He hoped the Council would be able to get a final agreement with Indian Hills and thought a sub-committee might be appointed to review this. Councilor Klett indicated there were liaisons to the club and thought they could be utilized.

C. Grant Funding: Exercise Equipment at Mill Pond Park

Mr. DeMaio gave an overview of a possible grant from Saputo Dairy Foods in the amount of \$25k to be used for gym equipment in Mill Pond Park and asked the Council for their approval to apply for it. He reviewed his plans and indicated it was a competitive grant and Human Services had already applied for

it. There was discussion about the policy for applying for grants and if approval of the Council was needed. Tanya Lane explained there was no set policy but was working on getting a consensus. After discussion about where the equipment would go, if it was really necessary and would be used, if it was ADA compliant and would people object to more space being taken up in the park it was decided the Council did not have to give approval for applying and wished Mr. DeMaio luck with the grant.

D. Facilities Naming Request: Parks and Recreation Teen Center

Mayor Zartarian said a request had been received from Thomas Tallard requesting the Teen Center be named after him. Councilor Klett indicated the Council did not name portions of a building after someone unless they were dead and were there other worthy individuals involved in the teen center. Councilor Marocchini stated that with the current proposed renovations to Town Hall being considered, it would be a good idea to put off any naming until after the building had been redone. Councilor Klett agreed it was not the right time to consider this and Councilor DelBuono stated that it was a request from an individual and no action had to be taken by the Council.

Mayor Zartarian said the item would be placed on the next meeting agenda.

E. Consideration of Canceling the August 23, 2016 Regular Meeting (Action Requested)

A motion to waive the rules for action on the above was made by Council Anest and seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke – absent).

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by canceling its Regular Meeting scheduled for August 23, 2016.

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

IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Newington Historical Society & Trust

- 1. Accept the Resignation of Linda Woods**
- 2. Appoint a Replacement**

Councilor Anest moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Linda Woods from the Newington Historical Society and Trust, in accordance with a communication dated July 11, 2016.

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

X. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Budrejko moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$11,816.09 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.

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

XI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Action Requested)

- A. July 7, 2016 Special Meeting**
- B. July 12, 2016 Regular Meeting**
- C. July 19, 2016 Special Meeting**

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

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

Mayor Zartarian read a letter into the record from Charles Brown, which is attached, that supported the application of Parks and Recreation for a grant for exercise equipment. The mayor also received a letter from a resident opposed to high density housing around the busway.

XIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel said the Library Renovation Committee was waiting the results of the feasibility study and parking was discussed as well. NCTV elected their officers for the coming year and indicated the Board of Education wanted to start a program that involved the school system, history and events that would be going on throughout the school year.

Councilor Marocchini said the Town Hall Building Committee had completed their study of all the material for the new members. He developed a top ten design principles which would give direction of what was needed in the new building to help in hiring an architect. He said one meeting a month would be held at 7 p.m. to enable residents to attend the meetings.

Councilor Budrejko participated in a road safety audit to identify bike and pedestrian safety issues. It focused on the area in the center of Town and a report would be given to the Town from the DOT. There would be no charge for it. She indicated there was a temporary moratorium on high density housing for 12 months but could be less once the DOT regulations were finalized. There would be a public hearing on Wednesday and urged residents to attend. The State had a lot of information from residents from past meetings and if no one attended, the perception could be bad.

Councilor Anest said there would be a TPZ meeting on Wednesday and hoped the people who commented on Facebook would attend the meeting. There would be an Open Space meeting at 5 p.m. at 38 Mountain Road on Thursday to tour the Deming Farm and Cedar Mountain.

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She agreed a moratorium should be placed on any naming within Town Hall until the renovations were complete. She said if the grant discussed tonight would impact how the Park looked and what the liability would be. Mrs. Lyons felt any grant that used public money should be brought to the Town Council for approval. She stated there was a lot of comments on Facebook about the Deming Farm being used as a dog park with dogs off lease and residents not cleaning up after their dogs. She asked if emails received from residents should be read as part of public participation or later in the meeting. Mrs. Lyons said Mr. DeMaio had gotten back to her regarding the algae and if there was money for chemicals to clean it up. She hoped the \$6k needed could be taken from CIP funds.

Maddy Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: She said any grant that would change the look of a piece of property in Newington should have to be approved by the Town Council. Liability and maintenance should also be considered when applying or approving grants. She stated there were signs at Deming Farm to keep dogs on a lease but many ran loose. Mrs. Kenny asked if the new committee of Police and residents could have an email address set up for input from the general public.

Patty Foley, 51 Crown Ridge: She stated that dogs left off lease were a bother in the community garden and not all dogs were well behaved. She suggested the Town Council look into the issue.

XV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Klett asked 1) if the public hearing on DOT regulations would take phone comments and Councilor Anest indicated that would not be possible. 2) She was concerned with Mayor Bronin's request for regionalization of services and felt the Council had to be kept informed on the matter. 3) The Councilor indicated there was a large white box outside of the upper level of Town Hall that was blocking the handicapped drop off. The Town Manager indicated it would be removed from the area by Mr. Langdon on Wednesday.

Mayor Zartarian indicated he had had discussions with Mayor Bronin as well as representatives from Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Cromwell, and Berlin. He was looking into collaborating with towns to share common problems. The Mayor was not in favor of shouldering Hartford's problems but better and more efficient ways needed to be found to do things, and he was listening to all the suggestions.

There would be no commitments made without the approval of the Town Council and the meetings had been informal. The Newington landfill was at the end of its life span and there might be a possibility of getting together with Wethersfield.

Councilor Nagel indicated Mayor Bronin had attended a CRCOG meeting and proposed the same thing that Councilor Klett had read. The mayors who attended the meeting were not in favor of the idea if it was to the detriment of a particular town. Councilor Klett asked if it would be a good idea to invite the Mayor to a Council meeting to get information on what he was proposing.

Councilor Marocchini said to clean up the algae in the pond would cost about \$8k and there was not enough time to get DEEP approval for it due to State budget cuts.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: REAL ESTATE

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn to executive session at 9:10 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke – absent).

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn out of executive session at 9:32 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke – absent).

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Manke – absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

