
ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, December 6, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 8:40pm.

PRAYER – The prayer was given by Chairman Cressotti.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL – Present were Deputy Mayor Cekala, Mayor Cressotti, Councilor Despard, Councilor Finger, Councilor Hopkins, Councilor Ludwick, Councilor Mangini, Councilor Pyznar, Councilor Santanella and Councilor Unghire. Councilor Bosco was absent. Also present were Acting Town Manager, Alaric Fox; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg.

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT – Mayor Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6008 by Councilor Hopkins, second by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2021 Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6008** adopted 10/0/0 in favor.

MOTION #6009 by Councilor Mangini, second by Councilor Unghire to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken **MOTION #6009** was adopted 10/0/0 in favor.

SPECIAL GUESTS – No special guests.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Caroline Cogtella, 5 Main Street

My only question is, has the Council had the opportunity to discuss the issue of eminent domain regarding my home as I advised at the last Council meeting? The reason I'm asking this is that it is my understanding that if State of CT does not get any direction from this Council, they will condemn my property before the end of the month.

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

I am wondering if the Council or police department has thought of taking one or two cruisers from each district and stationing it behind Ocean State Job Lot? A lot of these businesses have people walking out and being ripped off. If there was an emergency number that they could call, you could have a cop sitting there behind Ocean State Job Lot and they could get to any of the shopping plazas we have in town within probably a minute and a half. Maybe if we had this number where they could quickly dial and a cop shows up, maybe we can get some of these people out of Enfield.

Chris D'Antonio, 18 Montano Rd.

I did want to personally thank those who voted in favor of the bike trail. I see it as a very strong potential and a real positive for Enfield. Having it separate from the road would allow it to be protected for our most vulnerable users. There are a lot of people that walk and cycle on Route 5, Route 220, Route 190, and Elm Street. These are the hubs of the town. I take the bus to Hartford, and I can drive my car to the park and ride, but some people don't have that option. It set us up to provide for more users and those who aren't necessarily showing up at these meetings.

I hope as planning comes forward, with more state money, possibly federal money coming for infrastructure, I hope we can keep these projects in mind creating safe routes especially along the most heavily traveled routes. It is critical to protect our most vulnerable users.

Pam Townsend, 54 Kimberly Drive

I just wanted to remind everybody that December 18th is Wreaths Across America at Saint Patrick's Cemetery. The ceremony begins at 12:00, however; we all know parking is a little insane, so we are going to do one-way traffic like we did last year. We have 1196 wreathes to lay, not quite 100% for the cemetery but quite a bit more than we've had in the past. Thank you, Enfield and all the groups that helped sponsor us such as the Veteran's, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Home Depot, first responders and the high school.

Lucian Lefevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

I'm also Vice Chairman for the Enfield Veteran's Council and American Legion Post 154. I just want to wish everybody in town Merry Christmas a happy and safe New Year and Happy Holidays for whatever holiday is celebrated this time of year.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

I want to talk a minute about Officer Austin. It was appreciated that he spent some time at the Whole Donut getting to know some of the people this past Sunday morning.

I also want to talk about the overtime that's always in the town of Enfield Thompsonville revitalization budget. I know from the past it's not really overtime; it represents police officers that are on duty over in the Thompsonville area running, bicycling, and walking around to police the area. It went from \$38,000 in 2019 and next year it's going to be \$75,000. That's probably the four police officers and the dog, but to me it should be part of the Police Department budget and not in the revitalization of Thompsonville budget. Is each section of the town going to have its own Police Department? I think we need to put it back where it belongs which is in a Police Department budget.

I've asked Councilman Hopkins to look into whether we, as veterans, are entitled to more money for the veteran's property tax exemption. Many of you know the law requires municipalities give veterans and their surviving spouses certain property tax exemptions. There's another part of the law that says when you have a revaluation, you must take into consideration this particular law and allocate money towards that.

Matt Schmitt, 1304 Bigelow Commons

I want to speak for the lady that's going through the problem with the eminent domain. Tonight, we heard from a lot of people about the dispensary, it's something that affects a lot of people in town. I think the Town Council should also be concerned about things that affect one person in town.

