



James Krupienski
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF NEWINGTON, CT

2023 JAN 31 PM 5:51

MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

[Signature]
Town Clerk

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Hybrid Meeting.

Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Budrejko
Councilor Camillo
Councilor Donahue
Councilor Manke
Councilor Page
Councilor Radda
Mayor DelBuono

Staff Attendees:

James Krupienski, Acting Town Manager
Janet Murphy, Director of Finance
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk (via Zoom)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Manke to table the Presentations, 4A. Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent).

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Introduction – Lauren Rhines, Director of Administrative Services
Tabled

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ITEMS IN GENERAL)

A. Public Comments

- Francesca Lucia, 79 ___ Street. (via Zoom) Calling regarding the replacement of Sharon Braverman; calling to speak on behalf of John Trister, he is dedicated to our community.
- Art France, 288 Williamstown Court. In support of John Trister as new council member. Person of integrity, investment in the future of our town, in forefront of what is going on.
- Eileen Francolino, Lydall Road wanted to speak about volunteerism in town, hard time filling boards and commissions; hope you follow precedent and will allow our town committee to fill vacancy as they have in the past.
- Nafis, 49 Whitewood Road. Reading letter: resident of Newington since 1985. Precedent and understanding that town committee elects an individual to fill a vacancy. Breaking precedent can cause issues between the parties. Need to respect each other.
- Gia Pascarelli, 62 Welles Drive North. Serve on two commissions. Would like to ratify what Ms. Francolino said about volunteerism. Here to recommend and endorse John Trister for the vacant position. Thank Ms. Braverman for all her years of service. Thank you all too.

- Neil Ryan, 237 Brockett Street. Nice to see town manager in person at meeting. Understand democratic town committee suggested John Trister as replacement for Ms. Braverman. Should take their suggestion.
- Patricia Lang, 27 Decosta Drive. *(via Zoom)* Think John Trister is an excellent replacement for Sharon Braverman.
- Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue. Just found out today that Carol Anest put her name in to fill vacant seat; support her. Think Newington could benefit from Carol's knowledge and is a better choice.
- Richard DeSilva, 485 Connecticut Avenue. Here to support Carol Anest. Long standing resident who gives her time freely to the town.
- Shawn Halloran, 35 Florence Street. Here to support John Trister; he is dedicated to this town and to its future. Regardless of party – passionate about where we are going and how to get there.
- Anastasia Yopp, 8th Street. Here to thank you to Sharon Braverman for all her hard work. Here to support Carol Anest. Has knowledge and background to get us through this budget season.
- Joanna Sistuli. Here to show support for the Newington Veterans Firefighters Association – in favor of dedicating the street in front of the Company 5 Firehouse, also the cadet's firehouse.
- Stein Remsted, 555 Main Street. *(via Zoom)* In favor of John Trister and in favor of the process and what has been done in the past. It will have severe repercussions for the political climate and all political bodies in town.
- Richard Lavarriere, 3 Winterberry Court. Appointment of replacement council member; process is unusual. Have know Carol Anest for 18 years. Very knowledgeable and most appropriate replacement.
- Melissa Lenzi, 25 Longview Drive. Here to speak for Carol Anest. Think she would be best to fill position. She is very good at volunteering for the town, been a majority leader and town councilor. Know you will make the right decision. Thank Sharon Braverman for all her hard work.
- Diana Serra, 234 Reservoir Road. In support of Carol Anest as replacement for Sharon Braverman. Thank Sharon for all her hard work and wish her a speedy recovery. Carol is best person to fill in this position. She has given her life for this town.
- Emily Bouchard, 255 Church Street. Here to support John Trister's appointment to the council. He has passion and knowledge for our community. Think process is important; many people lost faith in the politics. Need to maintain clear process.
- Michael Fox, 1901 Main Street. Want to thank Dr. Sharon Braverman for all the hard work she's done in Newington, without people like her, Newington wouldn't be what it is. There has been comments about the process, have been involved with the process and sometime the process breaks down. Coming into budget season, without Sharon you have 2 rookies, still getting feet wet. Think Carol would be best to fill position.
- Gary Turco, 98 Williamstown Court. Sharon has been a dear friend for many years. Would like to discuss Sharon's replacement. John Trister is a friend, a good, ethical and hard working person. He will bring a lot to the debate. There is a process and we need to respect that. The Democratic Town Committee has asked that John Trister be the replacement for Sharon Braverman and please keep that process in mind and respect their decision.
- Gary, 267 Audubon Avenue. Looking forward to getting more involved in Newington. John Trister would be a great representative for the town and a great town councilor.

