

Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, Colleen Rix, and Joseph Rogulski. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to move item 5, Alterations to the Agenda, to precede item 4, Special Recognitions/Presentations. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

4. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to make the following alteration to the Agenda:

Item 4(b) ~~Review of the 2019 Audit~~

Special Presentation from the Montville Economic Development Commission

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Special Recognitions/Presentations

a. Presentation by N. Silver Brook Holdings, LLC, regarding Virtual Net Metering

Energy Attorney Paul Michaud, Michaud Law Group, representing North Silver Brook Holdings, provided a handout to the Councilors and spoke with regards to a proposed solar project and virtual net metering and how the system could benefit the town. He noted that the proposal was presented to the WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority) and is planning to make a presentation to the Board of Education in the near future. Virtual net metering is a crediting system and refers to the installation of a shared solar system at a remote location. This particular project would produce approximately 1.9 megawatts of power. The system would generate the energy, which would go into Eversource's electric grid for use. The surplus production of energy that is generated at the remote location is assigned to the electric bill in the form of Beneficial Accounts, which could be used to purchase that energy for use at its facility(ies). One of the positive elements of the program is that the Town's procurement of the energy from its current supplier(s) would not change. Rather, the Town would be receiving credits for hosting or adopting the policies to promote solar. The cost to support the system is usually 9 to 11 cents per kilowatt hour, plus Transmission and Distribution charges. Should the Town opt to enter into the agreement, it would be credited under Eversource Rate 30 and receive a discount on the Transmission and Distribution charges. It is estimated that the Town could save over \$2 million over 20 years and it is estimated to take approximately 20 to 25 years for a municipality to utilize all of the credits. Approximately 18 towns are currently involved in the program.

In response to Councilor Rogulski regarding the amount of land the installation of the panels would require, Atty. Michaud stated the system typically generates approximately 1 megawatt per 5 acres and would require 10 to 12 acres. The system would be installed on private property located, in this case, in the Town of Montville. The Mayor added that the property owner presented the offer to the host community first as a courtesy and that the specific location of the panels is under the jurisdiction of the Planning & Zoning

Commission/Department. The Town Council would be authorizing the execution of a Non-Binding Letter of Intent for Virtual Net Metering that would enable the process to begin.

In response to Councilor Rix regarding its relation to the solar field currently being installed for the schools, Mayor McDaniel stated that that system would be a separate system that will be directly tied in to Tyl Middle School and Montville High School. Because this system is virtual, the other schools, in addition to any Town facility, would have access to the Credits. Atty. Michaud added that, should the Town wish to change the facility in which the Credits serve, they may do so once a year. The agreement would involve the Town, Eversource, and the solar provider.

- b. Special Presentation from the Montville Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Councilor Rix invited EDC Chairman Walter Hewitt and the EDC Commissioners to the podium. Owner Robert Thayer of Beaver Electric was presented with a Montville EDC Business Excellence Award for being one of the leading industrial residential electrical contractors in Southeastern Connecticut.

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

- a. The Organizational Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2019
Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to approve the November 13, 2019 Organizational Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- b. The Special Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2019 (Town Attorney RFP, Solid Waste Ordinance)
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Rogulski, to approve the November 22, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes. 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 Planning & Zoning Commission and the Montville Youth Advisory Board. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. No Executive Session was held; both Planning & Zoning Commission Candidate Wills Pike and Youth Advisory Board Candidate Dan Boisvert opted to be interviewed publicly.

Candidate Pike stated that he has been an active member of the community since moving to Montville in 1994 and, most recently, served on the Town Council. He stated that he enjoys being part of the community and volunteering and feels the public has appreciated his accomplishments. He enjoyed his brief service on the Commission prior to being elected as a member of the Town Council and hopes to revive his position. In response to Councilor Bunnell regarding any changes he felt need to be made on the Commission, Candidate Pike stated that, while there is always room for improvement, he did not see a need for any immediate changes and commended the Planning Department for their hard work and diligence in preparing and organizing the materials for the meetings. Councilor Caron stated that he is missed on the Town Council, having provided great reports as the Liaison to the Commission. He, along with Councilors Rix and Pollard, felt that Candidate Pike would be a great addition to the Commission; Councilor Rogulski stated that he would be a valuable asset to any commission. Chairman May concurred. Councilors Caron and May thanked him for his continued willingness to stay involved.

Candidate Boisvert stated that he served as the Liaison to the Youth Advisory Board during his tenure on the Board of Education and enjoyed his service. He commended the Youth Service Bureau's afterschool program and is interested in continuing his involvement. Councilor Rogulski, who served as the liaison to the Youth Advisory Board for the Town Council, recalled witnessing Candidate Boisvert's input during the meetings and Councilor Rix, who served on the Board of Education with Candidate Boisvert, stated that he relayed a lot of valuable information as the liaison. Councilor Caron was pleased to hear that he wished to serve on the Board — a very important Board and an important part of our town. Councilor Jaskiewicz agreed and thanked him for all of his service. Councilor Bunnell, who also served on the Youth Advisory Board with him, recalled that he was a very active member and valuable contributor and felt that he would be a benefit to the Board. Chairman May expressed his appreciation and gratitude for volunteering and helping our Town and our youth. Mayor McDaniel expressed his disappointment when Candidate Boisvert chose not to seek re-election on the Board of Education, but understood the time commitments and his then-career choices. He, along with all of the Councilors, agreed that Candidate Boisvert would be a great fit and an asset to the Board and expressed their appreciation for his willingness to continue his involvement and service.

