

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick on Monday, October 4, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRAYER – The prayer was given by Chairman Muller.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilor Bosco, Cekala, Cressotti, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Director of Development Services, Lauren Whitten; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Ludwick made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #5940 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Muller to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2021 Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5940** adopted 9-0-2, with Councilors Bosco and Szewczak abstaining.

MOTION #5941 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Unghire to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5941** adopted 9-0-2, with Councilor Bosco and Szewczak abstaining.

SPECIAL GUESTS

There were no special guests this evening.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Amanda Marquez, 8 Hoover Lane

Stated her belief Covid-19 is mainly spread by microscopic aerosols generated by breathing, talking, sneezing, and coughing, exactly the same way other viruses are spread, and the

vast majority of these infections easily penetrate common masks. She spoke at length about the ineffectiveness of masks and stated her belief people have a moral responsibility to question government and to stand up and speak out against injustices, especially when it comes to children. She noted when it comes to masks, there is a simple solution, and it is – those who choose to wear a mask can do so, and those who don't are not mandated against their free will.

Matthew Schmidt, 55 North Main Street

Spoke against the school mask mandate because he feels the forced masking of children is wrong. He feels this is an atrocity because government officials are complicit in forcing children to wear a medical device that he believes causes harm. He noted he finds it ironic the majority of this Council refuses to wear a mask. He stated it is either a case of rules for thee, but not for me, or this Council lacks the courage to do what's necessary to address the harm of forced masking of Enfield's school children. He stated it is time for a local governmental body, in the name of public health, to use its power to defend its most vulnerable populace.

Robert Tkacz, Woodgate Circle

Agreed with the past two speakers. He noted CDC calculates deaths with heart disease being number one at about 600,000, followed by cancer at about 300,000. He noted in 2019 Covid-19 was number three, but in 2020 it dropped down to number seven. He stated people wearing masks are afraid they will get a disease, but he believes they will get it anyways.

Mr. Tkacz stated he gave the Town Manager a document showing some of the richest people in the U.S. and the world are backing marijuana, and he feels for Enfield to opt out is wrong. He noted a recent survey of Massachusetts Police Chiefs showed they were apprehensive four years ago, but 90% are with the marijuana sales, and they are not having any problems that were predicted. He stated the real problem is that people want guns locked up, but not medicine cabinets where children can find opioids.

He referred to the School Board and stated instead of talking about horrifically bad math scores, they want to talk about events.

Nick Hopkins, 2 Varno Lane

Stated his belief homeowners should be able to build an accessory apartment on their property with some reasonable restrictions. He feels a person should absolutely be able to build a small structure to house an elderly parent or adult child with disabilities.

Mr. Hopkins stated at the last Town council meeting it was stated that any existing zoning regulations that don't comply with the new law would be voided on January 1, 2022 if they don't opt out. He stated his belief that was mis-stated. He referred to Section 6E of the new law that states existing regulations that don't comply with the guidelines of the new law are voided by January 1, 2023 if the town doesn't opt out. He read the following:

“If a municipality fails to adopt new regulations or amend existing regulations by January 1, 2023 for the purpose of complying with the provisions of subsection A to D, inclusive of this section and unless such municipality opts out of the provisions of subsections in accordance with the provisions of subsection F of this section, any non-compliant existing regulation shall become null

and void and such municipality shall approve or deny applications for accessory apartments in accordance with the requirements for regulations set forth in the provisions of subsections A-D inclusive of this section until such municipality adopts or amends a regulation in compliance with said subsections. A municipality may not use or impose additional standards beyond those set forth in subsections A-D inclusive of that section.”

He stated they have until January 1, 2022 to pass new zoning regulations that go further than the guidelines of the new state law if they wish to. He noted any regulations passed after January 1, 2022 will be required to comply with the state rules, but their existing ones would not be voided. He stated they have until January 1, 2023 to opt out of the state guidelines. He noted if they don’t opt out, any of the existing regulations that go further than the new law become void. If they opt out of the accessory apartment guidelines, but don’t pass their own by January 1, 2023, they are automatically opted into the state’s new guidelines.

Mr. Hopkins stated the Town either must adopt new regulations or amend existing regulations and they must opt out of the provision. He noted if they simply opt out, but don’t actually pass new regulations that would comply with A-D, they’ve automatically opted in.

He stated his belief that if more local control is wanted, they need to have their own regulations in place before 2022. He feels it makes most sense not to opt out before the regulations are drawn up.

Mr. Hopkins stated this new law sets some standards for accessory apartments that make sense and are predictable and understandable for homeowners. He feels the current zoning rules for accessory apartments only state, “An accessory apartment is a second dwelling unit located within a detached single-family dwelling situated on an individual lot. Such dwelling unit shall be subordinate to the principal dwelling in terms of size, location, and appearance.” He stated this is very vague, and he can’t imagine this is helpful for P&Z or homeowners considering whether they would like to build an accessory apartment for their love done.

He stated if there’s concern about people using ADU’s as short-term rentals, that can be restricted. He noted other towns have done that in Connecticut, but that is completely separate from this law. He stated his belief they should not opt out of this law just based on the misconception they can opt out of the new zoning regulation officer and certification requirements. He stated his belief this law allows them to opt out of that, and it’s just something the State just imposed.

Mr. Hopkins stated they are not allowed to opt out of this law entirely. He feels the Town should reasonably balance letting people use their property how they want, along with the rights of their neighbors to enjoy their own property.

He feels the smartest thing is for the Council to evaluate whether Enfield needs accessory apartment rules that go beyond the new law and to consider whether those rules are part of a section that they can actually opt out of. He stated his belief they are not ready to do that, especially if they are unsure what the deadlines are. He recommends postponing opting out until they’ve decided that they need stricter regulations and that they’ve actually drafted them. He noted there

is a window between now and January 1, 2022 to do that if they believe they need stricter ADU requirements.

Walter Kruzel, 21 Charnley Road

Stated two weeks ago, they proclaimed Constitution Week in Enfield, but recently the Legislature voted for the ADU bill to take powers away from local Planning & Zoning boards. He noted the Legislature also extended the Governor's executive powers until February for the sixth time on this so-called emergency.

Sheila Munroe, 3 Stacey Lane

Stated on July 23, 2021 the Department of Education released a resource to help schools, colleges and universities improve their ventilation systems to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to provide healthy learning environments. She noted that resource outlines how the American Rescue Plan funds can be used to improve air quality and is part of the Department's broader effort to support schools as they prepare to welcome students back for in-person learning in the fall. She questioned if the \$11 million dollars of Covid money received by the Town is part of that plan. She stated if that is the case, she requested the upgrades to the schools be named. She noted if the air is being cleaned properly to fulfill the APR's expectations, wouldn't that be part of the solution, so they could unmask children so they can breathe.

Ms. Munroe stated now is the time to install air purification systems as well as central air conditioning in every school. She noted children deserve nothing less, and the available funds must be used on the children for their continued health and safety. She stated if children are demanded to wear masks 10 hours per day, she demands they use any and all measures to insure a healthy resolution.

Matthew Despard, 3 Gordon Lane

Stated his belief the Council should not opt out of this ADU legislation this evening. He feels they really need to look at this law again. He agreed with Mr. Hopkins in that they need to come up with their own regulations by January, 2022.

Chris Dantonio, 18 Montano Road

Spoke in favor of accessory apartments and allowing them as a right in Enfield. He feels zoning can be used as a force for good and bad. He noted a lot of the origins of zoning, especially exclusionary single-family zoning is not very pretty, and it has created a lot of segregation across the country. He stated he does not believe Enfield is that special in that case. He noted he is glad Enfield is doing well with affordable housing. He feels affordability plays a small part in accessory apartments, but he doesn't believe it is exclusive. He acknowledged it does seem a little heavy handed for the state to come down with these requirements. He stated his belief it does not remove local control because the town still has the ability to create good and sound zoning laws to create well-designed accessory apartments. He feels it is preemptive to opt out when they don't have a good alternative.

Robert Tkacz, Woodgate Circle

Stated he spoke to the Town Manager about the walking police officers in Thompsonville and told him they should allow only black and brown police in that area and no white officers. He stated he was told the town tries to hire them, but they can't come. He stated his belief they need

a whole new HR Department. He noted they're coming to other towns, they're easy to hire, they're looking for jobs, there are a lot of Hispanic people that could qualify, and he believes they should not hire any more white police officers.

Mr. Tkacz stated the Town Council's vote tells him that they don't trust the Enfield Police Department because they want to control them. He stated his belief they should let the Police Chief do his job and allow the marijuana.

He noted an article in the Hartford Courant talks about a conviction analysis finding disparity in the courts. He stated it starts in the street by arresting black and brown people, and when they get to the court, there's a higher conviction rate, and he feels this is wrong. He noted the Council has the power to change it, and they are not doing it.

Mr. Tkacz stated the Council must change its attitude about what's going on in the town, especially Thompsonville because he believes Thompsonville will never be revitalized with this attitude.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Councilor Mangini stated ERFC had a wonderful fundraiser on Saturday. She noted it is a great program, and she was happy to see the many people who came out to support ERFC.

She stated October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She stated her hope that people will contribute to breast cancer funds.

Councilor Cressotti stated he attended the Enfield Fencing Club opening this past weekend. He noted it's exciting to see this sport come to Enfield.

He spoke about the Family Day on the Town Green, which was hosted by ERFC. He thanked Connie Provencher for her time and effort organizing this event, as well as all her co-workers who put on Family Day. He also noted the Farm to Table Dinner was well attended. He noted the food and company was excellent. He also commended all the sponsors who attended. He stated Connie Provencher asked him to thank everyone who supported this event.

Councilor Cressotti stated a resident from 36 Oakridge Street contacted him about the high rate of speed by motorists in this neighborhood. He noted this road is being used as a cut through and he questioned if this could be an area that could be studied for some traffic calming, i.e., stop sign, speed bumps.

Councilor Unghire stated she attended an open house at Enfield High School, and she spent some time in the School Career Center and spoke with Colene Ceniglio and Jamie Botteron, and they do a great job.

She stated she attended the ribbon cutting of the new Enfield Fencing Club. She noted the demonstration was exciting. She stated this facility is in the Stop & Shop Plaza.

Councilor Unghire stated she attended the Enfield Together Coalition meeting, and they are having a drug take-back day on October 23rd. She noted there are drop boxes at the Enfield Police Department and Enfield Town Hall.

MOTION #5942 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini to suspend the rules to address under Miscellaneous Items 14 A1-A3, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5942** adopted 10-0-0.

Chairman Ludwick commended Enfield residents for all their Halloween decorations.

Chairman Ludwick advised people to read their history regarding using military on the streets. He feels it is dangerous to put the military on the streets.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bromson referred to Councilor Cressotti's remarks about traffic calming and stated this will be a topic at the Public Safety Committee meeting tomorrow morning.

Referring to Mr. Tkacz's comments about the police, Mr. Bromson stated it has been a priority to recruit and keep minority officers in the town. He noted a lot of younger officers want an urban setting for police work. He stated Enfield has tried, and they've worked with NAACP to advertise in their magazines to try and recruit minorities. He noted since he last spoke to Mr. Tkacz, the Town hired two minority officers in the span of about a month. He stated since Chief Fox has been here, they went from one African American to three African American officers and they went from two Hispanic officers to four Hispanic officers, and they are hiring another one. He noted this does not include all the female officers that they've hired.

Mr. Bromson stated this Town Council, after the budget, invested \$400,000 in manpower in addition to the upgrades to put a substation in Thompsonville. He noted Chief Sferrazza previously said he asked for many years to commit resources to Thompsonville, and that was done. He noted they have four officers committed to Thompsonville only. He stated he would cringe to think that Mr. Tkacz really meant that they're going to say that in certain areas, black and Hispanic officers are the only ones that can patrol. He noted that is not something that they would entertain doing. He stated they are going to hire the best people, and those people will work throughout the town.

He stated there was a good discussion with the Opera House Players in Executive Session this evening.

Rails to Trails

Ms. Whitten stated awhile ago, the DOT gave a presentation to the Town Council on the actual freight line on the eastern part of town, which will become active. She noted a lot of people hoped it would become a rail to trail, but that is not going to happen, however, there is the possibility that they could have a shared right-of-way with the trail and the railroad itself.

Ms. Whitten stated the first step would be the town's submittal to the DOT, which would be a conceptual trail design. She noted they would have to show that they could fit a four or ten-foot trail within the right-of-way, which must be at least 25 feet from the edge of the railroad tie. She noted she did a quick GIS survey, and it looked as though most of the six-mile-long trail could support that, but then there are areas of woods and wetlands, bridges, etc. which are impediments. She stated if they were to move forward, they'd have to conduct a title search for the entire six miles of the railroad to ascertain what easements have already been granted, which would probably be very cumbersome and costly.

She noted if they did produce a conceptual trail design, they would review the right-of-way mapping, the locations of the crossings, turnouts, the topography, and site line impediments, etc. She stated they would look at existing operations and the potential impact on future operations. She noted as far as she can tell, this freight line is going to become live again.

Ms. Whitten referred to dual use of the trail and noted they would have to have a design approval process with Connecticut DOT. She noted there's entry permitting just to even get the land survey done, and they must have an agreement with the DOT and all the title holders. She stated the Town would have to buy out the title holders or have a subordination with each one of them.

She stated the next step would be to submit to the Surface Transportation Board, which is an independent federal agency, which is charged with economic regulation of various modes of transport, especially railroad, and they interact with Congress, executive agencies, state, and local governments. She noted she was told it would be a hard sell to have this dual combination within the same right-of-way.

Ms. Whitten stated she did ask one of the representatives if they ever heard of a rail running alongside a trail in the State of Connecticut, and they could not come up with one example.

She stated she calculated some estimates, and the anticipated known costs are \$1.5 million dollars for a four-foot-wide path, inclusive of construction costs. She noted if it were to be a 10-foot-wide path, the cost would be \$3.6 million dollars.

Councilor Sferrazza stated his understanding it is a federal decision as to whether the train will be using this track, and Ms. Whitten stated ultimately it is federal, but it really comes from CT DOT.

Councilor Sferrazza stated his understanding one railcar can handle ten truckloads and could be more cost effective for a business. He noted if that were to be a reality, could that be an economic incentive for a business to want to build or purchase something if they have access to a rail line. Ms. Whitten stated her belief it would be if someone wanted to utilize the rail line, and there is a company that does want to use it. She added it could be an economic incentive.

Councilor Sferrazza stated his understanding the estimate of \$1.5 million dollars would come from Enfield taxpayers, and Ms. Whitten responded yes.

Mr. Bromson recommended Ms. Whitten could see if someone could look at the easement issues concerning distances to get a cost for that.

Chairman Ludwick stated he does not want to abandon this idea. Mr. Bromson noted the Council will be kept updated.

Amtrack/Eversource

Ms. Whitten stated Amtrack erected 8-foot fencing on Depot Street, and that prevents people from accessing the open space that Eversource owns on the north side of the tracks in the area where the tracks come into Enfield from across the river. She noted she emailed Eversource concerning this matter.

She stated they thought about how else people can access that property. She noted they looked at the idea of developing a trail, which goes south from the boat launch on Parsons Road. She stated they could apply for a grant through Eversource, so they could create a little trail system. She noted this must be sponsored by a non-profit, but there are no non-profits in Enfield that are actually for conservation or environmental things. She stated she will look at some of the dog groups, who could walk their dogs there. She noted the hard part will be getting Amtrack to offer the easement.

Councilor Hemmeler stated there has been some misinformation out there, so she requested the Town Manager explain why an organization as large as the Town would carry debt, what the debt is made up of, and that it was the taxpayers that actually voted for it.

Mr. Bromson stated Enfield, like any other city or town in the state, must have a balanced budget, which is state law. He noted when they go through the process every year, that is done. He noted Enfield has had very good fiscal stewardship over decades, to the point where they must have a rainy-day fund of about \$13 million dollars in the bank. He noted before the last budget, they had \$39 million dollars, and even after the expenditures and the CIP, there is over \$30 million dollars.

He stated Enfield has bonds and obligations, like any other city or community. He noted each year he must go before Standard and Poor's for them to go over every facet of the annual report and all financial statements. He stated that was done this year, and Standard and Poor's knows what Enfield's past borrowing is, and they encouraged Enfield to do the referendum questions because they want to see investment in the town. He pointed out Enfield has invested in its infrastructure over the years.

Mr. Wilcox stated as of the end of 2020, Enfield had a little over \$103 million dollars of outstanding debt. He noted \$81 million dollars of that was for roads projects from Roads 2005, 2010, and 2015 projects. The high school is about \$21 million dollars. He noted the debt will fluctuate because they will be bonding for the JFK Middle School project and the sewer plant.

Mr. Wilcox stated Enfield has a very healthy fund balance with a total fund balance of \$39.9 million dollars with \$8 million restricted, therefore, they had about \$31.8 million dollars of unassigned funds. He stated the previous Council adopted a Fund Balance Policy requiring them to maintain an unassigned Fund Balance of at least 9% of their projected expenditures. He noted for 2022, the Fund Balance reserve requirement is about \$13.8 million dollars, and they have about \$18 million dollars over that.

Mr. Wilcox stated they are in very good fiscal shape, and Standard & Poor's rates the town every year, and Enfield's rating is AA Stable, and Standard & Poor's expects Enfield to remain at AA. He noted under Standard & Poor's definition, this means the Town of Enfield's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is very strong.

Councilor Sferrazza stated his understanding that having an AA rating correlates directly to what Enfield must pay when they borrow money, so they get a more favorable rate because of the AA rating, and Mr. Wilcox responded that's correct.

Mr. Bromson stated last year and this year, Enfield got a favorable borrowing rate, and they got as low as any municipality in Connecticut. He stated last year they re-negotiated and saved about a million dollars over a few years because of Enfield's high standing in the rating industry.

Councilor Unghire requested the Town Manager add Spier Avenue as an area to be looked at for speeding problems.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Tallberg stated last week on September 28th, Governor Lamont ordered Executive Order #14, which renewed through February 15, 2022 the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies that were originally declared on March 10, 2021. He noted some of the executive orders were allowed to expire, but some were extended all the way through February 15, 2022, i.e., the masking requirements in schools pursuant to Executive Order #9, Section 1 and the extension of municipal orders allowed under Executive Order #13A. He noted there has been some commentary about masks in schools and whether those orders should be obeyed. He stated his only observation is that, although it was 25 years ago when he was sworn into the bar, he swore to uphold the laws and the Constitution of the United States, not just the laws he liked, but all the laws, and those Executive Orders have the force of law. He stated as the Town Attorney, it is his recommendation that the Town follow the laws.

Referring to Mr. Hopkins comments about the ADU's, Attorney Tallberg stated lawyers often disagree about things, especially statutory interpretation. He noted he would not concede the point made by Mr. Hopkins with regards to the deadlines. He stated they can agree that the section he read in the record, which is part of Section 6, Subsection 6b-e, in particular, provides that as of January 1, 2023 any existing regulation that does not comply with this new Act shall be null and void. He stated what is less clear is what happens with these rolling sets of deadlines that started October 1 and include January 1, 2022. He stated the section that Mr. Hopkins did not read into the record states is Section 6, Page 13 of 28, "Effective January 1, 2022 any zoning regulations adopted pursuant to Section 8-2 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall..." and that lists three pages of requirements that are consistent with the spirit and intent of this new law. He stated some of his peers in the Connecticut Association of Municipal Attorneys have construed this to call into doubt what would happen to existing regulations as of January 1, 2022. He noted reasonable lawyers can disagree about these things, and it is not unusual when you have a new law that in an adversary process, lawyers who practice land use and want to see broader rights will go to court and argue for a broader interpretation, and on the other side, town attorneys will argue that

they don't have these obligations. He stated as Enfield's Town Attorney, he does not want to litigate these issues, but he knows for certain that January, 2023 they'll be null and void. He noted it's not really clear what's going to happen between now and then. He stated he can say for sure that if the Town opts out, they don't have to worry about it, and that is the basis for his advice.

Chairman Ludwick referred to masks, and on the box, it says it doesn't protect you which is interesting. He questioned if a child became sick from wearing a mask, what recourse would a parent have. Attorney Tallberg stated that is not a question he can answer.

Councilor Sferrazza stated his understanding Executive Orders are not recommendations, but in fact they are law, and it is his understanding a violation is a Class D Felony, and Attorney Tallberg stated it is actually legislation that can be invoked, so they have this mechanism in place when there is an emergency, and they are valid and enforceable. He stated some of them have been challenged in court, not with much success. He stated Councilor Sferrazza is correct in that they have the force of law.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

There were no reports this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Items A through D remained tabled.

MOTION #5943 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Muller to remove Item E. from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5943** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #5944 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) has recommended that the Town opt out of Public Act No. 21-29 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) provisions; and

WHEREAS, in order to opt out of the ADU provisions, the Town Council must hold a public hearing subsequent to the PZC public hearing and gain a two-thirds vote in favor of opting out; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held a public hearing on September 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, there are legitimate concerns with the proposed ADU regulations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council vote to opt out of Public Act No. 21-29 Section 6(f) for the ADU provisions.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5944** adopted by an 8-3-0 vote, with Councilors Cekala, Cressotti and Mangini voting against the resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business items.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

All items have been moved to Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEOUS

MOTION #5945 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the Consent Agenda.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5945** adopted 11-0-0.

- Resolution to approve \$8,000 transfer of funds to Enfield Beautification Committee
- Resolution to approve \$7,500 transfer of funds for Family Resource Center
- Resolution for transfer of \$10,000 donated for Family Resource Center

Resolutions appended to these minutes

RESOLUTION #5946 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

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

TO: COVID-19 Fund

Enfield Express – Buildings	24500340-572000	\$600,000
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FROM: COVID-19 Fund

Revenue-Grants-COVID-Federal	24540000-460004	\$600,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of September 28, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Mr. Bromson stated due to the Council's vision and looking at this a couple years ago and leasing with the option to buy brings them to this point. He noted at the height of COVID, the Town was looking for new and innovative ways to deliver services to residents in a safe way. He noted as part of the building consolidation plan, they moved the tax and assessor's office to this new location. He stated this building comes with two acres and this area can be used for about 100 new parking spaces, which will accommodate visitors to Higgins Park and the Farmers Market.

He noted the Higgins Park is under construction, and the playscape is up. He stated hopefully after action tonight, there will groundbreaking for the outdoor basketball court. He noted the Council already funded the walking trails-one trail a quarter of a mile and another for a third of a mile. He stated that groundbreaking will soon take place.

Mr. Bromson stated they also will be leasing with an option to buy the 9,000 square foot St. Adalbert's gymnasium, and this facility can be used for tournament basketball, pickleball, volleyball, indoor walking track, a climbing wall, stages for theater, and this will be part of the Town Green. He stated these plans are being completely paid for by the U.S. Government because Enfield had the forethought to do this for COVID, and it was eligible, as is the \$450,000 to put in the parking area. He noted this is one of the first items that they are bringing forward under American Recovery. He pointed out anyone can go online to see the recommendations for the rest of that funding. He stated each project will be brought forward for Council consideration.

He referred to a comment under Public Communications about American Recovery funding, and he pointed out the Town of Enfield's funding is separate from the school system's funding. He noted the Town of Enfield's funding is \$12.9 million dollars over two years, and they received \$6.3 million dollars. He stated the School Department is more, but it is eligible for all of the projects raised earlier. He noted they are working with the Superintendent of Schools on a joint project for the athletic fields at the high school, and they will have more information in the next few weeks.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5946** adopted 10-0-0. Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

RESOLUTION #5947 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Unghire.

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

TO: COVID-19 Fund

Enfield Express – Buildings	24500340-572000	\$125,000
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FROM: COVID-19 Fund

Revenue-Grants-COVID-Federal	24540000-460004	\$125,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of September 28, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5947** adopted 10-0-0. Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

RESOLUTION #5948 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

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

TO: General Fund

Unallocated Charges-Water/Sewerage	10800092-541100	\$1,236,934
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FROM: General Fund

Unallocated Charges-Transfers to Capital	10800092-593010	\$ 636,000
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Revenue-Appropriated Fund Balance	10040000-499000	\$ 600,934
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of September 28, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5948** adopted 10-0-0. Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

RESOLUTION #5949 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

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

TO: General Fund

Unallocated Charges – Water/Sewerage	10800092-541100	\$370,000
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FROM: General Fund

Revenue – Appropriated Fund Balance	10040000-499000	\$370,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of September 29, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5949** adopted 10-0-0. Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

RESOLUTION #5950 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the FY2021-2022 budget includes funding for four part-time Youth Center Assistant positions; and

WHEREAS, a \$1.00 per hour wage increase has been proposed for the part-time Youth Center Assistant positions; and

WHEREAS, in order to fund the proposed wage increase, one of the four part-time Youth Center Assistant positions will have to be abolished.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the number of part-time Youth Center Assistant positions be reduced from four to three; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter V, Section 14 of the Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby approve the wage adjustment for the remaining three Youth Center Assistant positions by increasing the current wage rate by \$1.00 per hour and the starting wage to \$14.00/hour.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5950** adopted 10-0-0. Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

RESOLUTION #5951 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield (Town) intends to purchase the gymnasium located at 90 Alden Avenue; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 8-24, the Town Council will refer this acquisition to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes 8-24; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the acquisition listed above is referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes 8-24.

Mr. Bromson stated this is the new basketball tournament facility that they are just referring to get permission to buy it.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5951** adopted 10-0-0, with Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

RESOLUTION #5952 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the Town that a basketball court be installed at Higgins Park, and that such basketball court be opened for use for the fall of 2021; and

WHEREAS, conducting a competitive bidding process would add significant delays to the project which would delay opening until the summer of 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter V, Section 8, Paragraph (d) of the Enfield Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby determine that it is against the best interests of the Town to require competitive bidding for the construction of a basketball court at Higgins Park.

Mr. Bromson stated this is part of the Higgins Park, and it is both the two walkways and the basketball court that was previously funded. He stated they did a lot of these projects before adopting the budget because he knew there was going to be a long lead time, and that is why they did them separately. He noted they have a well-known contractor for the basketball court.

He noted a week from Friday, there will be two ribbon cuttings for the basketball courts just completed at Alcorn and LaFayette.

Mr. Nunes stated the contractor, who did LaFayette Park, is available to start work on Wednesday, depending on the outcome of tonight's resolution, and it would be within the budget that was set. He noted things are working out well.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5952** adopted 10-0-0, with Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

RESOLUTION #5953 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is in the interests of the Town that a walkway be installed at Higgins Park as part of the master plan, and that such walkway could be opened for use for the fall of 2021; and

WHEREAS, conducting a competitive bidding process would add significant delays to the project which would delay opening until the summer of 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter V, Section 8, Paragraph (d) of the Enfield Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby determine

that it is against the best interests of the Town to require competitive bidding for the construction of a walkway at Higgins Park.

Mr. Bromson stated there are three more weeks for the Enfield Farmers Market. He noted it has been a great success with many wonderful vendors, music, and ice cream for the children. He stated hopefully they'll be moving to the Enfield Square again for the winter season.

Chairman Cekala stated the walking path is the reason why they do not have a softball field in that area. She noted they were super enthused about tearing down that softball field, and she does not understand why a bid request did not go out months ago on this. She stated she was not in favor of the way Higgins Park is now being created. She stated she is not in favor of this bid waiver because it should have been done months ago.

Mr. Bromson stated they were doing so many projects with Public Works, and that's why they have a description under the Novak Report to add an additional administrator because they are just overwhelmed with over 80 projects, and they're going from one to the next, and it has been a herculean task to try and get all the fields open. He determined the fact that they could not get anyone interested to do it, so it was decided to go this route. He noted Councilor Cekala's remarks are understood.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5953** adopted 9-1-0, with Councilor Cekala voting against the resolution. Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Dantonio, 18 Montano Road

Stated he saw a very quick poll about the cannabis dispensary on the Enfield CT Open Forum on Facebook. He noted 1,667 voted in favor of a dispensary; 200 voted they did not care either way and 68 voted they did not want a dispensary. He noted this is something to think about. He referred to rushing to a vote or making a vote without taking the public into account.

Matthew Schmidt, 55 North Main Street

Referred to the legal ramification of going against the mask mandate and stated this country has had bad laws in the past that effected people poorly, and it took people fighting those laws to get them changed.

Mr. Schmidt stated he does not know if the Town Attorney has looked at the Prep Act, which is a federal law that provides broad immunity to agencies such as municipal and state agencies in implementing covered counter measures, and masking is one. He noted he does not know if that is an option, i.e., if the Town were to have a different mask policy of some sort and whether that would trump that. He stated his hope the Council will look into that. He noted there are a number of amendments to the Prep Act, one of which allows veterinarians to give Covid vaccines.

Robert Tkacz, Gatewood Circle

Stated when any poll is run across the country regarding marijuana usage, 63% to 83%-Massachusetts was 83%. He noted they may as well change the town from Enfield to Mayberry because there's no crime here.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5954 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Unghire to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5954** adopted 10-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Jeannette Lamontagne
Secretary to the Council

Appended to the minutes of the
October 4, 2021 Town Council
meeting. See page 11

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

TO: Enfield Beautification Committee

Miscellaneous	10190955-589000	\$8,000
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FROM: General Fund

Contingency	10800092-584000	\$8,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of
September 22, 2021.



John Wilcox, Director of Finance

9/22/21

Date:

APPROVED BY: 

Christopher Bromson, Town Manager

10/1/21

Date:

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

TO: Family Resource Center OEC Summer Funding Grant

Instructional Supplies	24540470 561100	\$7,500
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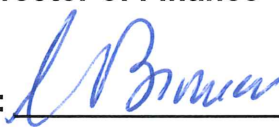
FROM: Family Resource Center OEC Summer Funding Grant

Parent Activities	24540470 532500	\$7,500
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of
September 24, 2021



John Wilcox, Director of Finance

APPROVED BY:  _____ Town Manager

Date: 10/1/21

Appended to the minutes of the
October 4, 2021 Town Council
meeting. See page 11

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

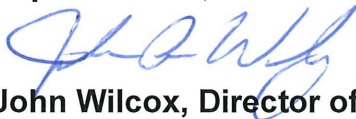
TO: Family Resource Center USA Hauling and Recycling

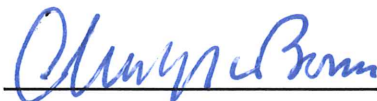
Instructional Supplies	22046136 561100	\$5,000
Other Supplies/Materials	22046136 561900	\$5,000

FROM: Family Resource Center

FRC USA Hauling and Recycling	22046136 460163	\$10,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of
September 24, 2021.


John Wilcox, Director of Finance

APPROVED BY:  Town Manager

Date: 10/1/21