B. Email Correspondence

- Councilor Manke – Letters from Alan & Sandy Nafis, Cindy Stamm and Pauline Crook - all in support of John Trister.

6. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councilor Page thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Also thank Sharon Braverman for her many years of service. There are not two nominees for this vacancy, there is one. We ask that the majority respect the nomination of the Democratic Town Committee. Carol does have more hours working in our town, but that is not the point tonight. To distract from that is dishonest. The Democratic Town Committee's nomination should be honored. This should be a smooth transition but it's a disgrace and embarrassment. Beyond angry. Trying my best to be professional tonight and will continue to do that.
- Councilor Radda echoed much of what Councilor Page has said. Would like to speak to the process. Know John's commitment to the community. Know that Carol had put a lot of time and energy to Newington. There is and has been a procedure, policy and precedent when positions need to be filled, vague in Charter, but there are CT general statutes. Asked for people to submit names for replacement of Sharon and that went on for several weeks. There are two resolutions in front of us – one to accept Sharon's resignation and one to appoint John Trister. My concern is if we don't follow policies and procedures it will be to our failing. Thank you all for coming tonight and expressing your opinion and speaking out and letting us hear your voices. Want to thank Sharon and Hy Braverman for all their years of service; wish them both well.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she wants to address what is going this evening. Before us this evening is a resignation from Sharon Braverman. It is incumbent upon this council to make an appointment. The Democratic Town Committee submitted John Trister as the replacement and then we received a letter requesting consideration from Carol Anest.
- Councilor Camillo thanked Sharon for all her hard work. Have known Carol for many years. Need to do what is best for Newington.
- Councilor Manke thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Thank Sharon for her knowledge and appreciate her service and efforts; she is going to be missed. Wish her and her husband well. Hope she gets to rock on her chair for many long years.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she is going to reserve comments until later this evening. Do appreciate the level of interaction, presence in the room this evening and everyone's opinions. Want to give an update regarding the lights on the Turnpike; they are offset and the DOT has indicated that it is a new design they are trying out, designed so that people can see the light if a large vehicle in front of them; the state is thinking about whether they will keep it that way or go back.

7. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. 2023 Annual Regular Meeting Calendar (Revised)

- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that the date of the Regular Meeting will be April 4th, the first Tuesday, which will allow us to meet the requirement to adopt the budget within 20 days after the second public hearing which will be April 18th. This will keep everything in line and most of the budget discussions in the regular meetings as well. The only one outside of that is our Saturday meeting,

Motion by Councilor Donahue

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, hereby approves the Revised 2023 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule, as attached to this Resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent).

B. Town Council Budget Meeting Schedule 2023

- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that the March 14 and March 28 meeting are regular scheduled meetings, April 4th will now be a regular meeting outside of our normal schedule and April 18 will be our special meeting for adoption of the budget. Conflict for Superintendent, she will be presenting her budget on March 24th.

Motion by Councilor Radda

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council, pursuant to Section 805 of the Newington Town Charter, will hold two Public Hearings on the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. These Public Hearings will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall (unless otherwise indicated) as follows:

Tuesday, March 14, 2023	Town Manager's Proposed Budget
Tuesday, April 4, 2023	Town Council's Proposed Budget

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent).

C. Mid-Year Transfers

- Janet Murphy stated the first resolution is for General Fund transfers, the second resolution is for transfers in CIP and the third resolution is for the bond premium.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in General Fund, the amounts listed below:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
960	Contingency	\$66,720

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds to the following accounts in the General Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
110	Town Council	\$4,660
160	Town Attorney	\$20,000
180	Personnel	\$16,810
510	Health Services	\$5,250
830	Parks & Grounds	\$20,000

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent)

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the Capital Improvement Fund, the amounts listed below.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
300831-88238	Clem Lemire Lighting	\$32,788.76
30831-88337	Beechwood Park	\$12,211.24

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the Capital Improvement Fund to the following accounts in the Technology Fund and Capital Improvement Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
-----------------------	--------------	---------------

30831 Line Painting Machine \$45,000

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent)

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the CIP Building Fund, the amounts listed below.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
31110-8550	Transfer to the General Fund	\$55,061

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the CIP Building Fund to the following account:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11014-8220	Interest Expense	\$55,061

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent)

D. 2023 Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program

- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that the Parks department provided the necessary information to apply for this grant, needs to be submitted by February 8th, response would be by March.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby approves the forgoing Resolution for the 2023 Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program.

