



Keith Chapman  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR BETH DELBUONO**

## NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

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

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*[Signature]*  
Town Clerk

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

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

Staff Attendees:

Keith Chapman, Town Manager *(via Zoom)*  
Gary Fuerstenberg, Town Engineer  
Fauna Eller, Assessor *(via Zoom)*  
Renata Bertotti, Town Planner  
Joe Salamone, Director of Facilities Maintenance *(via Zoom)*  
James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk  
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk *(via Zoom)*

Also present:

Lou Jachimowicz, Newington BOE, Chief Finance and Operations Officer *(via Zoom)*

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Manke to move Item 16 – Executive Session to after Remarks by Councilors on Public Participation and Under 10 – New Business move Item D before Item A. Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

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

A. Public Comments

- None

B. Email Correspondence

- Susan Gibbon, 160 Forest Drive regarding Town Manager residency requirements in Charter.

5. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councilor Page suggested the letter go to the Chair of the Charter Revision Commission.

6. 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, Keith Chapman, Town Manager, Ben Ancona, Town Attorney, Kenneth Plumb, Assistant Attorney and Kenneth Slater, Assistant Attorney, to discuss Pending Litigation against the Town of Newington.**

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

*Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.*

*Council returned to the Regular Meeting at 8:10 p.m.*

7. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Receipt of TPZ Referral CGS §8-24 - John Patterson Parking Lot Improvement

Motion by Councilor Donahue

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby moves to Place on File the Certificate of Action for CGS Sec. 8-24 Referral for the John Patterson Parking Lot at 120 Church Street, received from the Newington Town Plan & Zoning Commission, dated June 9, 2022, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.**

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Manke asked if work already started on this project.
  - Mr. Jachimowicz stated that work on the building/grounds is for other improvements and maintenance of the school. The grease trap is being removed.
  - Councilor Camillo asked if Mr. Jachimowicz was talking about dry wells.
  - Mr. Jachimowicz stated he is not sure of the terminology; assisted in this by Newell Stamm.
  - Councilor Camillo asked if they were going to be connecting to existing catch basins.
  - Mr. Jachimowicz stated it was a straight replacement.
  - Councilor Camillo asked if the drains will be tied into the existing basins.
  - Mr. Jachimowicz stated that is attached to the sanitary sewer lines. Drains will tie into existing and drain into the woods.
  - Councilor Camillo stated you are going to have water from the parking lot drain into the woods?
  - Mr. Jachimowicz stated that is the existing drainage plan.
- B. Approval of Tax Fixing Agreement – Pike Apartment Complex
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he provided the history of the property over the past 10 years as well as the next 10 and 20 years. Developer is anxious to get documents in place to move forward.
  - Councilor Radda asked what the percentage of the abatement was and how many of the units are affordable housing.
  - Mr. Kosofsky stated the abatement is 43% and 10% of the units will be affordable housing.
  - Councilor Radda asked if tax abatements are common for these type of properties.
  - Mr. Kosofsky stated yes, they have done this with other projects in town.
  - Councilor Camillo stated that this is common practice in towns. Did this on Cedar and Fenn for National Welding site.

Motion by Councilor Nagel

**TAX FIXING AGREEMENT FOR SHAG NEWINGTON LLC FOR APARTMENTS AT 227 PANE ROAD**

**WHEREAS, Section 12-65b of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, provides, inter alia, that any municipality may enter into a written agreement with any party owning an interest in real property in such municipality fixing the assessment of the real property, and all improvements thereon or therein and to be constructed thereon or therein, for a period of not more than ten (10) years, provided the cost of such improvements to be constructed is not less than Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) and are constructed for certain uses which include office, manufacturing, permanent or transient residential, retail, warehouse, storage or distribution, structured multilevel parking in connection with a mass transit system, and information technology, recreational facilities or transportation facilities; and**

**WHEREAS, SHAG Newington LLC owns, or will own an interest in the property set forth above in Newington, Connecticut ("Property"). Said property is more particularly bounded and described as set forth in Schedule A to be attached hereto and made a part hereof; and**

