

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2021
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Jan 21, 2021 12:01P
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT *PL*

MINUTES

Present: Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor J. Donohue, J. Henahan, P. Ahlquist,
S. Fortenbach, A. Waters, J. Demetriades

Absent:

Also Present: Town Manager A. Salvatore, Director of Finance M. Sylvester,
Chief of Police D. Lamontagne, Captain F. Sifodaskalakis, Director of
Public Works L. Spina

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Faienza called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Faienza called for a moment of silence for Jake Salafia and for our
Country.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

S. Fortenbach led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Faienza added K. New Business 7. Discussion and action Town Manager's
Goals for 2021.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to
amend the agenda, adding New Business #7. Discussion and action Town
Manager's Goals for 2021.

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Henahan and *unanimously carried*
to approve the agenda as amended.

D. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIASON REPORT/STAFF REPORTS

Board of Education update (attached to minutes)

E. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Faienza reported:

- Lapels is having a grand opening
- The Unified Command is doing everything possible to get COVID vaccines out.
- The budget process is starting for 21/22.
- Kudos to Town Employees for working to keep Town Hall open during the COVID crisis.

F. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- Protocol for vaccinations is changing; the Governor will give an update tomorrow.
- Held Staff meeting and asked Department Heads to keep requests low as they are unsure about the amount of State aid that we will receive. The Police Department Accountability Bill costs will be built into the Police Department Budget.
- River Landing is coming out nicely; a gazebo will be included in the project.
- The Highway/Sewer Facility was completed without having to borrow money. Kudos to the Finance Department, Public Works Department and Engineering.
- After April they will take a look at paving Sebeth; this is pending how taxes come in.
- The Library Project came in under budget

G. FINANCIAL/FINANCE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

1. Budget Reports (*Written report submitted*)

2. 2021/22 Budget Timeframe

a. Set dates and time for Budget Workshops.

The consensus of the Council is to hold the Budget Work Shops on March 1st at 4:45 p.m. and March 3rd at 4:30 p.m.

3. Authorize Mayor to set time and date for Capital Expenditure Plan Public Hearing.

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Demetriades to authorize the Mayor to set the time and date for a Capital Expenditure Plan Public Hearing. It will be held on March 1st at 4:30 p.m.

4. Tax Refunds

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve 1-28.

H. CHIEF OF POLICE'S UPDATE

Chief Lamontagne reported: (*Written report submitted*)

- Provided update on shots fired incident on December 27th
- Two dispatchers are leaving; Tom Firebaugh and Mailene Downes
- They are in the process of hiring dispatchers
- The three recruits are now in the FTO program and doing well. They will be done in February.
- The 28th officer was hired and is now in the academy stage.

I. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Public Works Director Spina reported:

- The crew finished the Christmas Tree collection last week.
- Cromwell Landing is almost complete; it will be finished in the Spring.

- Update on Public Works/Sewer Building; the generator motor and CO2 were replaced; a roof access ladder will be added. The paperwork to obtain a C/O is getting closer. The Highway check is working there daily.
- A pavement management virtual meeting was held recently.

J. CITIZEN COMMENTS -Submitted to mayor@cromwellct.com

1. J. Flanders, Washington Road (attached)
2. Hunter Voos (attached)

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Draft Resolution Regarding Juvenile Justice, Escalating Crime, and Public Safety.

Town Manager Salvatore presented the request. After a lengthy discussion; Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by A. Waters *to table*.

Aye: J. Demetriades, A. Waters

Nay: S. Fortenbach, E. Faienza, J. Donohue, P. Ahlquist, J. Henahan

Motion to tabled failed

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Henahan and *carried* to approve Resolution regarding Juvenile Justice, Escalating Crime, and Public Safety.

Aye: S. Fortenbach, E. Faienza, J. Donohue, P. Ahlquist, J. Henahan, A. Waters

Nay: J. Demetriades

Mayor Faienza called for a recess at 8:25 p.m. Meeting called back to order at 8:35 p.m.

2. Grievances, Earned Time Off Requests
 - a. NAGE, Non-Sworn Police, Step 3
 - b. NIPSUE, Police, Step 2
 - c. IUOE, Public Works, Local 30, Step 3

The three union representatives were given the opportunity to present their grievances.

Town Manager Salvatore presented for the Town.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments.

After a lengthy discussion; Motion made by P. Ahlquist seconded by J. Henahan and *carried* to dismiss without prejudice as long as past practice continues following Charter and Union Contracts.

Aye: P. Ahlquist J. Donohue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan

Nay: A. Waters, J. Demetriades

Motion carried

3. Grievance, Medical Appointments
 - a. IUOE, Public Works, Local 30, Step 3
 - b. NAGE, Non-Sworn Police, Step 3

The two union representatives were given the opportunity to present their grievances.

