

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, April 18, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, April 18, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

PRAYER- The prayer was given by Councilor Cekala.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL- Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini Pyznar, Santanella and Unghire. Councilor Finger attended remotely. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Director of Economic & Community Development, Nelson Tereso; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT- Chairman Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6197 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Cekala to accept the minutes of the March 29, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6197** adopted 8-0-2.

MOTION #6198 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Hopkins to accept the minutes of the March 30, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6198** adopted 8-0-2.

MOTION #6199 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Pyznar to accept the minutes of the March 31, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6199** adopted 8-0-2.

MOTION #6200 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Cekala to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6200** adopted 8-0-2.

MOTION #6201 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6201** adopted 8-0-2.

MOTION #6202 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Unghire to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6202** adopted 10-0-0.

SPECIAL GUESTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Matt Schmitt, 1304 Bigelow Commons

Mr. Schmitt stated that he is an automotive technician by trade. He has worked in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut and has won national competitions and international awards. His career in the shop has spanned over 30 years. This past week he resigned. The automotive group where he was working tried to initiate a vaccine mandate where if you did not provide private health records, you were discriminated against by having to wear a mask. He did not comply. He could not work for a company that takes it upon themselves to discriminate. The mandate is suspended right now but there is no guarantee such discriminatory practices will not be enacted again. It is necessary to act against all bigotry, no matter its focus. The past two years have proven that the only thing we truly own is ourselves. He chose to keep control of this and not furnish it to someone else. He stated that businesses do not own their workers. Government does not own its residents. They are not your property. There are consequences to these mandates. There is loss of talent in the workplace, declining enrollment in the school system, fleeing of customers, businesses, and taxpayers to less discriminatory towns or states. There are mental health ramifications with such discrimination. This door on this needs to be closed and never again control someone else's health decisions.

Lucien Lefevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Mr. Lefevre stated that at the last meeting it was brought up to fly the Pride flag for the month of June. He commends the town for trying to be inclusive and thinks it is a wonderful idea. He did, however, remind the council that if you offer this to one, you have to offer it to all. Any other group that wants to fly a flag here has the right to do so. You can't pick and choose whose first amendment right you want to honor.

Amanda Marquez, Hoover Lane

Ms. Marquez stated at the last meeting that Enfield Public Schools is now part of Connecticut's Alliance District, meaning we are now in the lowest 33 performing districts in CT. Enfield is the 22nd largest community by population in the state, and with that comes great diversity. The schools are the heart of the community. She was troubled that when she mentioned this designation she was met with direct opposition from a long-seated board member stating we have premier schools. The first step to fixing the problem is admitting we have a problem. The scores that landed us on this list were pre-COVID scores. The deficit will only continue to get worse if we do not work together as a town to support the parents and children of the community.

Liz Davis, 201 North Maple Street

Ms. Davis stated that there is a group that speaks negatively against our Board of Education. These people are dedicated staff. Five Stones Venture posted an FOI request for our BOE members' emails containing certain words. Since they publicly posted the request, Ms. Davis decided to submit the same one. She read an email to John Unghire from a resident. She stated that these emails prove that this attack on our school is nothing more than a national political agenda involving church groups and people who are mad regarding the outcome of the elections nationally, statewide, and locally. She read another email addressed to the Superintendent.

Gina Sullivan, 11 Spear Avenue

Ms. Sullivan stated the recent FOI request for BOE member's emails is disturbing. She read an email to the council. She said that involvement of a specific church at a BOE meeting by a BOE member acting in an official capacity is problematic. Ms. Sullivan is asking that Ms. Jarvis, who is misrepresenting herself as being invited by the BOE, be removed from all town committees. We need objective, passionate people who leave religious and political agendas at the door and work to represent the residents. A current council member was emailed by a resident that our superintendent is a mistake to our school district, and he should be fired.

Emily Hulevitch, 3 Cutter Lane

Ms. Hulevitch stated that she grew up in Enfield schools, is currently a teacher in Enfield and has two children in Enfield Schools. She is the Teacher's Union President. She came today to speak about the FOI request and the hostility of the emails. The teaching profession is under attack in those emails. In our profession we put our hearts and souls into our job every day. She read a few disheartening emails asking to fire the pizza teacher and that the Enfield School system is a disgrace. She said they were instructed to forward these types of emails to IT and request to have the email address blocked. The emails prove that this is a political and religious agenda.

Liz Davis, 201 North Maple Street

Ms. Davis came back up and read another email. She said calling our superintendent a weak "F" word confirms why the pride resolution needs to happen in this town. The political and religious agenda of these emails has dangerous consequences for our school district. She said being gay, she takes offense that she was compared by a fellow soldier that she served with, to a hate group who Canada considers a terrorist group.

Gina Sullivan, 11 Spear Avenue

Ms. Sullivan came back up and read another email about BOE meetings. She stated people are attending BOE meetings who don't have children and or who don't send their children to Enfield Schools. She said political motivation is more and more obvious with every email.

Lucien Lefevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Mr. Lefevre stated that he does not understand how somebody thought he was grouping the Pride community with hate groups. He was just trying to point out that the town can't pick and choose whose first amendment rights they allow at the Town Hall. He does not want the town to be put in a lawsuit situation with a hate group. He stated that he was not calling the Pride community a hate group. He publicly expressed to Liz that it was not his intent to offend her. He was just looking out for the town.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications closed.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mangini would like to show support for Ukraine in some way. Whether it is a flag in a window or a ceremony on the green it would be nice to show our support. What is happening over there is horrifying.

Councilor Pyznar wanted to invite the community to attend the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), this Thursday April 21st at the Annex at 6:30pm.

Councilor Pyznar also reminded folks that there is a survey for how the ARPA funds are going to be spent. You can find it on the town website or go to the library or Senior Center. These funds belong to the residents so they should be spent the way the residents want them to be spent.

Councilor Pyznar was going through he PAR and noticed that Governor Lamont has given free rides on the Magic Bus for the next 3 months. That is great but she was interested to know why it did not include Dial-A-Ride which is something the seniors have to pay for. If we could look into that it would be great.

Councilor Despard reiterated what Councilor Pyznar stated about P&Z having the Plan of Conservation and Development meeting this Thursday, April 21st. It is a document that lays out our development vision for the next 10 years, so public input is critical.

Councilor Despard stated that he is concerned about the comments he heard tonight about our school system. Our kids should never be pawns in politics. We need to come together and pivot away from the noise and political theater. We need to let our teachers, administrators and our newly elected BOE get to work without distraction.

Councilor Santanella stated that it was marathon day today in Boston. Our own Chief of Police ran the marathon today. He completed it in 3 hours, 46 minutes, and 1 second. Congratulations to Chief Fox.

Councilor Santanella thanked Mr. Lefevre for sharing his concerns as he too has received many comments about the same thing. There are numerous considerations we are working through to make sure we avoid any type of conflict. He stated that there will be something to review at either the next meeting or the one after that.

Councilor Santanella made some comments about Loaves and Fishes a few weeks ago. He said he spoke with Maya, and she said in a normal month they usually raise \$1,000 in donations. Last week they received \$7,000. It is testament to the great community we live in and Maya and her team.

Councilor Unghire wanted to remind everyone that as a country we value freedom of speech, and everyone is invited to come before the Council and BOE and speak their minds and opinions. We also have freedom of religion. It is freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

Councilor Unghire thanked everyone for reaching out to her concerning the loss of her father. The outpouring of love and support was overwhelming. She really appreciated it.

Councilor Hopkins wanted to invite folks to come out for the clean sweep this Saturday at 10:30am. It is a call to come out and clean up our communities. If interested, show at the Town Hall at 10:30am.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he and Councilor Ludwick met with the Loan Review Committee last week. This committee handles requests for grant dispersals and loans for the first-time homebuyer's program as well as the program to help folks make repairs on their homes if they are unable to do so. He stated if you feel you might qualify or you are interested, please feel free to reach out.

Councilor Hopkins stated that in regard to the education system, the Council can make sure the school district is appropriately funded and money coming from the state is getting to our school districts. Our goal is to have the best school system we can and the best education for our kids.

Chairman Cressotti asked all the councilors to come out Saturday for the clean sweep and help organize a group in the community. It would be great to show unity on everyone's part.

