

Town of Montville
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairperson 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 Brian Baker, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Rachael Novak, Nicholas Sabilia, and Kate Southard. Absent was Councilor Billy Caron. Also present was Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations

a. Presentation by Good Times Motoring Club of Colchester to the Montville Police Canine Fund

Good Times Motoring Club President Tom Howard and Member Carol Howard expressed their joy in presenting Montville Police Chief Wilfred Blanchette and Lt. David Radford with a \$1,500.00 donation, including \$250.00 from the Howard Family to the Montville Police Department K-9 Unit. Comprised of a group of car enthusiasts, the Club hosts a monthly Car Cruise on the Colchester Town Green from May through September. Their June Car Cruise, which featured approximately 275 vehicles, was dedicated to raising funds for the local Police K-9 Units. Appreciation was also expressed to its countless event sponsors who helped pay for the trophies and subsidize the cost of their donations. Montville Police Chief Blanchette and Lt. Radford thanked them for their generous donation, which is used to help take care of the K-9s' everyday needs, well-being, and equipment. Mayor Bunnell added that part of the program's success is due to the generosity of the Motoring Club.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Sabilia, seconded by Councilor Baker, to add the following items to the Agenda:

14(c) To Consider and Act on a motion to waive the waiting period for appointments, Rule 14C of the Town Council Rules of Procedure, for the Water & Sewer Commission.

14(d) To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Raymond Coggeshall to fill a vacancy on the Water & Sewer Commission with a term to expire on January 9, 2030.

Discussion: Councilor Sabilia stated that the appointment would ensure that the Commission has a quorum for their meetings. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2026
- b. The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2026 (PTA Lane)
- c. The Special Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2026 (PTA Lane)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard, to approve the July 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 20, 2026 Public Hearing and Special Meeting Minutes. 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 interviewing candidates for the Permanent Building Committee, Water & Sewer

Commission, and Parks & Recreation Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: The following candidates were interviewed: Deane Terry, Permanent Building Committee, and Raymond Coggeshall, Water & Sewer Commission. The Candidate for the Parks & Recreation Commission was not present. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 7:28 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 legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of June 2026

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred

The Town Attorney is currently reviewing the Property Maintenance Code.

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

Montville Police Department Lt. Radford reported that the K-9 Barrett Memorial Animal Control Facility generator was installed today and a small punch list is expected to be completed this week, finalizing the project..

In response to Chairman May regarding the use of the building, Lt. Radford stated that, as of today, there were six (6) to seven (7) dogs being housed in the Facility. Last week, the Facility was near capacity and has served birds and a turtle, in addition to dogs and cats.

Land Use & Development Director Dennis Goderre reported that the revisions to the zoning regulations became effective on July 14. The revisions included housekeeping items, an update to the land use standards, and compliance with the housing bill. The Commission will hold a workshop this Wednesday, August 12, regarding the comprehensive plan of development, which includes revisions to the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), Housing Plan, Zoning Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations. A Greyfield Grant to conduct a study associated with the Dot's Café building and the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Grant for the Sewer Extension Study for the Meadows Apartments and the possible expansion of the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) Facility were submitted.

Chairman May added that the official transfer of the Louis and Gladys Bond Preserve Property to the Avalonia Land Conservancy was finalized.

Public Works Director John Carlson reported that the Public Works Crew has been busy mowing and preparing for Early Voting and Primaries. Unfortunately, three (3) of the four (4) mowers need repair. There is one (1) outstanding tree on Chesterfield Road from the Fourth of July storm. The Transfer Station passes have slowed down, and a survey was conducted on the Boating Dock Ramp.

Mayor Bunnell Mayor Bunnell continues to attend as many town meetings as possible. The Assessor's Clerk and IT Director positions have been filled. He thanked and commended the former IT Director, Bill O'Neill, for his expertise, dedication, and for modernizing the town's system. The Deputy Fire Marshal has agreed to serve as the Interim Fire Marshal after the resignation of Fire Marshal John Meigel. The Public Safety Commission is in the process of scheduling interviews for the position. He hopes to schedule the Hearing for a Housing Authority Member this month.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – *no meeting; no report*

- b. Finance
The Finance Committee will be referring the amended Purchasing Policy to the Town Administration/Rules of Procedure Standing Committee. A copy of a letter from the Finance Director regarding the delinquent FY2025 Audit was submitted into the record.
 - c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal
The final inspection for the Community Center restrooms was conducted, and a small punch list of outstanding items was generated. The road reconstruction and storm modifications on Butlertown Road commenced; the project is tentatively scheduled for completion on September 1. Five (5) bids for the remaining section of Maple Avenue were received; the project was awarded to Suchocki & Son, Inc., and preparations have begun. The partial paving of East Lake Road is complete. Work on the Camp Oakdale Large Pavilion drainage issues is continuing, and the addition of cameras and lighting to the facility is being discussed. The bids for the Camp Oakdale Pickleball/Tennis Court parking lot improvement project will open on August 12. The Boat Launch paving is complete and is open to the public. While not yet operational, the parking lot lights and cameras have been installed at the Fishing Pier, which is near completion. An inspection will be scheduled, and a punch list will be generated for any outstanding items. He was disheartened to report that the cameras were vandalized; the incident is currently under investigation by the Police Department, who will be monitoring the area more closely. A \$1.1 million State Grant was awarded to the Town for the Camp Oakdale Athletic Fields Parking Lot; the project is scheduled to go out to bid in Spring 2027 and completed by July 2027. The Committee is generating its list of FY2027/28 Capital Requests.
In response to Chairman May, who questioned the status of the auxiliary parking area, Mayor Bunnell stated that the Town Attorney is in the process of drafting the access agreement.
13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors
- a. Councilor Baker: Public Safety Commission
The Calls for Service for the month of July were reported as follows:

	Calls for Service	Per Day Average
Fire Department	333	10.7
Police Department	1,108	35.74
 - b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Non-Profit Organizations, Social Services – *not present; no report*
Mayor Bunnell reported that a temporary employee is working in the Social Services Department and interviews will be conducted in September. The Social Services freezer is in operation; he recognized the Board of Education and Social Services employees for their swift action in transferring food to/from Murphy School.
 - c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Planning & Zoning Commission
The Commission approved an application for a Free-Standing Parking Lot on Route 32 and a modification to an application for an 11-unit multi-family development and associated site improvements on Powerhouse Road. Site-plan approvals for a recycling station, a Change of Use from a residential to financial planning office building, and proposed residential development from one- to three-residential units on Route 32 were continued to the Commission's August 25 Regular Meeting. The Zoning Department issued 36 (thirty-six) new zoning permits and closed 40 (forty). The Land Use and Development Director updated the Commission about the POCD, TIF District Policy, CMDA (Community Municipal Development Authority) Development District and Community Building Workshop, and the updated FEMA maps.
 - d. Councilor Novak: Economic Development Commission, Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund
The Economic Development Commission will be meeting on August 17.

The Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Fund reported on the following tax abatements and/or stipends:

<u>Fire Company</u>	<u>Tax Abatements</u>	<u>Stipends</u>
Oakdale Fire Company	6	7
Chesterfield Fire Company	2	2
Montville Fire Company	<i>no report</i>	<i>no report</i>
Mohegan Fire Company	0	4

Their next meeting is scheduled for October 26.

- e. Councilor Sabilia: Conservation Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board
The Conservation Commission hosted a booth at the Farmers' Market and has been busy with the Glemboski-Ous Preserve, located on the Montville-Bozrah border. They are forming a work group to conduct maintenance work at the Conservation Center. The Commission, which includes members of the Avalonia Land Conservancy, expressed their excitement about the upcoming opening of the Bond Property.

The Youth Services Bureau’s The Youth Services Bureau’s summer program is progressing and is accepting registrations for their after-school program until August 21. He reminded everyone that September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day – please check in with your family and friends with a simple “You Good Bro?”.

He commended the WPCA for maintaining safe numbers during July — the fourth rainiest July in the State’s history. Such rainy periods present potential issues with the wastewater treatment process. The Meadows Apartment Grant, mentioned earlier by the Land Use & Development Director, will include a determination of the Plant’s current sewer capacity, which will help gauge any possible future expansions.

- f. Councilor Southard: Board of Education, Farmers Market Committee, Library Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission
The Board of Education discussed the status of the Palmer School HVAC System Project, increased school lunch prices by 0.15 cents, and added new S.T.E.M. courses to the Tyl Middle School curriculum.

The Farmers’ Market Committee will be hosting three (3) more events this season on August 11 (Dog Days), August 18 (Car Cruise), and August 25 (Back to School Night). The Farmers’ Markets have proved successful with much community participation.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is hosting its final concerts this Tuesday, August 11, and Thursday, August 13, at the Camp Oakdale Pavilion.

