

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Chairman Robert J. Oris, Jr.; Vice-Chairman Paul A. Bowman; Councilors Jeffrey Falk, Patti-Flynn Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Timothy Slocum.

Absent: Thomas Ruocco, Peter Talbot, David Veleber.

Staff: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Deputy Town Manager, Town Attorney Al Smith; Economic Development Coordinator Gerald Sitko; Parks Director John Gawlak; Tax Assessor Teresa Geremski.

Guests: William Campion, CEO Campion Ambulance; Dr. Steven Schneider, St. Mary's Hospital; Robert Dionne, Community EMS; Frank Loehmann, President, John G. Martin Foundation

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Land acquisition

Chairman Oris moved Executive Session to the end of the agenda.

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognition of Chesprocott Public Health Emergency Frill

Chairman Oris read the Certificate of Recognition for Chesprocott. He stated the drill received great reviews, and he recognized Director Maura Esposito and her staff for their hard work on behalf of Cheshire and the other communities they serve.

B. Introduction of Assessor Teresa Geremski

Town Manager Kimball introduced Ms. Geremski, the new Tax Assessor for the Town of Cheshire. He highlighted Ms. Geremski's assessor and banking experience of over 20 years, her CCMA 1st and 2nd Certifications, and welcomed her to Cheshire.

Ms. Geremski thanked the Council and staff for their welcome to Cheshire. She said she looks forward to the privilege of working for Cheshire for many years.

C. Public Comments

Jim Mertz, 65 Royalwood Court, addressed the Council on issues with the Community Garden at Bartlem Park. Mr. Mertz has been involved with the garden project since 2006. The garden has 29 plots, and a waiting list of people to join the garden. He informed the Council there are problems and serious issues with Woodchucks, Groundhogs and Chipmunks causing significant damage to many of the gardens, including his own. The gardeners have installed extra fencing and try to catch and release the animals. He believes there is a Town ordinance about catching animals and the State DEEP also has rules on this issue. Mr. Mertz is requesting the Council give an exemption to the ordinance to trap the animals using heart traps and relocate them to other areas. He noted this would not harm the animals and would allow the gardens to prosper.

Chairman Oris stated he has talked with Mr. Mertz and Councilor Flynn-Harris about this problem. He advised the Ordinance Review Committee will look into the possibility of a Town ordinance on the matter.

Attorney Smith has looked at information on control of nuisance animals, and advised the matter is subject to State regulations. Only a licensed operator can trap these animals, i.e. Animal Control Officer or someone with a DEEP license.

Chairman Oris recognized Frank Loehmann, President, John G. Martin Foundation, to make a presentation to the Town of Cheshire.

Mr. Loehmann gave a brief history of the Foundation and its generosity over many years. He has served 46 years as a Foundation member and now serves as President. He noted the funds are limited, gifts are limited, and the organization has participated and funded many Cheshire programs...including Cheshire High School, Bartlem Park, Dog Park, Cheshire Community Food Pantry, St. Bridget Parish and School. Donations have totaled \$256,000. On behalf of the Foundation, Mr. Loehmann presented a \$10,500 gift to the Town of Cheshire for replacement signs at Bartlem Park, Cheshire Community Pool, Parks and Recreation, The Yellow House, and refurbishing of the Medal of Honor Sign at Bartlem Park. Mr. Loehmann commended Town staff, The Beautification Committee, Town Manager Kimball, Mr. Sitko and Parks Director Gawlak for their participation and work with the Foundation in funding endeavor.

Chairman Oris and Councilors expressed appreciation to Mr. Loehmann and the Foundation for the generous donation to the Town of Cheshire.

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Mr. Bowman.

MOVED to amend the agenda and add Champion Ambulance under Public Comments.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Campion Ambulance – Chairman Oris explained that the Council and Town staff worked to extend the Campion Ambulance/Town of Cheshire Contract, and are pleased with the contract. Trinity Health Care has acquired Campion Ambulance. He thanked Mr. Campion, Mr. Dionne and Dr. Schneider for their work with the Town on this contract.

Bill Campion, President & CEO, Campion Ambulance, stated the company has served Cheshire since the 1980's. He reviewed the company's history since 1947 as a family business, which is now transitioning to the next level with Trinity Health Care and Community EMS.

