

**Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 11, 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 Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Absent was Councilor Caron, due to illness. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to add amend the following item:
 - 16(d) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Notification Policy, as ~~recommended~~ *discussed* by the Town Administration/ Rules & Procedures Standing Committee. (Councilor McNally)and add the following item:
 - 16(i) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appropriate up to \$40,000.00 (forty thousand dollars) of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to purchase the Raymond Hill Library air conditioning system. (Councilor McNally)Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Special Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2022
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. The Public Hearing Minutes of June 16, 2022 (8, 14, and 22 Bridge Street)
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, 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 discussing the Mayor's performance. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. Chairman McNally resumed the meeting at 7:18 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 – *none*
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the June 2022 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of April 2022

- c. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of May 2022
- d. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of May 2022
- e. Copy of the Governance Communication Letter from the Auditor

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel reported that the Public Hearing regarding the discontinuance of the roads will be held next week.

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

Mayor McDaniel reported that Independence Village and Freedom Village Elderly Housing hosted two very well-attended cookouts for their Board and residents. Public Works Crew Leader John Carlson was promoted to the position of Public Works Director and a meeting was held to discuss the outstanding Public Works projects. He and Fire Marshal Paul Barnes viewed and discussed the new Millstone Evacuation Site, located at Conard High School in West Hartford.

Finance Director Hart reported that the Finance Department is in the process of transitioning from the FY2021/22 to FY2022/23 budgets. The overall revenue for FY2021/22 is over 101% of the budgeted amount. Likewise, the tax collection rate is over \$400,000.00 of the anticipated amount. The remaining line-item transfers will be presented to the Town Council for approval and the expenditures for FY2021/22 should be closed by August 2022.

Newly appointed Public Works Director John Carlson introduced himself to the Town Council. A lifetime resident and 32-year employee of the Town, his first day (today) as the Director was spent initiating the completion of some of their outstanding projects, including the paving of Chapel Hill Road, the bridge at Moxley Road, and the lining of the Town Hall, Community Center, and Camp Oakdale parking lots.

Councilor Mandler congratulated the new Public Works Director and wished him the best.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure

Councilor Yuchniuk reported that the Committee discussed and sent the Notification Policy to the Town Council, which is on this evening's agenda, for approval. They also discussed and tabled their review of some of the employee job descriptions, pending the receipt of additional information.

b. Finance – *no report*

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal

Councilor McNally reported that the Committee discussed the status of numerous projects, including the paving of the roads, ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)-funded items, and renovations of various Town properties.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

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

The Library Committee did not meet; however, an informal meeting was held to discuss their request for ARPA funding for various items. Constructed in 1885, the Raymond Hill Library was last remodeled in 1970 and is in need of several upgrades, including the repair of the ceilings and updates to the lighting and bathroom. One of the items – purchasing a new air conditioning system – is on this evening's agenda for approval.

Both the Parks & Recreation Commission and Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund also did not meet.

- b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services, Non-Profit Organizations – *no report; not present*

- c. Councilor Mandler: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee

The WPCA discussed opening the competitive bid process for the roof replacement of the Chesterfield and Holly Hill Pump Stations.

The Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee discussed the funding for the gravel parking lot for the proposed walking trail and listened to a presentation provided by Avalonia Conservancy who is requesting \$560,000.00 in Open Space Funds for the purchasing of 669 acres located on Beckwith Road. A tour of the property, which will be open to the public, is being planned.

- d. Councilor May: Conservation Commission

Materials, picnic tables, and an entrance sign were ordered before the end of the fiscal year. A small community event, which included a presentation regarding the Park's history by Commissioner Paul Chase, was recently held at Hopemead State Park. Guests who were knowledgeable about the Native American artifacts and ruins in the Park and in Montville were also present. The Commission received a request to join the Town of Bozrah in helping fund the purchase Open Space property. Councilor May invited everyone to attend an invasive species presentation on August 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers.

- e. Councilor Rix: Board of Education (BOE), Farmers Market Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission

The BOE is currently in the early stages of investigating its school security options.

The Farmers Market Committee will be hosting a Kids Day featuring a bounce house at tomorrow's Farmers Market and guest vendors will join their weekly regular vendors.

The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the Town's Affordable Housing Plan.

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

Economic Development Commission – The Commission is investigating the possibility of utilizing the services of *Leadership Coach Pro* Owner Michelle Hartley who provided a presentation regarding her work as a consultant to municipalities, marketing them to developers and businesses. Councilor Yuchniuk commended Assistant Planner/GIS Specialist Colleen Bezanson for her hard work.

Public Safety Commission – The Police Department reported the receipt of 1,336 Calls for Service, 28 of which resulted in arrests in May 2022. No fire or police incidents were reported at the Carnival. The Fire Department reported 273 Calls for Service, 203 of which were EMS (Emergency Medical Service) calls. The Commission voted unanimously to support, in principle, the arming of the School Resource Officers; a letter will be drafted and sent to the BOE.

Youth Services Bureau – *no report; no meeting*

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Heather Harris to the Regional Tourism District with a term to expire on August 12, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Mary Adams to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on August 13, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2022-78. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$35,799.56 (thirty-five thousand seven hundred ninety-nine dollars and fifty-six cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: None.
Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2022-79. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the favorable 8-24 review for the sale of property located at 300 Maple Avenue Unit E (Map 82 Lot 28) as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2022-80. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to enter into an agreement with Bonnie Yacovetsky of Re/Max to represent the Town of Montville in the sale of 300 Maple Avenue, Unit E. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2022-81. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Notification Policy, as discussed by the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2022-82. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve and adopt the resolution entitled “Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$7,000,000 For The School Improvement Project And The Financing of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$7,000,000 Therefor,” a copy of which resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and to waive the reading of the entire resolution and to incorporate its full text into the minutes of the meeting. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: The \$8 million Bond is divided into two separate bonds, as recommended by the Bond Counsel: \$7 million for school infrastructure improvements and \$1 million for Montville High School field improvements. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2022-83. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve and adopt the resolution entitled “Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of

\$1,000,000 For The Montville High School Project And The Financing of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,000,000 Therefor,” a copy of which resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit B; and to waive the reading of the entire resolution and to incorporate its full text into the minutes of the meeting. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2022-84. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve and adopt the resolution entitled “Resolution Establishing A Date For A Referendum And The Preparation of Explanatory Text Related To (A) Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$7,000,000 For The School Improvement Project And The Financing of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$7,000,000 Therefor, and (B) Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$1,000,000 For The Montville High School Project And The Financing of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,000,000 Therefor,” a copy of which resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit C; and to waive the reading of the entire resolution and to incorporate its full text into the minutes of the meeting. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: The Referendum will be held on Election Day as an additional question on the Ballot. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- h. **Resolution #2022-85. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ron McDaniel to consummate the sale of 323 Route 163, Montville, CT to William Kotecki by virtue of a quit claim deed for \$10,000 per the purchase and sales agreement dated July 5, 2022. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the property is the sister property of 315 Route 163. The \$10,000.00 was the only offer received. Roll Call vote, 5-1-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, and Yuchniuk. Voting in Abstention: Councilor McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- i. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appropriate up to \$40,000.00 (forty thousand dollars) of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to purchase the Raymond Hill Library air conditioning system. (Councilor McNally)
- Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Councilor Mandler reported that he and Councilors Bunnell and Caron reviewed the property and determined that the air conditioning system is necessary to protect the books in the Raymond Hill Library. Three (3) estimates were received, as required, and additional funding was added to the appropriation for any additional expenses that might occur. Councilor Bunnell stressed the urgency and importance of expediting the project to prevent further damage. Councilor May recalled that the Library was renovated three to four years ago due to a heating system failure and frozen pipes. He stated that the status of their endowment should be reviewed and felt that it is the Town’s responsibility to help supplement the Library. It was confirmed that the invoice would be paid directly by the Town. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

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

Gary Murphy, 55-F Laurel Point Drive, reiterated a previous comment he made regarding the poor sightline at Routes 163 and 32 due to overgrown trees, bushes, and shrubs. The poor sightline is especially dangerous for emergency vehicles. He urged the Town to either contact the State to clean the area, gain permission from the State for Public Works, or engage a group of volunteers to clean the area.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel acknowledged the loss of John Geary, a long-time public servant who served on the WPCA and as a Town Councilor and Town Council Chairman. A very active member of the community, and a good friend and mentor, Mr. Geary will be missed for his wry sense of humor and knowledge. He sent his heart out to his wife, Donna, and their son. He and Councilor May attended a well-attended Remembrance Ceremony at the VFW for John Wong. He also met with Mohegan Tribe Chairman James Gessner, Jr., and Tribal Leader Chuck Bunnell who presented a check for the BOE to fund the rebranding of the schools.

Councilor Bunnell also shared his remembrance of Mr. Geary, a knowledgeable and staunch supporter of public safety. He offered his congratulations to newly-appointed Public Works Director Carlson, a very knowledgeable and hard worker.

Councilor May also shared his memories of Mr. Geary, who was instrumental in encouraging him to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission and WPCA. He also spoke of Mr. Wong's service to the Town and his efforts to bridge the communication gap between the Town and its Asian community as well as his successful Route 32 safety efforts.

Chairman McNally also offered his congratulations to newly-appointed Public Works Director Carlson who he looks forward to working. He commended the Carnival Committee and all of the individuals who worked together to host a successful event.

Councilor Rix also offered his congratulations to newly-appointed Public Works Director Carlson.

Councilor Yuchniuk also welcomed newly-appointed Public Works Director Carlson, about whom he has heard many positive things. He wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

Councilor Mandler reported that a resident contacted him regarding a noise ordinance. He also congratulated the newly-appointed Public Works Director. He expressed his hopes that the BOE will move forward to hire an armed School Resource Officer(s) to ensure the safety of their students. He expressed his appreciation and commended the Carnival and Farmers Market Committees for hosting very successful and outstanding events for the community.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, 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