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

Thank you for letting the public speak as much as they did tonight; one time, two times, no time limit. I hope the Board of Education will learn something from you guys.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Councilor Mangini

I wanted to thank the Cultural Arts Committee along with our fire and police departments in town for putting on a wonderful Torchlight Parade. I also want to thank Pastor Greg who did a blessing at the Congregational Church for elected officials. I thought it was very nice and considerate and I also want to thank the Veterans Council for a wonderful Christmas celebration yesterday. It's always an honor to participate with our veterans. We did have a meeting and there was a little concern regarding the small attendance at our Veteran's Day parade. I think that people are now starting to come out more after COVID and I'm hoping maybe more advertising or publicity will help spark greater attendance. I'm hoping for a great turnout for Wreaths Across America. I will be there with the Boy Scouts too.

The Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) were able to choose 2 candidates from our applicant pool. One was Michael Safier, a Social Studies teacher from Somers Middle School. He was awarded a monetary gift from our chapter and a magazine subscription for our DAR magazine. Nicole Catucci, a history teacher from Enfield High School, not only won a small monetary award and the magazine subscription, but we sent her off to the state. Unfortunately, she did not win at the state level, but it was still an honor for Enfield to be able to pass one of our applicants to the state, so congratulations to those two applicants.

Councilor Finger

I was really impressed with Riverside Reptiles. I had my granddaughter up from North Carolina and I took her there, basically almost the whole day. We watched an alligator get fed, we watch snakes, and she was able to hold one. Riverside Reptiles is an awesome place and if you get the chance to take your kids, grandkids, niece, nephew, that is the place to go.

Councilor Santanella

Ms. Cogtella, I met with you and about twenty members of your community on Thursday night. I spoke with Mayor Cressotti Friday afternoon, and he has much history on what's going on with

your home. We asked the Town Attorney for a contact at the state for us to talk to and I will make a call tomorrow morning to find out what we can do, if anything, at this point to help you. Your concerns are not falling on deaf ears and my heart goes out to you. The situation is a tough one and Mayor Cressotti and I will make that call for you tomorrow.

On December 15th from 4:00 to 5:00, thanks to the help of Nelson Tereso, there's going to be an informational session at the Pearl Street Library for the people on Franklin Street to discuss the proposed bike path and the implications that it may have for the neighborhood. We will be canvassing the neighborhood with some flyers to invite people to come and express their input.

The final thing, on the 18th of November I had the privilege of visiting Chief Fox and the police department and I did a ride along for the first time. I got to go to roll call and sit in the break room. I will tell you it was a completely eye-opening experience. The police department was incredibly hospitable and gracious. I spent eight hours listening and learning a lot about what these men and women do for us, and I would encourage all of you if you were so inclined to take this opportunity. I want to give my special thanks to Sergeant Pelletier who tolerated me in his car for eight hours. Thank you, Chief Fox, for your hospitality and a really great experience. Chief Fox thanked Councilor Santanella for the kind words and said he would pass them on.

Mayor Cressotti

Thank you to everyone who commented tonight. I can't wait for Wreaths Across America at Saint Patrick's Cemetery. It is a great event. The Torchlight Parade and carol sing was a huge success. I think it was the largest crowd I have ever seen. The police and security were outstanding as were the Buildings and Grounds. Thank you to People for People who were selling the hot chocolate and snacks. Thank you to all the fire departments especially the Enfield District who sponsored the parade this year. Thank you to the JFK chorus and the Enfield Community Band. A special shout out to Mary Keller and Emily Macintosh who heads up the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission. Chloe Clark, the kid Governor, walked with us and helped with the lighting of the tree. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus were great. It was great to see Councilor Bosco and his family out.

Ms. Cogtella, we will be discussing your issue.

Please go out and support the Enfield Police Department and the Toys for Joy Drive. Also, please support the Enfield Farmer's Market. Safe Grad was another success.

Councilor Hopkins

I want to echo the thanks to everyone that helped with the Torchlight Parade.