Robert Dionne, Community EMS, Executive Vice President, commented on the good experience of working with Town Manager Kimball, Fire Chief Casner, Town Attorney Smith during the negotiations. He is pleased with the outcome of the contract. He and his company look forward to a long term partnership with the Town. Community EMS has 37 years of experience; is a non-profit organization; and he looks forward to moving the organization forward into the future.

Dr. Steven Schneider stated he is a 30 year Cheshire resident, loves his town, and said the ambulance service will have a growing presence in Cheshire and continue to serve the population. Dr. Schneider looks forward to working with the Town Council and Cheshire.

Mr. Slocum commented on the good job of all involved in the contract process, with the Town looking forward to deliverables of the new team.

The issue of community education through this partnership was raised by Chairman Oris. He asked about opportunities to provide more health education from the new medical center in Cheshire.

Dr. Schneider informed the Council and public that he would be interested with participation in an education program in Cheshire. He is eager to work with Town residents and partner with an education program.

Chairman Oris stated that a good contract was negotiated for the people of Cheshire, and the Town looks forward to a long relationship with Trinity Health Care and St. Mary's.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Public Hearings and Regular Minutes of June 11, 2019.**

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED to approve the minutes of the Public Hearings and Regular Minutes of June 11, 2019, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #070919-1

RESOLUTION #070919-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR JULY 9, 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for July 9, 2019 as follows.

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a cumulative donation of \$9.70 from CAF America to the Recreation Gift Account for the Dog Park.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Your Cause to the Recreation Gift Account to be used for the Dog Park.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,000 donation from Gabriel Rios to the Recreation Gift Account for a memorial bench in honor of Jeffrey Parker.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Operation Fuel to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from The Cheshire Lion's Foundation Inc. to the Police Gift Account for the purchase of equipment, tools or education programs.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Operation Fuel to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from the Women's Club of Cheshire Inc. to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from an anonymous donor To the Jitney Bus Fund.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$275 donation from the Yellow House Summer Kick Off Party to the Youth Services Gift Account for Youth Service Programming.
- J. Acceptance of four "like new" park benches to the Recreation Department From Jeanne Murphy of Immanuel House.

- K. Authorization to apply for Homes for Heroes Grant for \$5,000.
- L. Authorization to apply for the annual Youth Services Bureau program grant For \$16,995.
- M. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10,500 donation from the John G. Martin Foundation for replacement signs at Bartlem Park and Cheshire Community Pool, Parks and Recreation, and The Yellow House facilities and New paint for the Medal of Honor sign.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

MOVED to recess the Town Council meeting at 7:34 p.m. for the public hearing.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Chairman Oris reconvened the Council meeting at 7:41 p.m.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR - None

8. OLD BUSINESS - None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Call for public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Five Year Capital Expenditure Plan and Annual Capital Expenditure Budget.

MOTION by Mr. Oris; seconded by Mr. Slocum

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #070919-2

RESOLUTION #070919-2

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council shall hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Five Year Capital Expenditure Plan and Annual Capital Expenditure Budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause a notice of said public hearing to be posted and published according to law.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

B. Appropriation of \$26,200 from the Peck-Jones Fund for enhancements To the Interactive Science curriculum.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #070919-3

RESOLUTION #070919-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves and appropriation of \$26,200 from the Peck-Jones Fund to support and enhance Interactive Science education.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated this appropriation is done annually. The fund balance is \$679,174. The Council adopted the rule to allow up to 4% annual appropriation from the fund. This year the funding will be used towards science programs.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. Discussion and possible approval of a tax incentive agreement with Nosal Builders Inc.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #070919-4

RESOLUTION #070919-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Tax Assessment Agreement by and between the Town of Cheshire and Nosal Builders, Inc. under the terms as presented, and authorizes the Town Manager to execute said Agreement.

