



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

May 4, 2026

7:00 PM - Town Hall - Council Chambers

<https://youtube.com/live/RX8mu98F44A>

1. PRAYER - Linda Allegro

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

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

4. FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

5. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- Special Meeting - April 15, 2026

MOTION #7483 by: Linda Allegro seconded: Cynthia Mangini to accept the minutes. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #7483** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Carol Hall, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni No: None Abstain: Robert Cressotti.

- Special Meeting - April 20, 2026

MOTION #7484 by: Aaron Thomas seconded: Linda Allegro to accept the minutes. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #7484** 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.

- Regular Meeting - April 20, 2026

MOTION #7485 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Robert Cressotti to accept the minutes. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #7485** 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.

- Public Hearing - April 22, 2026

MOTION #7486 by: Robert Cressotti seconded: Cynthia Mangini to accept the minutes. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #7486** 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.

6. SPECIAL GUESTS

None

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND PETITIONS

Pam Townsend, 54 Kimberly Drive

Ms. Townsend, Chairperson of the Patriot Award Committee, said they are seeking nominations for the 2026 Patriot Award. She provided the history of the committee, spearheaded by Jason MacClelland, owner of Pearl Street Barber Shoppe. He noted the patriotism in Enfield and believed it deserved to be celebrated and recognized. Nominations for this year's award are open to all Enfield men and women who've been a resident for at least fifteen years. The applications are available at the Town Hall, as well as online at the town website, or the Enfield 4th of July Town Celebration website. Submissions are due by June 5, 2026. The winner will be announced on the main stage of the Enfield 4th of July Celebration. She said there are many citizens in Enfield who deserve recognition, so it's important to include your reasons for nominating them.

Lucien Lefevre, 54 Holly Lane and Don Cherry, 27 Middlesex Drive

Mr. LeFevre, Chair of the Enfield Veterans Council, and Mr. Cherry, Vice Chair of the Enfield Veterans Council, promoted the upcoming Memorial Day Parade. The parade will be held on Sunday, May 24th, starting at 1pm. Various school groups and town clubs will be participating, and if anyone wishes to join, they can call Mr. LeFevre at 860-463-7168. In order to participate, the group must be patriotic and non-political or controversial. The celebration is to honor veterans who are no longer with us. In the chance of rain, the ceremony will be held inside Enfield High School. While the parade is fun, the ceremony is the most meaningful part.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Mr. Young said that the construction costs of the original Houston Astro Dome in 1965 were \$35M, which was slightly less than what it cost for the Water Pollution Control plant. While on an assignment in the Airforce in 1965, he had the opportunity to catch a ballgame, where

he noticed a large Gulf Oil sign on the field. He learned that the Astro's were paid advertising money from Gulf Oil at the time, and the Astro owners made \$1M per year from leasing the space. He asked for a legal opinion about whether the town has the ability to lease the naming rights to Fermi Field. As he understood it, if the town sold the building, the town would still retain the field and pool. He believed that since the grounds remain used for different sports and events, they could sell the naming rights for \$1M for a period of 8 years. The same number of years of the field maintenance warranty if they chose the 8-year option. It would break down to \$125,000 a year, and the space could be leased to a bank, preferably the one in Maine where payments get sent. It would allow for the project to be completed with no cost to the taxpayer, and without having to take it from other unfinished projects.

Tom Cremona, 19 Tyler Road

Mr. Cremona believed that at the last budget meeting he heard the Democratic caucus would approve the BOE budget as presented. It was too early, in his opinion, to make that determination. He said that there may be items that could be reduced, and he requested that the Council keep an open mind until they hear what Councilor Hall has to say. Personally, he agrees with funding the entire budget but would like to hear everything before making a decision. He said later on in the meeting there would be a vote about fixing the Annex fields. He said that after the last meeting, there was agreement from both political parties about fixing the fields. Both sides agreed it was a good idea to use money from outside the budget and use the "rainy day" funds instead. He appreciated the fact that they worked together.

Tony Allegro, 3 Clinton Lane

Mr. Allegro thanked everyone on the dais for the work they were doing during budget season. He recognized the difficulty of creating a budget that meets the needs of residents. He hoped that the Council would pass the BOE budget in full. Mr. Allegro saw the slide presentation at the last meeting and was bothered about some of the items considered being cut. It was important to see how the long term could be affected by current decisions. While no one likes paying taxes, keeping a zero-budget year after year has serious implications. He impressed the importance of maintenance and setting short-term and long-term goals. There will be a referendum this Fall on replacing the elementary schools when they could have done maintenance over the years. He thanked Superintendent Moccio and BOE Chair Ms. Pickett for going through the BOE budget line for line. He encouraged the Council to talk to the teachers and staff to get their viewpoints. The proposition by the BOE is a bare-boned budget and could take up to five years to get back to where they need to be. NEASC accreditation for the high school will be coming up and it would be disastrous to report they didn't have a career center. He urged the Council to pass the budget in full.

Patricia Wright, 66 Oakwood Street

Ms. Wright believed that the BOE budget should be passed in full. She said it would fulfill current needs but also set them up for success for when the referendum passes. Past choices are causing the Council to make decisions that should have been made years ago. She hoped the Council would revisit the budget through a different lens. She watched both budget deliberations and was happy about the Fermi fields. She was also surprised that people were not happy about the money that Mr. Coppler found. She believed fixing the Annex to its full potential would be beneficial to most young families in town. She explained that the field usage has been going on for decades, even before Fermi High School closed. Years ago, she was in charge of summer soccer for Fermi High and saw many other towns using the fields as well. Supporting the fields, she believed, would be a great unifying moment for both political parties. She had the chance to walk around the Annex and was surprised at how many former classrooms were being used for things other than storage, as many were led to believe. It is the home of the recreation department, the alternative education department, and adult education. It is also a training facility for area police departments. Buzz Robotics uses the former cafeteria, and the pool is utilized by the Special Olympics. She reminded residents that the whole building is used, and while it's not a high school anymore, it is being used as a "community center." She questioned what would happen to everyone that uses the building, and if the town would they need to rent storage facilities for all the records that are kept there.

Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, 4 Somers Road

Ms. Pfeifer-Hall, on behalf of the Hazardville Institute Conservancy Society, thanked the Council for putting the resolution on the agenda to submit a CIP application. The Hazardville Institute is a shovel-ready project, and with the help of Aaron Marcavitch, she believed they would create the perfect application. She believed that Mr. Marcavitch really understands the project and was hopeful that it would be selected for a grant.

She mentioned that the oak tree located on the east side of the Town Hall building was planted in memory of Roger Olsen for his work as a long-time member of the Conservation Commission. She said that the tree is over twenty years old and does not look good. She asked the tree warden to take a look to see if it could be saved. She also referenced an article from the Journal Inquirer regarding vehicle registration. Previously, Deputy Mayor Santanella suggested hiring the company that the Town of Vernon uses to determine if cars should be registered and placed on the grand list.

Karen LaPlante, 166 N. Maple Street

Ms. LaPlante is also involved with the Hazardville Institute and was very thankful to have it on the agenda. She hoped that everyone would vote in favor because the project was long

overdue.

She was disturbed about the Annex turf replacement. She was involved with the Conservation Commission and the Mass Mutual soccer field proposal which included artificial turf. She completed a lot of research and was unable to find a manufacturer of synthetic turf that did not contain PFAS and other chemicals. They were against the installation of those fields at Mass Mutual. They found that the City of Springfield uses organic fields for their kids' sports fields and has had great success. She asked the Council to consider using organic turf instead of artificial, since the Fermi school had issues previously with chemicals. She believed that those chemicals were water-soluble, so the prior issues may already be gone. The Annex is also located in an aquifer protection area, but the football field lies just outside of it. The aquifer protection area ends right about where the baseball fields are. Anything that goes into the ground in those protected areas could end up in the water. The PFAS in the artificial turf could run off into the ground and into the brook behind the football fields. She said the areas between Moody and Shaker Road do not offer public water. They are hooked up to wells, and any chemicals could seep into the groundwater. A lot of the turf fields state that they are certified chemical free. When the grass is extruded from the turf, the device is sprayed with a PFAS chemical to prevent the grass from sticking. This in turn gets the PFAS particles onto the grass. She wanted to protect the young players from these chemicals. Water quality for PFAS is measured in parts per trillion, and at the Mass Mutual hearings, they were being tested in parts per billion, which showed no PFAS. If it had been accurately tested in parts per trillion, then it would have tested positive.

8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Councilor Unghire said that on July 8, 1741, Jonathan Edwards preached a message about fire and brimstone titled "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God", which became known as the Great Awakening. This past weekend, 285 years later, Enfield held a re-dedication at a stone marker on Route 5 where he originally preached. Over 100 years ago, the Daughters of the American Revolution raised money for the original marker during the Great Depression. At that time, they also celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Town of Enfield. She provided pictures of the original stone that became weathered and depressed over time. In 2021, a group from California wanted to tour New England to trace heroes from the area and Enfield was chosen. They stopped to see the marker and, after seeing its condition, looked to find a way to restore it. The group, led by Jerry Loving, considered the importance of it in religious history, US history and the great sermon. With the help of DAR and individuals across several states, the marker was able to be renovated. Many of them flew back out for the dedication. She read a few snippets for everyone to get an idea of the magnitude of the speech. She thanked many of the attendees, societies, and town employees who helped make the dedication a success. She presented a photo of the newly

renovated marker that was created by Rogers Memorial Studio and designed by Jerry Loving.

She said that Thursday, May 7th is National Day of Prayer, and the community will meet at the marker at noon. Everyone is welcome, and parking along Route 5 will be permitted by Enfield Police but avoid "No Parking" signs and fire hydrants. Mr. Coppler suggested reaching out to Martha Parson's house or the Felician Sisters for additional parking, since most of Enfield Street has "No Parking" signs.

Councilor Matthews gave a presentation on the Town Council's attendance at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference back in March in Washington, D.C. She attended along with Councilors Unghire, Mangini and Zannoni. The NLC is the largest organization in the country that represents cities and towns across the country. Around 2,800 leaders were in attendance. It allowed them the opportunity to address challenges that Enfield is facing, along with strengths they could build on. The four-day event started on March 14th with a Pre-Conference that highlighted professional development sessions and leadership training sessions. On March 16th, Opening Day, there were keynote speakers and workshops held by national experts. March 17–18 was Hill Day, and over 1,100 elected officials had the opportunity to meet with Members of Congress and voice concerns and ask for support for their communities. They covered five sessions ranging from human development, public safety, economic development, transportation and infrastructure. On Hill Day, they had the chance to speak to Members of Congress about topics important to Enfield: funding for infrastructure, internet access and cybersecurity, affordable housing, advocating for financial funding, clean energy and environmental protections. Most towns at the conference echoed that bipartisanship is not a compromise but a requirement to effectively move forward. They had the opportunity to learn more about federal economic development resources, federal education resources, federal money for infrastructure improvements, as well as federal programs to improve public safety. They took the chance to get Enfield's name noticed and became more visible. The conference provided many resources, connections, and relationships to help move Enfield forward. ***A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.***

Councilor Mangini congratulated JFK's Drama Club for their performance of *Shrek*. She said it was a wonderful show, and the students had a great time. Ms. Mangini also congratulated the communicants of St. Jeanne Jugan Parish for making their First Holy Communion, and she enjoyed being one of their teachers. On May 19th, the Rotary Club is sponsoring the Flag of Veterans ceremony, where they will dedicate the veteran banners on the poles around and behind Town Hall. May is also Veteran Awareness Month, and she said it was important to take a moment of reflection and be thankful to our veterans. She thanked Aaron

Marcavitch and Kristine Koistinen of Economic and Community Development for helping to organize and work with Mr. Loving and DAR on the Jonathan Edwards event. The Mt. Carmel Spring Fling was last week and was a great event.

Councilor Pyznar thanked all the residents who spoke tonight. She appreciates hearing what they have to say. She was in agreement with Mr. Young and would like to see sponsors of the Fermi Fields. She enjoys it when Mr. Cremona speaks because he has great insight. She stated that she emailed Mr. Coppler about her frustrations with the budget deliberation process this year. One of her requests was to add deliberation dates, and she had not heard back yet. She believed they had not discussed the budget enough and had yet to go through all the line items in each department to determine where cuts could be made. They had two more nights of deliberations, and she was unsure they would be able to finalize the budget. She didn't believe the first two nights of deliberations were solid discussions. The budget book needed to be completed, and she thought that additional nights would be beneficial. She congratulated all the artists involved in the art show and was impressed by their abilities and talents.

Councilor Hall spoke with Mr. Rousseau concerning a two-year agreement between the Enfield Soccer Association and DPW. During Leadership, they spoke about the utilization of the high school fields when not in use if the Shaker Fields are not in playable condition. She believed it deserved a proper discussion. She also believed that they had consensus to use the fields, but that they needed to work out the logistics. She asked if the tree warden could look at the tree that Ms. Pfeifer-Hall mentioned. She hoped that Ms. LaPlante's concerns could be addressed regarding PFAS on artificial turf and wanted the town to investigate options of companies who do not have them. She explained the budget deliberation process and stated that at the Public Hearing, they are presented with the budget documents to review. On April 22nd, they held a Public Hearing, and on Sunday her caucus spent a majority of the day discussing and reviewing the budget. They have additional questions that they will forward to the Town Manager. She believed that the days meant to discuss the budget addressed other concerns around town, like the Annex field. In the past, the Council has spent weeks upon weeks deliberating. She said residents deserve the Council going through the budget thoroughly.

Councilor Zannoni asked for an update on the water saturation roof study for Parkman school and asked where the funding for the study came from. He had reservations about the field resolution, even though he would be in support. He was concerned because, in a matter of two weeks, they heard that the field needed to be shut down, which he found unacceptable. It was also unacceptable if the town or previous council dropped the ball. He questioned why, compared to other towns, Enfield was unable to function with one artificial

turf. Enfield is one of the few towns that insist on having two turf fields. He understood that the DPW is working alongside the schools to create a schedule to work with what they have. He had the opportunity to tour the Annex a few months ago with Marilyn Cressotti and was impressed with its size and offerings. He does not want to see anything happen to the Annex but understands the amount of work it needs warrants concerns. The costs for abatement, HVAC and being brought up to code are high enough to go to referendum. Most cases of community-funded projects that go to referendum fail. Members of the Friends of the Library reached out to him in January with concerns about where they would go if the Annex was no longer town owned.

Mr. Zannoni did not believe that any rash decisions were made concerning the BOE budget. He said that all the councilors ran on promises that they try to uphold. Two years ago, the Republican caucus ran on the platform of not raising taxes under any circumstances. They were able to do that, but there were consequences. He commended them for standing up for their principle. As an educator who has worked in wealthy districts, the difference between them and Enfield is vast. Unfortunately, Enfield is far from having many of the privileges they have in other towns. Residents want the Career Center and lower class sizes back. A majority of Enfield High graduates do not continue on to four-year college, making the need for a Career Center crucial for students interested in the trades. The town is unable to make determinations about what stays or goes with the BOE budget, they just provide them with a figure to work with. The Superintendent has noted that the Career Center will, unfortunately, be one of the first things to go if the budget gets cut. He believed the BOE budget needs to be approved in full.

Mr. Zannoni explained that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. He shared his personal story, and how he searched for support and guidance when he needed it. He stated that it's important to recognize when you need help or support, and thanked Council members on the dais who provided him with support. He stated that if anyone feels like they do not have support, they can reach out to him. He will do whatever he can to help or offer town support services, so that others can live a happy life. He credits many of the teachers in his life for the impact they made.

Councilor Cressotti said that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and he wanted to thank the Enfield educators for everything they do on a daily basis. This Saturday at 10am, Enfield High will host a community event with the Enfield Union 1029, police department, fire department, EMS, Allied Stars, JFK and EHS Unified Athletic Teams, and will conduct a unified volleyball tournament. He encouraged residents to come out and support them. He would be playing, and hoped others would join him.

Deputy Mayor Santanella asked if it was possible to schedule a tour of the Annex. Mr. Santanella believed it would be helpful for people to see the inside of the building to understand what challenges they are facing. He enjoyed seeing the veteran banners around town and looking at the faces and names. He said it added a lot of character to the neighborhoods and was wonderfully done. He attended the DPW meeting where they had a discussion with the ESA about getting a two-year agreement in place for winter soccer. It clarified what buildings were available for utilization to prevent losing another winter season. He was not sure where they left off, but thought they still had enough time to solidify a plan.

Councilor Hall asked for a roads update including which roads are left and what the balance in the account is for spring. As she remembered it, the residents voted for a new police station during a past referendum. The reason it has not been completed is due to funding. They applied through the state to receive funding in bonding money from the Republican allocation, but the project was not a priority of the governor at that time. The governor believed it should be self-funded by the town. She hoped in the future they could fund it through CIF. She wanted clarification to correct for the record comments made during public communications.

Councilor Unghire reminded residents that the dedication ceremony for the veteran banners is May 19th at 5:30pm behind the Town Hall. She also asked for confirmation that the placard on the Olsen Memorial Tree was still there.

Mayor Cekala said that they are adopting the budget in a Special Meeting on May 11th at 6pm in Council Chambers, and it will be televised for interested parties. They had four budget deliberation meetings set up based on a survey sent to Councilors to determine which days worked for everybody. The budget needs to be adopted by May 12th as the last day set forth in the Charter. The four dates they chose were based on having the number needed for a quorum. She explained that the first budget deliberation was held five days after the Public Hearing, and all the Councilors had copies of the proposed budget book. Nothing prevents them from going line by line and asking questions if they have them. She acknowledged that they did have more discussion about the Annex, as well as additional funding, both of which were important conversations. She did not believe they could accommodate another two days of deliberations before the deadline. She said that it was unfair to say they didn't have enough deliberation dates while failing to meet and discuss with their caucus.

9. TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager Coppler stated that the rubberized surface on the track at the Annex was removed in just about a day. Mr. Coppler said that the asphalt was in excellent shape and could be used for walking. The soccer program has reached out about the possibility of

using the Enfield High synthetic turf fields in case of rain out, over scheduled fields, or other emergency situations. It was his understanding at the time of request that the fields would be used only for those emergency situations. Recently, they have wanted more use of the Enfield High fields because the fields at the Annex have become unplayable. Under the circumstances, he believed the Council would need to revisit the resolution they previously adopted regarding the fields at the high school restricting their use to school team sports. During leadership, it was decided they would work with the soccer program. This situation is different, and that is why they need to reconsider their previous resolution. He would add it to the next leadership agenda.

Assistant Town Manager Bielenda elaborated further on the comments from Councilors Unghire and Mangini and stated that the rededication of the Jonathan Edwards memorial was a huge success. He thanked Economic and Community Development Director Aaron Marcavitch and Specialist Kristine Koistinen for getting it organized. CA architect Jerry Loving provided them with two envelopes totaling \$700 as an act of appreciation for putting on the event. They were unable to take it due to the town's Code of Ethics, but as representatives of the town, they are presenting it to the Council for them to decide what to do with the money. During leadership, they decided to give the money to the America250 committee which is spearheaded by Aaron and Kristie.

Mr. Bielenda said that they had a concert meeting earlier in the day and are getting ready to select their last band. He was excited about this year's concert series, which is sponsored by Artioli Dodge, USA Waste and Recycling, and Winstanley Enterprises. He stressed that the event is entirely funded by sponsors, and zero taxpayer money is used for the series.

Councilor Hall asked Mr. Coppler for clarification as she didn't remember being asked to revise the fields' policy in order to accommodate them. He reiterated the first request from the soccer association to utilize the Enfield High fields in "emergency-type" situations. Since the fields at the Annex are not able to be used currently, it was suggested that the Council revisit the resolution to determine whether they would like to allow teams outside the high school to play on the high school fields. The current arrangement is for the ESA president to email Mr. Coppler on a Saturday morning when they run into an issue and need the high school fields. He is concerned about giving out too many keys and causing fields and equipment to be damaged. Since most of the issues would be due to excessive rain, he believed the association would have a good idea whether they would need to use a field other than their own with plenty of notice. If not, then he would be the association's contact. Ms. Hall believed they needed a better plan outside of them contacting Mr. Coppler on a Saturday morning. She recommended a meeting with ESA president Jeffrey Rousseau to help streamline a better plan for when Mr. Coppler may be unreachable. It was her opinion

that having him come to speak to the Council to determine a better idea that would benefit everyone.

10. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

Town Attorney Cieslak said she was contacted by Council members to look into the town's Flag Display Policy to see if amendments could be made. Ms. Cieslak said it was in connection with raising a pride flag, but the analysis would remain the same for any other flag. The current resolution states that only the American flag, the CT State flag, the MIA/POW flag, and flags of various military services of the US can be displayed on town property. She said that the analysis started with determining whether there was a distinction between public forum flag displays and the government speaking as itself, as opposed to a public forum. If the town was going to regulate the ability of the residents to petition the government over flag displays, then its policies must be content neutral. Remaining content neutral means that they cannot discriminate based on various viewpoints. On the other hand, if the town were to amend its policy to allow various government speech, then case law states that when the government speaks for itself, the First Amendment does not demand airtime for all views, because the government must be able to promote a program or espouse a policy in order to function. She explained that if the town wanted to amend their flag display policy resolution, it may do so. In doing so, they should indicate whether they are doing it as the government and speaking on behalf of the government, or whether they are opening a public forum and recognizing the legal risks that come with it.

11. REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Councilor Mangini said that the Warming Center held their monthly meeting. The Center reopened for its 10th consecutive winter season on December 1st and stayed open until April 20th. The center stayed open for 140 consecutive nights and provided 4,280 overnight stays, averaging thirty guests per night. Their highest occupancy night totaled forty-one guests. Their overall overnight occupancy has increased by 24% over the winter season. The guests included forty men, fifteen women, five seniors, thirty-three young people, and seventeen middle-aged and disabled individuals. 67% were Enfield residents. She believed it was important to share, so residents were aware of what the committee was doing.

Ms. Mangini appreciated the Patriot Award update. She also thanked State Representative/Deputy Mayor Santanella for supporting the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren legislation. She explained that it is a growing issue, and he was the only person on the state level she was able to work with regarding it. Over the years, she's worked with senators and other representatives who dropped the ball. Mr. Santanella was able to help get a bill passed that would make it more equitable for grandparents.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**A. Resolution to Transfer Funds for National League of Cities Conference - \$17,354
(Tabled 4/20/26)**

MOTION by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Aaron Thomas to remove from the table. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared the **MOTION** 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.

RESOLUTION #7487 by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Aaron Thomas.

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

**FROM: NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES - TRANSFERS OUT AND
CONTINGENCIES**

Contingency	10800092 - 584000	\$17,354
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TO: TOWN MANAGER

MISCELLANEOUS	10120000 - 589000	\$17,354
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I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 10, 2026, by John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7487** 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.

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Agenda

MOTION #7488 by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Aaron Thomas to accept Consent Agenda Items 1-3. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #7488** 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. Copies of the full resolutions are as follows:

1. Resolution to Accept the Funds Donated from Jerry Loving - \$700

BE IT RESOLVED; that the Enfield Town Council does hereby accept a contribution from Jerry Loving and the group responsible for renovating the Jonathan Edwards Monument in the sum of \$700 and directs these funds toward the America250 effort led by the Office of

Economic & Community Development.

FROM: GENERAL FUND - REVENUES

Miscellaneous	10040000 - 417050	\$700
Contributions		

TO: ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Miscellaneous	10505100 - 589000	\$700
Expenditures		

2. Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to submit the continuation funding for the FY 27 Municipal Grant Program (MGP) in support of the Dial-A-Ride Program in the amount of \$46,480.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Matthew W. Coppler, is authorized to submit continuation State Matching Grant Program annual certification documents, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney, in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and to affix the Corporate Seal.

3. Request for Transfer for Building Department Postage - \$250

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

FROM: PURCHASED PROF & TECHNICAL

PROFESSIONAL	10620000-532200	\$250
DEVELOPMENT		

TO: POSTAGE

POSTAGE	10620000-553500	\$250
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I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 28, 2026, by John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance.

B. Appointment(s)–Town Council Appointed

1. Blight Review Committee - The Term of Office of Mary Ann Turner (R) Expired 3/31/2026. Replacement Would be Until 3/31/2028.

NOMINATION #7489-1 by: Cynthia Mangini seconded: Aaron Thomas to nominate Jennifer Bakowski.

NOMINATION #7489-2 by: Marie Pyznar seconded: Lori Unghire to nominate Ken Nelson Jr.

NOMINATION #7489-3 by: Zach Zannoni seconded: Robert Cressotti to nominate Steven Ragnaugh.

MOTION by: Aaron Thomas, seconded: Cynthia Mangini to close nominations. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared the **MOTION** 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.

By a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **NOMINATION #7489** adopted.

Jennifer Bakowski: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Cynthia Mangini, Mia Matthews, John Santanella, and Aaron Thomas.

Ken Nelson Jr.: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, and Lori Unghire.

Steven Ragnaugh: Robert Cressotti, Zach Zannoni. The Chair declared Jennifer Bakowski appointed.

2. **Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency** - A Vacancy Exists Due to the Resignation of Dylan Bridge (R). Replacement Would be Until 6/30/2027.

NOMINATION #7490 by: Zach Zannoni to nominate Christopher Renaud. By a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **NOMINATION #7490** 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 Chair declared Christopher Renaud appointed.

C. Transfer to Accept Community Project Funding Grant for Thompsonville Streetscaping

RESOLUTION #7491 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Robert Cressotti.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council hereby accepts the funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

FROM: Grant Project Revenue

Revenue

31104000-460978

\$500,000

TO: Thompsonville Streetscaping

Professional Services

31108884-533900

\$500,000

I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of May 1, 2026, by John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance.

Director of Economic and Community Development Aaron Marcavitch explained that this was funding that was presented by Representative Joe Courtney. It is now in the utilization stage so it must be accepted to be able to start using it. He explained to Councilor Zannoni that this was allocating the funds to the design portion of the project, and the design would end up going to Council for final approval. The second portion of the funding would likely go towards construction, as the entire \$500,000 may not go all to design.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7491** 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.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Town to Submit a Community Investment Fund (CIF) Application for the Hazardville Institute Project

RESOLUTION #7492 by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Maya Matthews.

Mayor Cekala noted there was zero budget impact for this and the next three resolutions, and was solely to start the application process.

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 32-285a, the Connecticut Department of Economic and

Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Enfield make an application to the State for an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 in order to undertake the Hazardville Institute and Parking Lot and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL,

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S. 32-285a
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by Town of Enfield in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 is hereby approved and that Town Manager, Matthew W. Coppler, or his designee, is directed to execute and file such application with the

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of Town of Enfield.

Mr. Marcavitch said that the resolutions would fall under the Community Investment Fund, which does not require a match. He explained that the resolution verbiage included the state requirements for submission and was standard language. The town owns the Hazardville Institute but has a long-term lease with the Hazardville Institute Conservation Society. There is a parking lot behind the building which the town has been working with zoning to allow access to the lot. Some tenants in the plaza next to the Hazardville Institute explained that it would be helpful for the town to help them obtain additional parking behind the building to keep them from losing business. The parking lot is designed in a way that would allow for two phases to be completed if need be.

Councilor Hall stated that the group working to preserve the building has been doing so since the early 1970s. Ms. Hall said that this has been a bipartisan priority and many hours have been dedicated to the project. The building is on the Historic Registry. Residents have donated land to the town in order to accommodate the parking lot. She said that the current parking lot for the deli is poorly configured and makes it difficult to pull in or out. Supporting this plan and the parking lot would improve business opportunities for that area.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7492** 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.

E. Resolution Authorizing the Town to Submit a Community Investment Fund (CIF) Application for the Enfield Annex

MOTION by: John Santanella, seconded: Cynthia Mangini to waive the reading. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared the **MOTION** 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.

RESOLUTION #7493 by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Cynthia Mangini.

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 32-285a, the Connecticut Department of Economic and

Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Enfield make an application to the State for an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 in order to undertake the Enfield Annex HVAC Repair and Replacement and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL,

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S. 32-285a

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by Town of Enfield in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 is hereby approved and that Town Manager, Matthew W. Coppler, or his designee, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of Town of Enfield.

Mayor Cekala explained that this funding would go to improve the HVAC system at the Annex. Mr. Marcavitch stated that this was a second request, as one was done during the last cycle. This request would be to update the HVAC system and paired with monies previously dedicated to other projects on the property.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7493** 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.

F. Resolution Authorizing the Town to Submit a Community Investment Fund (CIF) Application for Planning Funds (Armory Branch)

MOTION by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Marie Pyznar to waive the reading of the full resolution. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared the **MOTION** 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.

RESOLUTION #7494 by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Lori Unghire.

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 32-285a, the Connecticut Department of Economic and

Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic

development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Enfield make an application to the State for \$250,000 in order to undertake a Feasibility Study for the Armory Branch Rail with Trail and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL,

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S. 32-285a

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Enfield in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 is hereby approved and that Town Manager, Matthew W. Coppler, or his designee, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of Town of Enfield.

Mayor Cekala said this was a smaller subset, with no impact on the budget. She clarified that this would be for the Rails with Trails project. Mr. Marcavitch explained that during the process of planning or doing projects, the CIF Board made the determination that there was a need to fund planning efforts. In doing so, a portion of the CIF funds would go towards planning, which would be capped at \$250,000. He said that during the last CRCOG meeting, it was discussed that the Armory Branch was eligible for a feasibility study that cost around \$225,000. He spoke with the Town of East Windsor who would also be in support, and which has submitted their own application.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7494** 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.

G. Resolution Authorizing the Town to Submit a Community Investment Fund (CIF) Application for Planning Funds (Community Center)

MOTION by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Robert Cressotti to waive the reading of the full resolution. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared the **MOTION** 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.

RESOLUTION #7495 by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Cynthia Mangini.

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 32-285a, the Connecticut Department of Economic and

Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Enfield make an application to the State for \$250,000 in order to undertake a Conceptual Study for Community Center Needs and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL,

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S. 32-285a

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Enfield in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 is hereby approved and that Town Manager, Matthew W. Coppler, or his designee, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Enfield.

Mr. Marcavitch said that the details of this have not been ironed out. The planning process remains the same: soliciting public feedback, analysis, and recommendations for moving forward. The future of the Annex has been discussed along with the needs of the community. They understand that there is a need for a pool and recreation and sports fields. The purpose of the planning study is to go back to CIF to make a formal request for additional funding. The money for this project would be to analyze the Annex, the general needs of the community, and to determine the size and types of services to offer.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7495** 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.

H. Request for Transfer of Funds to Replace the Annex Field Turf - \$584,009

RESOLUTION #7496 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Robert Cressotti.

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter,

the following transfer is hereby made:

FROM: GENERAL FUND - REVENUES

Appropriated	Fund 10040000 - 499000	\$584,009
Balance		

**TO: GENERAL FUND - NON-DEPARTMENTAL CHARGES - TRANSFERS OUT
AND CONTINGENCIES**

Transfer to Capital	10800092 - 593010	\$584,009
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FROM: CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND - REVENUES

General Fund Transfers In 31042026 - 480001	\$584,009
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TO: FHS FIELD REHAB

Construction Services	31008804 - 545000	\$584,009
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Mayor Cekala noted that this was discussed during budget deliberations, and that the situation at the Annex is unfortunate and needs to be dealt with.

Councilor Hall requested information about the materials and products they choose to use because of the PFAS concerns mentioned by Karen LaPlante. Mr. Coppler said that the materials are similar to the turf that was installed at Enfield High. Ms. Hall was interested to know if the turf contained PFAS. Mr. Coppler stated that they would need to contact the manufacturer and report back. She was apprehensive to install turf with high levels of PFAS. It was stated that there are no known synthetic surfaces that are free of PFAS, which Ms. Hall disagreed with. She would vote in favor of this resolution because the fields need to be replaced. She would like them to look into alternative products, because it's important to know what's being installed.

Councilor Pyznar agreed that the field needs to be replaced. However, she disagreed with Councilor Zannoni and said that, because of Enfield's size, there are more kids playing sports than in some other towns. She would not be in support of this transfer because they were in the middle of budget deliberations, and she felt the appropriation was too premature. She believed the budget should be adopted first. She was also concerned about whether the fields would be ready for the fall sports season since they need time to rest and settle after installation.

Mayor Cekala believed it would take six weeks to get the materials, and two weeks to install it. That would put the completion date around the beginning of July, and the Ramblers season starts at the end of August. She was in support of the resolution and believed that the materials are similar to the other synthetic fields in town. She would like to discuss having a maintenance plan in place for the Annex and Enfield High turf fields. Mr. Coppler provided the Councilors with the maintenance recommendations from the manufacturer. The company offers two different payment plans for completing the maintenance. The first is a one-year agreement where they would service the fields four times. The cost would be \$6,500 per fill or \$13,000 for the year. The other option is an eight-year plan that would bring the annual cost down to \$5,800 per fill. If they chose that option, they would need to pass a resolution. They would not need to prepay, but remit payment after service completion. The maintenance plan did not have to be voted on or chosen that night.

Councilor Cressotti explained that the eight-year maintenance plan included twenty field services for each field. They would not be split between the Annex and the high school. He believed it was important to keep up with the maintenance and found it absurd that the high school was currently not under a maintenance plan. It was important to take care of the new things they purchased and utilize the company's professionals to do it versus town staff.

Deputy Mayor Santanella agreed with Councilor Pyznar regarding the timing of the resolution since they are actively determining the town's budget. While he agreed the fields needed to be replaced, he did not believe that now was the time to vote on it. He also believed that this should have been voted on in previous budgets. He likened it to when they voted to install pickleball courts three months after voting on the budget. He understood the urgency of replacing the turf and would vote to support it. It was important to mention that the Enfield High turf field was coming to the end of its useful life, and they do not have any money in the budget to replace it. As they finished the budget, he wanted to talk about putting money aside into the CIP for the replacement of the Enfield High turf.

Councilor Hall asked if there were PFAS in the turf field they would be putting in, and Mayor Cekala stated that there are no synthetic turf fields that are free from those chemicals. Ms. Hall had a list of four manufacturers that offered turf fields without PFAS if anyone was interested. She was unsure of whether Ms. LaPlante was referencing the process of installing PFAS-free turf fields. She would like confirmation of the type of turf product being installed, whether it contains PFAS, and if it would be the same company used for Enfield High.

Councilor Zannoni thought that they were putting money aside for a future EHS field over the next four years, according to the budget book. He believed that FY28 and the four succeeding years were dedicating money to the CIP for the field. Mr. Coppler said that as they were building a five-year plan, he knew they would need to dedicate money to replacing those fields. It was in previous years' budgets but was never approved. If the Council was to approve this budget, it would be included in future fiscal years.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7496** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni No: Marie Pynar Abstain: None.

14. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

None.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING

None.

16. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS/APPLIES ONLY IF PRIOR TO 11:00 p.m.

Patricia Wright, 66 Oakwood Street

Ms. Wright stated she was not discounting the Council's information, but as she's said numerous times in the past, many people are unaware that not all sports are played at all schools. She thanked Councilor Hall for correcting her comment. She had misremembered the situation regarding the safety complex referendum. Since so much time had passed and no action was taken, she believed that it had been voted down. She also commended the State Representatives for getting the state to secure funding and hoped that it would help ease any financial burdens on the town.

Karen LaPlante, 166 N. Maple Street

Ms. LaPlante clarified that the research she did on Bright Meadow soccer fields did not contain information about turf fields, as there was none at the time that tested negative. Many of the testing companies were not testing for PFAS in parts per trillion, as set forth by the EPA. Currently, many water sources are contaminated with PFAS, and turf field and groundwater contamination runoff are a possibility. When that happens, it will need to be treated. The cost of these treatment facilities is in the millions, and it's imperative to make the right decision and choose a manufacturer who tests to the correct specifications of the EPA. If the grounds are already contaminated due to previous tobacco growing and farming, then the town needs to weigh the options. She hoped the Council would choose the safest option.

17. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hall stated that her caucus had a meeting on a Sunday to discuss the current budget deliberations. Ms. Hall said that her party takes the budget very seriously, and they took the time to go through it line by line. It was important that she clarified that for residents.

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Aaron Thomas, seconded: Cynthia Mangini to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Lindsay Petrucci, Assistant Town Clerk
Secretary of the Council

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ♦ DISTRICT 4

From Enfield to the National Stage

National League of Cities
Congressional City Conference | March 2026 | Washington, D.C.

Presented by Councilmember Maya Nicole Matthews

1

What Is the National League of Cities?

The NLC is the largest organization in the country representing cities, towns, and villages — places just like Enfield.

- ♦ Represents 19,000+ communities across the country
- ♦ Serves 200 million Americans
- ♦ Provides learning, research & a voice in Washington
- ♦ Connects local elected officials with Congress & federal agencies

Being a member means Enfield has a seat at the table when the decisions that affect us are being made.

2,800+

local leaders attended
March 2026

1,100+

local elected officials met
directly with Congress

"The voice of America's cities"

2

Why Enfield? Our Moment Is Now.

Enfield is a community of about 42,000 people with deep roots, real strength, and important work ahead. Going to Washington was about making sure the people who control resources and policy know who we are.

CHALLENGES WE ARE ADDRESSING

Economic Shift

LEGO's North American offices are completing their move to Boston — taking about 740 jobs and a significant chunk of our commercial tax base with them. We are exploring a mixed-use project at the old Enfield Square Mall

Our Schools

Test scores are below the state average. A referendum is on deck for the fall. Our schools are our single biggest investment in Enfield's future, and they deserve our full attention and every resource available

Grand List & Taxes

A town-wide property revaluation is underway in 2026. Growing our tax base responsibly is essential so residents don't have to carry more of the burden

STRENGTHS WE ARE BUILDING ON

New Train Station

Enfield's upcoming rail station expansion could make us a regional hub — connecting us to jobs, visitors, and economic activity up and down the corridor

Dynamic Leadership

Enfield's 2025/2027 Town Council brings fresh energy, new ideas, and a clear mandate from residents: listen, learn, and don't repeat past mistakes

National Visibility

NLC membership means Enfield is known by the people who decide where federal resources go — and being known is the first step to being heard

3

The Conference: March 2026, Washington, D.C.

The NLC Congressional City Conference brought together thousands of local leaders from every corner of America for three days of learning, connecting, and speaking up for our communities.

MARCH 14–15

Pre-Conference

Professional development sessions and leadership training; committee meetings and roundtables with local leaders from across the country

MARCH 16

Opening Day

Keynote speakers, policy sessions led by national experts, and workshops focused on the most pressing issues facing towns and cities

MARCH 17–18

Hill Day

Over 1,100 local elected officials sat down face-to-face with Members of Congress to speak up for their communities and ask for support

Our delegation covered: Human Development ♦ Public Safety ♦ Economic Development ♦ Small Cities ♦ Transportation & Infrastructure

4

What We Learned

Our delegation covered five sessions and came home with ideas and awareness that are directly relevant to Enfield's future.

Human Development & Community Support

- Federal programs for food, housing, and job training are at risk — showing up and speaking up helps protect that funding
- Towns that offer strong community support see lower emergency costs and stronger public trust over time
- Internet access was named a basic need — being offline holds people back from jobs, school, and healthcare

Public Safety

- We learned about a federal cybersecurity program for small towns — one we would not have known to pursue without being in the room
- Programs addressing the root causes of problems — not just reacting to them — are showing results across the country
- Safe communities attract families and businesses — public safety and economic growth are connected

Economic Development & Small Cities

- We are now aware of federal resources for communities going through the kind of transition Enfield is facing — resources we couldn't pursue without knowing they exist
- Towns our size have a dedicated national network through NLC — leaders who understand exactly what we're up against
- Communities that tell their own story attract visitors, businesses, and residents — and we have a great story to tell

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Federal infrastructure money exists for communities like ours — but it goes to towns that show up, ask for it, and are ready
- Enfield's Complete Streets approach and upcoming train station expansion are assets that put us in a stronger position
- Being active in national conversations is how Enfield gets considered when transportation investments are made

Bottom line: We came home knowing more than when we left — and that knowledge belongs to Enfield.

5

Hill Day: Taking Enfield's Voice Directly to Congress

On Hill Day, local leaders from across the country sat down with Members of Congress and their staff. Our message was simple and clear: Enfield is here, we are engaged, and we are ready to be a partner.

Roads, Bridges & Water

We advocated to keep federal funding for basic infrastructure in place — and to make sure that money flows directly to local governments, not just states

Internet Access & Cybersecurity

We pushed to protect local control over broadband and asked Congress to renew a program that helps small towns protect themselves from online threats

Housing Affordability

Nearly 3 in 10 Enfield families spend more than 30% of their income on housing — we spoke up for federal programs that help working families afford a place to live

Protecting How Towns Borrow

Towns like Enfield rely on a financial tool to fund roads and buildings without raising taxes — we advocated to keep that protection in place

Clean Energy & Environment

We asked for a simpler process for smaller towns seeking environmental approvals, and for support for clean energy projects that save money long-term

Being present = being heard. The towns that show up are the towns that get remembered.

6

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE — AND FROM ME

Working together is not optional. It is the only way forward.

One of the clearest messages of this conference — repeated by leaders from every state, every party, and every kind of community — was this: bipartisanship is not a compromise. It is a requirement.

We Are Public Servants First

Regardless of party, we were elected to serve the same people — the residents of our community. Their needs come before our differences.

Roadblocks Hurt Real People

When politics is put ahead of progress, it is not the politicians who pay the price. It is the families, the kids in our schools, and the neighbors counting on us.

Shared Goals, Shared Work

The goals agreed to by our administration belong to all of us. When we work toward them together, we get more done — and Enfield wins.

I am committed to working with anyone — regardless of party — who is committed to Enfield.

7

What This Means for Enfield: Awareness Is Where It Starts

We did not go to Washington with promises. We went to learn, to listen, and to make sure Enfield is part of the conversation. Here is what we came home with.

Grand List & Economic Growth

We are now aware of federal economic development resources that exist for communities in transition. We cannot pursue what we do not know about — and now we know.

Our Schools

We gained a better understanding of how federal education resources flow to communities that prioritize their students. Enfield's schools deserve every resource available to them.

Infrastructure

Federal dollars exist for towns investing in smart transportation and walkable communities. Being known, present, and prepared is what opens those doors — and we took a big step toward that.

Public Safety

We came home aware of federal programs designed to help towns strengthen public safety in cost-effective ways. The first step is always knowing what is out there.

Visibility for Enfield

Enfield's name was spoken in the halls of Congress. That is not a small thing. Communities that show up and advocate are the ones that get remembered when resources are distributed.

8

PUBLIC SERVANTS CANNOT NAVIGATE WHAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN THE TOOLS TO UNDERSTAND.

The National League of Cities Conference is not a trip — it is a classroom for people who were trusted by their neighbors to lead. The connections we made, the things we learned, and the relationships we built in Washington do not expire when the plane lands in Hartford. They shape every vote we cast, every question we ask, and every door we are now able to knock on for Enfield.

Enfield deserves representatives who are equipped — not just willing.

Enfield Represented

on a national stage

Federal Priorities

learned & championed

Doors Opened

that were closed before

9

Thank you.

Enfield is Worth Investing In. Enfield is Rising.

Councilmember Maya Nicole Matthews | District 4, Enfield Town Council

mmatthews@enfield.org | (860) 365-9775

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