



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

This meeting will be presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT
2021 APR 28 AM 10:12

James E. Krupinski
Town Clerk

Mayor DelBuono called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

- Councilor Anest
- Councilor Braverman
- Councilor Budrejko
- Councilor Camillo
- Councilor Donahue
- Councilor Manke
- Councilor Miner
- Councilor Nagel
- Mayor DelBuono

Staff Attendees:

- Keith Chapman, Town Manager
- Janet Murphy, Director of Finance
- James E. Krupinski, Town Clerk
- Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA ONLY (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

- Steven Silvia, 45 Basswood Drive apologized, he thought that his comments were being made during this meeting and not the public hearing. Gotten message across.

IV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance Amendment Adoption – Public School CIP Reverse Fund, Chapter 48, Funds, Article IV, Project School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby approves the amendment to the Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 48, Funds, Article IV, Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund, §48-14, Definitions, §48-15, Creation of fund; revenues, a copy of said ordinance is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

B. C-Pace Agreement Modification

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager, to execute the C-Pace Partial Release Agreement, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

C. Adjustments to Proposed Budget FY 2021-2022

- Mayor DelBuono stated that at the last meeting on April 13th, they did make several motions, on both sides of the aisle to adjust the budget. Currently, the mill rate would be 38.81.
- **Councilor Manke moved to decrease Grant Match by \$50,000. Account Number 11100-8501 and we want to increase 11100-8501 by \$50,000 and set up a new CIP Line Historic Properties. The goal is to set up a fund to take care of our historic properties.**
- Seconded by Councilor Donahue.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she doesn't think we have been doing a good job at maintaining or appreciating the historic properties or sites that we have in town and they are disappearing or rapidly going into a deteriorated state. The facility study opened my eyes with some of the issues at our historic sites. Also, the line item in the budget for the past several years has been \$500. Know that there is an issue that the line item refers to - Kellogg Eddy House and Kelsey House (*audio lost*)...responsibility necessary. It's apparent that with the amount of development going on in town with the new TOD's we are losing our history, we are losing the structures and sites that connect us with our past that give us a sense of who we are and a place of character and continuity. Maybe people would start going to these places if they were opened and maintained properly; some of the places can't even be opened to the public. By expanding this to historic sites and not just the buildings identified; there are a lot of sites in town that really need some help - the historic cemeteries, even some façade work on some of the older homes in town that are on the historic register, that falls. We do have a lot of history here and this is just a jump start. In particular, this being the 150th Anniversary, what a perfect opportunity to resurrect appreciation for our history and start paying some attention to it.
- Councilor Nagel stated that he would like to echo what Deputy Mayor Budrejko has said. Personally having served as president of the Historical Society, and having been a member of that board for at least 15 years, and having seen what has been done and can't be done, and where money was found for things that the town is responsible for preserving these different sites, it's good to finally see a place where there are monies that can definitely take care of some things and not let them go as a last resort opposed to other things. Having been on and off the council over the past 15 years, I've seen this come up and gone by, and somehow money it patched together to try and maintain things that the town is responsible for as much as other things. We need to preserve our history and provide a presence, not only for beautification, but also as a community we are proud of the history of Newington and wish to share it with future generations.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she thinks this represents what this council has stated over and over since taking office. We are committed to working on our facilities and that encompasses all facilities. The facility study that has been mentioned, through our CIP and at the recommendation of our town manager, we have increased and more than doubled the CIP dollars in order to start addressing those needs, and this is another example that's been identified that we are committed to making sure this is addressed in the future as we move forward, so I definitely support this.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilor Anest - Yes
- Councilor Braverman - Yes
- Councilor Budrejko - Yes
- Councilor Camillo - Yes
- Councilor Donahue - Yes
- Councilor Manke - Yes
- Councilor Miner - Yes
- Councilor Nagel - Yes
- Mayor DelBuono - Yes

- *Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.*

D. Adoption of Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Motion by Councilor Donahue

RESOLVED:

That the following General Fund appropriations of the Town of Newington are hereby adopted for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, in accordance with Section 805 of the Charter of the Town of Newington:

APPROPRIATIONS:

Town Government Operations:

General Government	\$5,915,128	
Public Safety	9,351,655	
Public Works	5,272,281	
Community Planning & Development	539,396	
Public Health	200,833	
Community Services	1,073,975	
Public Library	1,739,762	
Parks & Recreation	1,873,932	
Insurance - Miscellaneous	11,634,789	<u>37,601,751</u>
Debt Service		2,222,932
Metropolitan District		4,758,350
Capital Improvements		6,686,052
Equipment Reserve		1,304,312
Employee Leave Liability Reserve Fund		63,500
Board of Education		<u>76,768,011</u>

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS **\$129,404,908**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 805 of the Charter of the Town of Newington, the following General Fund estimated revenues be raised to meet these appropriations:

ESTIMATED REVENUES:

Current Taxes	\$97,285,763
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Prorated Taxes	1,130,637	
Prior Years Taxes	400,000	
Interest & Liens	350,000	
Motor Vehicle Tax	8,540,000	
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	1,984,600	
Assessments	16,000	
Licenses & Permits	359,500	
Rentals	100,000	
Investment Income	100,000	
Fines	22,000	
Charges for Services	533,875	
Refunds & Reimbursements	30,000	
Sale of Town Property	5,020	
State Aid	15,506,895	
Federal Aid	309,000	
Miscellaneous	60,000	
Transfers from Other Funds	171,618	\$126,904,908
General Fund Balance Applied		2,500,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPLIED FUND BALANCE		\$129,404,908

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Clerk is hereby instructed to place the accompanying General Fund Budget Summary on the record of this meeting to illustrate the above appropriations and revenue estimates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the following budget is hereby adopted for the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022:

APPROPRIATIONS:

Painting	\$50,000
Carpeting	50,000
District-wide Security and Safety	100,000
District-wide Furniture Replacement	25,000
System-wide HVAC Installation	50,000
Athletic Improvements	25,000
District-wide Playground Renovations	50,000
District-wide Lighting Improvements	15,000
District-wide Corridor/Exterior Doors	25,000
District-wide Roof Reserve	200,000
District-wide Blacktop/Paving	65,000
District-wide Vehicles	40,000
District-wide Building Systems & Controls	25,000
District-wide Environmental Services	55,000
District-wide Sidewalks & Concrete	25,000

District-wide Electrical Infrastructure	25,000
John Paterson Windows & PCB/Asbestos	200,000
Track/Tennis/Basketball Surface Restoration	100,000
District-wide Bathroom Renovations	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,150,000

ESTIMATED REVENUES:	
General Fund Appropriations	\$125,000
Interest Earnings	2,000
Tuition Receipts	600,000
School Rental Receipts	73,000
Public School Capital Improvement Program Fund Balance	<u>350,000</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPLIED FUND BALANCE	\$1,150,000

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

- Councilor Anest stated that even though we don't support the position being created in the town manager's office, because we have not received the overall job responsibilities, we will be supporting this budget. It is fiscally responsible, and we have all worked collaboratively in reducing the mill rate by .45 mills. Think we did an outstanding job, not a lot of back and forth, and am very happy with the budget we have presented to the town.
- Councilor Manke stated that he agrees [with Councilor Anest]. This is a good budget and we've actually lessened the burden on the taxpayers at a time when they could probably use the relief due to COVID. I appreciate the fact that we all worked together to get to where we are and I also appreciate the fact that the town manager and his office worked really hard to get to this budget. I would also like to commend the BOE for their contribution to the budget to get us where we are.
- Councilor Budrejko stated this year was particularly demanding because it was compounded by COVID and the economy. Despite this uncertainty, town staff was requested, and actually required to prioritize, evaluate and control expenditures while asking them to minimize the impact to taxpayers. And we asked them to continue to provide high quality services and they delivered in a fiscally responsible budget. This year, because of previously sound financial planning by town staff, we are much more fortunate than other communities because we faced these challenges, from what I feel, was a position of relative strength and stability because we were able to avoid reductions in core services, but also moved forward on some key priorities. This budget allows us to continue to invest in the town hall/community center, it moves us forward with Anna Reynolds, it uses a revised CIP to help us more adequately address long-term planning and infrastructure maintenance and it even allowed us to renew interest in open space and historical properties. I'd like to give a big thank you to the town department heads who were challenged by management to think critically about managing their resources and they delivered. We also need to give a big shout out to Keith Chapman and Janet Murphy because this was a period of change and uncertainty and they both worked long and hard to present us with a fiscally responsible budget. It may not have addressed all the wants, but it certainly addressed all the needs. This is a good budget and one that we can all be proud of.

