

**Town of Montville Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**Town of Montville has lifted the mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022 throughout Town facilities in coordination with our schools. Although the mask mandate has been lifted, Uncas Health strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors.**

1. Call to Order  
Chairman McNally called the meeting to order at 7:00 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., Alfred Mandler, Tim May, Thomas McNally, and Robert Yuchniuk. Absent were Councilors Billy Caron and Collen Rix. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
  - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2022  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.
  - b. The Public Hearing Minutes of February 24, 2022 (Voting Districts)  
Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.
  - c. The Special Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2022 (Voting Districts, Refunds, ARPA)  
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.
7. Executive Session – *none*
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit  
Gary Murphy, President, Oakdale Fire Company, spoke with respect to Item 16(c) on the Agenda. He strongly recommended the Town Council approve the resolution to waive the sealed bid requirement for the generator. The current generator is 25 years old and any necessary parts must be purchased from Germany, which, prior to the supply chain issues, took 9 to 14 weeks to arrive. Approximately \$4,000.00 has been expended over the past four years to repair the generator. The Fire Company often serves as a shelter for its citizens and, should the generator fail, the Fire Company would have no power, water, heat, or electricity. The generator, he stated, is a critical need.
9. Communications
  - a. Copy of the February 2022 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
  - b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of December 2021
  - c. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of January 2022
  - d. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of January 2022
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred  
Mayor McDaniel reported that he is currently working with the Town Attorney on the transfer of the roads.

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

Mayor McDaniel reported that the Town recently swore in their 26th officer, Officer Thomas Lalumiere. He is currently enrolled in Field Training. In addition, the town's new Firefighters and Deputy Fire Marshal were sworn in at a recent Public Safety Meeting.

Region 4 EMS-COVID Meetings continue to be held to coordinate their COVID-response efforts. The meetings, which were previously weekly, are now held bi-weekly. It is hoped that the meetings will soon be held monthly.

The Troop E Commander and Former Montville Resident State Trooper Lt. Albert Gosselin organized a meeting with all of Troop E Resident State Troopers, First Selectmen, and Mayors at the town's Public Safety Building. The attendees enjoyed a tour of the facility and discussed common enforcement issues, including speeding, littering, and fentanyl-related incidences. The event was well-organized and it is hoped that additional events will be held in the future.

A Virtual Public Information Meeting regarding an upcoming Route 85 Improvement Project will be held tomorrow evening. Residents are welcome to take part in the meeting at Town Hall in Town Council Chambers.

Finance Director Terry Hart reported that the Tax Collector has collected approximately \$100,000.00 in back taxes in the month of February, including two large payments of \$20,000.00 and \$66,000.00. The town also received over \$10,000.00 from the State for unclaimed property. She informed the Councilors that the Municipal Insurance line is over-budgeted. The Audit is in the process of being finalized and should be completed by the end of the month. The FY2022/23 budget requests have been sent to all of the departments and the Finance Committee will begin meeting with the various departments at the end of the month. She will be meeting with the Town Engineer to review and discuss the new Animal Control Facility.

Planning Director Liz Burdick reported that the Planning Office has been busy with contractors submitting applications to prepare for construction in the Spring. Applications include a new industrial building at Rockland Overland Park, the Village Apartments expansion project for 160 additional dwelling units, a 22-unit Townhouse multi-family development, and a gas station project at the intersection of Routes 82 and 163. She is working with the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority), Mayor, and Town Engineer on the Cook Drive Tower project. She also commented on item 16(b) on the Agenda regarding the sale of the Bridge Street properties, stating that, several years ago, the town completed the remediation of the site through a Brownfields Grant. A Section 8-24 Review was conducted by the Planning & Zoning Commission which recommended that the town move forward with the sale of the property.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure

Councilor Yuchniuk reported that the Committee discussed and sent back the Montville Police Department's Bodycam Policy for minor wording changes. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the Town Vehicle Policy. They will be contacting the town's insurance company regarding the liabilities and the document was returned for minor wording changes.

b. Finance

Chairman McNally reported that the Committee will be meeting in two weeks to begin the budget process.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal

Chairman McNally stated that several projects, utilizing the town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds, are in their planning stages. In addition, the Department is

currently working on the trees and drainage on Chapel Hill Road, which will be paved. The Committee also discussed the drainage issues on Laurel Point Drive. The Public Works Director is devising a list of shovel-ready projects that might qualify for any upcoming grants.

Mayor McDaniel reported that a Letter of Interest was submitted for a Solid Waste Disposal Pilot Project that would remove food waste scraps from the solid waste stream and a Pilot Pay-As-You-Throw Bag Program. A presentation can be provided during their next meeting.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Bunnell: Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund

The Library Committee and Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund did not hold meetings.

The Parks & Recreation Commission voted to support Scout Tyler Lawton's proposed Eagle Scout project entitled, "Horton Cove Trail Proposal" which entails the creation of a walking trail on the property located behind the Police Department. The trail will highlight the history of the property. Assistant Town Planner Colleen Bezanson provided a presentation regarding Sustainable CT, a voluntary certification program. The Commission also discussed the following items:

- the itemization and prioritization of projects slated for ARPA Funding
- a site visit to Firemen's Park was conducted by the Commissioners and one of the Fire Chiefs to discuss possible areas that could serve as a training facility
- the Farmers Market, which will be larger with additional vendors will be opening on June 14

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services, Non-Profit Organizations

In lieu of Councilor Caron, Councilor May reported that Councilors Caron, McNally, and himself attended the Lions Club Humanitarian Awards Ceremony which honored Senior and Social Services Director Kathie Doherty-Peck who received the Humanitarian of the Year Award as well as the prestigious Rose Amanda Freeman Award.

c. Councilor Mandler: Water Pollution Control Authority, Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Impact Study Committee

Councilor Mandler reported that the WPCA voted to approve their FY2022/23 Budget, with amendments. The Authority also discussed the legality of their previous motion regarding the design of the Distribution Boxes and agreed to consult the Town Attorney for an opinion.

Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Impact Study Committee – The town is expected to receive the second allotment of ARPA Funds on April 1. To date, they are approximately \$700.00 to \$800.00 over budget in the first allotment of funding. The Committee is requesting that all requests be submitted with the appropriate and relevant documentation.

d. Councilor May: Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is continuing to work with the Assistant Town Planner to complete the relevant Sustainable CT Action Items. They are planning to host a Volunteer Day to help clean the trails and are considering participating in CT Trails Day in June.

e. Councilor Rix: Board of Education, Farmers Market Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission – *not present*

f. Councilor Yuchniuk: Economic Development Commission, Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

The Economic Development Commission held not meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

The Public Safety Commission held a Badge Pinning/Swearing-In Ceremony for new Firefighters Alex Blais, Matthew Desrosiers, Paulius Zabulis, and Deputy Fire Marshal

Keith Milton. He expressed his disappointment that none of the Fire Company Chiefs were present for the Ceremony.

Fire Marshal Barnes reported that the department responded to 329 Calls for Service in the month of January, while, in February, 566 Calls for Service were responded to. Councilor Yuchniuk expects the number to further increase as the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed and the weather warms.

Lt. Dave Radford reported that K-9 Officer Fazzino received his new police dog, Gage. The two officers will complete their training in May.

They are continuing their search for an Assistant Building Official.

Youth Service Bureau – The Board of Education (BOE) has agreed to provide NARCAN to the school nurses and teachers. To date, 68 individuals have been trained on its use. The BOE has also agreed to allow the use of the van to transport students to attend the after-school program.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Kelley Orbe to Farmers Market Committee with a term to expire on April 8, 2025.  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Michael Orbe to Farmers Market Committee with a term to expire on April 8, 2025.  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Jeffrey Carver to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on April 9, 2024.  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Meracus Hernandez to the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire on April 9, 2026.  
Motion made by Councilor Yuchniuk, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Brianne Messer to the Youth Advisory Board with a term to expire on April 14, 2024.  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- f. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint William Carlos, Jr., to the Youth Advisory Board with a term to expire on April 14, 2024.  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- g. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint John Szarzynski to the Housing Authority with a term to expire on April 30, 2027.  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- h. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Joseph Jaskiewicz to the Housing Authority with a term to expire on April 30, 2027.  
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2022-22. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$9,020.64 (nine thousand twenty dollars and sixty-four cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Yuchniuk, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2022-23. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the favorable §8-24 review for the sale of property located at 8, 14, and 22 Bridge Street, Montville, CT (Map 82 Lot 78, Map 82 Lot 79, and Map 81, Lot 00), as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2022-24. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town Charter for the Oakdale Fire Department Generator as it is in the best interest of the Town. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Two bids have been received and they are awaiting the receipt of the third bid. It was confirmed that the Firehouse is utilized as a shelter. Roll Call vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, and Yuchniuk. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Councilor McNally. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2022-25. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to execute an extension on the contract with Willimantic Waste for Single Stream Recyclable Collection through March 31, 2027 with the existing terms and conditions. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: It was confirmed that the contract is the amended version. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2022-26. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the date of Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM for a public hearing regarding an ordinance titled “An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance 2006-003, Establishing The Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Program Of The Town Of Montville” (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

Dale Eichholtz, 262 Connecticut Boulevard, Oakdale, a longtime resident of Montville, suggested the Councilors speak louder for those sitting in the back of the room. She also requested that the Town consider investigating the possibility of instituting a tax relief program for the elderly. She commended and thanked the Councilors and expressed her pride of the Mayor.

Chairman McNally recommended she contact the Assessor’s office for information regarding any available programs for the elderly. Councilor May also recommended she investigate the possibility of receiving a veteran’s benefit as a military spouse (widow).

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel is looking forward to offering the tax credit program for the volunteer firefighters, rewarding them for their service to the community. He hopes the Councilors will be able to attend tomorrow evening's Informational Session regarding the Route 85 Improvement Project. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Councilor Bunnell wished everyone a Happy and Safe St. Patrick's Day. He looks forward to everyone's support for the proposed Eagle Scout project which will highlight the historical significance of the area which many may not be aware of. He also commented and expressed his support for the Firefighters Ordinance.

Councilor May expressed his support for accelerating the repair of the Town's roads.

Councilor Yuchniuk questioned whether the prisoners could be engaged to help with the cleaning of the trails.

Councilor Mandler reiterated his request for departments to submit the necessary documentation with their request for ARPA Funding and the need to ensure that the funds are utilized as designated. He recommended that the subcommittees set deadlines to ensure that the projects progress and are completed in a timely manner. He also expressed his appreciation to the Finance Director for her explanation regarding the Christmas bonuses. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Chairman McNally also wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS**