

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Cressotti on Monday, August 8, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

PRAYER – The Prayer was given by Councilor Pyznar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini (virtual), Pyznar, Santanella, and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT – Mayor Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6317 by Councilor Pyznar, seconded by Councilor Despard to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6317** adopted 10-0-0.

MOTION #6318 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Despard to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6318** adopted 10-0-0.

MOTION #6319 by Councilor Pyznar, seconded by Councilor Despard to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6319** adopted 9-0-1 with Councilor Ludwick abstaining.

SPECIAL GUESTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Mr. Young brought watched the July Regular Meeting. He stated that it now seems as if there will not be a new or revised procedure in place by September for those that want to have their assessments

reviewed. He feels this is unfair to the taxpayers and the reviewers. He also wanted to know when unregistered motor vehicles will be put on the tax roll and spoke of homeowners paying for fire districts while renters do not.

Ken Brennan, Tire Country

Mr. Brennan stated that he received in the mail a random personal property tax audit for his business. He has been in business for 37 years with over 100,000 customers. He would like to know the policies and procedures for a random audit. The letter was asking for things that should be none of the town's business.

Emily McIntosh, 11 Arbor Road

Ms. McIntosh spoke concerning having a Board of Ed liaison as part of Enfield Culture and Arts Commission. She feels there is no longer a need for a liaison since the \$30,000 has been taken away for ECAC. There should be no vote on the liaison until ECAC meets again in September and because there are only 3 members left on the commission because the rest have walked away.

Mark Durfee, Charnley Road

Mr. Durfee said that he is a veteran, and his wife is disabled, and he filled out paperwork for a reduction and that form asked if he wanted it applied to his house or cars. He wanted it applied to his cars. There was a mistake last year and it was misapplied and had to be straightened out. This year the same thing happened, and he was told the tax collector has decided that all reductions would apply to your home. He was not notified that this could happen.

Lisa Ellis, Green Valley Drive

Ms. Ellis stated that she has been a member of the AFSCME Local 1029 Union for 30 years. The union and the town worked hard to negotiate the contract that will be considered tonight. The contract was ratified by a five to one margin.

Attorney William Shapiro, representing Mr. Kevin Reilly and Mr. Michael Olschafskie

Mr. Shapiro stated that Mr. Reilly owns the property at 14 Pleasant Street and Mr. Olschafskie the property at 12 Pleasant Street. He has had discussions with Attorneys Tallberg and Cerrato and have been somewhat productive but have received no information to date about what is going on. He has not been informed of the name of the demolition company and he is unclear where the property lines are. There needs to be a line of communication because right now they are left in the dark.

Kevin Reilly, 14 Pleasant Street

Mr. Reilly thanked Councilor Ludwick for going to his property to hear what his concerns are. He stated that they came today and blocked his right of way, and his tenants could not get in. There was a truck parked in the right of way. A fence was put up and now he has people walking through his property and asked if he would be given an insurance rider to protect him from the pedestrian traffic. Nothing has been done to settle this issue and no one responds to his attorney.

Gary Young, Abbe Road

Mr. Young stated that there is a concern with traffic laws being ignored on Abbe Road. There are many dangerous intersections and there have been many accidents over the past 6 months. His district does not have representation to help with concerns after the unfortunate passing of the district's councilor. Abbe Road is a residential street, not a highway.

John Unghire, 271 Abbe Road

Mr. Unghire stated that he comes before the council as a concerned District 1 resident. There were several republicans who expressed interest in the position. The goal of the Enfield Republican Town Committee candidate review board was to find a candidate who best met the requirements, like residing in District 1, and someone who aligned most with the ideals exemplified by Joey Bosco. One candidate met all the criteria. That candidate was Jim Nasuta.

When he was presented to this council, he was not appointed. It is his understanding that he was not appointed because a couple democratic councilors did not like his answers to political questions. The seat being filled is republican seat, not democrat. As a District 1 resident, the council has an obligation and duty to fill the District 1 seat. The voters are not pleased that the seat remains vacant.

Rob Kwasnicki, 123 Wynwood Drive

Mr. Kwasnicki stated that he had the opportunity to show a business associate around Enfield. She was quite surprised to see that Enfield is so much more than shopping. He said he just wanted to share that Enfield has a tremendous amount to offer families and businesses.