E. Adoption of Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan 2021-22 through 2025-2026

Motion by Councilor Miner

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby adopts the "Town of Newington Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan 2021-2022 through 2025-2026," a final copy of which will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

NOTE: This vote is binding only for the funds committed for fiscal year 2021-2022; the proposed funding for 2022-2023 through 2025-2026 is for planning purposes only and is subject to change through future budget deliberations.

Seconded by Councilor Budrejko. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this year the amount in this line item is double from last year and that speaks to this council's wanting to address needs in our facilities as we move forward. The town manager brought to us a plan, that I would have thought at the beginning as absolutely unimaginable. We typically in the past tighten out belt in this account, so the town manager and his staff brought forward not just a budget, but a capital improvement plan I did not think was possible. We are doubling the amount of money being put into our facilities, yet we are reducing the tax burden and mill rate. This is a home run and I am absolutely amazed that work that Mr. Chapman and his staff did to get us here. I'm excited for what the future holds for this funding; it's going to allow us to accomplish so much in our town that has been long overdue.

F. Set Mill Rate

Motion by Councilor Nagel

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Section 805 of the Town Charter of the Town of Newington, the Town Council hereby fixes a tax rate of 38.81 mills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, which shall be levied on taxable real and personal properties and motor vehicles property in the Town of Newington listed on the October 1, 2020 Grand List, and said tax shall become due and payable in accordance with Section 43-1 of the Newington Code of Ordinances. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to make out and sign the rate bill in accordance with this motion.

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

- Mayor DelBuono stated that once again she would like to thank the town manager and his staff. Without the budget they brought forward to us, there was no way we would have been able to achieve this savings to our residents. In a year that we faced some serious challenges with the pandemic and know that our residents have been hurting in many ways because of the pandemic hopefully this will help. With a decrease in the mill rate we hope to alleviate some of the burden on our taxpayers and while we are always looking for ways to do that, we are continuing to provide the services we have always had. I am beyond thrilled that this council worked so collaboratively to get this accomplished this evening. I want to thank everyone, including every member of our town staff. Know that behind the scenes what went on was far more difficult than what was seen at this table. Thank you to everyone involved, I am full of gratitude this evening.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Cancellation of the April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting (Waiver Requested)

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with §11 of the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, adopted February 11, 2020, hereby moves to allow action on Agenda Item VI.A to cancel the April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends its approved meeting schedule by cancelling its Regular Meeting scheduled for April 27, 2021.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION re Motion to Cancel April 27, 2021 meeting.

- None

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA ONLY (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

- None

VIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she wanted to summarize - this evening we adopted our budget and set our mill rate, a new mill rate of 38.81, a .47 mill reduction from last year's budget and I am very thankful again for everyone's participation and collaboration on this budget.

The council adjourned to Executive Session at 6:46 p.m.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. PERSONNEL ISSUE §1-200 (6)(A): Personnel & Classification Plan

Motion by Councilor Donahue

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(A) hereby moves to go into Executive Session and invites the Town Council members, the Mayor, Keith Chapman, Town Manager, Ben Ancona, Town Attorney, Heather Shonty, HR Specialist/Executive Assistant, Janet Murphy [Director of Finance] and James Krupienski, Town Clerk to discuss a Personnel issue: Personnel & Classification Plan.

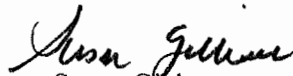
Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

Executive Session adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Anest to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Donahue.
Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk