



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
February 2, 2026
6:00 PM - Town Hall - Council Chambers
<https://youtube.com/live/96GhfX8QGVY>**

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni

Absent: None

Also present were Town Manager, Matthew Coppler; Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda; Assistant Town Attorney, Mark Cerrato; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION #7386 by: John Santanella seconded: Cynthia Mangini

to go into Executive Session to discuss the following item(s).

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #7386** adopted.

Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni No: None Abstain: None.

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chair Cekala at 6:00pm.

A. 1-210(b)(24)

- Town Attorney

Chair Cekala reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:33pm. No votes or actions were taken by the Council during the Executive Session.

3. RESOLUTION TO APPOINT TOWN ATTORNEY

A. Resolution to Appoint Town Attorney

RESOLUTION #7387 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: John Santanella.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby appoint Cindy M. Cieslak as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield effective February 2, 2026 for a term which expires December 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize Mayor Gina Cekala to sign the agreement with Cindy Cieslak as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield.

AMENDMENT #1 by: Maya Matthews, seconded: Linda Allegro to amend the second paragraph language to read: "***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council hereby authorizes Mayor Gina Cekala to execute an agreement with Cindy Cieslak as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield, with the condition that total compensation and fees shall be capped at an amount not to exceed \$110,000, and that any request to exceed this limit must be brought back to the Enfield Town Council for approval.***"

Councilor Matthews stated that several councilors recognized that the compensation mentioned in the RFP was not included in this resolution and felt it was prudent to include it. Councilor Zannoni commented that he was in agreement with Ms. Matthews and felt the amendment was fiscally responsible.

Councilor Hall appreciated the cap on reimbursement but wanted a hard stopgap consisting of a yearly salary agreement. She would not support this amendment as the attorney's name is included, and she did not support the change in town attorney. Mayor Cekala stated that there hasn't been a hard stopgap in any of the town attorney contracts as complex litigation or services outside the normal scope were not included in the retainer.

Councilor Pyznar objected to the inclusion of a town attorney's name. Councilor Cressotti appreciated the amendment implementing a cap on the salary but would like to see the cap a little lower than \$110,000. Ms. Hall stated that all the previous town attorneys had a retainer and regardless of how often the town called an attorney for advice, they would not exceed the retainer. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #1** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire Abstain: None.

Councilor Zannoni stated that he would not support the change in town attorney as he believed that unless the town attorney no longer desires the position or has not lived up to the responsibilities, they should continue in the position. Additionally, he supported a salary retainer structure and not an hourly payment. Mr. Zannoni appreciated the responsiveness of a small local firm. Councilor Cressotti stated that he would not support the change in town attorney as he felt continuity was important. Mr. Cressotti believed the increase in expense would be significant and therefore supported retaining Attorney Tom Tyler.

Councilor Mangini supported the amended resolution and stated that Tom Tyler did a phenomenal job but felt the municipal experience of the firm of Rose Kallor would benefit the Town of Enfield. Councilor Pyznar stated that Attorney Tom Tyler was born and raised in Enfield and works for the love of this town. He understands the town and its needs. She asked what justification the Council could give the taxpayers for doubling the expense.

A member of the audience wished to be heard, and the Mayor informed the member that there was no opportunity during a special meeting for public participation. Conversation continued and Deputy Mayor Santanella called for a Point of Order and the Mayor declared a recess at 6:55pm. Mayor Cekala called the meeting back into session at 6:58pm.

Councilor Unghire stated that she supported Attorney Tyler and said that his past performance has been wonderful. She was unhappy that the contract did not include a hardstop and felt it was too much of a gamble for the town.

AMENDMENT #2 by: Carol Hall, seconded: Marie Pyznar to amend the Resolution to replace the name "Cindy M. Cieslak: with the name "Tom Tyler" throughout the Resolution. Councilor Hall stated that Tom Tyler is an icon to the town and has given countless hours of free legal advice to the town. He responded to emails and telephone calls that didn't result in additional billable hours for the town. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #2** failed. Yes: Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni No: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas Abstain: None.

AMENDMENT #3 by: Carol Hall, seconded: Marie Pyznar to amend the second paragraph of the Resolution to read: *"**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize Mayor Gina Cekala to sign a retainer agreement in the amount of \$85,000 for a general retainer for all general legal services excluding litigation, administrative proceedings, and large legal projects.**"*

Councilor Zannoni stated that it is important when sending a contract forward that the contract is amicable to the attorney, and it has already been stated that a retainer is not something the attorney would be willing to entertain and, therefore, he would not support this amendment. Councilor Hall stated that the RFP that was published did contain a retainer. Ms. Hall stated that if the RFP had been worded with the same criteria as the agreement has been, they may have received an entirely different pool of candidates. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #3** failed. Yes: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire, No: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni Abstain: None.

Councilor Matthews restated **RESOLUTION #7387** as amended.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby appoint Cindy M. Cieslak as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield effective February 2, 2026 for a term which expires December 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council hereby authorizes Mayor Gina Cekala to execute an agreement with Cindy Cieslak as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield, with the condition that total compensation and fees shall be capped at an amount not to exceed \$110,000, and that any request to exceed this limit must be brought back to the Enfield Town Council for approval.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7387** adopted as amended.
Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas
No: Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni
Abstain: None.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: John Santanella, seconded: Aaron Thomas to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council



Michael J. Rose
Robin B. Kallor*
Melinda A. Powell
Cindy M. Cieslak†
Megan L. Nielsen
Kimberly A. Winter
Amanda J. Blake
Taylor J. LaPira

Paralegal:
Vicky D. Pilon

*Also admitted in New York and New Jersey
†Also admitted in New York and Massachusetts

February __, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Matthew W. Coppler
Town Manager
Town of Enfield
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT 06082

Re: Engagement of Legal Services

Dear Mr. Coppler,

This will memorialize the retention of Rose Kallor, LLP to serve as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield regarding all general legal matters, except bond counsel. The purpose of this letter is to confirm the nature and scope of our engagement and our fee arrangement in connection therewith as outlined in our Proposal for Legal Services dated December 18, 2025 in response to the Town's Request for Proposals for Town Attorney, dated November 19, 2025.

1. **Scope of Engagement.** The engagement will involve all legal work that we do for the Town of Enfield, its Town Council, boards, commissions, and agencies, as described in the Request for Proposals, including general, contract/document, litigation, general employment, criminal law, and administrative legal services. This engagement also involves attendance at Town Council meetings, generally held on the first and third Monday of each month, with the

750 Main Street, Suite 309, Hartford, CT 06103 Phone: 860-361-7999 Fax: 860-270-0710
60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4600, New York, NY 10165 Phone: 212-485-9881

caveat that there may be meetings for which we may mutually agree that legal counsel is not necessary, or that I may send a designee.

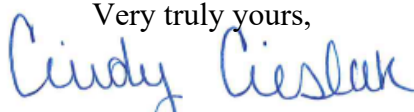
2. **Fees and Hourly Rates.** We have agreed to charge an hourly rate for legal services performed at the following rates: \$270 per hour for Partners/Of Counsel; \$205 per hour for Associates; \$105 per hour for Paralegals/Law Clerks. Travel to and from Town Hall will not be charged to the Town. If attendance at court or another tribunal or agency is necessary, the Firm will charge travel time and mileage only if such Court, tribunal, or agency is not in Hartford or Enfield. As the responsible Partner, I will be primarily responsible for handling the Town's legal work assigned by Town Council in accordance with this engagement.

3. **Monthly Statements.** Bills will be issued on a monthly basis. Such bills will include the date, a brief description of the services performed, the amount of time expended, and the attorney who performed such service, as well as out-of-pocket charges, if any, incurred during that month. We ask that all invoices for services rendered be paid within fifteen (15) days of receipt.

If this letter correctly sets forth your understanding of the scope of the services to be rendered, and if the terms of this engagement are satisfactory, please have this agreement executed where indicated below and returned to me.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss this matter or with any other questions or comments you may have. I look forward to working with you and the Town of Enfield in meeting its legal needs. Thank you for your confidence in selecting our firm.

Very truly yours,



Cindy M. Cieslak

CMC/vdp

Cc: Gina L. Cekala, Mayor

I, Gina L. Cekala, hereby acknowledge and agree to the above terms and conditions on behalf of the Town of Enfield.

Dated _____

Gina L. Cekala, Mayor
Town of Enfield