Deputy Mayor Cekala

I want to say ditto to everything everybody said about the Torchlight Parade and carol sing, it was awesome. Also, I want to give a congratulations and a shout out to Lori Gates and everybody who participated in the Cookies for Camouflage. It's a wonderful event every year. They sent about 117 boxes this year and that's 862 pounds of cookies that went over to our troops overseas. So, thank you to Lori Gates and her entire crew who filled boxes and everybody that participated.

MOTION #6010 by Councilor Cekala and seconded by Councilor Mangini to suspend the rules and move items B1, B3, B6, B7 and E, G, H, I, J & K to Miscellaneous and proceed to vote.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6010** adopted 10/0/0 in favor.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Alaric Fox, Acting Town Manager

The closing has occurred for the Enfield Express, 800 Enfield Street. There are any number of people that deserve accolades for the work that went into getting it from where it was quite some time ago to the present. DPW is obviously deeply involved, the Council was supportive, the Town Attorney's Office, the list is endless, but I'm pleased to let you know that it is a town facility at this point.

The Eli Whitney roof has been a source of concern and I know that several of you have taken calls on this. In anticipation of this meeting, I obtained an update just this afternoon and the Eagle Rivet Roof Service Company will be on site tomorrow to continue repairs to the roof after two more leaks appeared this morning. It continues to be a work in progress.

The walking path at Higgins Park grading has been finished and paving is scheduled for tomorrow, weather permitting. Social Services Department will be moving to the Alcorn School effective 12/9/21 because of the impending sale of 100 High Street. Lastly, the demolition of the adult daycare on Beech Road has commenced.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

James Tallberg, Town Attorney

The CT Conference of Municipalities is having a workshop for newly elected officials on January 8th in Bristol. It is a free event. It addresses the fundamentals of municipal government, FOI and all the things you would need to know as a newly elected official. Deb McCarthy and I have the information on this if you need to reach out.

Deputy Mayor Cekala

Through our Mayor to the Town Attorney, there was a lot of talk at the public hearing about a referendum and the ability or inability to send this vote or issue for the cannabis to referendum. If you could clarify what you do or do not know about the referendum and the cannabis issue that would be helpful.

James Tallberg

The law Public Act 21-1, Section 83 provides, and I quote, "upon the petition of not less than 10% of the electors of any municipality". There are certain requirements for a question to be put to the voters, essentially a referendum. I would contrast what is in this law with the Charter. When we think of a municipal referendum, for example, on capital expenditures, your Charter Chapter 6, Section 9 provides that this Council may pass a resolution on certain capital expenditures and cause

that to go to referendum, so it is initiated by the Council. My initial reaction is that it's not the case with the marijuana. With the cannabis law, the legislature deemed that the Council would have certain powers to pass an ordinance, or it could go to Planning and Zoning. Some towns have passed moratoriums, but if there is to be a referendum as was discussed to some extent tonight, that would be initiated by the electors.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Deputy Mayor Cekala

The JFK Committee met on December 2nd. The last wing which is red wing and some of the hub will be turned over to the school within the next couple of weeks. The scheduling of the furniture installation will probably be next week. Starting in January we will have the old Cafeteria area under construction, which is now being used as swing space. They are going to submit another payment request to the state this week.

Mayor Cressotti

DPW met this past week, and we are still in the process of making revisions for the Solid Waste Ordinance and the fee schedules. We are going to bring it to our committee one final time and then it will come in front of the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

All items remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business items.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items B-1, B-3, B-6, B-7, E, G, J, I, J, K moved to Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEOUS

NOMINATION #6011 by Councilor Cekala to appoint Mary Ann Harris (D) to the Commission on Aging as an Alternate for a term which expires 1/1/2024.

MOTION #6012 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Finger to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6012** adopted 9-0-0 in favor. (Councilor Ludwick had technical difficulties)

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote, the Chair declared Mary Ann Harris appointed to the Commission on Aging by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6013 by Councilor Hopkins to reappoint Marion Maruca (D) to the Library Board of Trustees for a term which expires 12/31/2024.

MOTION #6014 by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6014** adopted 9-0-0 in favor.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote, the Chair declared Marion Maruca appointed to the Library Board of Trustees by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6015 by Councilor Pyznar to reappoint Richard Stroiney (U) to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate for a term which expires 1/1/2026.

MOTION #6016 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Pyznar to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6016** adopted 9-0-0 in favor.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote, the Chair declared Richard Stroiney appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6017 by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Andrew Urbanowicz (U) to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term which expires 1/1/2026.

MOTION #6018 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Santanella to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6018** adopted 9-0-0 in favor.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote, the Chair declared Andrew Urbanowicz appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals by a 9-0-0 vote.

RESOLUTION #6019 RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made:

TO: DUI Enforcement Program

Overtime	25006049 - 514000	\$75,064
Medicare	25006049 - 522100	\$ 1,089
Workers Comp	25006049 - 526000	\$ 308
Unemployment	25006049 - 525000	\$ 151

FROM: DUI Enforcement Grant

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of November 19, 2021.

/s/ John A Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6019** adopted by a 9-0-0 vote.

RESOLUTION #6020 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Pyznar.

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to extend the lease on its communications tower located at 77 Town Farm Road, commonly known as the Enfield Transfer Station; and

WHEREAS, the term of the lease is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2036; and

WHEREAS, this amendment allows for one 5-year extension, an increase to \$2,500 per month, and annual escalation factor of 3 percent.

RESOLVED, that the Acting Town Manager, is empowered to enter into the amended Site Lease Agreement, which has been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney, in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield, with American Tower Asset Sub II, LLC.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6020** adopted by a 9-0-0 vote.

RESOLUTION #6021 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

WHEREAS, On September 7, 2021, the Enfield Town Council (the "Council") enacted an ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to revisit that ordinance and consider its repeal; and

WHEREAS, the Council held a public hearing in the Enfield Town Hall Council Chambers on December 6, 2021, to allow public input on the proposed repeal of the ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Establishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council hereby repeals the ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Establishments, Ordinance 21-2 of the Town Code.

Deputy Mayor Cekala

I did take notes while people were talking during the public hearing. I'm going to be supporting the rescinding of the ban on the cannabis. This is not a debate about the legalization of marijuana or if it should or shouldn't have been legalized. That ship has sailed. This is about if the town should rescind a ban they put in place two months ago against any and all cannabis establishments.

This has nothing to do with what I personally want or what I personally believe. For those of you against rescinding, this does not mean we will be having cannabis establishments or cultivators on every corner. They are not welcoming to our youth and our children. Under the current legislation, we are allowed one cultivator and one cannabis store. The law allows people 21 and over to visit these establishments to purchase for recreational use. We are not advocating kids to do drugs. There is nothing different for the youth in our town today than it was a year ago. It is still illegal for them. Addicts are not going to go to dispensaries, they will continue to get their drugs off the streets.

For those of you for the rescinding of the ban, please note this does not mean we are guaranteed an establishment in this town. The Social Equity Committee out of Hartford have a lot to say with who and where the establishments will go. Many people mentioned us trying to figure out where we should go for zoning, other details prior to either rescinding this ban or keeping it on there. If this ban stood and we didn't rescind it, we would look into nothing. We would never speak to anybody, we would consider nothing, we would listen to nothing, we would research nothing. We want a seat at the table. We are looking to have an opportunity to see what these companies can bring to our town. This industry is highly regulated, highly restricted, and highly monitored. Rescinding this ban is just allowing us to consider it and that's why I am supporting it.

Councilor Pynzar

I'm going to stand with what I said before. I am totally for medical marijuana. I have friends that have used it, family that has used it and I have nothing against it. I just think there's a lot of unknowns with recreational and I don't think at this time it's for Enfield. I want to learn more about it. I want us to lead by example I don't want us to just jump in and be the first one, so I like the fact that we said no to it. Maybe it could be reworded a little differently. I think zoning will come into play. Personally, I do not want to see recreational, so I am going to vote no tonight.

Mayor Cressotti

Tonight's cannabis resolution is bringing the issue back to default and to the state law. We're not adding anything new to this resolution. From here we're going to be taking our time and exploring the options, educating ourselves and the public to this business opportunity. I'm going to have Councilor Santanella in a couple minutes discuss some of the things that he's going to be tackling in terms of what we're going to be doing

When I look at street scape improvements, neighborhood developments, educational programs, youth employment training programs, this is what these companies do. They just don't plunk in their businesses and organizations; they are part of your community, and they do certain things with the community. There are going to be services for individuals living in municipalities that were released from the Department of Correction's custody or they're on probation and parole. It's going to be all part of the Social Services Department. One thing that we also must remember; there's going to be policies and procedures related to this public act concerning responsible and equitable regulation of adult cannabis use. We're going to be given directives like Deputy Mayor Cekala mentioned concerning the Social Equity Council and specific advertising guidelines for these businesses who intend to participate in the retail sale of cannabis. We are not saying tonight that these businesses are going to be here. What we are telling you tonight is that we are going back to default and are going to examine and educate ourselves to this.

Councilor Santanella

What we had discussed was establishing a new subcommittee to specifically address the issue of cannabis in Enfield. Its sole existence would be for us to do the kind of education and peer discussions with others who are in surrounding communities so that we can be better educated about what the implications of bringing a dispensary or having a dispensary in Enfield would be. It would be things like law enforcement in our community; speaking with law enforcement and other communities so that we understand from them what the implications of these dispensaries have been in their communities. We can take the time to do the work that we need to do in planning and zoning and other regulations in town so that if we get the opportunity to have a dispensary here, we are ready, we are more informed and prepared for that opportunity. That is the goal of what our subcommittee will do.

Councilor Unghire

Listening to the crowd that was here tonight I think it's both sides. It's a partial representation of the town so it's hard to say. I can't say, oh, everyone in town wants it or everyone in town is against it, this is just a partial representation. After a lot of researching and communications, I would be open to having a referendum and then let the town decide. However, I'd probably still vote the same because I've worked eight years on the Enfield Together Coalition, and for those that don't know it's an anti-drug coalition and it's fighting the war on drugs with our kids and young adults in town. They've worked hard. They've had some great progress so I can't in good conscience work with them for eight years and then vote to have marijuana in town. Also, through that coalition I've gone to Washington DC, and I've worked as a lobbyist and talked to Murphy and Blumenthal and Joe Courtney about keeping the funding and grant money coming to our coalition. They've obliged and they've supported us in a lot of different ways, so that's been a great learning experience too. I'm not going to change my vote. I'm still going to vote no but I do think it's a good idea to let the town decide and see what they think.

Councilor Finger

I would like to agree with Councilor Unghire. I kept track of everyone who came up to speak. People who were for it, I have 13, people against, I have ten. Regarding medical marijuana, I have 6 people who spoke about it and that they needed it, but I have 13 people who wanted referendums.

My campaign promise to Enfield was to get the people's voice back to what we want in this town. I just strongly think that we need that referendum for this. I agree with Councilor Unghire, this was a partial representation here. We had a lot of people email us; we received a petition that was signed by over 300 people. That's good but we have 40,000 people in this town. I'm not against it. I just want the people to have their voice back. That's what was my promise and my campaign. I want to keep my promise and that's how I'm going to vote. I'm going to abstain. That's the conflict I have. I want to keep my campaign promise and let it go to referendum.

Councilor Despard

I want to say thank you to everybody that came out tonight and made your voice heard. No matter how you feel. I've spent a lot of time looking into this issue researching whatever numbers I could find. Every step of the way it's been more people for this than against it and going all the way back to the public hearing back in September.

There was a poll online, obviously, there's problems with online polling, but I think as a temperature check it can be important to read. There were 1500 respondents; 1200 wanted this repealed which was about 80 percent; 240 hadn't made up their mind; so, 94% of these people either wanted it or hadn't made up their mind. Today we had a whole lot of emails come in for people that could not make the meeting. I think there were 24 emails in support of rescinding this and there were 3 in opposition. Gina Sullivan sent us a petition that, as of a few minutes ago, was at 395 signatures for people that wanted this. Taking all that into consideration, I'm going to be supporting this.

The Town Attorney made clear that this is something that those of you who are against this and don't want this, you can take a petition and you can make us go to referendum. The power is in your hands, and I fully support that in any way possible.

There were just a couple other things I wanted to mention. There's some research that shows that that legalization increases use, but when you take every study that's been done and you analyze it, it really shows that there's no effect. Legalization has had no effect on increased use. There is evidence for cannabis being a supplement. It helps people get off opiates, it helps people get off alcohol addiction, alcohol is the one drug that can kill you from withdrawing from it. I just want to say as a mental health counselor who works with substance abuse and somebody who has been touched by addiction and who cares deeply about this, if I felt like this was going to be a detriment in any way, I wouldn't support it and so that's where I stand.

Councilor Hopkins

I want to say a few things specifically about some of the legal points. Repealing this ordinance only creates the possibility that we end up with a cannabis establishment or cannabis cultivator here. We are not approving any sales or business here tonight. All proposals will have to go through the normal planning and zoning process as well as any other potential state legal hurdles.

This also does not preclude a referendum. We heard from Attorney Tallberg the only way for us to get a referendum on this issue by state law is for 10% of the electorates to submit a petition at least 60 days before the next election or subsequent election in the time period of that law. I really encourage folks to do that if they are so moved, it's your right and you should do it if you want to. I did also appreciate Attorney Tallberg reading that section. It's section 83-a of the Act Concerning Responsible, Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis. My vote is informed by many conversations with District 4 voters on the campaign trail as well as afterwards. Some were opposed, very opposed, many are not. I believe the majority are not for a variety of reasons including, as we heard today, pain relief from opioid addiction, personal freedom and the amount our town will get from the state's 3% tax on each sale which can be used on roads among other things.

Is cannabis something good that can be abused? Yes, but we trust adults with many other things that can be abused. This is a very American thing and I think something we should support here. It is about a balance of personal freedom and public safety. I do think that that is something we will absolutely take into account going forward with any regulation in town in the terms of economics. My thinking on this is informed primarily by a study done by the University of Connecticut School of Business called Projecting Economic Impacts of Legalizing Marijuana in

Connecticut which was done in 2020. Some of the main findings they projected was state revenue over the next six years to be between \$898 to \$972 million. Some other measures project over a billion in the next five years I think this one's a little more conservative and it is probably the best one. In terms of municipal revenue, the average projected by this study is \$70 million over the next five years and it increases. So, in five years it's supposed to be \$21 million. I really hope that comes to pass. I think Enfield should reap the benefit of that as long as it's done in a reasonable way here, not to mention job growth.

We also should note, as many people have here, that existing laws already prevent some of the concerns that people talked about. You cannot drive under the influence of cannabis. That is very important and is not changed. This new law which was passed also makes it so that you cannot refuse a test if police officer suspects you of being under the influence. You must consent to a test, or you lose your license for a period of time. I think our Enfield police officers are more than qualified to evaluate this and administer the laws as they've been written.

I should also note that there are existing laws that criminalize giving marijuana or other drugs to children. To name a couple, illegal distribution of controlled substance to a minor as well as the risk of injury, which is very general it would absolutely apply if somebody gave an edible to a child. Not to mention the regulations that parents must follow regarding abuse and neglect. If your child was able to get into some gummies, I think it's absolutely the case that there are restrictions and packaging which makes it difficult, if that occurred, as a parent you could be subject to abuse neglect proceedings. It's important that we ensure the safety of children as much as we can here.

Lastly, I think for me this really comes down to balancing public safety with personal freedom. I do think the majority of people support it because they believe that people in Enfield should be able to choose, but within reason. Based on the economic research, the medical research, and this legal framework that we have, I feel comfortable voting to repeal the ban and I welcome a referendum if folks turn out for that.

Councilor Mangini

I will be voting in support of repealing the current ordinance. This is not about children, this is about business, and it is important that we hear from the public and businesses. This opportunity could bring in some good revenue to Enfield. It's people's choice whether they want to use cannabis. It is not my right to tell another adult what they can and cannot do. I think we need to have an open mind and welcome a business that could come in with potential revenue. Many have sent emails and made phone calls and petitioned us to repeal this. I'm going to be supporting the repeal.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6021** adopted by a 6/3/1 vote with

Councilors Ludwick, Pyznar, and Unghire voting against the resolution and Councilor Finger abstaining.

RESOLUTION #6022 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the Charter, Chapter IV, §2, the Enfield Town Council does hereby appoint Alaric Fox as Acting Town Manager for a period of up to ninety (90) days, effective December 6, 2021.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6022** adopted by a 10/0/0 vote.

RESOLUTION #6023 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby appoint James Tallberg as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield effective January 1, 2022 for a term which expires December 31, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize Mayor Bob Cressotti to sign the employment agreement with James Tallberg as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield.

Councilor Mangini

I want to thank our attorney, James Tallberg. You have always shown professionalism and have never leaned one way or another. You have always provided your legal opinion in the upmost professional fashion and delivered the truth and nothing but the truth. I appreciate that, thank you.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6023** adopted by a 10/0/0 vote.

Attorney Tallberg

I'm very pleased to stay on for another 2 years and look forward to working with each and every one of you. Thank you.

RESOLUTION #6024 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

WHEREAS, on or about July 9, 2020, the Town of Enfield filed an action entitled *Town of Enfield v. Connecticut Water Company, et al.*, Docket Number HHD-CV- 20-61330874-S, seeking a declaratory judgment regarding whether the Town, or the five (5) independent fire districts located within the Town, should be responsible for payment of Fire Protection Charges (the "DJ Action"); and

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the Connecticut Water Company filed an application with the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, PURA Docket No. 20-12-30 (the "PURA Proceeding"), which resulted in, *inter alia*, a rule change that would prohibit Fire Protection Charges from being billed to a fire district unless the Water Company provides its consent to the billing arrangement; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council would prefer to seek an amicable resolution of these issues with the fire districts outside the judicial process; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby authorize the Town Attorney, James N. Tallberg, or his designee, to file a withdrawal of the DJ Action and to waive the Town's right of appeal regarding the Final Decision in the PURA Proceeding.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6024** adopted by a 9/1/0 vote with Councilor Ludwick voting against the resolution.

RESOLUTION #6025 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, there are presently over 2,000 pending opioid-related lawsuits throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, these cases have been assigned to the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield, represented by the law firm of Scott+Scott, is a plaintiff in one such lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, a national settlement, known as the "Distributor Settlement", has been proposed; and

WHEREAS, Scott + Scott has recommended that the Town "opt-in" to the Distributor Settlement and sign the Settlement Participation Form.

RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize the Acting Town Manager, or his designee, to sign the Settlement Participation Form on behalf of the Town of Enfield.

Alaric Fox

Enfield is one of many, if not all, municipalities in Connecticut that signed up to file a class action lawsuit against multiple distributors and drug companies regarding the opioid crisis. We were just one of 2000 municipalities, state and local governments around the United States. Eventually all 50 states' attorney generals filed their own class action and recently, there was a \$5 billion settlement nationwide.

In our system of government, you have the federal government, you have states, and you have the local governments. We're at the bottom of the food chain as the local governments. The state attorneys general basically took over the settlement of these lawsuits that were consolidated in the Northern District of Ohio. The way it will work, because it's a class action lawsuit, the money will be split up and divided according to allocations that have not yet been completely defined. Basically, a snapshot goes something like this; in Connecticut, of the 26 billion, Connecticut will get between 1 and 1.5% of the total. That's about 390 million rough figures. Of that lump sum the state will take 70%, municipalities will receive 15%, the attorneys will take 15%. It will be paid over many years. By the time you break it down to the Town of Enfield, we are in line for less than 1% of the total in Connecticut. It's going to be roughly between \$11,000 a year for nine years as to Johnson and Johnson, and \$24,000 for eighteen years as to the distributors of the opioids. All we're doing here tonight is passing a resolution to authorize the Town Manager to

sign this participation agreement. It will then wind its way through the process and eventually Enfield will see some money.

Councilor Ludwick

I just want to make sure this money is to fight drug abuse and not in the General Fund.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6025** adopted by a 10/0/0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6026 by Councilor Despard, second by Councilor Pyznar to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, **MOTION #6026** was adopted 10-0-0 and the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council