



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
June 15, 2026
5:45 PM - Scitico Room
6:00 PM Council Chambers**

1. Roll Call

Present: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall (Arrived 7:50pm), Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews (arrived 7:47pm), Marie Pyznar, Aaron Thomas, Lori Unghire (arrived 7:47pm), Zach Zannoni

Absent: John Santanella

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

2. Executive Session

- Real Estate Negotiations

MOTION #7536 by: Marie Pyznar seconded: Aaron Thomas

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

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #7536** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Marie Pyznar, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: None Abstain: None.

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chair Cekala at 5:46pm. Community Development Specialist Kristine Koistinen was in attendance for the following item.

1. 128 Green Manor Road

Chair Cekala reconvened the Special Meeting at 5:58pm. No votes or actions were taken by the Council during the Executive Session.

The Council moved to the Council Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Charter Revision Commission

The following members of the Charter Revision Commission were in attendance for the presentation to the Council: Rich Stroiney, Chair; Kate Bouley, Vice-Chair; Tom Cremona, Lora Rae Anderson, and Greg Stokes, members.

Chair Stroiney thanked the members for their time and dedication in serving on the 2026 Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Stroiney acknowledged the work done by the prior commission and noted that the Commission worked in a bipartisan manner for the good of the Town of Enfield.

Mr. Stroiney highlighted some of the key components of the recommendations:

- Removal of the office of constables as they are not utilized for any purpose by the town
- The ability for both parties to fill vacancies without hindrance from the other party
- The right of the public to weigh in before any vote to change Council districts
- Codification of the role of Minority Leader
- Provision to reduce costs to the town for legal notices
- Clarification of the process for the removal of a councilor
- The town manager's residence is strongly preferred, but not a mandatory requirement, in accordance with a prior legal opinion
- Clarification of the timeline to fill the vacancies of the town attorney and town manager
- Stipulation that only registered voters be allowed to vote at referenda
- Exclusion of federal, state or pass-thru funds from the referenda requirement, as these funds have no impact on the town's fund balance or budget

Mr. Stroiney closed by personally recommending that for future Charter Revision Commission appointments, the Town Council continue the structure of the 2026 Commission by appointing residents and non-voting council liaisons. On behalf of the Charter Revision Commission, he thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve and for the Council's trust in the work of the Commission.

Councilor Zannoni asked whether the proposed change in excluding state and federal funds would change how questions are worded on the ballot. Town Manager Coppler responded if the town were to do a \$1M project that was funded solely by grant funds, we would not need to go to referendum. If it were a \$1M project, and the town had to match it dollar for dollar, we would need to go to a referendum because the match is over the capital expenditure cap. Any project requiring bonding would require a referendum. Mr. Zannoni asked what the reasoning was behind adding two alternates to the BAA when it is only a three-member board. Mr. Stroiney responded that the Commission believed appointing alternates would ensure the BAA could continue to conduct business if a vacancy occurred, and the Town Clerk explained that two alternates were so both parties could have representation. Councilor Cressotti stated that this change was initially recommended by the previous Charter Revision Commission.

Mayor Cekala asked for clarification of the requirement of six votes in reference to filling

vacancies by the vacating party. Town Clerk Bailey responded that the Town Attorney's office crafted the language so that the Charter carved out the filling of vacancies procedure as an exception to the six-vote requirement. Ms. Cekala further stated that it states that the vacancy shall be filled by the party within sixty days. She asked what would happen if it was not filled within that timeframe. Chair Stroiney responded that he believed it would revert to the current Council procedure. Town Clerk Bailey added that the sixty-day reference has always been in the Charter. The Town Council could make a recommendation to spell out the procedure in the Charter.

Councilor Pyznar supported the filling of vacancies. She also stated that the suggested timeline for filling a vacancy in town manager is up to two ninety-day periods and an additional thirty days if needed. She would like to see the same timeline offered for the filling of the town attorney position. Mr. Stroiney stated that the Commission did discuss that, but the impression they had is that it is not as difficult to find a qualified town attorney as it is to find a qualified town manager. Mr. Coppler added that a town attorney search would go out to any qualified attorney with a Connecticut license, while a town manager search would be expanded to out of state and could require moving.

Councilor Hall expressed a concern over excluding state and federal funds in the referendum requirement in relation to the Board of Education funds. She was concerned the Board of Education could utilize the 2% carryover as state funds and would like to see additional language added to the proposed change.

Councilor Matthews commended the Commission on formally recognizing the Minority Leader. Ms. Matthews questioned why the Commission made the decision to keep the Public Safety Officer position as it had not been filled in many years. Mr. Stroiney stated that based upon their discussion, that position is not utilized unless there are significant issues going on. If no one was appointed to the role, the Town Manager is the Public Safety Officer. Leaving the position in the Charter gives the town flexibility if there are needs in the future.

Mr. Zannoni stated that the Board of Education's funds are governed by state statute, and he questioned whether the town could impose any restrictions on those carryover funds. Ms. Hall responded that where it gets muddy is where it says any outside funds. The ECS funds of close to \$30M are state funds, and she questioned whether the Board could sidestep the public's input on major construction projects if that change was adopted. Mr. Coppler stated that he understood her point and thought the language could be clarified. Mr. Zannoni asked why the Commission left the merit system in place when the town is not currently using the merit system. Mr. Stroiney stated that they left the current structure in place and only made recommendations for town manager approval in HR matters.

Mr. Stroiney stated that on behalf of the Commission they wished to thank the Council. They enjoyed serving and look forward to any Council recommendations.

4. **Adjournment**

MOTION by: Robert Cressotti, 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 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council