

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019**

The Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick in the Enfield Room of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 5:50 p.m.

ROLL-CALL - Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Davis, Deni, Ludwick, Muller, Szewczak and Unghire. Councilor Bosco was absent. Also present were Town Manager Christopher Bromson, Acting Town Attorney Maria Elsdon, Assistant Town Attorney Mark Cerrato, Director of Finance John Wilcox, Supervisor of Assessment and Revenue Della Froment, Director of Development Services Lauren Whitten, Town Clerk Suzanne Olechnicki.

MOTION #4842 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Cressotti to go into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation and Real Estate.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4842** adopted 8-0-0 and the meeting stood recessed at 5:51 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick at 5:52 p.m.

ROLL-CALL - Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Davis, Deni, Ludwick, Muller, Szewczak and Unghire. Councilor Bosco was absent. Also present were Town Manager Christopher Bromson, Acting Town Attorney Maria Elsdon, Assistant Town Attorney Mark Cerrato, Director of Finance John Wilcox, Supervisor of Assessment and Revenue Della Froment, Director of Development Services Lauren Whitten, Town Clerk Suzanne Olechnicki.

Chairman Ludwick recessed the Executive Session at 6:15 p.m., reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:14 p.m. and stated that during Executive Session, Pending Litigation and Real Estate was discussed with no action or votes being taken.

The Special Meeting moved to the Council Chambers.

Additional staff members present – Director of Public Works Donald Nunes

OPERA HOUSE PLAYERS

Present from the Opera House Players were Susan Choquette, Harry Evageliou and Joshua Hamre

Mr. Bromson stated this evening's Regular Meeting agenda includes a renewal of a lease that the Town entered into with the Opera House Players. He noted the current lease just lapsed, and the Town Attorney's office has been negotiating with them to renew that lease for up to two years. He noted he wanted the Opera House Players to focus on fundraising efforts and future goals. He stated it's being recommended the lease be renewed, and he believes they will be a great asset to Thompsonville and the town.

Ms. Choquette stated in November they performed their first production, which was Beauty and the Beast, and this was performed at the Annex. She noted this was a very successful production running four weekends, instead of their usual three weekends with over 2,000 tickets being sold. She noted their next show opening in about a month is “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”. She stated their final show this season will be in May, and that production will be “Newsies”. She noted they’re in the process of selecting the shows for their next season. She stated they would like to have some events at the High Street location and at least to do some smaller fundraising events, smaller concerts, etc.

Ms. Choquette then showed renovation plans for the High Street location.

Mr. Evageliou spoke about funding. He noted they will pursue major contributors such as the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, which can donate as much as \$300,000 to \$400,000, and they will pursue many other smaller contributors. He stated last year he applied for a grant from the National Endowment of Humanities, however, they did not get that grant because they didn’t have enough plans, budgets, etc., however they do now. He noted he received word from their Congressman’s office that they’re opening up that grant again, and they can donate as much as \$750,000. He stated Congressman Joe Courtney is visiting with them on January 24th to discuss with them various ways they can obtain funding.

Mr. Evageliou stated Mark Gahr and the Department of Public Works has been very helpful in finding a place for their productions.

Ms. Choquette stated they are trying to do as much as possible within the community, i.e., having events at the mall and the public library.

Mr. Bromson stated he’s very enthusiastic they will be successful and contributing to the life and culture of Enfield.

Chairman Ludwick suggested looking at the Bloomberg grant, and Ms. Choquette stated they are looking at that grant.

Mr. Hamre stated as of 2019, he is the Events Coordinator, and he will be responsible for coordinating events to be happening at the High Street location. He noted they will also be looking to bring in events in between the shows to make as much use of the High Street location as possible.

Mr. Bromson stated this presentation will be posted on the Town’s website tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #4843 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Deni to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4843** adopted 8-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:57 p.m.