Town Manager Salvatore presented for the Town.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments.
Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Donohue and *unanimously carried to deny*

4. Grievance, Call Back Compensation Step 3, IUOE
 - a. Michael Fuller
 - b. Donald L. Quick

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried to table until the February Council Meeting.*

5. Grievance, Holiday Pay, Step.3, IUOE
 - a. Joseph Grassi***Grievance withdrawn***

6. Grievance, COVID time, Step 3, IUOE
 - a. Raymond Ioroi, COVID-19

The Union was given the opportunity to present their grievance.

Town Manager Salvatore presented for the Town.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments.

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried to deny.*

Mr. Ioroi was given the opportunity to bring in proper documents to Town Manager Salvatore who will review and decide.

7. Town Manager's Goals and Objectives for 21/22.
Jack Henahan
 - Continue doing phenomenal job with EDC.
 - Repurpose some buildings in town on the EDC side.
 - Continue with the Road Work Project.

- James Demetriades
- Continue to seek out grants.

- Expand hours for an existing or hire a grant writer to apply for grants.
- Revitalize and reuse of existing buildings.

Al Waters

- Over all Mr. Salvatore has done very well.
- Would like to see less grievances and more communication to settle them downstairs with the grievances.
- Get the Northern Tier, Route #3 and 99 moving.

Steve Fortenbach

- Thanked the Town Manager for doing a great job.
- Would like to see less grievances and better communication.
- Grow commercial base; develop River Road and Northern Tier.
- Red Lion; get someone to monitor any actions being taken.

Jennifer Donohue

- Thanked Town Manager Salvatore for his hard work.
- Continue to explore Town Building Facility Use; move forward and look for grants.
- Update job descriptions, policies and procedures in the next couple of months.
- Strategy; something Council can do to help communications with the Bargaining Units.

Pat Ahlquist

- Continue H/R work, the Facility use study and continue working on long range plans for a Community/Senior Center.

Enzo Faienza

- Continue to do what is necessary to facilitate everyone else's goals
- Continue to bring businesses to town.
- Continue bringing in good budgets.
- Keep the Mill Rate as low as possible.

L. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting, December 9, 2020

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020.

2. Special Meeting, December 18, 2020

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of December 18, 2020.

M. RESIGNATIONS

1. Senior Services Commission

a. Pat Sienna

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to accept Ms. Sienna's resignation with regret and gratitude.

N. APPOINTMENTS

1. Diversity and Inclusion Committee

a. Ann Grasso

Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve appointing Ms. Grasso for a two-month term.

O. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

J. Donohue spoke about continuing to provide the Board of Finance as much information as is necessary during the Budget process.

P. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Cromwell Outboard Association Lease, Strategy and Negotiation

a. Discussion and possible action.

A. Waters and J. Demetriades recused themselves from Executive Session.

Town Manager Salvatore was invited into Executive Session.

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to adjourn to Executive Session at 11:07 p.m.

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Donohue and *unanimously carried* to come out of Executive Session at 11:16 p.m.

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Henahan and *carried* to authorize the Town Manager to sign Outboard Association Lease amendment as presented.

Aye: P. Ahlquist, J. Donohue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan

Abstained: A. Waters, J. Demetriades

Motion carried

Q. ADJOURN

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by J. Henahan and *unanimously carried* to adjourn at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reymatus

Re Matus
Secretary

Matus, Re

From: Jeffrey Matrullo <jmatrulloboe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Faienza, Enzo; Mayor
Subject: Board of Education Updates

Enzo - Following are the BOE updates to be presented at tonight's Council meeting. Could you please read these into the record? Thank you and have a great day.

- Dr. Macri continues to monitor the pandemic-related statistics. She is in constant communication with Sal Nesci about trends within our town and contact tracing efforts, among other pandemic-related matters. Currently, ECS and WIS continue to operate in the full in-person mode, and CMS and CHS are in a hybrid approach. Dr. Macri and Mr. Nesci will re-assess the approach at CMS and CHS around January 28. Of course, the approach at any particular school could change at any time based on new developments.
- We continue to track COVID-related expenses. To date, for this fiscal year, \$1,369,752.70 in COVID-related expenses have been incurred. To date, the District has requested reimbursement of \$359,242 out of the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Additional requests for reimbursement will continue through June, 2021.
- Dr. Macri will start her budget presentations for the 2021-2022 fiscal year at our meeting on January 26.
- The Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) recently named Cromwell one of four winners of the 2021 CIRMA Excellence in Risk Management Award under the category of Establishing Risk Management as an Organizational Priority. CIRMA nominated us because of the robust risk management programs we have recently implemented. This award results from a collaborative effort across the District, but special thanks go to Michele DiMauro, Director of Human Resources, for making risk management an organizational priority. The award comes with a \$2,500 check. CIRMA will honor Cromwell and the other award recipients at a virtual ceremony on January 29.

