

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order
Chairman May called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.
3. Roll Call
Present were Councilors Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, Colleen Rix, and Joseph Rogulski. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations
 - a. Presentation from the Montville Economic Development Commission (EDC)
EDC Chairman Walter Hewitt presented Roger and Linda Phillips, *Nature's Art Village*, with the Montville EDC Business Excellence Award for being a premier business and attraction.
5. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to remove items 15(e) and (i) and add the following item to the agenda:
 - 15(j) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the date of April 22, 2020, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the General Government proposed Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 at Montville High School Auditorium and to set the date of April 23, 2020, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the Board of Education proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 at Montville High School Auditorium. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m. (Solid Waste Ordinance)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2019, 6:45 p.m. (Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Program Ordinance)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
 - c. The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2019
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session
 - a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Parks & Recreation Commission, Public Safety Commission, and Commission on Aging. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 7:14 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 7:31 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy and/or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, without prejudice to the Council's right to discuss the same in private pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(2). Discussion to include members of the Town Council, Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Attorney Eileen Duggan.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 7:53 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit

Gary Murphy, 55-F Laurel Point Drive, commented on Item 15(b) regarding the written agreement between the Town of Montville and Montville Fire Fighters Association. He hopes that an agreement that is fair to the fire fighters has been reached, adding that a positive agreement would increase the Town's ability to attract, hire, and maintain good fire fighters. Similar to the Police Department, the necessary training and gear, which the Fire Companies must invest in for each individual fire fighter, are large expenses.

Steve Stewart, 55 Glendale Road, former Fire Chief of the Chesterfield Fire Company, also commented on Item 15(b), stating his hope that the agreement is fair and equitable for both the Town and the fire fighters to help stabilize and maintain their current trained staffing and continue to attract and increase their volunteer staffing.

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the December 2019 budget report from Terry Hart, Finance Director
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of November 2019
- c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of November 2019

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*

11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel reported that a very productive quarterly meeting with the Prison Committee was held. Unfortunately, due to the weather, he was the only one from the Town able to attend. He will contact the prison to schedule a tour of the prison for any interested Councilors.

In December 2019, East Lyme First Selectman Mark Nickerson was elected as the Chairman of SECCOG (Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments). In addition, he reported that he was re-elected as the Chairman of SEAT's Board of Directors (Southeast Area Transit District).

12. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the Committee elected him as the Chairman.

- b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the Committee agreed to have item 15(i) regarding the Police Car Replacement removed from this evening's Agenda, pending additional information.

- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron

Councilor Caron reported that the Committee approved their 2020 Meeting Dates and elected him as the Chairman. He plans to evaluate the Town's roads and review possible ways to expedite the removal of trash that is left behind on their roads.

Chairman May commended Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., and his staff who recently repaired a pothole on Lynch Hill Road in a most timely fashion.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Bunnell: Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau

Councilor Bunnell reported on the following statistics from the Public Safety Commission:

The Police Department received 1,369 Calls for Service, 78 of which were Type I Calls. There were 18 arrests, 1 of which was a juvenile. Two (2) officers are in the process of completing their training and two (2) officers will be completing their training this month.

The Fire Department received 226 Calls for Service, 186 of which were EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Calls. A successful CPR Save was conducted due to the efforts of both the Fire and Police personnel.

The Animal Control Officer received 484 calls to date, 96 of which were in December, in the Town of Montville. In the Town of Salem, the Officer has received 37 calls to date, seven (7) of which were from last month.

To date, the Blight Officer has received a total of 535 identified blight issues, 327 of which have been abated.

The Youth Service Bureau's 2020 Penny Drive will benefit *The Larry Pontbriant Athletic Safety Fund*. Jars are placed at Town Hall and throughout the town. The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) has been very busy.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services

Councilor Caron reported that the Senior & Social Services Department has been very busy. He commended all of the volunteers who created the holiday baskets, bags of toys, and food boxes as well as the Fire and Police Departments and employees for bringing a smile to the faces of those in need. He recommended that everyone visit the Center to witness, first-hand, all of their hard work. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to Senior & Social Services Director Kathie Doherty-Peck who recently lost her father — a tremendous asset and a great loss to the Town.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education – *no report*

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority

Councilor May reported that the Wastewater Treatment was effective for December with one slight exceedance for suspended solids, which will be repaired. While a recent water audit found that the water supply is less than the national average, they are continuing to seek ways in which to further minimize water loss. A forced main breach that occurred at one of the pump stations on January 7 was cleaned, repaired, and back in order by January 10. The sale of one of their old trucks generated \$8,000.00 in revenue. Per the recent audit recommendations, a subcommittee was formed to work on their administrative procedures. A multi-million dollar sludge hauling contract will be sent out to bid.

In response to Councilor Caron, Councilor May state that the WPCA currently does not have the necessary equipment to haul the sludge, which is a 24/7 job when conducted.

e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations

Councilor Pollard reported that the New London Homeless Hospitality Center helped 553 individuals in need receiving such help as access to high quality emergency shelters; financial help with security deposits and/or first month's rent to ease their transition; help moving from a shelter to residential treatment programs; use of their help, warming, and/or hospitality centers, and vet house, and; speaking with an outreach worker. The Center,

located at 730 State Pier Road, New London, is offering a guided tour on Tuesday, January 21, from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. Any interested parties are requested to RSVP at info@nlhhc.org.

- e. Councilor Rix: Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilor Rix reported that the EDC is networking with local organizations and working on the Business Survey. They have also requested the Councilors provide them with any specific direction or recommendations they would like them to focus on. They have been unsuccessful with organizing a meeting with the representatives of the Londregan Property.

Parks & Recreation Commission – The Agility equipment has been installed at the Dog Park. The Montville Community Booklet has been published. Several bus trips, including an on-your-own day to Boston (St. Patrick’s Day), Newport (Summer), and New York (Holidays) have been planned.

At the request of Chairman May, Town Clerk Sandberg will provide any documentation on file regarding the EDC’s charge, rules and/or regulations.

- f. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund – *no report*

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Wills Pike to fill a vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire on June 9, 2022.

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Councilors May, Pollard, and Rogulski felt that Mr. Pike would be a great asset to the Commission. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Daniel Boisvert to the Youth Advisory Board with a term to expire on January 13, 2022.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint David Bliven to the Niantic River Watershed Committee with a term to expire on February 12, 2024.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

14. Unfinished Business – *none*

15. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2020-01. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$6,706.14 (six thousand seven hundred and six dollars and fourteen cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2020-02. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the

written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Montville Fire Fighters Association, Local 3386, IAFF for the period of July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2022. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion:

Councilor May noted the hard work of the Mayor and his team, the attorneys, and the unions on the drafting of the written agreement. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2020-03. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the Town of Montville may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ronald McDaniel, as Mayor of Town of Montville, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Montville and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel explained that the resolution, which involves all of the towns within the Region 4 area, requires the annual execution of the resolution by all of the area towns in order to receive the funds. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2020-04. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that the Town of Montville hereby endorses and authorizes the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) to make application to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) funding for three projects: a Regional Code Enforcement Official (\$100,000); a Regional Grant Writer (\$80,000); and a Regional Human Resources Staff/Consultant (\$80,000); all of which could benefit the municipalities of the SCCOG region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Montville authorizes the Council's Executive Director, James S. Butler, to make these applications and to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments and to do all things necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the resolution provides each of the member towns with the opportunity to go through the SCCOG to fund the three individual positions. He felt that all three of the positions would potentially benefit the Town. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion to nominate and appoint a liaison to the Conservation Commission. (Councilor May)

The item was removed from the Agenda.

- f. **Resolution #2020-05. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to retain the law firm of Suisman & Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law as legal counsel for the Town of Montville with a term of January 13, 2020 through December 31, 2021 and further to

authorize the Mayor to Execute the Fee Agreement outlined in the proposal submitted by the law firm. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, in favor of Suisman-Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law. Voting in Favor of Suisman-Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Favor of Berchem Moses PC: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2020-06. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to create the Community Connectivity Grant Program (CCGP) fund (#033). (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Finance Director Hart explained that the resolution allows the Finance Department to add a separate line item for the Grant, for transparency purposes. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- h. **Resolution #2020-07. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the favorable 8-24 review for the sale of properties located at 735 Fire Street (Map 20 Lot 7) and Fire Street (Map 21 Lot 5), as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. (Councilor Rix)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Councilor Rix stated that the item refers to a previously foreclosed property that was transferred to the Town. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- i. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$63,500 to the Police Car Replacement line (10960-54006) from the General Fund. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)
The item was removed from the Agenda.

- j. **Resolution #2020-08. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the date of April 22, 2020, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the General Government proposed Budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 at Montville High School Auditorium and to set the date of April 23, 2020, at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding the Board of Education proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 at Montville High School Auditorium. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Rogulski felt that it would have been more prudent for the Council to receive bids from and interview more than two prospective law firms.

Councilor Pollard wished everyone a Happy and Safe New Year and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilor Rix thanked the Mayor for his hard work on the Fire fighters contract.

Councilor Caron concurred and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also stated his hope, and the Councilors agreed, that any pending legal matters would be completed by the current law firm so as not to add any additional costs for the taxpayers.

Mayor McDaniel stated that a joint statement will be issued regarding the Fire Fighters Contract and Agreement with the Town. He respectfully requested that the Town Council resurrect the Noise Ordinance due to several complaints that have been received. Clarifying a recently published article, he stated that he has never worked for nor has ever received a check from the WPCA. With regards to the Town Attorney, he stated that that he has worked with Suisman-Shapiro for a long time and felt that the Town would be served very well by them. He added that he was very, very satisfied with Halloran & Sage, LLP, and their not being chosen as the Town Attorney was not due to their performance or work, but because they did not submit a bid. He is also happy that the Councilors have agreed to keep those legal matters that are in process with the current law firm until they are completed.

Councilor May stated that he is pleased with the outcome of the Fire Fighters Agreement, hopes that the Agreement will help the Fire Companies recruit and retain members, and expressed his appreciation to the Mayor, Bargaining Units, and Attorneys.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Rix, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

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LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – FORM REPOSITORY – MEETING RECORDINGS**