

TOWN OF CROMWELL  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 6, 2018  
6:00 P.M. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Present: Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor R. Newton, F. Emanuele, S. Slade (arrived at 6:09 p.m.), J. Demetriades, A. Waters, M. Johnson

Absent:

Also Present, Town Manager A. Salvatore, Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Human Resources Coordinator B. Price, Labor Attorney K. Weinstock, Chief D. Lamontagne

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Faienza called the Special Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Strategy and Negotiations
  - a. Union Contract - Town Hall Union UPSEU Local 424 -Unit 33
  - b. Action if necessary
2. Strategy and discussion, Real Estate acquisition, as recommended by Redevelopment Agency.
  - a. Action if necessary
3. Strategy and discussion, Sale of Town Properties.
  - a. Action if necessary

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:08 p.m., for items 1. Strategy and Negotiations, Union Contract -Town Hall Union UPSEU Local 424 -Unit 33.

2. Strategy and discussion, Real Estate acquisition. 3. Strategy and discussion, Sale of Town Properties.

Town Manager Salvatore, Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Human Resources Coordinator B. Price and Attorney K. Weinstock were invited into Executive Session for item 1. (S. Slade arrived and joined the Executive Session)

Town Manager Salvatore was invited into Executive Session for items 2 and 3.

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to come out of Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

Action item #1

Union Contract - Town Hall Union UPSEU Local 424 -Unit 33

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *carried* to ratify the pending contract with the UPSEU Local 424 -Unit 33.

Aye: A. Waters, S. Slade, E. Faienza, R. Newton, F. Emanuele, J. Demetriades

Nay: M Johnson

*Motion carried*

Action item #2.

Real Estate acquisition

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by S. Slade and *unanimously carried* to authorize Town Manager to negotiate for purchase of property we are currently leasing from Mr. Zgorski at 1 Community Field Road.

Action item #3.

*No action taken*

**C. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Faienza reported:

- Sent letter to Fire District (copy in packet) requesting a meeting to discuss combining efforts for a cost savings to the residents.  
J. Demetriades suggested that the Fire District Budget be presented at the same time as the Town Budget. F. Emanuele would like the Fire District Meetings streamed as we do for the Town Council Meetings. A short discussion followed, the Council would like see the Fire District's activities more transparent.
- The Pension Committee is meeting at the end of the month.
- The Chamber Division is meeting tomorrow.
- Mayor Faienza distributed a letter that was sent to M. Johnson. The letter signed by the Council Members was made part of the record and is attached to the minutes. The purpose of the letter was in the hopes of finding common ground and the Council being able to work together.  
M. Johnson took exception to the letter and requested a public hearing to refute these accusations that stating in his opinion; most of these accusations are not true.  
A lengthy discussion followed where each member of the Council was given the opportunity to speak.

**D. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- Health Director Wes Bell announced that he intends to retire at the end of the year. Several options are being considered to replace the position.
- Youth Services Coordinator Eric Richardson submitted his resignation and will leave the end of this month. He was recalled by the State. His resignation was accepted with great regret.

- The senior's approached him and would like to reinstate the Senior Store.
- They did a pre-bid walk through in the Library.
- The Tax Office has been very busy and they are doing a great job.
- He had a resident inquire about the Fire District charging private developments for flushing the hydrants out yearly. He was reminded that the Board of Selectmen passed an ordinance giving the district the authority to charge. It may take an ordinance change to include the amount of the fee.
- There will be an additional concert at Frisbee Park on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Frisbee Park was leveled and will be reseeded.
- Economically we have a lot of things going on; the P&Z agenda includes:
  - Another Hotel is being proposed next to Liberty Bank on 372
  - Covenant Village to greatly expand
  - Coffee Shop next to Baci that everyone will enjoy
  - Another Hotel next to Quality Inn
  - A medical marijuana clinic at the Xfinity building
  - applications are in for an additional 60 apartments at the Nike site
  - Arco/Scannell is going full ahead with their project; we are told we will be extremely pleased with the tenant
  - Frontier messed us up with the Willowbrook project; they are hopeful that soon they will have completed work that was scheduled a year ago.
  - North Road Culvert project is on schedule

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and action to approve use of parking lot leased by the Cromwell Outboard Association for concert on August 29, 2018.

A. Waters felt that the COA should be asked to approve use by the town instead of being informed that the town is going to use the property.

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by S. Slade and *carried* to approve use of parking lot leased by the Cromwell Outboard Association for concert on August 29, 2018.

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

Nay: A. Waters

*Motion carried*

2. Discussion and action to approve Resolution Supporting Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program.

**Motion** made by J. Demetriades seconded by S. Slade and *unanimously carried* to approve Resolution Supporting Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program (attached to the minutes).

#### **F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Regular Meeting July 11, 2018.

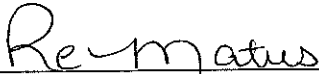
**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *carried* to approve the minutes of July 11, 2018 as corrected. M. Johnson stated he did not give his consent to move forward with moving the Public Works Facility Project to a design and build. (Town Engineer/Assistant Public Works Direct Report)

Aye: M. Johnson, A. Waters, E. Faienza, R. Newton, J. Demetriades  
Abstained: S. Slade, F. Emanuele (unable to attend this meeting)  
*Motion carried*

G. **ADJOURN**

**Motion** made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried*  
to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Re Matus  
Secretary

Town of Cromwell

Resolution Supporting Participation  
In the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents. And they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

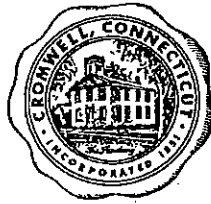
WHEREAS, the Town of Cromwell embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Cromwell that we do hereby authorize Town Manager to serve as the Town of Cromwell's Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize him to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of the Town of Cromwell.

