

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
41 WEST STREET, CROMWELL, CT 06416  
July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**


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**Present:** Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor J. Donohue, P. Ahlquist, J. Demetriades, J. Henahan, 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.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
Jul 20, 2021 11:16A  
JoAnn Doyle  
TOWN CLERK  
CROMWELL, CT 

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Town Council stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion** made by A. Waters and **seconded** by J. Henahan to approve the Town Council Regular Meeting Agenda of July 14, 2021.

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

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

Board of Education Chairman Matrullo reported:

- They are almost finished closing out the end of the Fiscal Year. They have a surplus of approximately \$3,000 - \$4,000. He will be asking the Board of Finance to move the surplus to the CNR Fund.
- Kitchen renovations at the High School are on track to be completed by the Fall.
- They are preparing for the new school year and waiting on further guidance regarding masks.

**E. MAYOR'S UPDATE**

Mayor Faienza reported:

- The Council is looking for people to serve on the Charter Revision Commission. So far they have one candidate.
- He was on the panel for the 2022 Revaluation. They are down to two firms. Interviews will be held next week.
- Economic Development continues on a good scale. There are many businesses open. He plans to talk with Town Planner Stuart Popper and Town Manager Salvatore about business visitations. He will invite the Chief

of Police, and members of the Town Council and Economic Development commission to visit businesses.

- He received many questions regarding the rainfall in the last two weeks. He understands it has been a tough time for residents and assured the residents that the Town has been doing everything they can and have been in contact with the Nike Site contractor to help mitigate the rain impacts.
- There are going to be some cool events happening with the Cromwell Creative District; Councilman Demetriades will elaborate on some of the events.
- The Farmers' Market is still happening weekly.
- Parks and Recreation has upcoming concerts and movie nights scheduled.
- He complemented the Town Staff for coming in during COVID as the Town Hall remained open.

#### **F. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- Staff has done an outstanding job, employees have been at their posts everyday throughout the pandemic. He received many compliments from other towns.
- There has been flooding throughout the last couple of weeks. He provided the Town Council with photographs of a catch basin. There was a large amount of debris in the catch basin and the Public Works crew were able to remove the debris. This is believed to be the reason for the flooding at the Police Department. Public Works worked hard to help clean the Police Department including borrowing a vacuum from the City of Middletown.
- The Town is looking into the issues caused by the rainstorms on Cedar and Coles Road. They are looking into past occurrences to see if there are any changes the town can make to minimize these impacts in the future.
- Town Planner Stuart Popper and ZEO Bruce Driska issued fines for not containing the rain water onsite to minimize the impacts.
- He is aware of the flooding on Franklin Road and Chelsea Drive from the first storm.
- Nooks Hill Road was impacted from the second storm. DEEP is investigating the discharge. There is an old culvert there from the 1800s and there was petroleum-based substance found in the water.
- They are going to be looking into design and funding in the near future for Shadow Lane.
- The Highway Facility was in a dispute with a contractor regarding the project to combine DPW and WPCA into one facility. We are being sued and are going before a judge at the end of July.
- CIRMA came to visit today. We received a \$53,420 Members' Equity Distribution Check. We have received one every year for the past 9 years.
- Cromwell Landing is complete. The gazebo and benches have been installed. He recently requested the Public Works Director have a grill installed. In the

Fall the Town plans to pave the trails from the parking lot to the pier and to the gazebo.

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

**1. Tax Refunds**

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

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

**2. Discussion and Action to approve the following interdepartmental transfers:**

To: Legal Fees - \$15,000

To: Central Services - \$12,000

To: Town Clerk's Department - \$3,500

From: Employee Benefits – \$30,500

**Motion** made by S. Fortenbach and **seconded** by A. Waters to approve \$30,500 in transfers from Employee Benefits to Legal Fees, Central Services, and Town Clerk's Department.

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

**3. Establish separate fund for American Rescue Plan Act to facilitate accurate reporting of revenue and expenditures attributable to these resources.**

**Motion** made by J. Donohue and **seconded** by J. Henahan to establish a separate fund for American Rescue Plan Act to facilitate accurate reporting of revenue and expenditures attributable to these resources.

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

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

Police Chief LaMontagne submitted a written report and read it to the Town Council.