This month’s Raymond Hill Library Palette of Talent is Montville High School Graduate Theresa Bryan; a Meet the Artist event will be held on Friday, August 21. Other events include:

- Dementia and Caregiver Presentation*, August 13, 6:00 p.m.
- Summer Reading Program* Reading Logs, due August 15
- Things that go bump in the night*, August 15, 11:00 a.m.
- The Web They Wove: Women and Their Wardrobes During the Revolution*, August 27, 6:00 pm

- 14. Appointments and Resignations
 - a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Debra Abbey to fill a vacancy on the Farmers Market Committee with a term to expire on February 14, 2028.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Joseph Summers to the Permanent Building Committee with a term to expire on August 10, 2031.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a motion to waive the waiting period for appointments, Rule 14C of the Town Council Rules of Procedure, for the Water & Sewer Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Sabilia, seconded by Councilor Southard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Raymond Coggeshall to fill a vacancy on the Water & Sewer Commission with a term to expire on January 9, 2030.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. 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 \$772.61 (seven hundred seventy-two dollars and sixty-one cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sabilia. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Motion carried.

- b. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve and adopt the Ordinance titled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 214, ORDINANCE NO. 2007-002, “ORDINANCE REGARDING LAND USE APPLICATION PROCESSING FEES” as heard at a Public Hearing held on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:45 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Montville Town Hall. (Mayor Bunnell)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Baker, Jaskiewicz, May, Novak, Sabilia, and Southard. Motion carried.

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

Carol Howard, 23 Bayberry Lane, who has lived in Montville for 57 years and is a proud graduate of Montville High School, expressed her love for the Town. She commended and thanked the Police Department, Public Works Department, Republican and Democratic Town Committees, Volunteers, the Mohegan Tribe, and everyone who participated in and supported the recent National Night Out event.

Montville Police Chief Blanchette thanked Ms. Howard for her comments. He also commented on his dismay with the recent legislation related to the police officers and polling stations, and pleased that the same sentiment was not reflected by the residents, adding that Montville is one town in the State where the officers feel supported by the community and its leaders and are comfortable serving, as evidenced by the success of its National Night Out event, which was held in cooperation with all of the groups, organizations, and members of the community. He thanked everyone for their support.

Mohegan Fire Company Chief Matt Suarez distributed a copy of his letter, dated October 2025, regarding the Fire Company’s current membership. He stated that he has not received any responses from the Public Safety Commission, Mayor, or Town Council regarding his

concerns. While the Fire Company is responding to calls as best they can, they are struggling to do so, adding that the four (4) active members work during the daytime.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Novak thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and the Good Times Motoring Club for their generous donation. She also thanked everyone who supported the National Night Out event; 400 burgers and 400 hot dogs, donated by the Mohegan Tribe, were served to the attendees and depleted by 8:30 p.m. She looks forward to a more successful event next year.

Councilor Baker also thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and the Good Times Motoring Club. He also commended the Police Department for hosting a very well-attended National Night Out event and the Touch-a-Truck activity for the children.

Councilor Sabilia also commented on the success of the National Night Out event and fireworks show and thanked the Good Times Motoring Club. He is currently collecting items for Social Services' annual School Supply Drive; a donation box will be available at tomorrow evening's Farmers' Market event, and he is also available to pick up items.

Chairman May requested that Public Safety Commission Liaison Councilor Baker refer Mohegan Fire Company Chief Suarez' letter to the Public Safety Commission for review and response. While he was unable to attend the National Night Out event due to a conflicting engagement at the Farmers' Market, he was able to attend the fireworks show. He also expressed his appreciation to the Howards for their time, hard work, and efforts, requesting that they continue to keep him in mind for future support.

Councilor Jaskiewicz also thanked the Good Times Motoring Club, adding that the Howards represent the quality of residents in the Town of Montville. He was pleased to hear about the success of the National Night Out.

Councilor Southard also thanked the Good Times Motoring Club and the Howards for everything they do for the community. She also recognized Local Realtor Tina Wazny, who sponsored the fireworks show, which was originally scheduled for the Carnival.

Mayor Bunnell also thanked the Howards and the Good Times Motoring Club who, year after year, raise and donate funds to the Montville Police Department's K-9 Unit. He echoed the comments regarding the National Night Out event, thanking the Mohegan Tribe, who are always willing and open to support the Town, for sponsoring the food and supporting the event. He also commented on the 250' barrier for police officers from polling stations, which, he felt, was a miscarriage of legislation and does not reflect the Town's sentiments. In response to Mohegan Fire Chief Suarez' concerns, he stated that the matter was addressed and, due to lack of funding, the Town is not able to support hiring additional firefighters. Currently, two (2) career firefighters are stationed at the Firehouse. They are continuously seeking long-term solutions to address the shortage of volunteers and ways to generate additional funding, citing the failure of a recent proposal to increase their tax revenue.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Novak, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 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.