

Town of Montville
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman May 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 Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Absent was Councilor Lathrop. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations

a. Sons of the American Revolution Outstanding Service Recognition Award

Mayor Bunnell provided a brief background of the National Award, which is presented annually to recognize those who serve in Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, and Emergency Medical Services in select areas throughout the nation. He presented a proclamation, Sons of American Revolution Certificates, and Emergency Medical Services and Fire Safety Commendation Medals to Donald Ellis (EMS/Fire Service), who was unable to attend the organization's annual event. Mr. Ellis was recognized for his outstanding service to the community, beginning at the age of 14 with the Salem Volunteer Fire Company and continuing with the Department of the Navy for the Department of Defense and the Towns of Groton and Montville. He expressed his honor to recognize Mr. Ellis with the long-overdue award(s).

Also recognized was Michael Collins (law enforcement), who began his career in the Marine Corps, Camp Lejuene Marine Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA, and Connecticut State Police. Following his retirement, he has continued his service to the community by providing vital services to veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, struggling with PTSD and substance abuse, through his involvement with the Stonington Institute's Starlight Program. He also developed and led the first Security Officers Program for the Montville School System, leading to a comprehensive district-wide school security initiative.

Fred DeWitt (EMS/Fire Service), who began his career at the age of 18 as a Firefighter and continued as an Auxiliary Police Officer for the Groton Town Police; established Fire Prevention Programs at Mitchell College; helped developed a Fire Prevention Education Program, contributing to the state-wide safety education efforts, and; played an instrumental role in public education with innovative programs as a member of the New London County Fire Marshal's Association, including Herbie the Hydrant. He later worked with Yankee Gas, providing essential training on natural gas and carbon monoxide safety, and the Oakdale Fire Department, rising to Fire-Police Captain and President of the Montville Area Fire-Police Association.

Mayor Bunnell was happy and honored to recognize the individuals for their dedication and accomplishments in collaboration with the Sons of the American Revolution.

b. Good Times Motoring Club of Colchester presenting a donation to the Montville Police Canine Fund

Good Times Motoring Club President Tom Howard and Treasurer Carol Howard expressed their honor and excitement to present Montville Police Chief Wilfred Blanchette, III, and Lt. David Radford, II, with a \$2,000.00 donation to the Montville K-9 Unit. The Club is comprised of a group of car enthusiasts who host a monthly Car Cruise on the Colchester Town Green from May through September. Their June Car

Cruise, which featured approximately 70 vehicles, was dedicated to raising funds for the local Police K-9 Units. Appreciation was also expressed to the event sponsors. A similar donation was also made to the Colchester K-9 Unit. The Howard Family also donated ten (10) Harlows Heroes Give a Hero, Give Hope Plushies. The Give a Hero, Give Hope Program was instituted by Harlows Heroes, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting active and retired K-9 teams, to provide emotional support, encourage mental health awareness, and foster trust and positive interactions between law enforcement and the people they serve. The plushies may be offered to children to provide them with comfort during unsettling moments. Mr. and Mrs. Howard also presented the Mayor and Town Council with Harlows Heroes Playing Cards, which feature Montville's K-9 Barrett (Ace of Spades), K-9 Gage (Nine of Hearts), and Sid (Jack of Spades) Montville Police Chief Blanchette thanked them for their donation, adding that he has never seen a community rally around a K-9 Program in his many years of service.

Chairman May requested that the Mayor post information regarding the organization and their programs on the Town website.

5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2025
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session – *none*
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
9. Communications – *none*
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Montville Police Lt. Radford reported on the following items:

Animal Control Facility (ACF) Construction – The ACF is on schedule for completion in October and thanked the Youth Services Bureau for their recent donation of \$750.00 from their Annual Penny Drive. In response to Chairman May regarding the HVAC System, he believed that the HVAC system differs from that of the Public Safety Building, which recently required extensive work to access for repairs.

Speed Signs Acquired – The Town has received two (2) new speed signs, which are connected to UConn Research and collect data along rural roads, contributing to the speed enforcement grants. The Town now owns five (5) speed signs, which are periodically relocated. One of the signs is being repaired due to storm damage. The Speed Grant Program is primarily an education program for drivers, helping the police enforce traffic laws. In response to Councilor Caron, who stated the seniors' concerns regarding the ongoing speeding of tractor-trailer trucks traveling along Route 163, Lt. Radford concurred, adding that the road is included on their list for additional traffic enforcement.

National Night Out – He thanked everyone, especially the two political parties who cooked the food, for their help at last week's National Night Out event.

Kyle Haubert, CLA Engineers, Inc., Kyle Haubert, CLA Engineers, Inc., provided an update on the following items in lieu of Public Works Director John Carlson:

ACF HVAC System – While the architect is better equipped to respond to the question, it was his understanding that the system would be simpler and smaller.

Fishing Pier/Boat Launch Update – The CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) issued the license and a pre-construction meeting was held with the Contractor. The project is projected to begin this month and, depending on the weather, final work may continue after the winter season.

Bridge Street Bridge Deck Replacement Project – The demolition of the old bridge is complete, the concrete was placed, and the new deck was installed. The project is on schedule and slated for completion by the end of the month.

Beechwood Road Drainage Repair – Repairs on the drainage system at Beechwood Road are slated to begin the first week of September.

Maple Avenue – The contract to re-line the old metal drainage culverts on Maple Avenue are expected to be awarded by the end of the month and the road, from approximately 109 Maple Avenue to the Public Works Building(s), will begin soon after. In addition, the survey for the road construction is complete and they are now in the design stage; the project is expected to go out to bid at the end of the month for fall construction. Paving from the Public Works Building(s) to Bridge Street will begin after the completion of the Animal Control Facility.

Gutterman Road Repair – The project bid, which will be joined with the re-paving of Old Colchester and Oxoboxo Dam Roads, is expected to be released by the end of the month.

Butlertown Road – The project, which involves full road reconstruction with drainage improvements, is in the design stage.

Montville Manor Roads – The roads are slated for repair, pending the finalization of the repairs to the underground water system.

Chip-sealing of Roads – The following roads have been chip-sealed: Massapeag Side Road, PTA Lane, Fielding Drive, and Chris Drive.

Road Standards – They are reviewing the CTDOT. (Connecticut Department of Transportation) Road Standards to use as a guide to update the town's Road Standards. The updated standards will be presented to the Public Works/Solid Waste Standing Committee for review.

Community Center Bathrooms – A meeting was held with the architects to amend the scope of the project. The plans and bid specs will be updated; the project is expected to go out to bid in September.

Camp Oakdale:

Maintenance Garage – The metal building has been delivered and the excavation for the foundation has begun.

Parking Lot – The bid spec to crack-seal, chip seal, and re-line the parking lot is in process.

Bathrooms & Soccer Sheds – The interior and exterior painting of the bathrooms and sheds is complete.

Driveway Lighting – The driveway by the soccer field is now lit.

Other Improvements – The Department is working with the Parks & Recreation Director for potential improvements, including parking lot realignments, splash pad, cornhole, and drainage projects.

Senior Center – Bids will be released for new flooring and painting of the Senior Center.

Other projects: The Public Works Crew continues to mow the roadsides and is nearly caught up with the catch basin repairs.

Mayor Bunnell added that an initial meeting with the consultants and relevant committees to discuss the Route 32 Development Plan has been scheduled. The Route 32 Paving Project was slated to begin today.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – *Item are included on agenda*

b. Finance – *Item is included on agenda*

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal

In addition to CLA Engineers' Haubert's report, Councilor Caron added that the Committee is discussing the punch card with Transfer Station Employee Flo Turner. Once finalized, the item will be sent to the Town Administration/Rules of Procedure Standing Committee for review. He noted that the Transfer Station is currently working at a deficit. The Public Works Crew is continuing to trim the trees, repair potholes, and drainage systems.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Non-Profit Organizations, Social Services, Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund

Non-Profit Organizations – The town received a letter of appreciation from the New London Hospitality Center for its donation of \$3,500.00.

Social Services – The Department is actively seeking donations of non-perishable items, which have been significantly reduced due to federal cuts.

Senior Center – The Annual Summertime BBQ will be held at the Senior Center on August 22. The Center has been busy hosting new programs and activities as well as serving lunches to the town's seniors.

b. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education, Planning & Zoning Commission

Planning & Zoning Commission – The Commission reviewed and approved four (4) applications; the staff has issued 19 (nineteen) zoning permits and closed 15 (fifteen). Other items are included on the agenda.

c. Councilor Lathrop: Economic Development Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority

Mayor Bunnell reported that the WPCA has encountered issues obtaining the easements for the new Water Tower.

d. Councilor Sabilia: Conservation Commission, Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

Conservation Commission – The Garden Club is planning/hoping to work on Fitch Hill Road and Route 32, Horton Cove Parking Lot, and Raymond Hill Library. The Commission is currently working with the Lawton Family to add Horton Cove Trails to the Trailfinder App. The Commission will also be hosting a booth at the September Farmers Market, distributing its brochure of the town's trails. They are also in search of an alternate member.

Public Safety Commission – A successful and well-attended National Night Out was held.

Youth Services Bureau & Advisory Board – Registrations continue to be received for the Afterschool Program, which will begin on the first day of school (August 27). The Uncas Health District Mobile Van continues to provide services on Wednesdays from

2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at various locations. The Montville High School Athletic Field Turf is near completion.

Chairman May encouraged everyone to visit the Glemboski-Ous Preserve, which held a Grand Opening last Saturday, August 9.

- e. Councilor Southard: Farmers Market Committee, Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission

The Farmers Market Committee recently held a very successful Native Market Night to honor and recognize the town's rich history; they look forward to hosting the same next year. The Committee will be hosting a Car Cruise Night tomorrow evening.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Deane Terry to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority with a term to expire September 1, 2027.

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

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Chuck Longton to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority with a term to expire September 1, 2027.

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

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Jessica LeClair to the Inland Wetlands Commission with a term to expire September 17, 2029.

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

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Rich Kohlbrecher to the Regional Tourism District with a term to expire August 12, 2028.

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

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$1,090.13 (one thousand ninety dollars and thirteen cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Sabilia, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None.

- b. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Leonard Bunnell Sr. to execute the Quit Claim Deed, releasing the original Perpetual Drainage Easement and Rights to Drain dated March 9, 2023 and recorded on April 13, 2023 in Volume 693 at Page 69 of the Montville Land Records and accept the revised Perpetual Drainage Easement and Rights to Drain granted to the Town of Montville by Sunmar/RAF Builders, LLC, dated July 18, 2025, as required per Planning & Zoning Commission subdivision modification application approved on May 27, 2025, and shown on a plan entitled "Lot 7 Drainage Modifications, Subdivision Modification, property address East Lake Road & Fire Street, Montville, Connecticut 06370, prepared for Sunmar/RAF Builders, LLC, 285 Old Colchester Road, Uncasville, CT 06382, prepared by H&H Engineering Associates and dated 3/28/2025 rev. 4/22/2025." (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None.

- c. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to continue offering Voluntary Employee Benefits through Colonial and add benefits offered through AFLAC, providing employees a choice of providers for benefits. The Mayor and Town Attorney are authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this change in the provision of the Town's voluntary employee benefits program, to include the negotiation and execution of any necessary agreement. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: Mayor Bunnell stated that the Resolution was recommended by the Town Attorney, in accordance with the Town Charter. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None.

- d. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept the Easements, both temporary in order to conduct work and permanent to drain onto said properties, granted to the Town of Montville by Thomas McCarthy of 62 Beechwood Road, dated July 31, 2025 and Joseph M. & Roberta Zizik of 66 Beechwood Road, dated August 4, 2025, as required per Inland Wetland Commission application 25IWC12 approved on July 17, 2025, and shown on a plan entitled "Town of Montville Beechwood Road Culvert Replacement Easement Plan, dated June 5, 2025." (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None.

- e. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to allocate \$405,211.00 (four hundred five thousand two hundred eleven dollars) in unanticipated Special Ed funds to the Board of Education. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: The funds were received by the state to be allocated to the Board of Education. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None.

- f. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to remove Barbara Griffin from the credit card account with UNB Bank, and the Mayor is hereby authorized to notify said company and instruct it to remove her name and her authorization from said account. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Mayor Bunnell stated that the resolution is required by the credit card company. Roll Call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Sabilia, Southard, Yuchniuk, and May. Voting in Opposition: None.

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

Carol Howard, 23 Bayberry Lane, Uncasville, commended the town on hosting a successful Community Night Out event, though it was unfortunate that it was held at the same time as the Farmers Market. She also felt that it was odd for the credit card company to require a resolution to remove a name from the account.

Matt Suarez, 18 Cranberry Drive, Uncasville, informed the residents of the Mohegan Fire District that the town has pulled the career staff from the Fire Company between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. without any notice, discussion, or plan, resulting in a heavy reliance on their few volunteers and the mutual aid program.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Mayor Bunnell thanked the Good Time Motoring Club for their donations and expressed his appreciation for their hard work and efforts. With respect to Item 16(f) regarding the credit card, he stated that the new names would be identified; he was unsure as to how the item had bypassed them. In response to Mohegan Fire Company Chief Suarez, he stated that staff were removed due to radon issues and will be returned once the issue is remedied. He assured the residents that there are *no* unprotected areas in the town. He wished everyone a safe and enjoyable Labor Day holiday.

Councilor Southard congratulated the recipients of the Sons of the American Revolution Award and thanked the Howards, Good Times Motoring Club, and Harlows Heroes for their amazing work. She hopes to see everyone at the upcoming Farmers' Markets.

Councilor Jaskiewicz thanked those who work to support the town, including the employees, the Howards, Fire and Police Departments, and Councilors, adding that it is a great town because of them.

Councilor Sabilia also thanked the Howards, Good Times Motoring Club, and Harlows Heroes. He announced that the School Supply Drive is in full swing; donations may be dropped off at Lundy's Barber Shop, Camp Oakdale Concession Stand, or Farmers Market. The donations are distributed through Social Services and Montville High School.

Councilor Caron also expressed his appreciation to the Howards and stated his willingness to donate again next year. He announced that the Senior Center has partnered with the Mohegan Tribe to host a fundraising event, offering Lynard Skynard Skybox seats with a buffet dinner. He thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting.

Chairman May also thanked the Howards and expressed his willingness to provide a donation next year. He enumerated the various large projects that are in progress or completed, including the Camp Oakdale Improvements, Fishing Pier and Boat Launch, and Animal Control Facility, over the tenure of the current Town Council. He also announced that the Bond Commission recently awarded a \$1.4 million grant to finalize the purchase of the Bond Property. He also thanked the Mayor, his colleagues, and staff for their hard work and efforts.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 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