

TOWN OF CROMWELL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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JOAN AHLQUIST
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT *XC*

MINUTES

Present: Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor R. Newton, F. Emanuele, A. Waters,
J. Demetriades, M. Johnson

Absent: S. Slade

Also Present: Town Manager A. Salvatore, Chief of Police D. Lamontagne, Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Director of Public Works L. Spina, Director Planning and Development/EDC Coordinator S. Popper, Health Coordinator S. Nesci, Town Labor Attorney K. Weinstock Public And Press

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Al Waters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Faienza added the following item:

New Business #5. Discussion and action to approve Educational Assistance request from Sgt. Parsons.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve amending the agenda.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve the agenda as amended.

(The New Business items order was changed)

D. NEW BUSINESS

3. Grievances - NIPSEU (to be voted on separately)

a. Sgt. Ryan Bengtson

Union President P. Pietraroia presented for the Union

Chief D. Lamontagne presented for the Town.

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

Motion made by F. Emanuele seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried* to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m., for the purpose of discussion.

Town Manager Salvatore and Town Labor Attorney K. Weinstock were invited into Executive Session.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to come out of Executive Session at 8:26 p.m.

Mr. Newton stated that the Council feels that you deserve a lot of credit for standing up for this and not lying or trying to conceal it. They also feel that a mistake was made because the situation wasn't properly assessed.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *carried* to maintain the one day suspension, execution suspended, and after six months reduced to a written reprimand.

Aye: M. Johnson, E. Faienza, R. Newton, F. Emanuele, J. Demetriades

Nay: A. Waters

Motion carried

b. Officer Pam Young

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *carried* to deny the grievance.

Aye: M. Johnson, E. Faienza, R. Newton, F. Emanuele

Nay: J. Demetriades, A. Waters

Motion carried

Mayor Faienza called for a short recess 8:28 p.m. - 8:33 p.m.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve updating Food Service Establishments Chapter 137.

S. Nesci presented the item.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *carried* to approve the ordinance change.

Aye: M. Johnson, A. Waters, E. Faienza, R. Newton, F. Emanuele

Nay: J. Demetriades

Motion carried

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Tax Abatement for 40 Commerce Drive.

Item presented by Stuart Popper. Mr. Ronald Berggren, owner and applicant was introduced to the Council.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve the Tax Abatement for 40 Commerce Drive, for two years at 100%.

2. Discussion and action, Town of Cromwell Sewer Line Easement Removal, 38R Timber Hill Road.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried* to approve the Town of Cromwell Sewer Line Easement removal for 38 R. Timber Hill Road.

5. Discussion and action to approve Educational Assistance request from Sgt. Parsons.

Chief Lamontagne presented the item.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve up to \$1,000 reimbursement for each seven week semester beginning March 2019 (capped at \$10,000 per Fiscal Year).

E. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIASON REPORT/STAFF REPORTS

1. EDC Report for March 2019
2. Board of Education Liaison P. Sousa presented updates regarding recent activities.

F. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

G. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Faienza reported:

- Next Monday he along with Deputy Mayor Newton and Town Manager Salvatore will be meeting with the Fire Dist to continue their discussion of finding ways to come together to bring savings to our residents.
- Since several Councilors are not available for the April Meeting, he proposed holding a Special Council Meeting on April 24th.
- He attended a planning meeting today regarding vaping seminars that will be held on April 22nd and April 29th. He and Representative Carpino brought the topic forward and Health Coordinator S. Nesci and Youth Services Administrator K. Puorro are working on the presentation.
- He will be adding Fawn Run back to the agenda because of petitions received by area residents in favor of the project. It is only fair to hear from both sides and then a decision can be made.
- The ground-breaking at Covenant Village was a wonderful event. He and Town Manager Salvatore attending both sessions.
- The Cromwell Division will meet at Mizzo Asian tomorrow at 8 a.m.

H. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- M. Sylvester and J. Harriman were commended for the presentation at Monday evening's Special Town Meeting regarding the Public Works Facility.
- M. Sylvester will address three budget concerns during her update.
- The closing on 1 Community Field Road to 313 Main Street will be tomorrow.
- The Fire District will be displaying information regarding the Public Works Facility Referendum on their electronic signs and website.
- A Council of Governments (COG) Hazardous Household Waste Collection will be held at Woodside Intermediate School on July 20th.

- Due to questions regarding the cost of a space needs study, during the budget process, he advised that the study for the Belden Library cost \$22,275.46 in 2007 and the study for the Senior Study cost \$24,120.40 in 2009.

I. CHIEF OF POLICE'S UPDATE

Chief Lamontagne reported:

- Handed out statistics for February 2019
- Officer Hennessey is in his last phase of his FTO
- Officer Dean and Officer Chater are graduating on March 27, 2019
- Officer Lima is doing well, graduating June 2019
- Officer Dean while off duty this past weekend performed CPR on a pedestrian struck by a motor vehicle in Stonington.
- Dispatcher Kosky should be on his own next month
- Promotional ceremony for Officer McCarter to Sergeant on March 27, 2019. Officer Chater will be introduced as well (he did not have a ceremony prior to going to academy)
- Det. Pietrarola is working with multiple jurisdictions on two break-ins we had at local businesses. This is a similar circumstance in other jurisdictions.

J. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR UPDATE

Director of Public Works L. Spina reported:

- Pavement Management - state low bids for paving have just been awarded earlier this week. It looks like it will be Gallasso Construction again. Since they did a great job for us last year, I look forward to working with them again.
- Spring Programming - have asked the town manager's office to post for seasonal staffing for the upcoming season.
- Spring/Street Cleanup - now that the snow appears to be disappearing; I will sit with the highway Foreman and plan a start date for sweeping the town. We have already begun patching the potholes that are appearing and I will also have them pickup damaged curbing and repair as soon as plants open in April.
- Library Expansion - Steel work continues. Interior work is scheduled to begin in April. This will cause sectional closing within the certain parts of building.

K. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director of Finance M. Sylvester reported:

1. Budget Reports

- Budget reports included in the agenda packet reflect activity through the end of February 2019.
- A couple areas of concern have developed:
 - The Registrar of Voters budget looks like it will have a deficit of approximately \$5,000-\$7,000.
 - Legal Expense budget will need a transfer due to higher than anticipated costs.

- Senior Services and Transportation have been hit with a couple personnel matters that could impact their bottom line.
- I am watching these areas closely however we do have a couple of areas that should have a sufficient surplus to cover the deficits, including Insurance and Employee Benefits.

L. FINANCIAL

1. Tax Refunds

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to approve 1 - 14.

2. Discussion and action to approve Other Fund Budgets for FY 2019/20.

a. Dog Fund - \$24,024

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried* to approve \$24,024.

b. Sidewalk Fund - \$7,500

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to approve \$7,500.

3. Authorize the Mayor to set the date/time for a special town meeting for all four special revenue funds (Dog License Fund, Sidewalk Fund, Sewer Usage Fund and Sewer Assessment Fund).

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to authorize the Mayor to set the date/time for a special town meeting for all four special revenue funds.

4. Discussion and action on any unfinished 2019-20 budget matters.

None

M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting, February 13, 2019

Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by A. Waters and *carried* to approve the minutes of February 13, 2019.

Aye: M. Johnson, A. Waters, E. Faienza, R. Newton, J. Demetriades

Abstained: F. Emanuele (was unable to attend the meeting)

2. Special Meeting, Budget Workshop, March 4, 2019

Motion made by F. Emanuele seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of March 4, 2019.

N. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

M. Johnson - Redevelopment

A. Waters -Historical Society & Hartford Saint Patrick's Day Parade

E. Faienza -Redevelopment

R. Newton -CWPCA
F. Emanuele -Board of Education
J. Demetriades -Planning & Zoning

O. ADJOURN

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried*
to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Re Matus

Re Matus
Secretary