Mr. Kwasnicki would like to see Jim Nasuta on the council.

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

Mr. Jonaitis said that Mr. Unghire gave a very inspirational talk about District 1 Councilor position, followed up with Mr. Kwasnicki. Individuals living in District 1 have no one to go to. The excuse the democrats keep bringing up is the Arnone thing. Anyone that voted no for Jim Nasuta can call for a re-vote. He asked for the seat to be filled; the democrats still have a huge majority.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Mr. Young asked why we have to pay a lump sum for motor vehicle taxes if it is over \$100. Other towns do split it up. He also said the taxpayers need to know how and when veterans submit for their reduction. Mr. Young mentioned that he has not seen a PAR report published since June 16, 2021.

Kevin Reilly, 14 Pleasant Street

Mr. Reilly stated that there is no communication or back and forth with him, his attorney, or Mr. Olschafskie.

Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that there was a pre-demolition meeting that occurred with Weiss Construction last week. Her notes show that Mr. Tallberg and Mr. Cerrato contacted Attorney Shapiro and he agreed that he and Mr. Reilly were available for a walk through tomorrow or Wednesday. This would show the parameters of the construction and walk through what the easement is going to look like. She stated that Mr. Reilly and Mr. Olschafskie's tenants are not being asked to park anywhere

other than where they currently park. Her notes indicate that this was shared with Mr. Olschafskie by the mayor. All that is happening right now is cleaning out the Lamagna. The Lamagna will come down first and then the Strand, with the wall facing Mr. Reilly's property coming down last. A flag man has been hired by Weiss to man the easement. His only job will be communicating with the cab operator to stop all work when people enter or exit to create a safety zone. She stated that email communication with Attorney Shapiro happened on August 4.

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

Mr. Jonaitis commented on the fact that Mr. Reilly just came up and had a back and forth with the town manager and the council allowed it to happen. This is due to the lack of experience.

Mr. Jonaitis asked them to look at their conscience and get the empty council seat filled.

Gary Young, Abbe Road

Mr. Young brought up the stop sign that is at the intersection of Abbe and Neelans that people drive right through. He is asking for more police presence and guidance with the traffic concerns with speeding in the stretch of Abbe Road.

Rob Kwasnicki, 123 Wynwood Drive

Mr. Kwasnicki asked the council to consider a re-vote and fill the vacant seat with Jim Nasuta. It matters to the voters in District 1 that we have an empty seat.

Gretchen Pfeifer Hall, 4 Somers Road

Ms. Pfeifer Hall suggested that Enfield invest in the solar-powered speed detectors.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications closed.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Despard stated that the Connecticut Essential Worker Fund is going to go live this week. It is a 30-million-dollar fund established by Governor Lamont making all non-government essential workers eligible for up to \$1,000 each. This includes grocery store and healthcare workers, etc. who worked during the health crisis. There are two criteria: make under 150K per year and be employed as a frontline worker from March 10, 2020 to May 7, 2022. The website is ctessentialworkerrelief.org.

Councilor Finger apologized to Mr. Reilly for everything that is happening, and he hopes that he and his lawyer, and the town can make things right.

Councilor Finger agreed with Mr. Young that something need to be done about people speeding on Abbe Road and other parts of town.

Councilor Finger stated that he is 100% behind Jim Nasuta and he will vote for him again. He said the seat needs to be filled, he does not want to be the first 10-person council.

Councilor Pyznar asked for information about who we are using for the random audits so she can get information to Mr. Brennan from Tire Country.

Councilor Pyznar apologized to Ms. McIntosh and stated that no volunteers on any of our commissions or boards should be disrespected or ignored.

Councilor Pyznar apologized to Mr. Reilly for not going to see his property, she thought everything was great. She wants to see the project go forward but not if it is going to disrespect a resident's property

Councilor Ludwick stated that when it comes to personal property, we need to tell people what is going on, like the personal property audits. These things need to be anticipated so the community doesn't think there is something going on which creates more issues. He asked why this firm was selected over prior firms. He wanted to know what kind of commission or stipend we paid out and what the expectation is this year as compared to the last 10 years. What was the criteria used this year so we can tell people what is going on when they call?

Councilor Ludwick asked for copies of correspondence with his name associated like the letter to the golf range. He asked if there was an outcome with the citing council.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that they sided with Enfield Solar One LLC, and it will become a photovoltaic electric generating facility.

