

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021  
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Also Present:** Town Manager A. Salvatore, Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Chief of Police D. Lamontagne, 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**

Mayor Faienza announced that Re's last day will be Friday. He expressed that she has been a wonderful asset to the Town of Cromwell, and she will be truly missed. He thanked her for everything she has done for the Town throughout her 36 years working for the Town. Town Manager Salvatore echoed Mayor Faienza's comments. Re Matus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Manager Salvatore introduced Amanda Calve as Re's replacement and informed the Council she will begin full time employment on June 28, 2021.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by J. Donahue and seconded by S. Fortenbach to amend the agenda with the removal of Lindsay Smolka's appointment and to add Agenda Item N. a. Executive Session to discuss the possibility of strategies in the sale of Town Property in the west end of town.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, A. Waters

Motion made by J. Demetraides and seconded by A. Waters to approve the agenda as amended.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, A. Waters. *Motion carried.*

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

LGBTQ Committee Chairman, Jacey Long of 138 Salem Drive read a statement asking the Town Council to create a rainbow crosswalk in Cromwell to celebrate Pride Month this June. Ms. Long provided the Town Council with several reasons why adding a Pride Crosswalk would be beneficial to the Town. Mayor Faienza informed the Council members that a letter in support of the Pride Crosswalk was received from the Youth Advisory Board.

Julius C. Neto, gave updates on the Board of Finance and the Fire District. He reported that the Fire district solicited feedback from voters regarding the budget process and are taking suggestions into consideration. Mr. Neto concluded his report with best wishes for Re in her retirement.

**E. MAYOR'S UPDATE**

Mayor Faienza reported:

- BOE Chairman submitted a letter for Mayor Faienza to read into the record as he was unable to attend the meeting due to the High School Graduation. BOE Chairman thanked the teachers, staff, the Town, and Town officials. He also thanked the Town for support of the Special Town Council meeting action item to fund renovations in the culinary kitchen at the High School.
- He had a conversation with the Director of Mattabassett regarding propane gas odor complaints. The Director indicated he had received Councilman Waters' complaints, checked the meters, and assured him they are trying their best and will be more attentive to the situation.
- Covenant Living had their Grand Opening.
- A Remembrance Ceremony took place last month to recognize the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's death. The event was coordinated by the Equity and Inclusion Committee.
- The Farmers Market is beginning Friday, June 11th at Frisbee Landing.
- The Cromwell Rock Hunt Event put on by the Cromwell Creative District, Arts Alliance, Children Coalition, and Central Connecticut Community Woman's Club was a huge success.
- Cromwell Division meets June 10<sup>th</sup> and will meet again in September.
- Visiting local businesses will begin again soon now that things are reopening.
- Pride Crosswalk - Town Manager Salvatore, the Chief of Police, and Councilman Demetriades weighed in on the Pride Crosswalk proposal. Due to safety, insurance, and the law, a discussion was held regarding alternate ideas to kick off Pride Month.

**F. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- We are getting back to normal, removing restrictions for individuals who have been vaccinated. The use of the building and meeting rooms for outside meetings will tentatively resume on July 1, 2021.
- Cromwell Landing is almost complete, waiting on benches for the gazebo and possible paving in the future.
- The Town applied for American Recovery Funding; the Finance Director will give the Council an update.
- In the process of the Building Analysis.
- Sidewalk project on north end of Main Street is moving forward.
- Red Lion was put out to bid, bids closed last Friday. Developers have been expressing interest.

- The Varsity Baseball Field was damaged by individuals using it after hours. The Public Works crew spent a day making it useable.
- A light was put at the fishing pier, and he encouraged others to visit.

A discussion between Town Manager Salvatore and Councilman Demetriades ensued regarding speeding on River Road. Town Manager Salvatore said he would have a discussion with the Police Chief and recommend an electronic speed sign be put up and enforcement be increased in the area.

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

1. Budget Reports - Finance Director Sylvester submitted a written report and presented it to the Town Council.

2. Tax Refunds

Motion made by A. Waters and **seconded** by J. Henahan to approve tax refunds 1-5.

In favor: P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan, A. Waters. *Motion carried.*

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

Chief Lamontagne submitted a written report and presented it to the Town Council.

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

Public Works Director Spina reported:

- New Facility - still waiting on permanent C.O. and still working on outstanding issues with vendor; arbitration or dispute resolution is anticipated.
- Cromwell Landing - several trees were removed because of Emerald Ash Borer, a gazebo was installed and topsoil was touched up for hydroseeding and plantings.
- Pavement Management update - Resurfacing of Sabethe, Alcap Ridge, Progress Drive and Kirby Road were completed last weekend. Curbing, backfill and seeding to begin soon.
- North Road Extension Culvert - punch list work continues.
- Coles Road - all work is complete. Currently in project close out with DOT.
- Geer and Main Street Sidewalks - They should close on the property this week. Comments from DOT have been received and they plan to bid soon.

**J. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Matt Brown, 7 Court Place informed the Council that he worked with LGBTQ Committee and with Jacey on the letter. He loved the idea of having a ceremony next year for Pride Month. He was eager to set up next steps to have the conversation and dialogue because this is important. He will reach out to the Town Manager to come up with a plan.