Chairman Cressotti stated that on 4/28, 5/5, and 5/19 there will be a free COVID vaccine and booster clinic for everyone age 5 and up. This will be held at the Senior Center. No need to register, you just go. It is from 4-8pm each of those days.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that April is Autism Awareness month. He gave a shout out to the Enfield Police Department who is a big supporter of the CT Special Olympics. In June, Enfield will be part of the Special Olympics Torchlight run. They raise a lot of money for our athletes with the Allied Rehabilitation Special Olympics Team. They will be competing in the state games in June. He commended Chief Fox, and everyone involved.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that in the packet tonight is the monthly PAR Report. If you draw your attention to page 6, there is an update and listing of projects that Public Works is working on. It is a great resource when fielding questions from the public. There will be a lot of work starting around town now that spring has arrived.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that with the ARPA funds, they are trying to bring together as many funding pieces as possible to stretch every dollar for this budget. Item I later in the agenda is related to these ARPA funds to advance some agenda items.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu reported that with the quick action of the Council to refer the investor at Main at North Main with his 8-24 referral. There was a question on some of the portions of those two town properties. At the April 14th Regular Meeting the Enfield P&Z Commission voted to recommend for transfer portions of those two town properties to a budding developer as referenced in the proposed resolution from March 31st. This now brings it back to the Council where we will have to decide how to handle the transfer. It has been approved by P&Z.

We received several questions about the condition of the crosswalk at Route 5 and Main. She said she spoke with the Public Works Director today and he said that we have contracted with Hinkley, and they are going to do the work. We are just waiting on our encroachment permit. Wherever you do work near a state road you have to get permission from the state to do so.

The Enfield Clean Sweep is a great community pride opportunity. We will be providing trash bags and they will be a different color for anyone worried about taking up room in their own trash barrels. Public Works will come around and collect the yellow bags. We will have a limited number of gloves. We have water bottles. Eversource will also be giving away saplings on a first come first served basis. It starts on Saturday at 10:30am but you can do it anytime this weekend. The Enfield PD is partnering with a business and doing a quick sweep of Thompsonville on Friday April 22nd from 4-6pm. The DOT was in last week doing the exit and on-ramps.

Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda clarified that as far as COVID cases go, the last report from the North Central Health District does indicate that the number of cases has gone up a little. We had one case last week in the ranks of Enfield employees and three more today. We are not changing any protocols currently; we are just monitoring the situation.

Mr. Bielenda announced that we have a new Assistant Town Planner, Matthew Davis. He is seasoned and experienced and is coming here full circle starting his career in Enfield in 1987.

Mr. Bielenda also announced that we have a new officer, Sherri Williams and she will be sworn in on Wednesday. She came here from New Jersey. We now have 3 or 4 vacancies in the Enfield PD, and we are working hard to fill those.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Town Attorney, James Tallberg reported that there is no public report tonight.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

RESOLUTION #6203 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS, dated June 1, 2020.

Councilor Cekala stated that every two years a group gets together and put on policy and procedure. This year, this term it was her, Councilor Pyznar, and Councilor Santanella. The Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney and Town Clerk also assisted in this process. She mentioned that starting next agenda, it will be a cleaner agenda that will be easier to follow and less repetitive. There was some work done on the communications portion and cleaned up some language regarding meeting attendance and motion voting.

Councilor Pyznar pointed out that on page 9 of the Policy and Procedure under attendance part b it should say the word “they” instead of “but”.

MOTION #6204 by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Unghire to amend b under attendance in the Policy and Procedure.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6204** adopted 10-0-0.

Councilor Ludwick asked for clarification on page 2 under the Special Meetings.

Councilor Santanella and Councilor Cekala stated that they just took out the word shall so if there was no reason for one, there would not be a special meeting. They can start before 6:30pm if needed.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6203** adopted 10-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #6205 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the consent agenda.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6205** adopted 10-0-0.

- Transfer of funds for Higgins Park \$7,873
- Transfer of funds for Code Enforcement, gas and advertising \$1,814
- Transfer of funds for security for Enfield Dial-a-Ride \$1,960
- Transfer of funds for Congregate Living Meals Program \$3,000
- Authorize Town Manager to sign agreement with the State of Connecticut, Dept. of Housing, for 2022 Community Development Block Grant, Small Cities Program
- Endorsing Town's Fair Housing Policy Statement

MOTION #6206 to reappoint Kelly Davis (D) to the Patriot Award Committee for a term that expires 7/31/23.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Kelly Davis reappointed to the Patriot Award Committee 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #6207 by Councilor Pyznar to appoint Lynda Laureano (R) to the Historic District Commission- Alternate for a term to expire 8/31/26.

MOTION #6208 by Councilor Pyznar, seconded by Councilor Unghire to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6208** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Lynda Laureano appointed to the Historic District Commission- Alternate.

RESOLUTION #6209 by Councilor Cekala, 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: Building Inspections

Other Professional Services	10606800-533900	\$20,000
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FROM:

Building Inspections

Salaries	10606800-511000	\$12,000
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Transfers Out and Contingency

Contingency	10800092-584000	\$8,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 7, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Councilor Finger asked if this will be enough for what we need to get done so we don't have to come back if we are short.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu responded by saying yes. She stated this is why John Wilcox added the \$8,000 from Contingency to complete the entire project.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6209** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6210 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

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

GENERAL FUND

FROM:

10800092-548000	\$41,000
General Fund – Unallocated Contingency	

TO:

10800092-593010	\$41,000
General Fund-Unallocated-Transfers to Capital	

CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND

FROM:

31042022-480001 \$41,000
CIP Fund Revenue FY21-22-Gen Fund
Transfer in

TO:

31008153-533900 \$41,000
Architectural & Engineer Service-Other
Services

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 12, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Councilor Ludwick commented that this was applied for awhile back and wanted to know where on Elm this was going to take place and when the project will start.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that it will be the gap between the community college down near where the new gas station is going to be. She did not have a start date on the project but will get one.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6210** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6211 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

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

TO: CIP

Light Vehicles	31008856-573200	\$78,588
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FROM: CIP Revenue

Auction Proceeds	31042015-417027	\$78,588
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 7, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Councilor Pyznar commented that she was not aware that Public Works takes the time to go out and auction off the things that we don't need. She just wanted everyone out there at home to hear this. It is a great use of tax dollars.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6211** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6212 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Hopkins.

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

TO: Building and Grounds

Maintenance and building Supplies	10300340-561400	\$25,000
Building Repairs and Maintenance	10300340-543100	\$10,000

Equipment Maintenance

Vehicle Supplies and Materials	10300380-561700	\$10,000
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FROM: Administration

Salaries	10300100-511000	\$45,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 7, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Councilor Ludwick asked for clarification on what the supplies are.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that she was not sure, but this is typical of the last quarter of the fiscal year transfers.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6212** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6213 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter V, Section 8, Paragraph (d) of the Enfield Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby determine that it is not in the best interest of the Town to require competitive bidding for a Purchasing Consultant; and

WHEREAS, that the owner of the firm “WCPETRO Consulting” has been selected to provide such services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, the Town Manager, is duly authorized to enter into and sign the contract on behalf of the Town of Enfield with “WCPETRO Consulting”.

Councilor Ludwick stated that he is all for waiving bids, but he is not sure this is a good one based on everything going on with the ARPA money. If we go out to bid, we cover the Town. He said he is for the consultant, but he is against waiving the bid.

Councilor Hopkins stated that generally speaking he is weary of bid waivers. He thinks we need to be thoughtful of bid waivers.

Councilor Finger stated that he too is against this. This is not the right way to go.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6213** adopted 7-3-0.

RESOLUTION #6214 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Despard.

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

TO: COVID-19 Fund

Purchasing Consultant-Other Professional Services 24508217-533900 \$52,000

FROM: COVID-19 Fund

Revenue-Grants-COVID-Federal 24540000-460004 \$52,000

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 13, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Councilor Ludwick stated that after hearing Councilor Finger's comment he is not for a purchasing consultant.

Councilor Cekala asked the Town Manger or Assistant Town Manger to explain this.

Mr. Bielenda stated that the charter does allow for bid waivers. It is not a detriment when time is of the essence because other municipalities will be trying to acquire services that she is trying to provide. She is a certified Purchasing Manager.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that when you have a two-month window you can lose out on the best contractors and the available scheduling. Wilma Petro is well known in the purchasing community, and we called a bunch of communities and asked for references. We want to position Enfield to use every dollar and stretch it to the utmost ability.

Councilor Unghire stated that this is a temporary position, and she was wondering what the window of when she will start and end.

Mr. Bielenda stated that she has already started reviewing on a volunteer basis, but he does not have a definite timeline of the position because he does not know how long some of the projects will take. It is capped at \$52,000.

Councilor Mangini stated that she will not be supporting this resolution. She thinks that this is premature.

Councilor Finger does not feel we need to spend this kind of money. Why do we use consultants from out of town instead of people in town?

Councilor Cekala stated that the important part of this resolution is that we have a two-month backlog of projects that we have not been able to push through. The fact that this is coming from ARPA money is not the important part, it is the fact that we need to fill this void and gap and get projects done.

Chairman Cressotti stated that he is in support of this. We need the help, and we have funds available. It is a good firm we will be hiring to move the process along.

Councilor Santanella stated that he is not a big fan of bid waivers, but he does not like when government grinds to a halt and that is what is happening. We have a Town Manager and her team saying we need help, and we need to support that. He encouraged people to change their vote.

Mr. Bielenda clarified that this person being hired is going to be working directly for the Finance Director. We can't add this responsibility to another person's job.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu clarified that half of the ARPA funds have already been received so we have about \$6 million on hand which we have used a portion of. The other \$6 million is scheduled to arrive the first or second week of June.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6214** adopted 7-3-0.

RESOLUTION #6215 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield was awarded an Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant for \$18,972 from the Connecticut Urban Forest Council for a tree replanting program located along High Street and Central Ave; and

WHEREAS, the Town previously utilized the services of McGuanes Landscaping to assist in developing the Site Map, Plant Placement, Plant List & Supplies, the Project Budget and to assist the town in properly planning the project; and

WHEREAS, McGuanes Landscaping prior work on the grant application makes them uniquely qualified to perform this work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby find, based on the foregoing compelling public interest, and in accordance with Chapter V, Section 8(d), that it is therefore against the best interest of the Town to solicit bids for a tree replanting program located along High Street and Central Ave.

Nelson Tereso, Director of Economic & Community Development stated that his office was contacted by the Conservation Commission in January. We then had a meeting with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Urban Forestry Coordinator to discuss the application requirements and deadline. We had three to four weeks to complete the application. Proceeding with

the tree planting program we need to have a site plan, a budget and we were advised to have an arborist in place to properly plan the project. Most of the trees in the project are being planted on private property. We had to meet with all the stakeholders which was the Enfield Housing Authority, SHP Management that owns Freshwater Pond Apartments, Opera House Players, and the owner of Molina's Plaza to discuss the location and type of the trees. McGuanes was recommended by the Conservation Commission. If we utilize his services, we will work with the career counselor at Enfield High and develop a one-day curriculum with the AP Environmental Science class where they help with the tree planting. He will have a curriculum on how to plant a tree and the benefits of planting a tree. We will be scheduling something with the Enfield students as well and there is a tree planting day scheduled for May 19th.

Councilor Mangini thanked Nelson for his overview. She thinks it is great that we are looking to a local business to do the work. In what capacity did he work on the grant application?

Mr. Tereso stated that in regard to the grant application, we need to provide a site plan and provide a list of specific trees. He provided a budget for labor, the planting, the materials, staking and mulch. He also worked with all the stakeholders on where the trees need to be properly located and the size of the tree.

Councilor Ludwick stated that there are numerous landscaping companies in town. He said he is struggling with why we are waiving bids.

Mr. Tereso stated that there were only three weeks to get this done.

Councilor Finger asked if the other companies in town were offered the same opportunity.

Mr. Tereso answered no. This came from a recommendation out of the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission approached his office with this project. He thanked Mr. Tereso for what he does, he just did not like the way this went down.

Councilor Pyznar asked for clarification from the Town Attorney asking if someone could legally come after us saying they were not given the opportunity.

Attorney Tallberg responded with no. He has done many bid waivers.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he is comfortable with this because it is coming out of this grant money.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6215** adopted 8-2-0.

RESOLUTION #6216 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VII, Section II of the Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby adjust the starting pay for substitute bus drivers in the Enfield Transportation Department.

Mr. Bielenda stated that most of the drivers are unionized. Anyone who works more than 16 hours a week are in a collective-bargaining agreement and the part-timers in that collective bargaining agreement make \$20 per hour. When there are gaps in the schedule, we have been paying non-union drivers \$16.65 per hour. When they see what the union people are getting, they don't want to do that. It is not good when we have a resident waiting for a bus because we don't have a driver. The money is already in the part-time budget, so this is a simple wage adjustment. It is cost neutral to the town.

Councilor Ludwick asked why these folks would not just join the union.

Mr. Bielenda stated that the union is fine with this because they don't want anyone 16 hours or less.

Councilor Finger questioned the non-union members making the same rate as the union members. The teamsters may come back and say they want to put them in the union. Why is this not being dealt with in the budget process.

Mr. Bielenda stated that there is no impact to the current budget. There is a line item for part-time drivers that we dip into when we don't have anyone unionized to cover the run. If the union turns around and wants them to be part of the union, they will have to wait until the contract is open in a few years.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6216** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6217 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, the Pearl Street-North Main Street Bridge crosses over Freshwater Brook; and

WHEREAS, the western portion of the bridge consists of a sidewalk and an unpaved, grass-covered area (area shown on the attached map); and

WHEREAS, the Civil War Soldiers' Monument will be relocated to this parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to designate the above-noted area as a Town park; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council must refer this proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute §8-24.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed designated park described above be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute §8-24.

Councilor Mangini asked if we have notified our Veteran's Council of this plan.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated we will be attending the Veteran's Council meeting this Wednesday. She did explain the plan to him over the phone. We don't want to have an important military statue on a parcel of land we no longer own. There was discussion with the Enfield Police and their ability to

ticket. They are only able to issue citations for open containers along the pond which is designated as a park. Designating this small parcel as park as well would give additional citation powers. Also, with the train platform the traffic is going to increase, and the relocation should be as close to the original location as possible still in Thompsonville, still facing South. This tonight is simply the referral to P&Z.

Councilor Pyznar mentioned that if we do sell that parcel, it breaks her heart to see the statue moved. Do we think selling that parcel will be a hinderance to keep the statue there?

Mr. Tereso said that moving it will allow the developer more land to propose a mixed-use plan on the site. It gives more flexibility of what could be built on the site. Having the monument moved to North Main, Main and Pearl is the center of Thompsonville Village.

Councilor Pyznar asked if it would come before the Council again before it is moved.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that this is only a referral for P&Z park piece right now, not the soldier piece.

Councilor Finger commented that he was happy that we are moving the statue and not getting rid of it.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6217** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6218 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Enfield values the opinions and comments of its constituents; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 4, of the Enfield Town Charter, any elector or taxpayer may have an opportunity to be heard regarding appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year and for the purpose of being heard on issues of vital community importance and concern; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council shall conduct a public hearing at the Enfield Annex, 124 North Maple Street, Auditorium, Wednesday April 27, 2022 at 7pm.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the order of business of the 2022-2023 budget hearing be arranged as follows:

1. Presentation of the Town Manager's Budget
2. The Chairman of the Board of Education highlights Education Budget.
3. Comments from members of the public for the first time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each speaker be requested to register with the Town Clerk his name and address and that no speaker be allowed to speak more than five minutes each successive

time the speaker's name is called. Additionally, any speaker who has not registered with the Town Clerk will be allowed to speak only after those who have registered no longer wish to speak.

Councilor Ludwick asked if there will be a final budget document before this and will it be available to the public.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said they are working with the printer to see if we can get the pdf version so we can link it online. The book that you get with your personnel detail will be available on April 26th.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6218** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6219 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield owns the property known as 100 High Street (Property); and

WHEREAS, the Town and The Opera House Players, Inc. (OHP) entered into a lease with Option to Purchase the property in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission issued a favorable recommendation for the Lease with Option to Purchase, per the requirements of Connecticut General Statute §8-24, at its April 5, 2018 meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §7-163e, the Town Council held a public hearing on April 16, 2018 regarding the Lease with Option to Purchase with the OHP; and

WHEREAS, the OHP have advised the Town that it wishes to purchase the property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, or her designee, is authorized to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement, on behalf of the Town of Enfield, for the sale of 100 High Street to the Opera House Players, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, or her designee, is authorized to sign all documents, including the deed, on behalf of the Town of Enfield, pertaining to the sale of the property to Opera House Players, Inc., subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, or her designee, is authorized to sign, on behalf of the Town, the Agreement with the Opera House Players, Inc. pertaining to the termination of the lease and various repairs to 100 High Street, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Councilor Santanella commented that Thompsonville and Enfield will benefit from this project. Bringing people into the community for music, plays and theater will be great.

Chairman Cressotti congratulated the OHP and said he is looking forward to the continuing shows.

Attorney Tallberg stated that we already have a copy of the agreement ready. It has already been signed by the other side and once you vote, we can have the Town Manager sign it right here.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6219** adopted 10-0-0.

Harry and Susan came up from the OHP and spoke. Harry thanked the Council. He commented on how Tom Arnone helped him get a state bond. The Governor approved it. We are about to hire an engineering firm. The team that they have been working with at the state level are phenomenal. They are very hopeful to break ground by fall. Susan added they hope to be open by August of next year. They are excited to have a permanent home. They thanked everyone for their help and dedication. They will meet with their attorney Thursday to finalize their closing.

MISCELLANEOUS – None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Lucien Lefevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Mr. Lefevre stated that the cemetery associations have requested that we start to remove the flags that were placed on Veteran's Day. New flags will be placed at the Veteran's graves prior to Memorial Day. St. Bernard's and St. Patrick's have removed their flags. He just wanted to mention it in case anyone was wondering where the flags went.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6220 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Pyznar to adjourn.

Upon a SHOW-OF-HANDS vote being taken, the chair declared MOTION #6220 adopted and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council

**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: Higgins Basketball Court

Construction Services	31008211-545000,	\$4,987
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Higgins Walking Path

Construction Services	31008210-545000	\$2,886.48
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FROM: Higgins Park Playscape

Equipment New	31008208-545000	\$7,873.48
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of
April 7, 2022.



John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance

4/12/22

Date:

APPROVED BY: 

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager

4-12-22

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: Code Enforcement

Gasoline	10606900-562600	\$632
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Planning

Gasoline	10606100-562600	\$582
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Code Enforcement

Advertising	10606600-554000	\$600
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FROM: Development Services

Technology Support	10600100-561300	\$415
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Code Enforcement

Legal	10606900-533200	\$799
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Community Development

Professional Development	10606600-532200	\$600
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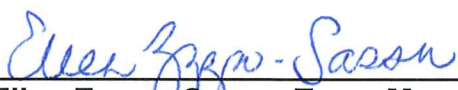
CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 18, 2022.



John Wilcox, Director of Finance

4/12/22

Date:

APPROVED BY: 

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager

4/12/22

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: Dial-A-Ride

Equipment Repair & Maintenance	22040412-543200	\$1,960
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FROM: Dial-A-Ride

Substitutes	22040412-513200	\$1,960
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 18, 2022.



John Wilcox, Director of Finance

4/12/22

Date:

APPROVED BY: 

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager

4/12/22

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: Congregate Living

Food	22040413-563000	\$3,000
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FROM: Congregate Living

Salaries Part Time	22040413-512000	\$ 3,000
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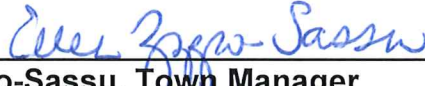
CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of April 18, 2022



John Wilcox, Director of Finance

4/12/22

Date:

APPROVED BY: 

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager

4-12-22

Date:

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Make and Sign an Application and Execute Assistance Agreement with State of Connecticut Department of Housing for the 2022 Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93-383, as amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Enfield make application to the State for \$1,500,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Enfield in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 Public Housing Modernization is hereby approved, and that the Town Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Enfield.

Date Prepared: April 1, 2022
Prepared By: Office of Community Development

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolution Endorsing the Town's Fair Housing Policy Statement

WHEREAS, all persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

WHEREAS, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Enfield hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager of the Town of Enfield or her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Enfield and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Date Prepared: April 1, 2022
Prepared By: Office of Community Development