**WHEREAS, SHAG Newington LLC has indicated its intent, if it receives the tax benefits herein provided for, to construct improvements to the Property which will permit it to locate two (2) apartment buildings consisting of 76 units each, and**

**WHEREAS, such improvements consist of 153 units, and no less than 173,800 square feet of new construction; and**

**WHEREAS, said Facility, will contain approximately Twenty-five Million One Hundred Forty-eight Thousand Nine Hundred and three Dollars (\$25,148,903.00) of fully taxable real property upon completion; and**

**WHEREAS, the Facility as proposed, will meet the conditions and requirements for entering tax assessment agreements contained in Section 12-65b of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended; and**

**WHEREAS, as an inducement to SHAG Newington LLC to construct the improvements, the Town deems it desirable to enter into an agreement fixing the assessment with respect to the improvements; and**

**WHEREAS, the Town and SHAG Newington LLC each have full right and lawful authority to enter into this agreement.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**That a tax assessment fixing agreement with SHAG Newington LLC is hereby approved in accordance with Section 12-65b of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and Keith Chapman, Town Manager, is authorized to execute an agreement on behalf of the Town, once all required approvals have been granted.**

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 7-2 (roll call vote).

- Councilor Camillo thanked all the departments in town for getting this done.
- Councilor Page stated that he is troubled on this; thought this we only did this for retail. Understanding is that when we enter into such agreements it will generate revenue for the town. Asking to shift the tax burden to the taxpayer. We don't need to do this, Newington is desirable. It's inappropriate and think it's irregular. Would like to send this to the ethics commission to review. Definitely against this .
- Councilor Manke stated that we did vote for a residential portion at 3333 Berlin Turnpike; like that instead of making \$107,000 yearly, we would be making \$4.4 million. We would be generating revenue by automobile taxes. In favor of this.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that the council voted for a tax break for the Amara property which was purely residential.

- Councilor Page stated that he understands revenue will be generated by automobile taxes. Think there are ethical questions for a lot of reasons.
- Councilor Manke asked if other towns or if we've done this before. Tax abatements on residential property.
- Mr. Kosofsky stated we are in the process of bringing another one to you shortly. We also did this at 3333 Berlin Turnpike.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that without a tax abatement agreement in place this project will go away. This is the way of the world now. Every town is offering tax fixing agreements.
- Mr. Kosofsky stated that we were close to finalizing another tax abatement agreement, felt certain provisions were non-negotiable, but they withdrew and are going to another town. Not only are tax agreements common, but it's the reality.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the CGS statute states it can be used for residential.
- Councilor Radda stated she is not anti-development in anyway. What was the tax abatement for 3333 Berlin Turnpike? Not convinced the tax abatement will be covered by other property taxes and that it's a balanced agreement.
- Ms. Kosofsky stated that the agreement for 3333 is incumbent upon the value of the investments. At 3333 the developers are investing approx. \$100 million and taxable of \$83 million and you approved a 50% tax abatement.
- Mayor DelBuono stated we would expect additional property taxes for automobiles. With the abatement we would be collecting \$4.4 million as opposed to what we are collecting now which is \$170,000. It's in compliance with state statute language.
- Councilor Manke stated that 10% of the units will be affordable housing.
- Councilor Camillo stated it will be bring people to town to support businesses.

C. Job Description – Assistant Town Manager (A-12)

Motion by Councilor Radda

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby approves the amendment to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving a job description for the Assistant Town Manager (A-12) position, as recommended by Keith Chapman, Town Manager, in his capacity as Personnel Director.**

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Radda has questions regarding the wording and phrasing in the first paragraph. *A discussion was held regarding this.*

8. **RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**

A. Appointment – Conservation Commission

- Councilor Manke moved to table. Seconded by Councilor Page. Motion passed 9-0.

9. **REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

A. Approval of June 14, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$4.47 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 Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

10. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS  
A. May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes  
B. May 26, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes by Councilor Nagel. Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

11. NEW BUSINESS

D. Newington Junction Historic Loop Report.

- Renata Bertotti stated this was one of the first projects she was assigned when becoming town planner. Zoning regulations at TOD at Newington Junction. Newington Junction has houses dating back to the 1600's. Look what's there and start with that; celebrate what is there. Got a \$10,000 grant to study historical assets and educate residents and visitors to the area.
- Dr. Daryn Reyman Locke provided a report regarding Newington Junction and the Historic Loop Trail.
- Sonya Richmond thanked the council for the opportunity to do this project. First thing was to investigate assets of value and how to proceed. Our intention is to look for additional funding from grants.
- Jim Late, President of the Newington Historical Society and Trust. Stated that they are in support of the Newington Junction walking trail as proposed. In 1987 designed historic district. Newington Junction was instrumental in the incorporation of our town.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that this is appropriate since it our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Newington Junction has three neighborhoods on historic register; many people don't know this. In my opinion the town has done nothing to protect this area or promote its designation. This is a win win for everyone.
- Councilor Camillo stated he grew up in Newington Junction. My grandmother lived in that area and went to school there. A lot has happened in that area of town. It's a shame that things weren't preserved in that area.
- Councilor Page thanked everyone for the work they have done so far. This seems like a ripe opportunity to preserve and promote the charm of this area. Encourage us to continue to engage residents in the area.
- Councilor Radda thanked everyone for their work. This is very exciting.
- Ms. Bertotti asked for the council to review the report and consider recommendations. Sonja will be looking for additional grants and opportunities. Have much more potential and opportunity in town.
- Councilor Manke stated that this is a good start. Would like to see it expanded to the entire town.
- Councilor Nagel stated that most people are not aware of the wealth of historical architecture in town and it's found throughout the town. This is a wonderful opportunity.
- Mayor DelBuono thanked Renata for starting this mission and making it a priority. Thank you to Sonya for your work on this. Thank you to Dr. Reyman for the report, it is impactful.

A. Appropriation Transfer for 2021-2022

- Memo provided in packet for consideration at next meeting.

B. Additional Appropriation/Special Appropriation

1. Additional Appropriation – Camp Ave Study/West Meadow Cemetery Roadways

- Councilor Page asked about the \$25,000 for the study of Camp Avenue. What is this for? Why can't we just undo what was done.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated he wants to do a study for different scenarios – existing conditions; total reconstruction; tests to confirm what was done.

- Town Manager Chapman stated that none of us were here when the road was narrowed. We really have to look at reasons behind that being done as part of the study. The money will be well spent. Need to look at history of why it was narrowed and if that makes sense.
  - Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that when the residents came out; I left the meeting that all the residents want this done, but there are some residents who don't want this done. Every homeowner should have an opportunity to weigh in on this. Money needs to be well spent.
  - Councilor Nagel stated he too has walked that street and has gotten various details of what happened and further studying what happened and changes to the road needs to occur. The roads in West Meadow Cemetery are in desperate need of repaving.
  - Mayor DelBuono stated that she also found out that not everyone was in favor of widening the road. Also, 49 additional roads in town are narrower in nature. Need to look at this and caution the bigger picture.
  - Councilor Page stated that the rationale might be for doing this widening because it was narrowed.
  - Councilor Donahue stated that we need to look at roads that were intentionally built that way as opposed to this one that was intentionally narrowed.
2. Special Appropriation – Treasury Fund (Cemetery) to Cemetery Budget
- Town Manager Chapman stated when he went to the Westmeadow Cemetery he was just shocked by the conditions. All three cemeteries in town need work. Don't understand why the funds have not been used. Want to beef up employees working in the cemeteries, assigned permanently to cemetery, so that they are pristine at all times. This is an effort to bring the cemeteries back to what they should be.
  - Councilor Page stated the three cemeteries are Westmeadow, and the one in the center of town. Where is the other one?
  - Town Manager Chapman stated that there is one on Church Street.
  - Councilor Page stated that he worked with the scouts on that cemetery on Church Street. Men who served in the revolutionary war buried there.
  - Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked if these three positions will be to maintain monuments as well.
  - Town Manager Chapman stated that we need to play catch up for a number of years. All stones should be maintained and repaired. Very disrespectful conditions. It may take several years to repair and replace stones. Owe it to the people buried in the cemeteries and the people that come to visit them.
  - Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that maybe Sonya can look into grants for repairing the stones.
  - Town Manager Chapman stated that he has already had that conversation; on the list.
  - Councilor Nagel stated that the cemetery and preservation of it and the preservation of the historical district and all come on the same evening; people may not be pleased with the state of the cemeteries. Gratified we are trying to tackle this. There are local historical gems in our town and are part of our heritage and community.
  - Councilor Radda asked if, apart from churches, are there municipal burial records.
  - Town Clerk Krupienski stated that we do have older records that we share with Wethersfield as well. We do have some older annals books that indicate births, marriages and deaths from the churches as well. We do have a large amount of data that we can share.
  - Councilor Radda stated not only documented, but those that may not have been specifically identified, for example slaves.
  - Town Clerk Krupienski stated that I believe we shared that information with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee too.

C. Annual Suspense List

- Done yearly; will be on next agenda for action.

E. Newington High School Roof Replacement

- Town Manager Chapman stated that he hopes this will be completed soon over the summer. Have changed direction on how we do this work without going through state reimbursement. We can save money and get the job done a lot quicker.
- Councilor Page stated that the savings are great; do we get guarantees with the reimbursement from the state or that we don't get from private contractor.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that it depends on the type of project.
- Joe Salamone stated that with this roof it's a 30-year manufacturer guarantee; same as we would have received going through the state.
- Councilor Camillo stated that we've saved millions on the roofs without going through the state.
- Town Manager Chapman stated they will be requesting a waiver for two different companies for different portions of the roof; they work together and are familiar with one another. Project will be done prior to work starting.
- Joe Salamone state that Architectural Sheet Metal is the second vendor that has agreed to partner on this project with Silktown. They've done many projects together.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that Joe has been a real gift to the town of Newington. He's taken care of many projects already. Very lucky to have him.

F. Standing Insurance – Placement of Coverage

- Councilor Manke stated that this is for liability coverage. Hoping to receive a proposal today with rates; it will most likely increase. Our next meeting is on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Will have quote to you by the next council meeting.

12. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- Town Manager Chapman stated that Heather & Jennifer have approached me about doing a pilot program; complaints about offices being open banker's hours. Consider for the summer have the offices open until 6 on Tuesdays and close at 12:00 p.m. on Fridays with ½ hour lunch breaks. There are 96 towns in the state that have alternative work schedules. For employee morale and customer service think it's important. Want to expand services. The majority of staff voted for this. Would like to commence this on July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Councilor Manke agrees with this; it's a good proposal; in favor of it. Where are the flower pots around town? How is the dog park coming?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he doesn't know where the pots are; will find out. The fence is up at the dog park; discovered that the entire site was covered with poison ivy. Anticipating an opening on July 1<sup>st</sup> or immediately after.
- Councilor Manke stated that on Cedar Street and Main waiting 2/3 light changes to get to intersection on Main Street going south.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the state has them on a timer. Just an FYI, East Cedar Street is going to be milled and paved this summer.
- Councilor Radda stated that there's a street light that is like a probe in front of the Congregational Church on Main Street. Also, are there updates on flyers distributed in neighborhoods?
- Town Manager Chapman stated he will look into getting that light fixed. Know that the police department is working with the FBI to identify to see who distributed flyers. It is actively being investigated by 6-7 towns as well as the state.
- Councilor Donahue asked about the LOCIP project for East Robbins and New Britain Avenue.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that will be going out to bid shortly. Project should be completed by winter. Should be seeing activity later in July.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she is in support of schedule change; getting to town hall by 4:30 can be challenging. Makes perfect sense to be open later one evening. Appreciate outside of the box thinking.

- Town Manager Chapman stated that we have a great crew of people working for this town.

13. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Nagel stated that he attended a CROG meeting; many grants in the works, not yet funded; but for mostly infrastructure. Census will now be going directly to CROG not counties any longer. Many funding grants are 5-year based. State suggested regionalizing the grants. The Library Board met last night, next meeting will be on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Summer reading program in process. Three new shed for storing materials installed. Friend's book sale was very successful. Have done a feasibility study update for expansion.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated at the TPZ meeting there was an interesting discussion about a pre-application meeting for a possible micro-brewery at Keeney Manufacturing. Two issues were proximity to churches and use of municipal lots for parking. TPZ not really concerned about that. Applicant is Hanging Hills Brewery. Owner of building wants to keep the loading dock area as is; wants to develop rest as retail/public space.
- Councilor Manke stated that he attended the public safety day. Very successful, great idea and see it getting bigger and bigger every year. Compliment the 150<sup>th</sup> for the tag sale day. Last weekend Parks & Rec has events Thursday, Friday and Saturday and it was very successful. Did attend event at Victory Gardens; informative and got to tour an apartment.

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

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

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive want to comment on a few things. Great idea having extended hours at the town hall; lock doors immediately at 6. Traffic on Main Street is bad; hope that can get fixed. Still don't know who the contact person is to report these things; to report to Eversource you need a poll numbers. Since reading emails/letters into the record no longer happens; happy to see that you read the subject. Regarding Robbins Avenue, I contact Gary Fuerstenberg today about the project, it's just in the planning stages; Main, Robbins and Maple Hill has gone out to bid. Thank you Mr. Chapman for looking into the cemeteries. Thank you to town planner for looking into Newington Junction and also to Councilor Budrejko for looking into that area and other things from TPZ.

15. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Councilor Page follow up regarding town charter and oath and obligation; move that the town council require town manager submit his resignation or provide documented proof of residency.
- Mayor DelBuono stated there is an action by the town council allowing that the town manager has until June 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide that information. He has been made aware of that by myself and the town attorney.
- Councilor Page stated he made a motion, and would like a second.
- Councilor Manke stated point of order, this is remarks by councilors; in order to make a motion it needs to be on the agenda and it's not.
- Councilor Page asked James if that is true.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that under council rules an items needs to be added by a majority two-thirds vote in order to take action upon it. You would have to have this brought forward at the beginning of the meeting under amendment of the agenda, a two-thirds vote to add it to the council packet and then supply that information for voting upon to be the board for review and then it could be taken up.
- Councilor Page stated just for clarification – when I submit an agenda item in our agenda meeting, what are the grounds for that to be denied?
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that during agenda meeting it's usually consensus of the leadership.
- Councilor Page stated it isn't true that I can bring up any agenda item, it has to be approved by the majority.



- Town Clerk Krupienski stated at any meeting or during leadership that is correct you need a consensus.
- Councilor Page stated that in perpetuity the minority party has no recourse to present an agenda item.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated no. What Councilor Manke is referring to is that currently we are not under an item where action can be taken. Right now we're under Comments from Councilors.
- Councilor Page stated he understands; doing this now because of frustration of no having this agenda item added and if I'm understanding correctly, if the majority in power, either in the agenda setting meeting or the beginning of this meeting decide they do not want that to come to discussion or vote, then it never will.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that is a possibility, yes.
- Councilor Page stated in that case he wants to go on record that he looks forward to receiving that documentation on June 21<sup>st</sup>. I have another item. This has to do with the train station. It's an ongoing discussion and will continue to be as long as I'm in office. Since many of you voted to go ahead with architectural design regarding a train station and since my comments in February, many of you have indicated that there is no need or reason to go forward with an adamant expression of a desire for a train station if there is no funding involved and that was reiterated by discussion with the DOT. We recently received correspondence from Senator Lessor's office that there is funding available; there is millions of dollars sitting on a table. Enfield was just awarded \$14-15 million for a train station. Resolved that the Newington Town Council hereby directs Mayor Beth DelBuono to send the attached letter to Governor Ned Lamont urging him to commit the funds to expeditiously design and construct the Hartford Line Newington Station.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she did not write the letter. I just want the public to understand that this is your proposal with my name on it.
- Councilor Page stated that it is just a proposal. *"Dear Governor. The Hartford Line was conceived with a station in Newington restoring passenger rail service in our town after being shut down since 1959. In 2019 the Connecticut Department of Transportation asked us to create zoning that would stimulate meaningful transit oriented development in proximity of the new Newington station. We took that request seriously adopting transit village design district regulations that are a model for all municipalities along the Hartford line. Subsequently Newington station was added to the DOT's capital plan. However, physical construction was delayed due to a shortage of funds. With billions of dollars of federal and American rescue funds coming to Connecticut, the money is now available to build out the Hartford line stations as originally planned. On behalf of the Newington Town Council I urge you to make Newington station a priority and commit the necessary funds to initiate design and construction as quickly as possible. This is the time to bring the station on line, benefiting the citizens of Newington and the surrounding towns, as well as the Central Connecticut State University community and those who use the Hartford Line and CT FastTrack currently and in the future. Moreover with surging concerns about energy and security and inflation it is imperative to offer more people another convenient affordable mass transit option. Yours truly..."* and these are my words, not yours mayor but this would be from you if you agree...*Beth DelBuono, Mayor, Town of Newington*". With a cc to the commissioner of the DOT. I'm going to continue to press this. I think it's important for our community. We're looking a tens of millions of dollars in development for our community. Consistent with what's happening on Cedar Street now and in the future. It's consistent with demands for greener, alternative transportation getting people off the road, onto trains and potentially to cities like Boston and connections to New York and beyond. I appreciate your indulgence.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the entire council was copied on my response to Senator Lessor who did reach out. The original email that came forward was addressed to myself and Mr. Chapman. His email reads *"As you know Newington train station is listed on the DOT's long-term capital plan, it's not currently on the immediate DOT priority list"*, he stated that on May 17<sup>th</sup> he spoke with a senior DOT leader and *they indicated that that would return it to the priority list if they received a letter from me that Newington supports a station at the Cedar Street location and to the best of my*

knowledge that reflects the will of the council and TPZ. This letter is extremely time sensitive because the trench of funds will be available as soon as the next bond commission meeting and decisions are being made right now. Please let me know ASAP if you are able to turn a letter around and feel free to call me. Sincerely, Matt Lessor. I did respond and asked him to let me know what the exact time frame was and he responded that "DOT does not need a from statement or resolution from the council, just a written statement from you as chief elected official indicating general support for a train station at the Cedar Street location...it wouldn't limit your or the council's ability to have input as the project proceeds or even withdrawal support in an extreme case, but it does seem to be enough to give DOT the signal they need that Newington will be supportive of a rail project...without an indication of local support the project will not get onto DOT's priority list." My response to Senator Lessor, which was provide to the entire council reads as follows: "Senator Lessor I agree with your assessment that there is a general interest for a train station in Newington. We were told that no funding would be available for at least 10 years. Our major areas in town, including Cedar Street, are changing rapidly with housing and economic development. As such, the council has not made a formal decision as to the location of the train station but would be happy to work with the state when funding becomes available to determine the appropriate and most needed location for our residents based on the landscape of our community at that time. I hope that this is enough to indicate our sincere interest in a train station, in our town, for the betterment of our community." That was dated Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. So this communication already went to Senator Lessor after his request for said letter. I did say I hope this is enough to indicate our sincere interest and I did not receive any further communication from him indicating that he needed anything more from me as chief elected official and based on that I assume it met the criteria he needed and the council and town manager were cc'd on that communication. As far as I'm concerned, we took care of it. We can certainly disuse it at agenda meeting if there's further action. I'd be looking for the DOT or state level to let us know if they need something further. I assumed that based on the emails between myself and Senator Lessor we are all set, it not we will find out.

- Councilor Braverman stated it's nice to be in the same room with everyone.

16. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Tax Payments Information – taxed are due
- B. Town Clerk Krupienski stated that they had their spring shredding event on Saturday; had a good turnout and we will be doing it again in the fall.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon  
Council Clerk