

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2021  
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor J. Donohue, J. Henehan, P, Ahlquist,  
S. Fortenbach, A. Waters, J. Demetriades (via phone)

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Town Manager A. Salvatore, Director of Finance M. Sylvester,  
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.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

J. Donohue led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by P. Ahlquist and unanimously carried  
to approve the amended agenda as posted.

**D. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIASON REPORT/STAFF REPORTS**

1. Written report submitted by Board of Education liaison J. Matrullo.

**E. MAYOR'S UPDATE**

Mayor Faienza reported:

- He attended the Grand Opening of Lapels and Starbucks.
- The Long-Range Planning Committee will be meeting on Friday.
- He keeps in touch with area Mayors. Rep. Carpino submitted a bill regarding break-ins and car break-ins.
- Complemented the Health Department for the great job they are doing with the Covid vaccination process.

**F. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- All Staff is doing an excellent job, it is a team effort.
- The Health, Recreation, Library and Senior Services Departments are doing an outstanding job scheduling appointments for the COVID vaccinations that are held in Town Hall.
- He is nearing completion with the budget process; the Department Heads did a great job keeping their budgets lean. He pared down some items but service to the residents will continue.

- Asked for a consensus of the Council for emanate domain action at the corner of Geer and Main for connectivity of sidewalks. Resident is in favor; mortgage holder is not cooperating.  
The consensus of the Council was to move forward as long as property owner is not harmed by emanate domain and try to get mortgage holder to agree first.
- He is meeting with Town Managers from the 4 surrounding towns to come together to save money.
- He is following the Governor's Executive orders and if the protocols are eased up, working with the Health Department he may be able to open up the Town Buildings.

#### **G. FINANCIAL/FINANCE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

##### **1. Budget Reports**

Finance Director Sylvester submitted a written report

##### **2. Tax Refunds**

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve tax refunds 1 - 7.

##### **3. Discussion and possible action to approve request for the Expanded DUI Law Enforcement Grant.**

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve request for the Expanded DUI Law Enforcement Grant.

- a. Approve appropriation of \$10,620 from Capital Non-Recurring of which 100% will be reimbursed back to the Town.

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve appropriation of \$10,620 from Capital Non-Recurring of which 100% will be reimbursed back to the Town.

#### **H. CHIEF OF POLICE'S UPDATE**

Captain Sifodaskalakis presented Chief Lamontagne's written report:

- Commended Sgt. Kogut and Office Chater for helping an individual who had to exit the highway because of a flat tire. Letters of Recognition attached to minutes.

#### **I. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Public Works Director Spina reported:

- Some Projects are being delayed because of rough weather.
- They are working hard to get the Highway/Sewer Building open.
- Commended staff for submitting lean budgets.
- Payment Management Study slowed down due to recent snow storms.
- Kudos to staff for the effort they put forward with the snow storms.

#### **J. CITIZEN COMMENTS -Submitted to [mayor@cromwellct.com](mailto:mayor@cromwellct.com)**

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Grievance, Accrued Sick Leave Payment
  - a. NAGE, Non-Sworn Police, Step 3

The Union Representative and Grievant were 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 to deny the grievance: no second received

Motion made by A. Waters to uphold the grievance: no second received

*No action taken*

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the concept of a Trail Bike on Town Property.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments. After discussion the consensus of the Council was to have further discussion regarding this project and determine if the Town should consider constructing a trail bike course at Frisbee Landing Park. Town Manager Salvatore was asked to contact the Town of Rocky Hill for further information

3. Discussion and action to approve a waiver of the filing requirements for the deferral program this year for the 2020 Grand List.

Motion made by P. Ahlquist seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve a waiver of the filing requirements for the deferral program this year for the 2020 Grand List.

**L. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Regular Meeting, January 13, 2021

Motion made by P. Ahlquist seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of January 13, 2021.

**M. APPOINTMENTS**

1. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE (reappointments)

- a. Alice Henley, Term expires 2/23
- b. Carol Perry, Term expires 2/23
- c. Claire Serrantino, Term expires 2/23
- d. Bob VanDerzee, Term expires 2/23
- e. Sue Vanderzee, Term expires 2/23
- f. Erin Omicioli, Term expires 2/23

- g. Rev. Dolores Szyszko, Term expires 2/22
- h. Aigne Goldsby, Term expires 2/22
- i. Heather Dillon, Term expires 2/22
- j. Ann Grasso, Term expires 2/22
- k. Rahsaan Yearwood, Term expires 2/22
- l. Whitney Simmons, Term expires 2/22

Motion made by P. Ahlquist seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve appointments 1-l; with the caveat that the Council may remove individuals if there is a participation problem.

**2. SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION**

- 1. Bonnie Sprague, to fill a vacancy, term expires 4/21

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve appointing Ms. Sprague to fill a vacancy on the Senior Services Commission.

**N. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

J. Demetriades

P&Z discussion billboards

COG is working on a Regional Plan of Development

Cromwell Creative District working on virtual Coffee House.

A. Waters

Praised the Building Department for welcoming a tenant at Willowbrook Plaza.

Spoke about a strong propane gas odor coming from the Mattabassett.

**O. ADJOURN**

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Re Matus*

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Re Matus  
Secretary



# CROMWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*Denise Lamontagne*  
*Chief of Police*

## MEMO

**TO:** Sergeant William Kogut

**FROM:** Chief Denise Lamontagne *DL*

**SUBJECT:** Recognition

**DATE:** February 4, 2021

On February 2, 2021 I received a heartfelt letter from Mr. Ariel Lago who wished to extend his gratitude for the assistance you and Officer Ahmed Chater provided him on the evening of January 1, 2021 when his truck caught a flat and was forced to exit the highway in Cromwell.

Mr. Lago stated you arrived on scene with tools to help change his blown out tire and would not give up until he was back on the road safely. Mr. Lago was "blown away by the assistance these officers provided and they made sure I got home that night!"

Your professionalism has not gone unnoticed by the public or me. I want to thank you in representing the Cromwell Police Department in a positive manner and commend you on the impact you made on this person.

cc: Personnel Files




# CROMWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*Denise Lamontagne*  
*Chief of Police*

## MEMO

**TO:** Officer Ahmed Chater

**FROM:** Chief Denise Lamontagne 

**SUBJECT:** Recognition

**DATE:** February 4, 2021

On February 2, 2021 I received a heartfelt letter from Mr. Ariel Lago who wished to extend his gratitude for the assistance you and Sergeant William Kogut provided him on the evening of January 1, 2021 when his truck caught a flat and was forced to exit the highway in Cromwell.

Mr. Lago stated you were first on scene and described you as "kind, respectful and very professional." As roadside assistance was hours away, you helped to troubleshoot the problem, and got him the items he needed to change a flat. Mr. Lago was "blown away by the assistance these officers provided and they made sure I got home that night!"

Your professionalism has not gone unnoticed by the public or me. I want to thank you in representing the Cromwell Police Department in a positive manner and commend you on the impact you made on this person.

cc: Personnel Files