Thank you,
Jeff

To: Cromwell Town Council

From John Flanders
57 Washington Rd.

Subject: Propose Resolution on Juvenile Justice

It was with grave disappointment that I read the resolution being proposed for the Town Council this evening. I want to say in the strongest possible terms that a document like this both inaccurate and proposes an unacceptable course of action and has no business being issued by our community.

To begin with the assumptions in the resolution are demonstrably inaccurate. Although we have seen some incidences in town it is important to understand that rather than an increase in crime by young people statistics show a dramatic decrease. Juvenile Justice statistics from the National Center for Juvenile Justice show that from 1996 where there were almost 8400 criminal arrests of 12 to 17 year olds by 2018 the number had fallen to just over 2000. A decrease of over three quarters. In Connecticut the numbers are at least as dramatic, between 2009 and 2017 arrests of children under 18 fell 56%, and the number of those incarcerated fell 85%. This is not an indication of a growing problem but an admirable record of success.

What is far more disturbing about the language of the resolution is its emphatic call for a "solution" that takes sons and daughters from the homes of their parents to incarceration or the care of the state. It complains that too few teens are jailed, that too few are imprisoned with adults. It laments the fact that too few are taken from their families and placed with DCF, and mourns the loss of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School despite its huge cost and history of problems. It further ignores the fact that when closed the facility, with a capacity of 200, held only 50 youths prior to its closure.

I ask if the Council truly wishes the youth of Cromwell to be taken from their families. If they want to ignore the fact improved understanding of teenaged development has promoted programs where the causes of anti social behavior are being addressed. If it wants to eliminate a system where an act of poor judgement does not result in criminal prosecution and a possible huge barrier to the future prospects of a young person from the town.

Rather, I hope the Council will continue the proven methods we are using to help our children become the good citizens we hope they will be. I hope they will follow the example of the Connecticut State Department of Education in promoting social and emotional learning and alternatives to harsh discipline for all students. I hope they will follow the example of the Board of Education who added Social Workers to the school staff to help students learn to understand their lives and to make better wiser decisions.

This leads to my final point which is procedural. The resolution states the Governor should meet with the communities who are on the ground dealing with theses problems. Cromwell Public

Schools have the responsibility for educating the youth of our community, not just in the basic three Rs, but in the important understanding of how to be a good citizen in our community. The schools are home to the youth in question for more than six hours every day, and house, and pay, for two members of the police department. For that reason it would seem natural for our educators to be consulted on a resolution of this type. To the best of my knowledge, not only was there no effort to seek input, there was no notification that it was to be considered. I find that both remarkable and disappointing.

I will tell you I am surprised and disappointed such a resolution would be made by the Cromwell I have made my home for the last 30 years. I am distressed if it is the wish of the Cromwell where I have given my time and continue to serve. Certainly we face challenges, but to consider only the possibility of locking up our youth is just wrong. I strongly urge my fellow citizens who serve on the Council to reject this monstrous resolution. Instead let us work together as a community to help educate and support our youth to develop the values and behavior that will make them the citizens of tomorrow.

Matus, Re

From: Hunter V <hvooy18@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: RE: Draft Resolution Regarding Juvenile Justice, Escalating Crime, and Public Safety

Enzo Faienza

RE: Draft Resolution Regarding Juvenile Justice, Escalating Crime, and Public Safety

I find the town's resolution deeply flawed for several reasons. In no particular order, I will enumerate them in this letter.

1. The resolution makes a qualitative claim about crime in town and around the state: increasingly, juveniles are entering town in groups and stealing property; however, the resolution provides no quantitative backing to the claim.
2. The resolution claims that more lax policies regarding juvenile justice are to blame for the increase in crime. This argument is predicated on the idea that troubled youth know or care about the regulations. The resolution provides no evidence that the increase is a result of the regulatory changes. It only suggests a correlation between the trend and the rules.
3. The resolution suggests that youths are not held to account for criminal activity, which is not true. This sentiment may incite extralegal action from town residents who mistakenly believe that the law does not meaningfully protect their property. To prevent an increase in vigilante justice, the town should redraft the resolution to reflect the truth better and clarify that vigilantism will not be tolerated in town.
4. The argument that the decriminalization of various offenses leads to an increase in crime does not make sense in the context of Cromwell. The most concerning trend in town is an increase in property theft, which is not being decriminalized.
5. A set of more severe, punitive measures, suggested in the resolution, addresses the symptom of crime while blissfully ignoring its cause. Until the town and state can address its causes, this problem will not go away.

I hope the Town Council will consider my thoughts before they decide to approve the resolution.

Regards,
Hunter Vooy
6 Oak Ridge Drive