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

Public Works Director Lou Spina reported:

- A permanent CO has not yet been issued for the new facility. Two issues still need to be addressed.
- Geer and Main Street Sidewalks went out to bid.

- Main Street retaining wall went out to bid.
- Shadow Lane dam - preliminary drawing is complete. They plan to advance drawings to construction bid documents soon.

**J. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Deirdre Daly of 63 Geer Street stated that she and her family have lived in Cromwell for over 150 years and she does not know why the Town is putting in sidewalks on the south side of Geer Street. She felt as though homeowners should have been able to provide input first. She was told that there is going to be a light industrial park in that area. She expressed that she is not in favor of sidewalks because it creates a hardship for seniors because they now have the responsibility of clearing snow from them in winter months.

Monika Grylls of 65 Geer Street echoed the previous speaker's comments. She sees the land on Geer Street being surveyed and felt that the Geer Street residents are losing their front yards and their view if the light industrial park goes in. She informed the Council that she moved here from Hartford to get out of the city; she likes the community, the closeness, and the land. She would like the feelings and opinions of the residents considered.

The Town Council recessed the meeting at 7:56 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

1. I.U.O.E. Local #30 Grievance #5252021-1 Step 3 (Article 7, Section 3)
  - a. Daniel Taylor

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 deny the grievance because it does not violate the contract.

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

***Motion carried.***

**Discussion:** Councilman Waters stated he was surprised that there is nothing in the contract that stated that if an employee has to be on call 24/7 that they would be allowed to take a vehicle home.

2. I.U.O.E. Local #30 Grievance #5252021-2 Step 3 (Article 7, Section 3)
  - a. Daniel Taylor

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 deny the grievance as it does not constitute a violation of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

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

***Motion carried.***

3. NIPSEU Local Grievance #21-03 Step 2 (Article 14, Section 3)
  - a. Cromwell Police Union

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 S. Fortenbach and **seconded** by J. Henehan to deny the grievance on the grounds that it does not meet the level of a grievance.

S. Fortenbach **rescinded** his motion. P. Ahlquist **rescinded** his second.

**Motion** made by S. Fortenbach and **seconded** by J. Henehan to deny the grievance as there was no contract violation.

**In favor:** E. Faienza, J. Demetriades, J. Donohue, J. Henehan, S. Fortenbach, A. Waters.

**Abstained:** P. Ahlquist

***Motion carried.***

**Discussion:** Councilman Waters had a difficult time understanding how the situation constituted an "emergency" when there was a couple of days notice.

4. Discussion and possible action creating an Events Committee/creating a unified Town Calendar

A brief discussion was held. The Council felt this would be an ideal project for a High School Junior or Senior as a community service requirement. Councilman Fortenbach suggested he would discuss the idea with the High School Principal and would also present it to the Board of Education as he is the liaison.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding Request for Waiver of Bid Requirements for Approved Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project.

**Motion** made by J. Donohue and **seconded** by J. Henahan to waive the bid requirements for the approved Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project – Phase V.

Councilman Waters left the room at 9:35 p.m.

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

**L. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** made by J. Donohue and **seconded** by S. Fortenbach to approve the June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

**M. RESIGNATIONS**

None.

**N. APPOINTMENTS**

**1. Mattabassett District**

- a. Doug Sienna

**Motion made** S. Fortenbach and **seconded** J. Henahan to appoint Doug Sienna to the Mattabassett District.

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

**O. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- Councilman Demetriades informed the Council that the Cromwell Creative District is having a color run at Pierson Park on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. followed by a Block Party with food trucks and entertainment. He added that Town staff have been very helpful.
- Councilman Demetriades informed the Council that the Cromwell Creative District finished the sensory mural. He was pleased to see kids playing on it. He thanked the Council for approving the project.
- Councilman Waters informed the Council that the American Legion members are talking about having a gathering to honor those who have active duty military family members.

Motion **made** J. Donohue and **seconded** S. Fortenbach to go into Executive Session at 9:41 p.m.

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

**P. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion **made** by S. Fortenbach and **seconded** by J. Donohue to come out of Executive Session at 9:55 p.m.

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

Motion **made** by S. Fortenbach and **seconded** by J. Henahan to authorize the Town Manager to sell 15R Christian Hill Road.

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

**Q. ADJOURN**

Motion **made** J. Donohue and **seconded** P. Ahlquist to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Calve  
Secretary