

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

The Organizational Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey, on Monday, November 8, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

The Enfield Police Department led the Presentation of Colors.

PRAYER

The Prayer was given by Sister Patricia Marie Iagrosso of the Felician Sisters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Enfield Police Explorers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

STAR SPANGLES BANNER

The Star-Spangled Banner was sung by Emily Vandal.

OATH OF OFFICE

Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey, invited elected Constables to stand and receive the Oath of Office.

Ms. Bailey then invited the Town Council to stand and receive the Oath of Office.

ROLL-CALL

Present were Councilors Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Matthew Despard, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, and Lori Unghire. Councilor Joseph Bosco was absent.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

NOMINATION #5968 by Councilor Cekala to appoint Councilor Cressotti as Mayor for the Town of Enfield.

Councilor Cekala stated Councilor Cressotti has the characteristics that a Mayor should possess, which are educator, leader, advocator, and listener. She noted she has known Councilor Cressotti for many years, through politics, youth sports and personally. She stated he has demonstrated he is a leader, no matter the situation. She noted he possesses the ability to bring people together and

motivate them. She stated he is an educator, whether in the classroom, on the ballfield, in politics, or in his everyday life. She noted he has the ability to teach something to every person that he comes in contact with. She stated he has a wealth of knowledge. She noted she's honored to nominate Councilor Cressotti for the position of Mayor in the Town of Enfield, and she cannot think of a more deserving and capable person.

Councilor Despard stated he would like to second this nomination. He noted 25 years ago, he was a student at John F. Kennedy Middle School in the Red Wing, which means he had the privilege of having Councilor Cressotti as his math teacher. He noted this nomination is well-earned.

MOTION #5969 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5969** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Councilor Cressotti appointed as Mayor for the Town of Enfield by a 10-0-0 vote.

Mayor Cressotti stated he is honored to be selected as the next Mayor of Enfield. He congratulated all the Constables that were elected and incumbent Town Councilors. He recognized Councilor Mike Ludwick as the former Mayor of Enfield. He thanked him and stated he wants to continue working together for what's best for the Town of Enfield.

He thanked all the voters of Enfield for coming out to vote and showing their support in this last campaign, and it is greatly appreciated. He noted he looks forward to continuing working with the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and all Town staff. He stated he looks forward to working with Public Safety and Chief Fox and his staff, as well as working with the fire departments and EMS staff.

Mayor Cressotti thanked Sister Patricia Marie Iagrosso from the Felician Sisters, the Enfield Police Color Guard, the Enfield Police Explorers, and Emily Vandal for doing a fantastic job singing the Star-Spangled Banner.

He recognized a few people in attendance—former Council members that he has worked with, State Representatives Tom Arnone and Carol Hall, Senator John Kissel, former Mayor, Scott Kaupin, Edward Deni, and Liz Davis.

Mayor Cressotti thanked his wife, children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends for their support when he first got involved with Town politics. He noted without their support, he would not be here today.

He stated he is a family person, and he is a communicator, and he will treat this Council like a family.

He concluded stating he will serve this position with honor, dignity, pride, and respect, and he thanked everyone.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

NOMINATION #5970 by Councilor Mangini to appoint Gina Cekala as Deputy Mayor.

Councilor Mangini stated the Council is gathered here with family, friends, and neighbors to witness, not only their swearing in, as Enfield Councilors, but also their dedication and commitment to Enfield. She noted going forward each Council member individually and collectively represents the people, not just a select group, but the entire Enfield community.

Councilor Mangini stated she is honored to nominate Gina Cekala as Deputy Mayor. She noted Gina is the mother of two school-age children and a lawyer by occupation, and she is serving her fifth term on the Enfield Town Council, so she has experience for this role. She stated over the last eight years, Councilor Cekala has shown tenacity and perseverance, and she has never stopped fighting for the residents for what she believes is important. She noted that even in the face of adversity, Councilor Cekala has been a strong ally for the people of Enfield. She stated she is confident that Councilor Cekala will perform the duty of Deputy Mayor with dignity and respect for all.

Councilor Hopkins seconded the nomination and stated his belief Councilor Cekala's qualifications speak for themselves. He added she has a razor-sharp wit, is educated, and she is an attorney. He feels these qualifications do wonders for the town.

Chairman Cressotti questioned if there are any other nominations. With no response, Chairman Cressotti moved that nominations be closed.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Gina Cekala appointed as Deputy Mayor by a 10-0-0 vote.

Deputy Mayor Cekala thanked everyone and stated she is humbled. She thanked her husband and children, who put up with a lot over the past eight years, and they've always been so supportive, patient and kind. She thanked her parents, sister, and mother-in-law, who continue to support her. She thanked the rest of her family and friends for their support. She stated this would not have been possible without the amazing group of people she ran with and the fantastic team behind the scenes. She thanked previous Town Council members for their service and countless hours they dedicated to the Town of Enfield. She stated to those sitting on the Town Council at this time, although they may not always agree, she is ready to work collaboratively. She thanked the voters and residents of Enfield. She noted it has been an honor to serve Enfield for the last eight years, and she's honored to have the chance to serve as Deputy Mayor. She noted she will continue to listen, ask questions, and do what's best for Enfield.

Chairman Cressotti invited Councilors to say a few words.

Councilor Santanella thanked his family for their support. He noted the Santanella family has called Enfield home for five generations, and he's very proud to be here representing his family and all the people who have lived in Enfield and the people who are here now.

Councilor Hopkins thanked his wife for her support. He congratulated all the Council members and noted they all put in the effort and hours to justify their positions. He noted everyone has something unique and beneficial to bring to the Town Council, and he looks forward to working with every Council member to make Enfield the best place it can be. He stated he is honored to represent the people of District #4, and he will strive to do right by them. He thanked everyone for their support. He quoted something recently stated by former Council member, Carl Sferrazza – “My philosophy is simple. Try to do the most good for the most people.” He noted two years ago, Council member Bill Kiner stated, “The challenge now before us is to work inclusively. If history is any example, the Town Council has done that well. Not necessarily as Democrats or Republicans, but as members of the Town Council, who have the best hopes and wishes for our people at heart.” Councilor Hopkins thanked former Councilors Sferrazza and Kiner for their dedicated service to the Town, and he commits to following their good example during his tenure on the Council, and he encouraged everybody to do the same.

Councilor Despard thanked his wife for her support. He noted they just got married October 16th. He thanked his parents and grandmother, who are present this evening.

He stated the Democrats had a wonderful team, from the Constables, the Board of Education and Town Council. He thanked the voters of District #3 and of Enfield, as a whole, for their support. He noted he wants to work with everyone on the Town Council and represent his constituents in District #3.

Councilor Mangini thanked her family and the people of Enfield for their support. She noted she has served for over 21 years. She stated her hope Council members will look to her for experience and any type of background knowledge she may have. She noted she is a team player, and she wants to do her best to serve the Town of Enfield.

Councilor Unghire thanked her husband for his great love and continued support. She thanked her sons and parents, who are great supporters. She thanked the voters of Enfield for this opportunity to continue to serve. She noted she loves Enfield, and she looks forward to her continued work with all Council members. She stated her husband always gave good advice to their children, which is “do what you are supposed to do and be where you are supposed to be, and she will still carry that with her now.

Councilor Pyznar thanked her family for their support. She noted she is here because this is the town that she loves. She stated she believes in democracy, and the people of Enfield spoke. She noted she has no doubt that this Town Council will make a difference and make the voters proud. She stated her parents came to Enfield as immigrants, and she was raised on South River Street. She noted living downtown, she witnessed the conversion of that area, and she hopes the downtown can be made a destination. She thanked her family, friends, and voters for their support. She concluded stating she looks forward to working with the Town Council.

Councilor Ludwick thanked his wife, two daughters and his father who put up with a lot in the past four years. He noted this cannot be done without a supportive family. He wished everyone the best of luck.

RESOLUTION #5971 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Town Charter, Chapter III, Section 4 provides in pertinent part that: “At the first meeting of Council following the Town election, the Town Council shall fix the time and place of its regular meeting, which shall not be less than once each month...”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the first regular meeting of the 2021-2023 Town Council be held on Monday, November 15, 2021 in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, thereafter, the Council shall meet in the regular session on the first and third Monday of each month, excepting the month of November, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, or at any other place as the Council may designate. In the month of November, the Council shall meet on the Monday immediately following Election Day and the third Monday of the month. When Monday is a holiday, the regular meeting shall be held on the following day at the same hour unless otherwise provided for by motion. The day, time and place of the meeting may be changed by a majority vote.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5971** adopted 10-0-0.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE (3 MEMBERS) TO REVIEW THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

MOTION #5972 by Chairman Cressotti, seconded by Councilor Mangini to appoint Councilors Cekala, Santanella, Pryznar to the Policy and Procedure Committee.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5972** adopted 10-0-0.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

America the Beautiful was sung by Emily Vandal.

Chairman Cressotti recognized Councilor Bosco. He noted the Council wishes him a speedy recovery and he is greatly missed. He congratulated him on his re-election.

Chairman Cressotti stated several Councilors, and the Town Manager took part in the Veterans Day Parade. He thanked Lucien LeFevre and the Veterans Council for hosting such a great event. He noted Thursday is Veterans Day. He thanked all the veterans, past and present, for their service to this country, and they will always be remembered in everyone’s hearts.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5973 by Chairman Cressotti, seconded by Councilor Mangini to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5973** adopted 10-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Jeannette Lamontagne
Secretary to the Town Council