THAT, James Krupienski, Acting Town Manager, or his designee/successor, is hereby authorized to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain a 2023 Neglected Cemetery Account Grant from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management for the Town of Newington. A copy of the grant application shall be attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent)

- Councilor Manke stated that the amount is \$5,000 and they will be using the funds to repair gravestones.
- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated it is for the Center Cemetery.
- Mayor DelBuono stated it is for work in the Center Cemetery.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that it's going to take a lot more than \$5,000 to fix the cemetery. The history there is incredible. Hope this is just a start of something bigger and become a nice historic walk.
- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that this should be able to be renewed each year.
- Councilor Radda asked if there are any funds being looked at for the Church Street cemetery?
- Acting Town Manager stated he will touch base with the grant writer and superintendent about that.

E. Update of ARPA Funds Use

- Mayor DelBuono stated we asked for an update and that we need to expend funds and allocate them.

- Ms. Murphy stated that this list has been last October. Some of the money has been spent. We were able to help 16 businesses and non-profits. Ms. Murphy reviewed the list of ARPA funds and status of each.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that ARPA funds allocations were extremely limited and now it seems they've loosed up on that.
- Ms. Murphy stated that it was very limited when it first came out; found that the towns were limited with what they could do with the money; however last spring they opened the floodgates. Any town who received less than \$10 million could count those funds as lost revenue and use the money for any normal town wide service. You can't use the money to balance the budget to reduce the mill rate or to fund pension accounts.
- Councilor Page asked about MUNIS, is that money for software, staffing, hardware?
- Ms. Murphy stated it was for the software, training and module that we had to purchase.
- Councilor Page asked how many license plate readers were purchased.
- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated he believes it was eight readers throughout town.
- Ms. Murphy stated that they are primarily on the boundaries with other towns.
- Councilor Manke asked Ms. Murphy to explain EOC Storage and EOC Construction.
- Ms. Murphy stated that when we building the town new town hall, the EOC storage wasn't finished, also to include data closet. Originally to finish off area.
- Councilor Manke stated that EOC stands for Emergency Operations Center.

8. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

A. Newington Town Council

1. Resignation – Sharon R. Braverman, NTC

Motion by Councilor Page

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Sharon R. Braverman as a member of the Newington Town Council, in accordance with a communication dated January 17, 2023.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent)

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that Sharon has served the town admirably, has soft voice and calming demeanor but she had a big impact. She worked cooperatively and respectfully. Wish I didn't have to vote on this.
- Councilor Manke stated he will vote yes, but will miss her dry sense of humor. Recommend we honor her sooner rather than later, before this term ends.
- Councilor Page thanked Sharon for her wisdom and helping me (and councilor Radda) as rookies. She has been a great mentor to us. Look forward to more formal recognition
- Councilor Radda stated that Sharon has been there from the beginning offering her support and knowledge; was able to utilize her affiliation with CCSU in the high school. Will miss her as a councilor. Wish here and Hy all the best.
- Councilor Camillo stated that he has worked with both Hy and Sharon for many years. Will miss working with them.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she has worked with Sharon for many years. She had a quiet voice but was very vocal about what was needed at the Board of Education. Always the first to reach out and offer assistance. Spoke with her recently and she said she will be missing us tremendously and hopes to be back in the folds soon if she can. She is an incredibly kind and caring person; parties did not matter. She will be greatly missed.

2. Appoint a Replacement

Motion by Councilor Camillo

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:

Newington Town Council

9 members
2-year term
Party Max.: 6

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Carol Anest	30 Harding Avenue	D	1/24/2023- 11/14/2023	Resignation of Sharon Braverman

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 4-2-1 (roll call vote)

Roll Call Vote:

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko - abstain
- Councilor Camillo - yes
- Councilor Donahue - yes
- Councilor Manke - yes
- Councilor Page - no
- Councilor Radda - no
- Mayor DelBuono - yes

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this is the first time in history that I know of that this has happened. This was forwarded to us on Monday and the Town Manager asked for the town attorney opinion. We are governed by our Town Charter. Mayor DelBuono read from § C-204 of the Town Charter.
- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that when this came into him, he contacted the Secretary of State’s office and addressed the issue with their office. The response was if the Charter indicates it, that is the process you need to follow as opposed to a party nomination. Need to file paperwork regarding the vacancy with the secretary of state’s office.
- Councilor Page stated just because you have a right to do it, does not make it right. You are going to regret this if you go forward with this instead of our Democratic committee. Believe that she was Chair of the Party at the time when Mr. Lenares replaced Mayor Wright. This seems surreal to me. Is this necessary, true or helpful. This is not necessary, this is not true and this is not helpful. This is wrong and dishonest and cynical and this is what people hate about politics. You are stealing the process from us and you have not right to do that. This is not good for our town and leadership and this is shameful. This is an ugly political fight. I ask that you vote for John Trister – he is a good and honest man and more than capable of working through the budget process.
- Councilor Radda stated that a nomination can come from the floor, but we had the opportunity at the beginning of the meeting to adjust our meeting, which we did not. The resolution read this evening superseded , it’s an end run, it’s divisive and does nothing but create contention in our community. It is despicable and does a misservice to Mr. Trister and Ms. Anest and our community. Would like an attorney’s opinion regarding this. I am in favor of Mr. Trister.
- Councilor Manke stated that the agenda does not to be amended because it says “Appoint a Replacement.” When Mr. Lenares took over for Mayor Wright he was Deputy Mayor. Should not be up to either party to pick a replacement if someone comes forward and willing to serve. We have two candidates who are willing to serve and to me it comes down to who has the experience – especially during this critical budget season.
- Councilor Page stated that I want to point out this is a false equivalent. We have a process. This is not good for either party. We chose who we felt would be best to serve.
- Councilor Manke stated he agrees that it is unprecedented. It behooves us to consider both nominations.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this is not an easy or usual circumstance. This came forward to us recently and not something we have seen before. In looking at the qualifications of the candidates, the town charter does not speak to anything other than being with the same party. To me it is about the person, and Carol has the knowledge and experience that is needed to do fill the position. While it is extremely difficult it is our job as a council to make this decision.

B. Appointment – Human Rights Commission

Motion by Councilor Page

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council here by makes the following appointment:

Human Rights Commission

9 members; 3-year term
Party max: 6

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Diane M. Cutaia Member	95 Sterling Drive	D	1/24/2023 – 11/30/2023	Reappointment – Self DeFacto since 12/1/2022

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent).

C. Anna Reynolds School PBC

1. Resignation – Danielle Drozd

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Danielle Drozd from the Anna Reynolds School PBC, in accordance with a communication dated January 18, 2023.

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Nagel absent)

- Councilor Camillo wanted to thank Danielle, it’s been a pleasure working with her.
- Councilor Radda stated that she was sorry to see Danielle step off, she will be missed.
- Mayor DelBuono stated Danielle has always been a calming voice and appreciate here service.

2. Appointment a Replacement

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council here by makes the following appointment(s):

Anna Reynolds School PBC

7 members: 2 NTC, 2 BOE, 3 Public Members
BOE Chairman, Superintendent of Schools, Mayor & Town
Manager are Ex-Officio members

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Bruce Fletcher Member	75 Lantern Lane	R	1/24/2023 – 11/14/2023	Resignation of D. Drozd

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 7-0. (Councilor Nagel absent)

- Councilor Manke the question has come up since he serves as the chair of the board of education, he also serves as a ex-officio member of the committee; assume now he will be a voting member. Is that correct?

- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that is correct. It is unusual for the Chairman of the Board to place himself in the voting position, but he does have the ability to appoint any members to any subcommittees that they have representation on.
- Councilor Manke stated it is a time consuming effort and appreciate the fact that he's willing to serve the term.
- Councilor Page wanted to thank Dr. Fletcher for his ongoing service.
- Councilor Camillo stated that there other board members on the board of ed, why no one else?
- Mayor DelBuono stated that is something you will have to ask him.

9. **REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

- A. Approval of January 24, 2023 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,919.97 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.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 7-0. (Councilor Nagel absent)

10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the above minutes. Seconded by Councilor Camillo.

Motion passed 7-0. (Councilor Nagel absent)

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Roadway Dedication for the "Newington Veteran Firefighters Memorial Roadway"

- Councilor Manke stated that he is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Apologize this has taken so long. Struggle with the idea of how we name things and dedicate things. It's important to recognize those who serve. We recommend that we recognize them by dedication Maple Hill Avenue (from New Britain Avenue) to Robbins Avenue.
- Councilor Page stated that he is strongly in favor of this. Need to look at an increase in their pension as well.
- Councilor Manke stated that the committee's purview is this dedication.
- Mayor DelBuono thanked the firefighters, etc. in attendance. Stated that we will address this at our next meeting.
- Councilor Manke stated that the committee is looking at a way to recognize the people who have served on various boards, commission, etc. Looking to having a kiosk of some sort to recognize people in town.

12. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that he is in discussion regarding the lights on the Berlin Turnpike and it is something we are working on. Received information on National Welding, heard back from DECD on remediation budget, looking to move that forward. Will be discussing the emergency operations center at an upcoming meeting.
- Councilor Page asked if Mr. Krupienski could provide a brief update on the pools, when they were built, and whether they are safe. Would be nice to see how we can actually fix them.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that he is working with parks and recreation department.
- Councilor Page stated that he agrees that we do not need a pool with all the bells and whistles.

- Councilor Camillo asked James to see how many permits were pulled for pools. Don't want to change the whole view of the park.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that there were three or four presentations that were done for different locations. Can pull that information for you.
- Councilor Camillo stated we don't have the parking for that.
- Mr. Krupienski stated we did have that discussion as well. There are possibilities and options.
- Councilor Camillo stated give me a shovel ready project and he would get the money for the project.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that we are looking at all options, hoping for \$4 million from the state and \$1.5 million in fundraising.
- Councilor Page stated that Councilor Manke and Camillo made comments about parking, we do need to look at the possibility of a parking garage. We need to figure it out. We are growing our town.
- Councilor Donahue stated he is happy we are looking at the pools. My concern is Bill jumping the line? Other projects have been waiting longer. Don't want to jump the line again.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that the pool would not be a bonded project, the library would be. Still waiting to see what the library has.
- Councilor Manke stated that it's the library that keeps reminding me about the parking issue and it is an issue and we knew that going in. The architect kept saying there is going to be plenty of parking. When you have activities at the library, town hall and park, there is no place to park. Need to look at the whole process.
- Councilor Camillo stated that if we can move the busses, there is plenty of parking for events. The board of ed doesn't want to do that. One of the things we need to look at is money for fire, police and EMS.
- Councilor Radda stated we were concerned during our winter fest about parking because there was also basketball games going on. Need to look at the campus and thoughtfully develop and reorganize.

13. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Manke stated that he attended the Parks & Rec board meeting and the pools came up as an issue.
- Councilor Page wanted to thank the Human Rights Commission and for all the hard work they do.
- Councilor Radda stated that the bi-monthly Anna Reynolds Building Committee meeting is moving ahead; hopeful that we can do another walkthrough. Not liaison to library committee, but the Winterfest was a huge success – made approx. \$9,000. A good time was had by all. On the downside, there are still leaks on the roof of the library.

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)

(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ITEMS IN GENERAL)

- Eileen Francolino, 116 Lydall Road. One thing the discussion of the pool vs. the library.; they have a large pool of money, but can come back and keep asking for more. Understand not governed by same set of rules, they have big pot of money. The bus garage is not owned by the town, it is board of ed property. This is the worst piece of political theatre I have seen in a long time; it was a preordained decision, it was not a surprise to any of you. Don't understand why a copy of Carol's letter and copy of the opinion were not provided to the public. Don't understand where this all came from. Disappointed you didn't take the suggestion from the town committee. Think you have opened up a can of worms and increased the political divide.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. *(via Zoom)* Thanked Sharon Braverman for all the years she has given to the town of Newington, wish her and Hy well. Want to congratulate Carol on her appointment, know that she will be a good person in that seat. Hopefully we can go on peacefully and mend fences. Good to see the discussion regarding the Mill Pond Park pool – disagree using ARPA funds

for that; should be used for open space, south park branch maintenance. Would like to see bottom line how we can fix the pools. Thank you very much. Go home, rest, take a breath.

- Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue stated that a parking garage is a good idea. We also commissioned a company to come and tell us what needs to be done and we need to follow that. Heard a couple of councilors say they are worried about division, how wonderful Sharon was and; implore you to try to emulate the person who you so admires; implore you to also talk to the person who maintains the Democratic town page; they posted flames – restore democracy to Newington. Democracy was followed. The whole town is benefiting.
- Jessica Weaver, 494 Main Street. (*via Zoom*) Wanted to say this was shocking. Received notice of another nomination yesterday and this craziness was happening. Very confusing. Disappointed this was off the table and not transparent. Our goal should be to work together. Have requested a joint meeting between the BOE and town Council, but there are constantly political things happening. Our mission is to make this town good and our goal is to work together. Hope to see you all at our budget meeting next week.
- Mike Tallard, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue stated what he saw tonight, was 11 years old in 1963, was a coup d'état. I witnessed a coup d'état tonight and Beth you should resign immediately, and you too. You as town manager shouldn't live in Vernon, you should be living in Newington. Beth you need to resign, you betrayed the town of Newington.
- Sue Mazzocoli, no longer a resident of Newington. (*via Zoom*) So sad when Marie Fox passed. Now sadder hearing about Sharon Braverman leaving the council for health reasons in her family and want to say how sorry she is. Know how angry people are, it will go away, life goes on. Disappointed in some of the public's comments. Hope that John Trister's supporters get out there and making sure he gets elected. Want to remember Marie Fox and how her Democratic party did not nominate her after 40 years of service.
- Richard DeSilva, 485 Connecticut Avenue stated that someone tonight stated it is difficult to find volunteers to fill vacant seats and one of the issues is that people don't want to be slandered and dragged online. When violent and aggressive people are supporting policies, maybe you should look at your policies. Don't care about my reputation, have fun slandering me. Don't have a business in town that you can slander.
- Anastasia Yopp, 8th Street. Thanked everyone for volunteering tonight. The Winterfest was amazing. Have heard things about the pools and the busses; hopefully we can work together, BOE and town council. Chair of the Budget Committee, separate from regular meeting, extend invitation to attend. Thank you again to John Trister, hopefully he will run again in November. Look forward to working with you collaboratively this budget season.
- Frank DeMaio, 29 Crown Ridge. Here tonight regarding the Newington Veterans Firefighters Association. Thank you all for doing what you do, it's been a difficult evening for everyone, but the dedication was the bright spot of the evening. Honored and proud to be a part of Newington Fire Department. Thank you.
- Scott DelBuono, 327 Walsh Avenue stated what I saw today, democracy has worked. Just because you don't get your way, it's not not democracy. If the Charter says it, you can do it. Everyone can be upset, but democracy did work. Going to miss Sharon deeply.
- John Trister, 81 Woodland Street. Thank you for your service to the town and what you did here tonight. Not going to discuss the process. Appreciate that people referred to me as young. Want to thank everyone tonight for coming out tonight to support me. Thank you all for sincerely considering my appointment for the council vacancy. Have a good evening.
- Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street. Thank you to Sue Mazzocoli for saying those kind words about my late wife Marie, she has been a true friend. Good luck with your budget.

15. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Councilor Donahue apologized for his outburst tonight. It was improper of me to challenge him here tonight. Regarding the joint meeting, my understanding is that it has to come through the right channels – more than happy to participate.
- Councilor Radda wanted to thank the public for attending tonight’s meeting, raising their voice and presenting the issues and concerns. Quite upset with the disrespect that I have heard and seen tonight. We are better than that and this is not how we get things done.
- Councilor Page stated that he agrees with Councilor Radda’s comments. One of the comments we heard is that our town has a lot of hostility. People are free to post what they like. Sad and disappointed about what occurred tonight and believe there will be negative consequences.
- Councilor Manke stated that he did receive the invitation to the BOE/Town Council joint meeting; ask that Mayor and BOE Chairman to set meeting. More than happy to attend any meeting you would like; know that there are issues with FOI and can’t just sit down over a beer and hash things out. To Mr. DeMaio, hope after we vote on this, we can have some sort of ceremony sometime soon.
- Councilor Camillo stated that at the board of education finance committee meetings the public can talk; looking forward to that meeting. Thank you to everyone who came out tonight. Thank you Mr. Trister for your comments tonight you were very gracious.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she was remiss in congratulating Councilor Anest on her appointment. Thank you Mr. Trister, you are a class act, I appreciate the comments this even and appreciate your service to the town. Ms. Weaver, typically if there is a request for a meeting I want to hear from the person who would set it, waiting to hear from Dr. Fletcher. I apologize that the letter from Mr. Anest and the town attorney were not available tonight.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that he will update the packet with that information later this evening.
- Councilor Camillo stated to stay off social media. If you have an issue call somebody and talk to them face to face.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. CGS §1-200(6)(B) – Update on Pending Litigation

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(B) hereby moves to go into Executive Session, and invites the Town Council members, the Mayor, James Krupienski, Acting Town Manager, Ben Ancona, Town Attorney, to discuss Pending Litigation against the Town of Newington.

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 7-0. (Councilor Nagel absent).

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 10:07 p.m.

Council returned to the Regular Meeting at 10:47 p.m.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 p.m. by Councilor Camillo, seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk