



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

June 23, 2026

5:30 PM - Council Chambers

<https://youtube.com/live/6w7Zlt8vrbc>

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; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

2. Resolution to Submit Town Council Recommended Changes to the Charter Revision Commission's Draft Report or Statement of No Recommended Changes to the Commission for Consideration

RESOLUTION #7549 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: John Santanella.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council hereby submits the attached recommendation(s) for changes in the Draft Report (or statement of no recommendations) to the Charter Revision Commission for consideration.

Chair Cekala asked if there were any recommendations.

MOTION #1 by: Marie Pyznar, seconded: Carol Hall to add the following language to Chapter V. Appointments by the Town Council and the Manager, Section 1. Town Attorney (b): *"If the position is not filled at the expiration of this ninety (90) day period, the Interim Town Attorney's term may be renewed for one additional period not to exceed ninety (90) days."* **A full copy of the recommendation is appended to these minutes.**

Councilor Pyznar asked for the same grace for an extra ninety days given to fill the vacancy in the town manager position to the town attorney position, as vacancies can be difficult to fill. Deputy Mayor Santanella clarified that it would then allow ninety days, then an additional ninety days, and then an additional thirty days. Ms. Pyznar responded that it would be the same amount of time allowed to fill a vacancy in the town manager position. Mr. Santanella stated that he thought seven months was a long time and that it could remove some of the urgency to fill the position if a future council knew they had an

extended period of time. Councilor Zannoni agreed with Mr. Santanella and felt the pool of candidates in Connecticut would be sufficient to be able to fill the vacancy. Councilor Hall supported the recommendation as it would give the council more time if it was needed.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #1** 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.

MOTION #2 by: Carol Hall, seconded: Marie Pyznar to add the following language to Chapter VI. Finance and Taxation, Section 9. Referendum on Capital Expenditure: *"For the purposes of this section, the term "net expenditure of Town funds" shall include all Town-controlled financial resources used for the project, regardless of the timing or source of appropriation. This includes, but is not limited to, current appropriations, prior year appropriations, unexpended balances, designated or undesignated fund balances, reserve funds, carryforwards, or any other funds held, accumulated, or reserved by any town department, board, or agency, including the Board of Education."* **A full copy of the recommendation is appended to these minutes.**

Councilor Hall stated she was concerned that the current wording would allow the council to side-step the voters. She supported the intent of the Charter Revision Commission but felt the wording needed to be clarified. She was concerned that ECS funds or 2% funds could be used to complete projects that should go to referendum.

Councilor Mangini stated that BOE funds should remain under the control of the BOE. Councilor Pyznar responded that the clarifying language will provide more transparency. She was in full support.

Councilor Cressotti stated that the BOE is not an agency of the town, it is an agency of the state. The Town cannot control BOE funds. Councilor Zannoni responded that the BOE 2% funds were not considered in the Charter Revision Commission's discussions. It is not a matter of the Town Council controlling the BOE funds, but that it will go to the voters for a decision. The referendum requirement is already in the charter. Mr. Zannoni was in support of this recommendation. Councilor Unghire supported the recommendation because she felt that the clarifying language would make it easier for the public to understand the intent of the Charter Revision Commission.

Councilor Matthews asked what the pitfalls could be if this clarifying language wasn't adopted. Town Manager Coppler responded that the intention was to make sure that the words we use today are understood ten years from now. Mr. Coppler stated that the way

the Charter is currently written would also apply to the BOE. The school buildings are town buildings, and ultimately, they would have to follow the town's rules. However, the schools receive funds from other sources than just the town, such as the state. This would help to clarify that those funds would still need to go through the town process, including the referendum requirement. Ms. Hall reiterated that the language doesn't change what the Charter Revision Commission intended, it just clarifies the intent.

Mayor Cekala appreciated the desire to clarify the language but wanted to make it clear that whether the change is adopted or not, it does not change the charter provision. Ms. Cekala stated that sometimes using more words actually makes things less clear.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #2** failed. Yes: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire Zachary Zannoni No: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Abstain: None.

AMENDMENT #1 by: John Santanella, seconded: Cynthia Mangini to amend **Resolution #7549** to read:

"**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Enfield Town Council accepts the Charter Revision Commission's Draft Report as the Final Report."

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #1** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire Abstain: None.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7549** adopted as amended. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire Abstain: None.

3. **Adjournment**

MOTION by: Aaron Thomas, seconded: Maya Matthews to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Charter Revision Commission Language:

(b) In the event there is a vacancy in the office of the Town Attorney, the Council may appoint an interim attorney to serve at the pleasure of the Council for a period of up to ninety (90) days. The Council may extend the term of the interim Town Attorney for not more than thirty (30) additional days upon an affirmative vote of the two-thirds of the Council seated and present.

Recommendation:

(b) In the event there is a vacancy in the office of the Town Attorney, the Council may appoint an interim attorney to serve at the pleasure of the Council for a period of up to ninety (90) days. **If the position is not filled at the expiration of this ninety (90) day period, the Interim Town Attorney's term may be renewed for one additional period not to exceed ninety (90) days.** The Council may extend the term of the interim Town Attorney for not more than thirty (30) additional days upon an affirmative vote of the two-thirds of the Council seated and present.

Charter Revision Commission Language:

SECTION 9. REFERENDUM ON CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

The Council may, by a vote of six (6) or more members, adopt a resolution authorizing expenditures for capital improvements. Any such authorization of an expenditure that requires a net expenditure of Town funds exceeding in any fiscal year 0.0002 (2/100's of one percent) of the current grand list shall not be effective until it shall be submitted to and approved by the electors of the town by a referendum vote. For purposes of this section, the above-referenced term "net expenditure of Town funds" shall exclude any and all amounts contributed or provided by state or federal grants, state or federal reimbursements, or other non-Town funding sources.

Recommendation:

The Council may, by a vote of six (6) or more members, adopt a resolution appropriating money authorizing expenditures for capital improvements. Any such authorization of an expenditure that requires a net expenditure of Town funds exceeding in any fiscal year 0.0002 (2/100's of one percent) of the current grand list shall not be effective until it shall be submitted to and approved by the electors of the town by a referendum vote.

For purposes of this section, the term "net expenditure of Town funds" shall include all Town-controlled financial resources used for the project, regardless of the timing or source of appropriation. This includes, but is not limited to, current appropriations, prior year appropriations, unexpended balances, designated or undesignated fund

balances, reserve funds, carryforwards, or any other funds held, accumulated, or reserved by any Town department, board, or agency, including the Board of Education.

For purposes of this section, the above-referenced term "net expenditure of Town funds" shall exclude any and all amounts contributed or provided by state or federal grants, state or federal reimbursements, or other non-Town funding sources.