Councilor Ludwick stated that we need to demand that they come to Enfield and have a public hearing.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that there has already been a declaratory ruling and the public hearing is based on size. She said that Mr. Lipton was able to extend his lease and finish his season through the fall.

Councilor Ludwick stated that we are losing another valuable piece of farmland. Since they went through citing council, the town now has no say. He wants to know why we can't slap an injunction on them.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that Mr. Lipton is looking to relocate and continue to do business in Enfield.

Councilor Ludwick stated that the referendum passed regarding Abbe Road to extend the sidewalk from Neelans Road all the way to the four corners. We do need to look into traffic calming.

Councilor Ludwick asked for a full report on the amount of money used for Fourth of July and why we went over budget. He said that they should be made aware of overtime.

Councilor Ludwick stated with full disclosure that one of the reasons he voted against Ms. Zoppo-Sassu was he was worried about partisanship because of her former position. If she went to a fundraiser in town for a democratic candidate, that it is not right. He is hearing that she went to a fundraiser for Joe Courtney in town. Her current position is supposed to be non-partisan.

Councilor Mangini stated in response to Councilor Ludwick that we don't have the right to criticize or judge what functions an individual attends and participates in.

Councilor Unghire thanked everyone that came out to support Jim Nasuta.

Councilor Unghire also lives on Abbe Road and agrees with the traffic problem. She stated that she is on the public safety committee, and she can address the issue.

Councilor Unghire asked regarding Mr. Reilly, are they allowed to go see the site now that attorneys are involved.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that she would check with Attorney Tallberg for official clearance.

Councilor Unghire clarified that there is an agenda that they follow during meetings and during the public communications portion of the agenda they have to sit quietly. There is no back and forth between residents and councilors allowed.

Councilor Pyznar stated that she sent Ms. Zoppo-Sassu and cc'd Councilor Hopkins a picture of 1 Knox Street. The sidewalk is impassable, and you must go in the road in order to pass.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he appreciates the fact that everyone on the council, republican or democrat, work or once did work and are now retired. He takes very seriously people's monthly expenses. He wants to make sure corporate residents are being good neighbors and that the taxation rules are being followed. He stated that we need to remain committed to getting to the bottom of the tax issues.

Councilor Hopkins commented that he does not think it is a sign of weakness to allow a concerned resident a little extra time outside of our normal public communication rules.

Councilor Santanella announced that on Wednesday between 4:00 and 8:00 as part of the new Plan of Conservation and Development, Enfield residents and businesses are invited to join the Community Planning Open House in Council Chambers.

Councilor Santanella responded to Mr. Young by saying that the out-of-state license plate registration issue is a huge problem that is getting worse. He stated that it is on the agenda for the Subcommittee General Finances.

Councilor Finger stated that it is wrong for Councilor Ludwick to ask the question of our town manager. She should not have to justify the places she goes.

Councilor Ludwick stated that with a council/manager form of government, the town manager works for all 11 councilors, correction he stated, 10 councilors. When you show up to a fundraiser, that is different than showing up to an event and hugging people. A fundraiser is specific to a political event.

Chairman Cressotti stated that he did speak with Mr. Olschafskie. He would meet with Mr. Reilly if he wanted to. He did give Mr. Reilly the opportunity to have the conversation with the town manager tonight and he takes responsibility for that. He did state that the back and forth, however, should not happen.

Chairman Cressotti thanked Mr. Young for his comments. He did say that usually an audit is random and there were letters received with the personal property taxes that there was a chance of an audit.

Chairman Cressotti addresses the comments made about the District 1 candidate. The District 1 candidate will be addressed by the next meeting.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned some positive things that are being built for the future, 92 Main Street, 9 North Main, Thompsonville mixed-use transit-oriented development site, train station, Opera House Players, and a future pub in the old fire station.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that the Famer's Market is being moved from Sunday the 14th to Saturday the 13th, to go along with the ERFC event with the backpack giveaway.

Chairman Cressotti attended the promotion of Officer Prior to detective along with Councilor Santanella, Councilor Unghire and John Unghire, the Town Clerk, and Town Manager.

Chairman Cressotti is disappointed in the owners of the Enfield Square for their lack of responsibility. Action has been taken against them.

Chairman Cressotti thanked Councilor Santanella, the town manager, and Nelson Tereso, for putting together letters of support for the community grant fund application in the first round of applying for grant funds.

Chairman Cressotti stated that the town manager will getting information back about the Rails to Trails. It will cost the town \$2 million or more for this particular project.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that Social Services has been awarded a 1-year extension for the drug-free community grants. Also, the Lego grant came through for this year for our Family Resource Centers.

There was a bidding war on the foreclosure on Debbie Lane. The sale price was \$60,500. This means that the town is going to recoup the majority of its taxes, liens, property maintenance liens, and everything else associated.

She has a meeting on Wednesday with Verogy, the solar company that has proposed the array at North Street. They are probably coming in looking for a tax stabilization agreement. She will contact Pura to reinforce what the town of Enfield has regarding municipal rights like injunctions and public hearings.

The independent review for the assessor's packets is available tonight. There were three that responded; two sole practitioners and the firm that many have already spoken with. She asked that everyone give their availability for next week so interviews can be scheduled as soon as possible.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu mentioned pairing the premium pay for critical workers with other programs like My Home CT where people can get financial assistance if they have run into COVID related issues.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that at a future meeting she will be proposing the hiring of a contractual grant writer since there are pools of money everywhere. She wants to be able to capture relevant funds. She said there was \$400 trillion from the federal government put through this last infrastructure bill. It can be paid for with ARPA funds.

The Senior Tax Relief Tax Force is probably going to start the beginning of September.

A topic of discussion that needs to come up is fair rent commission. It is a new piece of state legislation that went into effect.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu responded that as a border town we are hit harder with license-plate registration issues.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that the Economic Development Commission will be at the meeting on August 29th. They will submit a draft beforehand on what they are looking to do with small business development grant opportunities. They are creating parameters.

Disabled veteran's need to voice to the assessor's office which tax they would like their reduction applied to, car or house. This is in all towns, not just Enfield.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that as far as fire district taxes, North Thompsonville was the only one that did zero on the motor vehicle.

The town uses Baron instead of Feldman for personal property audits. Personal property declaration forms are not covered under FOI, they are not public. She will confirm all the things included in an audit with the tax collector and assessor. She was told that there is no commission paid with this vendor. Two of the audits came back already and they both were most likely going to be lowered.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that her concern with the Fourth of July was not the overtime, it was the straight time. There were public works, custodial, buildings and grounds, and highway working over 600-man hours for the event while we have many other demands on our hands. The budget being over was most

likely due to the fact the last time the event happened was in 2019 and the line-item amount was never changed.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that they are adding a 4-way stop at the intersection of Clinton and Taft on Abbe Road.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Councilor Despard reported that they had a Public Safety meeting last week to discuss two items. One is going out to referendum for a new Public Safety Complex and the other is the moving of a solar sidewalk from the former Nathan Hale School over to the Middle School. The committee unanimously supported going to referendum in November. There is a resolution later in the packet to set a public hearing. Due to it's age the solar sidewalk will not be able to be moved to JFK from Nathan Hale. The modifications that it would need would also be too expensive.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he, Councilor Finger, and Councilor Ludwick met regarding DPW issues. They discussed the Water Pollution Control Authority and the council's role with it. Historically, the WPCA would meet once per year to discuss the system. Their discussion was to create some sort of subcommittee. The subcommittee would look at the finances and report back perhaps quarterly. The other thing would be to have a venue where people with sewer fee issues could come and the director of DPW could come talk about future infrastructure needs. These are all currently responsibilities of the council

Councilor Ludwick added that he is against any committee where we give away the taxing authority.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #6320 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the Consent Agenda.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6320** adopted 10-0-0. Resolution appended to these minutes.

APPOINTMENTS/TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTED

MOTION #6321 by Councilor Cekala to nominate Shari Roddick (U) to the Ethics Commission for a term that will expire 10/31/23.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6321** adopted 10-0-0.

MOTION #6322 by Councilor Pyznar to nominate Steven Lemoine (R) to the Hazardville Water Company Advisory Council Enfield Representative for a term to expire 1/1/24.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6322** adopted 10-0-0.

APPOINTMENTS/TOWN MANAGER APPOINTED/COUNCIL APPROVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS/ P&Z COMMISSION APPOINTED/COUNCIL APPROVED – None.

RESOLUTION #6323 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

Councilor Finger is recused himself from the 1029 ratification vote in accordance with the Ethics Ordinance section 2-128k, because he is a member of the union. Letter attached.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby approve the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Enfield and the American Federation of State County Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local # 1029 dated July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Councilor Pyznar stated she is not against the contract, but this is the first time she is seeing it and it is very important piece of the Council's responsibility for the town. She feels that there should have been some sort of executive session on this. She will abstain from the vote because she does not know what she is voting on.

Councilor Ludwick asked if the HR Director could give a detailed report to the public again because there has not been an executive session in 6 or 7 months on this. He said he does not even remember what is being negotiated. He stated that they need to know how much it is going to cost the taxpayers.

HR Director, Steven Bielenda stated that he has no problem having an executive session for this. He said this was posted on the Town Clerk's website for 30 days and the town HR website for 30 days. The cost of the contract over 3 years is \$780,216. They will also give the mechanics more an hour if they get new certifications, which benefit the town.

Councilor Ludwick asked if this item could wait until the August 29th meeting so they can have at least 20 days to get a summary of what has changed. He wants to vote for it, but he can't vote for it tonight.

Councilor Cekala said she thinks they need to vote on it tonight and that they all had the packet on Friday. There was ample time to have questions answered before tonight's meeting.

Councilor Unghire asked for this to be tabled until the next meeting as well.

Chairman Cressotti responded with "no" to tabling.

Councilor Mangini said we need to move forward and support what the town has done in good faith and worked with the union to come up with a good contract.

Mr. Bielenda stated that state statute has addressed issues like this and there is a timeframe so if it is not voted on tonight, it will automatically become a contract.

Councilor Despard will be voting for it as it has been a public document for 30 days.

Chairman Cressotti stated that in the packet they received, there was a bulleted highlight of the contract changes.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6323** adopted 6-0-4 with Councilors Ludwick, Pyznar and Unghire abstaining.

RESOLUTION #6324 By Councilor Pyznar, seconded by Councilor Mangini to set a public hearing on proposed voting district changes for August 29, 2022 in Council Chambers.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6324** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6325 by Councilor Mangini, Councilor Cekala.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby accept the land donation of a portion of 10 Maple Street for the use of a parking plan at the Hazardville Institute, and to refer the matter to the Town Attorney for review and final action.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6325** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6326 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield is seeking to sell properties on the delinquent tax list via Tax Sale in the next few months; and

WHEREAS, this letter of Engagement has been reviewed by the Town Attorney; and

WHEREAS, there is no budget impact in that the firm will receive a percentage of tax funds collected;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to sign the Engagement Letter with Pullman & Comley for the assignment of these properties to recoup tax dollars and liens on behalf of the Town of Enfield.

Councilor Ludwick asked if this is a different law firm than they have used.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu was not sure, but she will find out.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6326** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6327 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to sign the AEV Modular Work Order Customer Content Form committing the Town to refurbishing an ambulance on a 2023 model Dodge 4500 chassis. In the event of an increase in the cost of the chassis, an additional appropriation may be required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to sign the AEV Modular Work Order Customer Form committing the Town to refurbishing an ambulance on a 2024 Model Dodge 4500 chassis. The refurbishing of this vehicle will not take place prior to fiscal year 2024 and will be budgeted in fiscal year 2024.

Chief Erin Riggett stated that acquiring vehicles has been extremely difficult. The chassis wait times are 12 to 18 months and that the 2023 Dodge chassis price isn't available. The cost of the remount is \$178,188. They are trying to plan for 2024 so that we are in line ahead of everyone else.

Councilor Ludwick asked Chief Riggett if they were leases.

Chief Riggett responded in the affirmative.

Councilor Santanella asked Chief Riggett about the "special delivery."

Chief Riggett stated that a female resident in labor delivered a healthy baby girl on the way to the hospital. They had to pull over and deliver the baby. Hartford Hospital came and acknowledged our staff, Tyler Barth, Imani Wallace, and Stephen Adams.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6327** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6328 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the town has acquired property adjacent to the Public Safety Complex; and

WHEREAS, the Enfield Town Council wishes to construct an addition to the existing complex to house the Enfield Emergency Medical Services, upgrade the Enfield Police Department, and allow space for a regional state-of-the-art training center; and

WHEREAS, the Enfield Town Council wishes to provide funding for this addition; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council would like the public's input on the project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby schedule a Public Hearing to be held on August 29, 2022 at 6:45pm in the Enfield Town Hall Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT in order to allow public comment on the proposed “Public Safety Complex Addition.”

Councilor Hopkins stated that something similar was recently voted down in referendum. There are public needs for this, so it is important that it goes back to the public to consider.

Councilor Ludwick stated that if we re-promote this for referendum, we have two weeks left of August. Last year it was promoted for 4 or 5 months before it was put to referendum. Last year we were going to use \$2.5 million in ARPA funds, which he does not believe are available anymore. There was a ton of pre-work done last time before the public hearing. This is being rushed in August.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that they are prepared to publicize this to the public. The money is committed through OPM but not allocated. The funds are still there if a referendum passes. If it doesn't pass this time, the funds will be retracted and given to another community.

There are two ways to do this, build it in to next years budget for the fund balance, or do the entire piece as a bond funded item.

Councilor Ludwick asked if our bond rating has been reaffirmed.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that last year there were four referendum questions, which is a lot. This one got voted down.

Councilor Mangini thinks that the referendum failed because it was overloaded with too many projects, it wasn't marketed effectively, and it would be well served if Enfield could receive more funding. The project is very important.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6328** adopted 9-1-0 with Councilor Ludwick voting against.

RESOLUTION #6329 by Councilor Despard, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council approves the amendment to the Enfield Town Code, Section 22-34 (b) of the Enfield Arts and Culture Commission Ordinance, creating a Liaison Board Member appointed by the BOE.

Please note that there is no appointment to the Arts & Culture for this as there is still some reorganization happening.

Councilor Pyznar stated that from what heard already tonight, this commission is a mess. There are only three members left. She thinks before they can change the bylaws, they need to figure out what is really going to be expected of it. She doesn't understand why we would be changing something when the

commission has fallen apart. To the best of her knowledge, none of the members have even gotten an apology for being mistreated.

Councilor Unghire stated that she is on the committee, and she sees no reason for another non-voting member. Before some of the residents left the group, they voted against having a liaison. She spoke with Superintendent Drezek, and he said there does not need to be a BOE liaison for this group. He told Councilor Unghire to call anytime if it is something the school might be interested in.

Councilor Ludwick wants to know what the disconnect with this committee is and before anything else is done, invite them to a council meeting to work this out. The public needs to understand.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that the purpose of the commission is to plan, produce, coordinate, and provide assistance to sponsors of events or activities and to encourage participation which promote or develop the artistic, historic, cultural, and heritage resources in the community of Enfield. When she asked how that mission was being fulfilled, there was not a lot of data. COVID was a factor. There were conversations about appropriate use of taxpayer dollar in terms of the budget. They did not agree with some of the ideas that were put forth. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu did not agree that meditation arts and culinary arts are part of the mission. One of the conversations was why Enfield does not have a summer concert series. Her concern was that with a tight budget process the commission had over \$50,000 that had been rolled over year to year. At this point in time, they have \$30,000 with no plans. From an audit perspective, money that is rolled year to year and not used but is being taxed. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu suggested reallocating the funds in the budget process to reduce the burden on something else. They had \$35,000 and we took \$30,000. They still have \$5,000 in reserve and then they got their full funding. The resignations that happened in June were voluntary. When you have this much money tied up in a commission there needs to be communication and accountability.

Councilor Ludwick asked why we would use taxpayer money to put a mural on a private building. It should be up to P&Z if they want a zoning change.

Councilor Santanella stated that the commission was not functioning. He is a volunteer, and he knows what kind of respect a volunteer deserves. At his first meeting a band shell was purchased. He went to the Arts Commission with the great news and wanted them to take ownership and program it for the people of Enfield. Their response was that they don't have the ability to do that. He said that that is not the kind of volunteers that we need. Councilor Santanella asked others how many Cultural Arts events they have gone to? There are no Cultural Arts sponsored events and that is a problem. \$30,000 was being hoarded in a bank account. He said also spoke to Mr. Drezek and he was told he wants the liaison.

Councilor Cekala will be supporting the idea and she thinks it is unfortunate that members quit. She stated that Chris Drezek said it was a good idea. The liaison person will volunteer and be a non-voting member. They will give a pathway to our schools.

Councilor Unghire stated that they have access to all these things without a BOE liaison member. She thinks it will complicate things more when we are trying to calm things down.

Chairman Cressotti said he is favor of this and the commission needs to recharge and reorganize. He thanked the people who have spent years on the commission. Cultural Arts is a very important aspect to this town.

Councilor Mangini said she was recently informed that Mr. Drezek is in favor of a BOE liaison.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6329** adopted 7-3-0 with Councilors Ludwick, Pyznar and Unghire voting against.

RESOLUTION #6330 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Despard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section II of the Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the job description for the following position:

POSITION

Engineering Tech II WPC

Mr. Bielenda stated that he saw an opportunity, so he wanted to put it on tonight's agenda. He said they are trying to fill a position from a long-time employee who left to another town to make more money. They have been trying to recruit someone since May with no luck. There were two applicants who did not meet the requirements. He learned there is a requirement not even relevant to the job. The Water Pollution Control Superintendent said that this unnecessary obstacle can be removed and hopefully more will apply for the position. We need to get this job description changed.

Councilor Finger just wanted to confirm that the State of CT WPC Grade 2 Certification is the one not required.

Mr. Bielenda confirmed that to be correct.

Councilor Finger stated that the job description should no longer include the WPC Grade 2 part and wants to make an amendment.

AMENDMENT #1 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Hopkins to amend **RESOLUTION #6330** to strike Grade II from the job description title.

Councilor Mangini wanted to know how the amendment will affect what Mr. Bielenda is proposing?

Councilor Finger stated that it will not affect anything, it is an old job title from years ago.

Mr. Bielenda asked for clarification if the amendment was striking out just the Grade II part.

Chairman Cressotti said yes.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **AMENDMENT #1** adopted 10-0-0.

Councilor Unghire thanked Mr. Bielenda for getting the information. Her only other concern was to make sure the salaries stay fair so that if somebody did have that certification, they would be compensated.

Mr. Bielenda stated that he has a base salary that is advertised with a 5% higher or lower based on qualifications.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared the **RESOLUTION #6230** adopted as amended 10-0-0.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING – None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Mr. Young asked for clarification on who is allowed to speak during public communications. He was surprised that a non-resident attorney was allowed to speak.

Mr. Young stated that the mayor asks us to refrain from personalities. When someone from the audience is coming to speak no councilor should say “this guy is trouble.” Sometimes people forget to turn the microphone on and sometimes they forget to turn the microphone off, or your neighbor’s microphone is on.

Mr. Reilly, 14 Pleasant Street

Mr. Reilly stated that he misspoke. He said apparently there were discussions between his attorney and the town attorneys. He was still surprised to see fences going up because there has been no walk through. He did say that he got a certified letter from the company in Norwich, and he misspoke on that and for that he apologizes. He wants to be informed about what is going to be happening

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that she did give Mr. Reilly her business card a couple weeks ago when she and Mr. Bielenda were at his property.

Gary Young, Abbe Road

Mr. Young brought up the unpaid vehicle taxes. He has a neighbor who has \$6,000 in unpaid vehicle taxes and somehow has new vehicles every couple of years. To register your vehicle, taxes need to be paid. He was told that he needs to pay his bill and wait until August to dispute the amount. He had a \$3,000 difference between what he was taxed and the actual valuation, which equates to a \$110 dollar overpayment. The Assessor’s office could not give a timeline of the tax appeal process. The appeal form on the website does not clearly define the process.

Felix Ruiz Jr., ASFCME 1029 President

Mr. Ruiz thanked the council for voting for the contract.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hopkins stated that it was reasonable for Mr. Young to ask why people who are not residents can speak. He said it is a First Amendment issue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6331 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Finger to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6331** adopted 10-0-0 and the meeting stood adjourned at 10:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Clerk of the Council
Town Clerk

Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made.

TO: Family Resource Center

Stipend	22046144	516000	\$7,450
Professional Development	22046144	532000	\$1,000
Other Professional Services	22046144	533900	\$13,000
Other Supplies/Materials	22046144	561900	\$3,050
Food	22046144	563000	\$500

FROM: Family Resource Center

FRC SDE ESSER II Grant	22046144	460150	\$25,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of August 8, 2022


John Wilcox, Director of Finance

APPROVED BY:  **Town Manager**

Date: 8/3/22