Discussion

Mr. Sitko explained that Joseph Nosal, owner of Nosal Properties of Cheshire, LLC moved his business to Cheshire in 2016. He has requested incentive assistance for a 5,200 S.F. addition to his company's 26,000 S.F. office/warehouse building at 85 Fieldstone Court to support growth of the Shred-It business. Mr. Nosal has stated 60 employees (full-time) will work at the facility upon its completion. He has agreed to the ten-year presence in Cheshire and four-year minimum staffing level requirements. The additional real estate taxes for a four-year period are estimated at \$18,560; the estimated property assessment is \$269,170; estimated value of personal property is \$1,030,800. Mr. Sitko supports the approval of the incentive assistance as requested by Mr. Nosal.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**D. Discussion and possible action re: Amendment to bazaars, raffles
And games of chance ordinance.**

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Mr. Falk

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #070919-5

RESOLUTION #070919-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the amendments to Section 10-10 regarding bazaars, raffles and games of change as follows:

(copy of the amended resolution is attached to these minutes)

Discussion

Ms. Flynn-Harris, ORC Chair, requested this agenda item be referred back to committee for review. She said there are some verbiage and fee issues to be discussed by the committee and Attorney Smith.

Chairman Oris referred the matter to the Ordinance Review Committee.

E. Discussion of Town Manager's FY 19-20 Goals and Objectives

This agenda item is tabled for the Personnel Committee and full Town Council meeting.

10. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Status Report - in Council packets

**B. Department Status Reports: Police, Fire, Fire Marshal.
In Council packets**

**C. Other Reports (copy of the Town Manager's Report is attached to the
minutes)**

Chapman Master plan RFP Status – The panel met with the two finalists, Milone and MacBroom and Weston and Sampson; it will meet on July 10th to review references and finalize a recommendation to the Council at the August meeting.

Farmers Market starts July 11th, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center Parking lot.

Chamber of Commerce Carnival – at Bartlem Park July 12-15.

Summer Concert Series – four concerts are scheduled July 19th to August 9th, at Bartlem Park, 7:00 p.m.

325th Anniversary – The Town is moving forward with plans to recognize the 325th Anniversary of Cheshire’s settlement (1694). Local groups and organizations have held planning meetings; a master calendar will be published; primary events coincide with the Fall Festival.

Business Appreciation Day – the event was a success with 170 attendees. Mr. Kimball expressed appreciation to Jim Smith, former CEO Webster Bank and Economic Advisor to Gov. Lamont for serving as guest speaker. He thanked Elim Park for hosting the event and Jerry Sitko and Catherine Donegan for their work coordinating the event.

Bulky Waste Collection – the collection returns in mid-September. It will take place over six weeks; one week is scheduled for each collection day route; there is a make-up week scheduled the week of October 28th.

Road Paving Schedule and Updates – road paving and maintenance program is underway, and the list was submitted to the Council.

Economic Development Updates – EDC will meet next week to begin a plan to promote the TIF Master Plan and Highland Avenue Design District. Hartford Health Care building will be partially occupied by the end of August with full occupancy in late September. PZC approved an 86,000 SF addition to the Whole Foods warehouse at 400 East Johnson Avenue.

Upcoming Town Council & Committee Meetings:

Thursday, July 11th, 6:30 p.m. Ordinance Review Committee

Tuesday, July 16th, 6:30 p.m. Capital Budget Workshop

Tuesday, July 16th, Personnel Committee meeting (following budget workshop)

Wednesday, July 17th, 6:00 p.m. Site visit to CPD and parks

Monday, July 29th, 6:00 p.m. Site visit to schools (capital budget sites)

Tuesday, July 30th; 6:30 p.m. Budget Committee meeting w/Board of Education

Tuesday, August 6th, 6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee meeting

Thursday, August 8, 6:30 p.m. Technology Study Group

Town Website – Mr. Slocum asked about the status of the website update, and requested the type be black rather than blue. Mr. Kimball informed the Council that staff is being trained on the new website and it will be up and running shortly.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.

A. Chairman's Report

- i. Referral of the Hawkers and Peddlers ordinance Section 13-32 to the Ordinance Review Committee.**

Chairman Oris referred this matter to the Ordinance Review Committee (ORC).

B. Miscellaneous – no items

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS - None

A. Liaison Reports - none

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions – none

Corrections to appointments June 11, 2019 Meeting:

John Torello “alternate” to the Historic District Commission

Gayle Nidoh “alternate” to the Historic District Commission, replacing “Elizabeth Ryducha.

Joseph Holstein address correction “341 Cornwall Avenue”.

13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

Chairman Oris read a letter from Bonnie DiMauro dated 6/17/19 into the record of the meeting.

B. Miscellaneous – None

3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Land acquisition

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to include Town Manager Kimball, Assistant Town Manager Talbot and Town Attorney Smith to discuss Land Acquisition.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED to exit Executive Session at 8:22 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk