

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

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, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix, to remove the following item from the Agenda:
7(c) To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Discussion to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
Discussion: The item will be covered under Item 7(b). Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2022
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. 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 Building Code Board of Appeals. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: Candidate Frank Miceli was interviewed for the Building Code Board of Appeals. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. Chairman McNally resumed the meeting at 7:07 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 discussing 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 and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. Chairman McNally resumed the meeting at 7:32 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Discussion to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Item was removed from the Agenda.

- 8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*

- 9. Communications

- a. Copy of the December 2022 Financial Reports from Finance Director Barbara Griffin
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of November 2022
- c. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of November 2022
- d. Copy of a letter from the Eastern Regional Tourism District (ERTD)
- e. Copy of a letter from Terri Eickel, Director of Development & Programming, Avalonia Land Conservancy, regarding the receipt of additional funding for the purchase of the Bond Property.
- f. Copy of an e-mail from Jon Ventresca, Montville Lacrosse President, requesting \$30,000.00 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding for the purchase of helmets and a multi-purpose/multi-sport throwback wall.

- 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 on the preparations for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony tomorrow, January 10, for recreational marijuana sales at *The Botanist*. Four (4) Police Officers will be on-site to manage the traffic during the store's operating hours. Temporary Zoning Permits were issued for additional parking for employees and patrons and a shuttle bus will be available to transport the guests. He commended the Land Use and Police Departments for their hard work and efforts. Issues regarding the noise emanating from Gateway Terminal have been raised. Numerous legislative meetings with various organizations have been held, including the Connecticut Council of Governments, CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities), COST (Connecticut Council of Small Towns), and Youth Services. Two (2) new Police Officers were sworn in last week and will begin attending the Police Academy next week.

Planning Director Liz Burdick reported that the department has been busy preparing for *The Botanist's* Ribbon Cutting event. The Department and Planning & Zoning Commission have drafted regulations for Cannabis establishments with Town Attorney's guidance. The proposed regulation will be reviewed and discussed during the Commission's January Regular Meeting. A multi-family development is in progress at 303 Route 32. She requested the Councilors' support for Item 16(b) on the Agenda to authorize the Town an application for the State of Connecticut Community Investment Fund Grant for the proposed Animal Shelter.

Councilor Yuchniuk proposed the possibility of posting "No Parking" signs in the area of The Botanist. Mayor McDaniel stated that the Town would need to contact District 2 regarding any proposed signage as the Town has no jurisdiction along Route 32, which is a State road.

Finance Director Barbara Griffin reported on her understanding of the State Statute regarding the taxes received from cannabis dispensaries. The 3% recreational marijuana sales tax would be paid directly to the Town and the income would be coordinated with the Department of Revenue Services. The funds must be deposited into a special revenue fund and utilized for specific purposes, including mental health and addiction services.

In response to Councilor May, Finance Director Griffin will investigate the possibility of utilizing the funds to pay for additional police officers to monitor the area following the 30-day period.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure

Councilor Yuchniuk reported that, at Councilor Mandler's request, the Committee reviewed and confirmed that language regarding the maintenance of boxes on properties is included in the existing Blight Ordinance. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the salary recommendations for the Chief of Police, which is on this evening's agenda for approval.

b. Finance – *Items are included in this evening's agenda*

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal

Chairman McNally reported that they are in the process of finalizing the proposed roads for the road improvement project; \$4.3 million of the \$10 million remains in the fund. The Committee also discussed the purchasing and installation of new signage and cleaning up the Public Works garage. Bids are expected to go out for the old Town Hall, Pavilion, and Fair Oaks Bathrooms. The siding for the Youth Football Building at Camp Oakdale has been completed.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

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

Fire Fighters' Relief Fund – *no meeting*

Library Committee – *no meeting*. Councilor Bunnell reported that the Library's annual expenses total \$165,857.00. While they receive \$65,000.00 in funding from the town and have a balance of \$885,000.00 in the Library Investment Fund, the Library's funds are dwindling and will be in dire need of additional funding to remain active. An alternative solution is to provide library services through a neighboring town, which is estimated to cost approximately \$150,691.00 per year.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Representatives from the Montville Football and Cheer provided a presentation to the Commission regarding the necessary upgrades to the football field. The upgrades include new lighting, the installation of a flagpole dedicated to a former athlete, the widening of the football field, and the installation of a perimeter. Concerns and issues regarding parking, the playground, the bathrooms, and the field house alarm system were also raised. The Exploratory Committee for a new Community Center will be consulting with an architect to draft basic concepts for the Center. The tennis courts are slowly progressing. Chairperson Kate Southard, Vice Chairperson Rocky Stone, and Secretary Morgan Matthewson were elected. The Commissioners approved the 2023 Meeting Dates and FY2023/24 Proposed Budget, which includes an increase of \$313,345.00.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services, Non-Profit Organizations
Non-Profit Organizations – A letter to be mailed to the non-profit organizations is in the process of being drafted. Having spoken with the organizations, he is aware that some of the organizations may be seeking a small increase in funding.

Senior & Social Services – The renovation of the Old Town Hall is slowly moving forward; the asbestos and lead are slated for removal. The cost estimates for the renovation are in line with the budgeted amount. Councilor Caron commended and expressed his appreciation to the Senior Volunteers and Home Depot Volunteers who put together and delivered gift bags for the town's children-in-need, over 300 home

boxes, and homebound meals. He also thanked Charter Oak Federal Credit Union for their generous donation of \$5,000.00 to Social Services.

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

WPCA – *Item is on the agenda.* The Authority continued their discussion regarding the lighting and cameras for the fishing pier; no final decisions were made, pending the receipt of additional data.

Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Impact Study Committee – The Committee’s meetings have been temporarily suspended. Any urgent items that arise will be sent directly to the Town Council for review and approval.

In response to Councilor May, Councilor Mandler reported that monthly reports for the testing of the effluent for Covid-19 are provided to the Commission; the level remains steady.

- d. Councilor May: Conservation Commission

The Commission is beginning to recruit volunteers to work on the Center and work requests will be submitted to the Mayor and Public Works Department.

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

Board of Education – *no meeting*

Farmers Market Committee – *no meeting*

Planning & Zoning Commission – *see item 11, Planning Director Burdick’s report*

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

Economic Development Commission – *no report*

Public Safety Commission – *no meeting*

Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board – *no meeting*

- 14. Appointments and Resignations – *none*

- 15. Unfinished Business – *none*

- 16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2023-01. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$3,760.39 (three thousand seven hundred sixty dollars and thirty-nine cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor McNally)

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

- b. **Resolution #2023-02. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize the Town of Montville to apply to the State of Connecticut Community Investment Fund 2023 for the proposed new Animal Shelter. (Councilor Rix)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: The Town will be requesting \$1 million in funding. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2023-03. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) from Contingency (10480-52164) to Police

Special Events (10820-51105) for the Police Transition Ceremony, as requested by Police Transition Sub-committee. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: The Ceremony is scheduled for July 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Auditorium. The funds will be utilized for such items as catering, invitations, and entertainment for the event. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2023-04. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$262.19 (two hundred sixty-two dollars and nineteen cents) from Contingency (10480-52164) to Probate Court (10350-52137) for an additional FY2023 appropriation as, requested by the Judge of Probate. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: The request is due to an increase in services; the cost is shared between the three towns receiving the service. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2023-05. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the salary of the Chief of Police with a range of \$110,000.00 (one hundred ten thousand dollars) to \$130,000.00 (one hundred thirty thousand dollars), as recommended by the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor Yuchniuk, seconded by Councilor Mandler. Discussion: Councilor Bunnell stated that the proposed salary range is comparable to those of the surrounding towns. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2023-06. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to create and transfer \$35,000.00 (thirty-five thousand dollars) from Contingency (10480-52164) to a new line-item titled Chief of Police (10820-51030). (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: The funds will be used for an Interim Chief of Police/Consultant prior to the official July 1st start date. Mayor McDaniel reported that 12 (twelve) applications were received for the position. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2023-07. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to extend the auditing services of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) Wealth Advisors, LLC for the FY2023/24 audit for the Town of Montville. (Councilor McNally)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: The current contract, which expires this year, includes a clause allowing the Town Council to extend the contract by one year. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- h. **Resolution #2023-08. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ron McDaniel enter into a settlement agreement with the Montville Association of Management Employees (MAME) Local 818, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO as approved by the Montville Water and Sewer Commission. (Mayor McDaniel)

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

- i. **Resolution #2023-09. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to select Verogy as the contractor for the Montville WPCF Solar Project and authorizes Mayor Ronald McDaniel to execute any and all documents for said project. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: In contrast to the Landfill Solar Project, Verogy, the same contractor, will not be leasing the project and the land and the funds will be credited to the WPCA's bill for their energy supply. The current energy usage at the WPCA Plant is superb due to the improvements they have made and the project will further improve their efficiency. The panels will be ground-mounted. The equipment and installation will be at the Contractor's expense. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- j. **Resolution #2023-10. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to enter into a lease agreement with Lifespan School Solutions, Inc., d/b/a the Bradley School for the use of the Town Hall Gymnasium. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Yuchniuk. Discussion: Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway reported that the School has requested the use of the gymnasium once a week during the school year. They will be leasing the gym for \$150.00/day and will not interfere with any of the Department's current programs or town functions. No more than 30 students are expected to utilize the gym at one time. The School is located behind the Town Hall and the students will be walking to the premises. In response to Councilor Mandler who questioned item 5 on the Contract, it was clarified that the School would be ultimately responsible for any damages; the item does not allow them the ability to sublet the premises. The funds will be deposited into the Town's General Fund. It was noted that the contract has not yet been finalized. On a separate note, Councilor Caron inquired about hosting indoor pickleball in the gymnasium. Due to the time it takes to pull up the mats and the condition of the floor tiling, the gymnasium would not be an appropriate venue. Parks & Recreation Director Bushway will investigate the possibility of utilizing the Community Center for the activity. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- k. **Resolution #2023-11. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to (i) modify "An Ordinance regarding the Sale and Conveyance of Real Property located at 8, 14 and 22 Bridge Street in the Town of Montville" to substitute, as Purchaser therein, 14 Bridge Street, LLC, a Connecticut limited liability company, and an affiliate of P & H Construction, LLC, as Purchaser on all of the terms and conditions contained in said Ordinance and (ii) hereby further resolves to modify Resolution 2022-49 to authorize the conveyance of an easement appurtenant to the real property to be conveyed in accordance with the terms and provisions of said Resolution and the above referenced Ordinance over other land now or formerly of the Town of Montville, which non-exclusive which non-exclusive easement appurtenant is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

A non-exclusive easement for purposes of ingress and egress and for the installation of utilities over and across that area shown and designated as "Proposed Easement For Access & Utilities To Be Conveyed To P&H Construction & Septic Service, LLC

(Area-13,582 S.F. +/-)" on a plan entitled "Property Survey Prepared for P&H Construction & Septic Service, LLC 14 Bridge Street Montville, Connecticut Project No. 22-075 Drawn By: R.A.D. Date: 6/20/22 Scale: 1" = 30' Sheet 1 of 1 Advanced Surveys, LLC. 136 Dunham Street, Norwich, CT 06360 Phone (860) 639-8928", which easement area is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin recovered below a walkway in the northeasterly line of Maple Avenue at the northwesterly corner of said right of way area and on the dividing line between said right of way area and land now or formerly of Gilbert I. Bunnell as shown on the above referenced plan; thence running along the arc of a curve to the left with a radius of 25.00 feet, a central angle of 34°21'38", a chord bearing of North 78°07'29" East, a chord length of 14.77 feet for a distance of 14.99 feet to an angle point; thence running North 60°56'40" East for a distance of 163.57 feet to an angle point; thence running along the arc of a curve to the left with a radius of 319.93 feet, a central angle of 10°11'22", a chord bearing of North 55°51'00" East, a chord length of 56.82 feet for a distance of 56.90 feet to an angle point; thence running North 50°45'19" East for a distance of 25.05 feet to an angle point; thence running along the arc of a curve to the right with a radius of 168.94 feet, a central angle of 18°39'21", a chord bearing of North 60°05'03" East, a chord length of 54.77 feet for a distance of 55.01 feet to an angle point; thence running North 69°24'41" East for a distance of 86.92 feet to an angle point; thence running along the arc of a curve to the left with a radius of 84.34 feet, a central angle of 28°21'53", a chord bearing of North 55°13'45" East, a chord length of 41.33 feet for a distance of 41.75 feet to a point in the southwesterly line of the hereinbefore described premises; thence running South 66°23'33" East for a distance of 25.27 feet to an iron pin or drill hole to be set; thence running South 53°35'36" East for a distance of 5.63 feet to a point, the last two (2) courses being bounded northeasterly by the hereinbefore described premises; thence running along the arc of a curve to the right with a radius of 114.34 feet, a central angle of 32°23'28", a chord bearing of South 53°12'58" West, a chord length of 63.78 feet for a distance of 64.64 feet to an angle point; thence running South 69°24'41" West for a distance of 86.92 feet to an angle point; thence running along the arc of a curve to the left with a radius of 138.94 feet, a central angle of 18°39'21", a chord bearing of South 60°05'03" West, a chord length of 45.04 feet for a distance of 45.24 feet to an angle point; thence running South 50°45'19" West for a distance of 25.05 feet to an angle point; thence running along the arc of a curve to the right with a radius of 349.93 feet, a central angle of 10°11'22", a chord bearing of South 55°51'00" West, a chord length of 62.15 feet for a distance of 62.23 feet to an angle point; thence running South 60°56'40" West for a distance of 158.35 feet to an angle point; thence running along the arc of a curve to the left with a radius of 25.00 feet, a central angle of 42°10'20", a chord bearing of South 39°51'30" West, a chord length of 17.99 feet for a distance of 18.40 feet to a point in the northeasterly line of Maple Avenue; thence running North 32°36'55" West for a distance of 40.91 feet bounded southwesterly by Maple Avenue to the iron pin recovered below a walkway at the point and place of beginning of said right of way. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor May, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Due to an old railroad bed on the land, the modification includes verbiage providing an easement that will allow the town to access the property. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Rix, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

1. **Resolution #2023-12. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 (twenty thousand dollars) of the ARPA

(American Rescue Plan Act) Funds to Montville Youth Services for the purchase of a used van. (Councilor Mandler)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: The request was made by Board of Education Chairman Wills Pike, who informed them that, due to a change in the bus routes, the Board would no longer be able to loan the van to Youth Services. The Public Works Department will be purchasing the van. The town will ensure that the driver of the van holds a Public Passenger Endorsement from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Roll Call vote, 7-0, 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

Richard Daigle, 19 & 21 Gair Court, expressed his dismay with the nighttime noise caused by Gateway Terminal. He also stated his concerns regarding the traffic study that was conducted. He also questioned why the town was not receiving salt from the company, whether additional signage would be posted, the possibility of installing a noise barrier, other businesses that are expected to be established in the area, the additional traffic those businesses would generate, and the reason why the town does not have a Noise Ordinance.

Councilors Caron and May recommended that he direct his questions to the Land Use Department. Mayor McDaniel stated that a video was recently received by the Land Use Department and the Mayor's office.

Kevin Blacker, Noank, spoke with respect to the town's recent noise complaints. He explained that Gateway recently unloaded part of one ship or approximately 55,000 tons of salt at their New Haven location. Approximately 20,000 tons of the salt was delivered to the Montville location, generating the noise. The Planning & Zoning Commission was informed that approximately 110,000 to 120,000 tons would be delivered annually to the location. On a busy day, 300-400 trucks drive in and out of the State Pier in New Haven, beginning at 5:00/6:00 a.m. He felt that the issues will only compound over the years and a plan should be devised to minimize the issues and reduce the amount of disruption to the neighbors' quality of life. He felt that the issues are a direct result of the displacement of cargo from the State Pier in New London. He noted that Attorney Harry Heller, who represents Gateway, also represents Cashman, who is developing a similar project across the river which has resulted in approximately 200 residents expressing the same concerns at their meetings.

Atty. Harry Heller, 736 Norwich-New London Turnpike, represents Gateway and has been a member of the community for the past 73 years. He stated that Gateway has made a substantial investment in the community and aims to be a good corporate citizen. He acknowledged the receipt of the complaints, which will be investigated. Some of the complaints will be easily addressed, including dump truck tailgates and backup alarms. Though halting all nighttime operations is not possible, especially during storm events, they will do their best to mitigate nighttime operations. He informed the Councilors that the property is located within the town's Industrial Zone and urged them to visit the Land Use Department to view the former businesses that have been located on the site in the past, including two (2) very significant 24/7 industrial operations. He also noted that several hundred acres of industrial land have been lost since 1976 through the legislative process, making this property an important economic development engine for the Town of Montville. They are cognizant of and will address the residents' concerns to the best of their ability and requested that the Town Council recognize that the business is located within the Industrial Zone and was properly permitted by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Crystal Daigle, 19 & 21 Gair Court, stated that she has videos taken from 12:30 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. of the activity and the noise emanating from the property every 10 to 20 minutes. In addition, the company has cut down all of the trees, eliminating the barrier that previously existed. Understanding their inability to limit their working hours during storm situations, she suggested the possibility of limiting their working hours.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel looks forward to seeing everyone at *The Botanist's* Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and stated that the town will do its best to address the residents' concerns.

Councilor Bunnell also shared the residents' concerns and hopes that they will be able to reach an understanding and correct the issues in a positive manner. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and is pleased with their accomplishments over the past year and looks forward to its continuation.

Councilor Caron thanked the residents for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns. He advised them to voice their complaints to the Planning & Zoning Department, who will relay them to Gateway. To the best of his knowledge, the town is purchasing its salt from a different venue due to the price difference. Should the Department be unable to resolve the issues, they are welcome to return to the Town Council. He expressed his hopes for a reduction in taxes as they enter the budget season to help the many residents in need.

Councilor May concurred with Councilor Bunnell and Caron's comments.

Chairman McNally stated that they are in the process of investigating the possibility of installing additional signage in the area, adding that the company has been very responsive and is in the process of devising possible ways to curtail the noise. He also added that the company recently presented an attractive offer for the purchasing of the salt, which will be considered.

Councilor Rix expressed her appreciation to the residents for attending the meeting and was saddened to hear about their distress. She wished everyone luck at *The Botanist's* Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Councilor Yuchniuk is encouraged by the receipt of 12 applications for the Chief of Police position.

Councilor Mandler thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He encouraged the residents to be open to compromise, having been on both sides of the fence. He hopes that the issues will be resolved and, should they not be resolved, invited them to return to the Town Council. He, too, is pleased with how well the Councilors have been working together and looks forward to another productive year.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Mandler, seconded by Councilor May, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 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

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