Matthew Long, 138 Salem Drive added to the previous speaker's comments. He mentioned that the Cromwell Creative District and the Arts Alliance will jointly cosponsor the cost of the ceremony and encouraged people to attend especially because it is free. He grew up in town and came out as asexual in high school. Many people including family members made comments and said hurtful things that stay with him to this day. He feels that it is important for people to know that people like him exist. He looks forward to the next steps in the process for planning an event/ceremony for Pride Month.

The Council took a 5-minute recess at 8:16 p.m.

The Meeting reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and action to approve 2021 Concert Schedule; use of COA Parking area.

**Motion** made by S. Fortenbach and **seconded** by J. Henehan to approve 2021 Concert Schedule and use of the CO Parking area.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, J.

**Abstained:** J. Demetriades, A. Waters.

**Motion carried.**

2. Discussion and action to approve the 2021 Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

**Motion** made by J. Donahue and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to Approve the 2021 Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, A. Waters. **Motion carried.**

3. I.U.O.E. Local #30 Grievance Step 3 (Section 6, Article 7)
  - a. David Cocchiola

The Union was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

The Town was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions of both sides.

**Motion** made by J. Henehan to take no action. No second. **Motion failed.**

**Motion** made by J. Demetriades and **seconded** by A. Waters for Grievance #4222021-3 that a supplemental interview be conducted by the panel with an additional question regarding "or equivalent combination education, training and experience" if it would change the outcome of the determination.

**In favor:** J. Demetriades, A. Waters

**Opposed:** P. Ahlquist, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan

**Motion failed.**

A lengthy discussion took place.

**Motion** made by P. Ahlquist and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to take no action and going forward, make a conservative effort to review job descriptions, hiring practices and policies as described in Section 7.02 of the Town Charter.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan.

**Opposed:** J. Demetriades, A. Waters

**Motion carried.**

4. I.U.O.E. Local #30 Grievance Step 3 (Section 6, Article 7)

a. Kevin McKnight

The Union was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

The Town was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions of both sides.

**Motion** made by P. Ahlquist and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to take no action and going forward, make a conservative effort to review job descriptions, hiring practices and policies as described in Section 7.02 of the Town Charter.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan.

**Opposed:** J. Demetriades, A. Waters

**Motion carried.**

5. I.U.O.E. Local #30 Grievance Step 3 (Section 6, Article 7)

a. Peter Stergos

The Union was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

The Town was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

Mr. Stergos presented his grievance to the Town Council.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions of both sides.

**Motion** made by P. Ahlquist and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to take no action and going forward, make a conservative effort to review job descriptions, hiring practices and policies as described in Section 7.02 of the Town Charter.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan.

**Opposed:** J. Demetriades, A. Waters

**Motion carried.**

6. I.U.O.E. Local #30 Grievance Step 3 (Section 6, Article 7)  
a. Mike Fuller

The Union was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

The Town was given the opportunity to present their side of the grievance.

Mr. Fuller presented his grievance to the Town Council.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions of both sides.

**Motion** made by P. Ahlquist and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to take no action and going forward, make a conservative effort to review job descriptions, hiring practices and policies as described in Section 7.02 of the Town Charter.

**Discussion:** J. Demetriades stated that his decision regarding this motion is based on Mr. Fuller having a lapsed certification.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan, A. Waters. **Motion carried.**

**L. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Regular Meeting, May 12, 2021

**Motion** made by J. Donahue and **seconded** by J. Henahan to approve the minutes of May 12, 2021.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan, A. Waters. **Motion carried.**

**M. APPOINTMENTS**

1. LGBTQ+ Committee  
a. Jacey Long  
b. Maria Pavlick  
c. Molly Sayles  
d. Steve St. Onge  
e. Students (names withheld)

- f. Thomas Foran
- g. Matthew Brown
- h. Linda Smolka

**Motion** made by J. Donahue and **seconded** by J. Henehan to approve appointments a-g.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, A. Waters. ***Motion carried.***

- 2. Cromwell Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
  - a. Jennifer Beck

**Motion** made by A. Waters and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to approve Ms. Beck's appointment.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, A. Waters. ***Motion carried.***

- 3. Youth Advisory Board
  - a. Katie Barber
  - b. Bella Barber
  - c. Kym Banton
  - d. Linda Haddad
  - e. Maggie Shufer
  - f. Suzanne Rutner
  - g. Whitney Simmons

**Motion** made by A. Waters and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to approve appointments a-g.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, A. Waters. ***Motion carried.***

**N. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Discuss the possibility of strategies in the sale of Town Property in the west end of town.

**Motion** made by P. Ahlquist and **seconded** by J. Henehan to table Item N.(a) Executive Session to the Regular Meeting scheduled for July.

**In favor:** P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan, A. Waters. ***Motion carried.***

**O. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- Councilman Waters is disheartened and disappointed in Mother Nature because of the impact on Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade and mentioned other Memorial Day events he was able to participate in.
- Travelers Championship - the attendance is reduced this year, not as many hospitality suites, normalcy likely will not return until next year.
- A Sponsorship Award was applied for and awarded the ADA Coalition of CT for up to \$500.
- Diversity, Equity Inclusion discussion regarding whether short-term and long-term plans were in place.

**P. ADJOURN**

Motion made by J. Donahue and **seconded** by J. Demetriades to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:09 p.m.

In favor: P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Donahue, E. Faienza, S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan, A. Waters. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Calve  
Secretary