

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, December 20, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER – The prayer was given by Councilor Matt Despard.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION # 6027 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Pyzner to accept the minutes of the November 29, 2021, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION # 6027** adopted 9-0-0.

MOTION # 6028 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Hopkins to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2021, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6028** adopted 9-0-0.

MOTION # 6029 by Councilor Finger seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2021, Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6029** adopted 9-0-0.

SPECIAL GUEST

Special guest Chloe Clark is a fifth grader at the Prudence Crandall School and is the winner of Enfield's 2021-2022 Kid Governor campaign. She is being recognized for all her work in the community. She participated with the Torchlight Parade, helped turn the lights on and started the holiday kick-off in Enfield. Her platform focused on student self-insecurities and ways to raise self-esteem. Chairman Cressotti read a proclamation from the Town of Enfield honoring Chloe and her accomplishments.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Matt Schmitt, 1304 Bigelow Commons

Stated that he wants to recommend a last-minute Christmas gift and would like to recommend a classic of children's literature, "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss. The book addresses discrimination. Instead of focusing on a specific actual bias, it attacks the whole concept of discrimination through metaphor showing that discrimination of any type is not only morally wrong but also toxic to a healthy society.

He stated why he thinks this book, written in 1961, is a must for the 2021 Holiday Season. It was recently revealed that a new technological tool developed by the State will allow Connecticut businesses to practice discrimination more effectively. With the COVID Passport the governor is rolling out, a business can easily verify the vaccination status of patrons as a means to deny entry to some. We will become digital sneetches, digitally exposing our bellies as a means to entry. If you keep your belly to yourself, you will be excluded.

He asked Councilors to speak out against any and all discrimination; do not be a bystander. The silent lips of bystanders offer no voice for the course of justice. The only way things change or are rectified are through the actions of people. If not us, who? If not now, when? These two questions will be the most important questions you ask yourself in life. He asked that the wisdom of this book be shared with our society.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Pyzner stated that she had the pleasure of being with Wreaths Across America on both Wednesday, when they arrived at the Town Hall and on Saturday. Lori Gates and Pam Townsend did a great job with the wreaths. She stated that she didn't realize that not all the Veterans receive wreaths on their graves. She stated that the wreaths are received through donations. She noted that if you wanted to buy a wreath for 2022, they're having a buy one get one sale, so you can buy a wreath for your loved one for the cost of \$15 and then one can be donated to someone who does not have a loved one.

She stated that one could contact Pam Townsend or Councilor Pyzner between now and January 14, 2022, for the buy one, get one wreaths. To date they received \$1,100 dollars but are looking to obtain the goal of \$1,700. She noted that Ms. Townsend was reaching out to some corporations in town to see if can get some corporate donations.

Councilor Mangini stated that she attended the Wreath ceremony at Eli Whitney school. She stood along the fence with the children at the school and watched the convoy of trucks pass the school. She noted that it was heartwarming seeing the children excited and proud to see the trucks pass and how they understood what it was all about. She stated last year the wreath donations received were \$800 and this year so far it is at \$1,100 with hopes of reaching the goal of \$1,700.

Councilor Unghire wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Chairman Cressotti stated he attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Enfield Town Green. He noted there were two ceremonies in Enfield, one at Saint Patrick's cemetery and one at the Enfield Town Hall. He explained that there were three major points to the Wreaths Across America which were: Remembrance, Honor and Teach. The two ceremonies exemplified what the Town of Enfield does and how it remembers the veterans. He applauded Pam Townsend, Lori Gates and the Veterans Council. He met the Walmart Drivers when they came to the Town Hall and gave them each hats and lapel pins with the Town of Enfield logo on them. He made them honorary citizens of Enfield.

He noted that the convoy drove by 12 schools in Enfield, passing students, town residents, fire department, police department, veterans, and the town hall staff. He went on to say how the Enfield police department choreographed the route for the safety of the town. He gave a special shout-out to the Enfield Police department for all their hard work.

He also stated that the last day for the Farmers market at the Enfield Square was December 19, 2021. He noted it ran from October 31, 2021, through December 19, 2021, every Sunday. He thanked Danielle Flaherty, Deb McCarthy, and Connie Provencher who put the Farmers market together.

He then recognized the Enfield Ramblers Midget Football A and C teams that made it to the Northern Connecticut Conference Superbowl. The A team won. He noted that the C team was beaten in the finals, but they had a good season. He noted that he would like to have them be the special guest in either January or February to honor them. He gave a special shout-out to the coaching staff of both the A and C teams.

He spoke about the bonding commission for the train platform construction in Thompsonville and mentioned how the 35 million dollar bond is on the agenda for December 21, 2021, along with the 15 million dollar grant to the Opera House Players. He stated that we're having a lot of activity and noted that a lot of good stuff will be coming to the Opera House Players.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Town Manager Alaric Fox spoke of the PAR report. He stated that he, a few of the Councilors and the representatives from the state delegation had a virtual call with the Chief Court Administrator for the Enfield court. He spoke of his concern about the possible closure of the court and how it would impact the Enfield police department. He stated how it would cause a shortage of police officers in Enfield if the court closed and if the officers had to go to court in Hartford.

The administrator stated that the court was temporarily closed and would be in touch with Senator Kissell before making any final decisions. The administrator noted it was temporarily closed due to staffing shortages.

Mr. Fox announced the approval for the bidding on Eli Whitney and Hazardville Memorial School roofing projects.

He stated that two ice rinks had been installed at the Powder Hollow Park. He noted that they were waiting for the cold weather so that these rinks could become operational.

He also mentioned that a brush clearing project done at the Enfield Town Hall was completed and it would be a great addition for parking for Higgins Park.

He acknowledged the Toys for Joy program and mentioned that 200 families, and 475-500 children had been accommodated by this program. He thanked the police department for all their hard work with this program.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

There were no reports this evening.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

There were no reports this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Items A, B and C will remain tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments - Town Council Appointed

NOMINATION # 6030 by Councilor Cekala to appoint Tom Tyler (D) to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term which expires 12/31/2024.

MOTION #6031 by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Cekala to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION # 6031** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Tom Tyler appointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6032 by Councilor Hopkins to reappoint Paul Coffey (U) to the Loan Review Committee for a term which expires 12/31/2023.

MOTION #6033 by Councilor Cekala seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION # 6033** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Paul Coffey reappointed to the Loan Review Committee by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION # 6034 by Councilor Hopkins to reappoint Philip Kober (R) to the Loan Review Committee for a term which expires 12/31/2023.

MOTION # 6035 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Unghire to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6035** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Philip Kober reappointed to the Loan Review Committee by a 9-0-0 vote.

Appointments -Town Manager Appointed/Council Approved - None

Appointments - Planning & Zoning Commission Appointed/Council Approved - None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

Consent Agenda - None

Appointments-Town Council Appointed

NOMINATION #6036 by Councilor Pyzner to reappoint David Goyette (D) to the Commission on Aging for a term which expires 01/01/2025.

MOTION #6037 by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Despard to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6037** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared David Goyette reappointed to the Commission on Aging by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6038 by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Michael Arnone Jr. (U) to the Commission on Aging for a term which expires 01/01/2025.

MOTION #6039 by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Hopkins to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6039** adopted

9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Michael Arnone Jr. reappointed to the Commission on Aging by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6040 by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Priscilla Lineham (IT) to the Commission on Aging for a term which expires 01/01/2025.

MOTION #6041 by Councilor Despard seconded by Councilor Pyzner to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6041** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Priscilla Lineham reappointed to the Commission on Aging by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6042 by Councilor Santanella to appoint Kathleen Sarno (D) to the Ethics Commission for a term which expires 10/31/2022.

MOTION #6043 by Councilor Finger seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6043** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Kathleen Sarno appointed to the Ethics Commission by a 7-2-0 vote with Councilors Pyzner and Unghire against.

NOMINATION #6044 by Councilor Pyzner to reappoint Sandra Nuccio (R) to the Library Board of Trustees for a term which expires 12/31/2024.

MOTION #6045 by Councilor Finger seconded by Councilor Unghire to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6045** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Sandra Nuccio appointed to the Library Board of Trustees by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6046 by Councilor Hopkins to appoint James Hoyne (D) to the North Central Health Department Board of Directors for a term which expires 06/30/2023.

MOTION #6047 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Pyzner to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6047** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared James Hoyne appointed to the North Central Health Department Board of Directors by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6048 by Councilor Hopkins to appoint Christian D'Antonio (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an Alternate term which expires 12/31/2025.

MOTION #6049 by Councilor Santanella seconded by Councilor Finger to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6049** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Christian D'Antonio appointed as an Alternate member on the Planning and Zoning Commission by a 7-2-0 vote with Councilors Pyzner and Unghire against.

NOMINATION #6050 by Councilor Cekala to appoint Kiran Majmudar (U) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term which expires 12/31/2023.

MOTION #6051 by Councilor Hopkins seconded by Councilor Despard to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6051** adopted 9-0-0.

Councilor Unghire asked to have Mr. Majmudar's qualifications read for record. Qualifications were read.

"Kiran Majmudar has served as a PZC Commissioner for the past 3-4 months with great satisfaction He has lived in the Town since about 1975. He also had a business office in Town for about 15 years and has served developers through the Town permitting process and appeared before PZC, IWWC, WPCA, etc., for many years."

Councilor Mangini added to Mr. Majmudar's resume by stating that he has served as past president of the Rotary among other volunteer work and is more than qualified to serve in this capacity.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Kiran Majmudar appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission by a 8-1-0 vote with Councilor Unghire against.

NOMINATION #6052 by Councilor Despard to appoint Lou Fiore (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term which expires 12/31/2025.

NOMINATION #6053 by Councilor Unghire to re-appoint Ken Nelson (R) to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term which expires 12/31/2025.

MOTION #6054 by Councilor Finger seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6054** adopted

9-0-0.

Councilor Unghire reviewed Ken Nelson's experience for the record. He has been a Town Councilor and served as Deputy Mayor. He served on the High School Building Committee, was Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and Chairman of the DPW Committee. He was Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and has thirty years' experience with P&Z as a contractor and developer. He knows the zoning laws and process and is a perfect candidate for this spot.

Councilor Despard read Lewis Fiore's qualifications. He is a former Vice Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, a former three-term Councilor and former Deputy Mayor. He is the current Registrar of Voters, former Town Charter Revision member, two-term co-author of the Town Redistricting Plan, and former member of the Cable Commission.

Councilor Mangini added to Lou Fiore's qualifications. Mr. Fiore has lived in this community his whole life and his family has deep roots in this town. He does his homework and research and we will be well-served with his background, knowledge and experience and ability to deliver the information and be respectful and courteous to our residents.

Councilor Finger also spoke on Lou Fiore's qualifications and feels that Mr. Fiore is a better fit for the position.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Lou Fiore appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission by a 7-2-0 vote with Councilors Unghire and Pyzner voting for Ken Nelson.

NOMINATION #6055 by Councilor Mangini to appoint Anthony DiPace (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term which expires 12/31/2025.

MOTION #6056 by Councilor Santanella seconded by Councilor Finger to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6056** adopted 9-0-0

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Anthony DiPace appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6057 by Councilor Finger to reappoint John Petronella (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term which expires 12/31/2025.

MOTION #6058 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Finger to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6058** adopted 9-0-0

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared John Petronella appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission by a 9-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #6059 by Councilor Pyzner to reappoint Richard Stroiney (U) to the Tax Increment Finance Advisory Commission - EDC Member - for a term which expires 12/31/2025.

MOTION #6060 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Pyzner to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6060** adopted 9-0-0

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Richard Stroiney appointed to the Tax Increment Finance Advisory Commission by a 9-0-0 vote.

Appointments – Town Manager Appointed/Council Approved - None

Appointments - P&Z Commission Appointed/Council Approved - None

RESOLUTION #6061 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Enfield Police Department has a need to order new police radios into the new police vehicles.

WHEREAS, the Enfield Police Department will need a reliable and professional vendor located as close to Enfield as possible, and who has knowledge of our need and is a representative for Motorola and has the ability to complete repairs in a timely manner.

WHEREAS, the Enfield Police Department has used Northeastern Communications for over a decade and Norcom is the only vendor with intimate knowledge of our radio system. Norcom is in Connecticut with two technicians who live in Enfield with excellent response time for repairs.

WHEREAS, Motorola was awarded the State of Connecticut contract for such work in the 1990's. For years the Enfield Police Department used the same contract to purchase such radios and was recently discovered that the contract wasn't clear in what it covered in the award. Norcom will honor the same state contract terms that we have previously operated under and they are the only representative for Motorola in the area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter 5, Section 8, Paragraph D, of the Enfield Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby determine it is against the best interest of our town to require competitive bidding for the purchase of Motorola police radios.

Mr. Fox stated Motorola is the vendor used and is the vendor everyone uses to great acclaim. Norcom is their agent and this is the relationship that has been put into place for 20-30 years. They will continue to honor the rate that they have been paying for all those years.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6061** adopted 9-0-0.

The Chair declared Resolution to Adopt New and Revised Job Descriptions and Wage Adjustments as Part of the Department of Social Services' Reorganization remain on table.

RESOLUTION #6062 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Finger.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield, acting through its Town Council to enter into an agreement with Ellen Zoppo-Sassu as Acting Town Manager.

RESOLVED, that Robert Cressotti, Mayor of the Town of Enfield, acting on behalf of the Enfield Town Council is authorized to enter into an amended contractual instrument in the name and on behalf of Town of Enfield, with Ellen Zoppo-Sassu as Acting Town Manager pursuant to the Enfield Town Charter, Chapter 4 Section 2, subject to the review and approval of the Enfield Town Attorney.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6062** adopted 9-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Finger stated that on Taylor Road where the old Nathan Hill school was, which is now closed, the Department of Public Works had installed two solar crosswalk signal stands so parents could walk up with their kids in the parking lot, as it was a busy area with high-speed traffic. These solar crosswalk signal stands are collecting solar dust. He asked if these solar crosswalk signal stand could be moved to another location where they would be used.

Councilor Cekala welcomed Ellen to the town and thanked Councilor Fox for all his work. Ms. Cekala also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilor Cressotti wanted to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and to wish that everyone stays safe. Mr. Cressotti wants everyone to be safe in light of the rise in the new COVID variant. He stated when you're out and about, wear a mask, be safe and social distance.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION# 6063 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Unghire to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6063** adopted 9-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Meredith Lemke
Acting Secretary to the Council