RESOLVED, that to focus attention and effort within the Town of Cromwell on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote Town Council's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, Town Council establishes an advisory Sustainability Team (the Town Council shall designate the Conservation Commission to serve as a Sustainability Team).

RESOLVED, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly.

RESOLVED, that the Sustainability Team shall report annually to the Town Council on the progress of its activities toward Sustainable CT certification, with reports and presentations made publicly available.



## Town of Cromwell

### Town Council

Nathaniel White Building  
41 West Street  
Cromwell, CT 06416

July 27, 2018

Certified Mail: 7015 3010 0001 8278 3066

Myron Johnson  
16 Pleasant Street  
Cromwell, CT 06416

& Mailed USPS General Delivery 7/27/18

Dear Councilor Johnson:

We write to address an untenable situation that has arisen regarding your conduct as a Council member for the Town of Cromwell. In particular, we are in receipt of complaints that you have interfered with the work of Town staff and we have personally witnessed your disruption during public meetings. This letter is intended as a final attempt to garner your cooperation before more drastic measures to obtain your compliance become necessary.

As noted above, we have been informed that you have maligned, improperly challenged or otherwise harassed Town staff in the exercise of their duties for the Town. Indeed, the complaints we have received indicate that you have violated section 2.05(b) of the Town Charter in that you have directly interfered with staff in disparaging them publically and/or in going to department supervisors and challenging their and their staff's conduct as Town employees. It is inappropriate for you to directly engage in discussions with department supervisors and staff in any matter relating to their employment, including the conduct of their duties with the Town. The relevant section of the Charter provides:

**Interference with Administration.** Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under Section 2.08, the Council and its members shall deal with the Town officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the Town Manager solely through the Town Manager, and neither the Council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

Accordingly, we request that you comply with the Town's Charter and direct all inquiries regarding Town staff through the Town Manager. We also request that you refrain from disparaging or otherwise challenging any Town employee's conduct, work ethic or job performance without proceeding through proper and legal channels. Persistence with your inappropriate behavior with respect to Town staff could subject the Town to liability for grievances, slander and libel.


In addition, your interference during Council meetings also has become very problematic. At times you have made inappropriate comments to Council Members and this is not acceptable. Please note that the Town of Cromwell Council and all of its boards and commissions conduct their public meetings in accordance with parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order, in particular. Accordingly, it is expected that every Council member will adhere to those rules and act in a proper and respectful manner towards Town staff and each other.

Chief among those parliamentary rules is awaiting your turn to speak until recognized by the Mayor and ceasing to speak when told it is time to move on. You must respect that the Council's time to conduct its necessary business is not limitless and administrative questions should be addressed, in the first instance, through the Town Manager rather than during Council meetings. Although the Council has been very lenient in allowing you excessive time to query staff during the public meetings, your use of that time to berate and criticize staff and other Council members is not productive or appropriate and will no longer be tolerated.

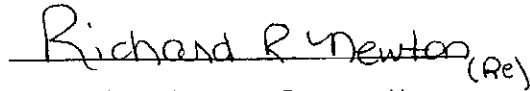
Most recently, your disruptive behavior during an executive session resulted in the Council being unable to address all of its agenda items. This is not acceptable. It is a disservice to the public when you prevent the Council from addressing Town business and inconsiderate of the time your behavior usurps from your fellow Council members and staff.

Accordingly, please be advised that the Council expects you to conduct yourself with decorum and in accordance with the Council's rules and the Town Charter. Your failure to do so will result in sanctions, including but not limited to, censure and possible ejection from the meetings.

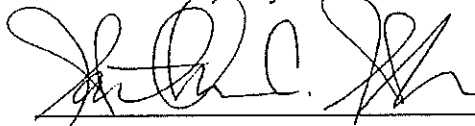
Sincerely,



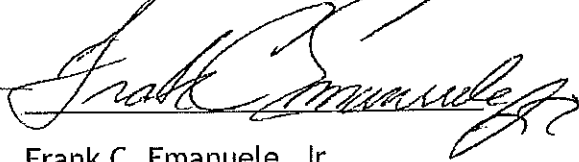
Enzo Faienza, Mayor



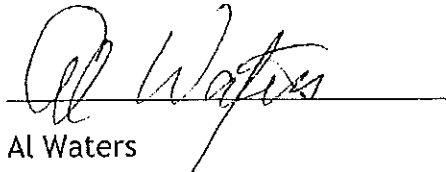
Richard R. Newton, Deputy Mayor



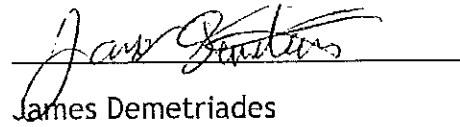
Samantha C. Slade



Frank C. Emanuele, Jr.



Al Waters



James Demetriades

c: Anthony Salvatore, Town Manager  
Re Matus, Senior Executive Assistant  
Kari L. Olson, Town Attorney