- b. Discussion 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, Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Attorney Eileen Duggan.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 8:17 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
Matthew Suarez, 18 Cranberry Drive, commented on the proposed solar project. As a Volunteer Firefighter, he requested that the Council consider including a clause providing training to the firefighters on how to safely and properly deal with such fires in the agreement.

Steve Stewart, 55 Glendale Road, Former Chief of the Chesterfield Fire Company and a member of the Public Safety Commission, encouraged the Town Council to approve the Ordinance regarding Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Program as a way of incentivizing the volunteers and to support their efforts with engaging additional residents to volunteer.

- 9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the November 2019 budget report from Terry Hart, Finance Director
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage (Labor) for the month of September 2019
 - c. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of October 2019
 - d. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage (Labor) for the month of October 2019
 - e. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of October 2019
 - f. Copy of an e-mail from Jon Leonard, Montville Public Safety Commission Member, in favor of the ordinance regarding the Volunteer Firefighters' Stipend fund
 - g. Copy of an e-mail from Robert Yuchniuck, Chairman of the Montville Public Safety Commission, in favor of the ordinance regarding the Volunteer Firefighters' Stipend fund

- 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 exclaimed, "Great parade!"

12. Reports from Standing Committees.

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the 2020 Meeting dates were approved by the Committee.

Mayor McDaniel reported that an item regarding the changing of the firearms for the Police Department will be sent to the Committee for review in the near future.

b. Finance

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the 2020 Meeting dates were approved by the Committee.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – *meeting Wednesday, December 12, 5:30 p.m.*

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Bunnell: Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau

Councilor Bunnell reported that the Public Safety Commission reviewed and approved their budget for FY2020/21. He apologized to the Commission for his inability to attend their recent Subcommittee meeting to address the staffing issue. He provided the following statistics for the month of November:

The Police Department received 1,194 Calls for Service, 86 of which were Type I Calls. There were 21 arrests, 4 of which were juveniles. The Department is now fully staffed, with four (4) officers still in training.

The Fire Department received 271 Calls for Service and relied on outside agencies to respond to four (4) of the Calls for Service. Two individuals have been hired, bringing their staffing up to their budgeted numbers.

Ten animals were admitted to Impound by the Animal Control Officer and 8 animals were sold as pets. A total of 78 complaints were received. Three (3) Calls were received from the Town of Salem, and there were (three) 3 bites.

The Building Department issued a total of 161 permits and the Blight Officer has received 535 blight complaints, 227 of which have been abated to date.

Eight (8) families entered Youth Service Bureau's Pie Baking Contest on November 19; it was a good event enjoyed by all who attended. They also held their Annual Pancake Breakfast where they made \$2,123.00 in profits. The Juvenile Review Board has a 94% success rate and reviewed 44 cases during the last year.

Councilor May added that the Police Department, in conjunction with the Youth Service Bureau, solicited and received a phenomenal amount of canned goods at *Stop and Shop* over the weekend. The boxes that were sold at *Stop and Shop* have been delivered to the Social Center, where they will be distributed.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services

Councilor Caron reported that Social Services and the Food Bank, which services the Town's needy, continues to seek donations of non-perishable food items. The Mohegan Tribe donated over 350 turkeys last month for the Thanksgiving holiday. The seniors and volunteers are busy organizing 400 boxes of food items for the needy for the Christmas holiday as well as 350 baskets of toys for our community's children. He commended the staff, seniors and volunteers for their hard work and efforts to serve the growing needs of the townspeople. A Veterans Coffee House is being organized in an effort to provide a place for the Town's veterans to network. A letter has been mailed to the Mohegan Tribe regarding the possibility of hosting another concert benefiting the Veterans Fund, which

helps provide veterans in need, is currently seeking donations. He is also soliciting funds for the Senior Center, who interested in purchasing a smartboard.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that Board Member Sandra Berardy was elected the Chairperson and Board Member Monica Pomazon was elected Secretary. A presentation was provided by Information Technology Manager for Montville Public Schools Nic Savoie, regarding the need for new, replacement computers. The Board of Education also discussed and approved a \$10.00 pay increase (from \$85.00 to \$95.00) for substitute teachers following their 20th day of service.

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA)

Councilor May reported that the sewage plant is within state and federal control limits and, likewise, the water supply met state and federal control levels. The WPCA has expanded their water sampling locations and has begun utilizing their new camera, allowing them to monitor the condition of the interior of the pipe with a closed circuit tv. They have completed inspecting one of the 74 total miles of sewage pipe. As part of the WPCA's critical infrastructure and security of the plant, their water supply, emergency contingency, and sabotage prevention plans are being reviewed by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) and Home Security. CONN-OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) conducted an informal safety inspection in November and no immediate actions were necessary. A formal report will follow. He is happy to return as the Liaison to the WPCA for the Town Council and commended them for their hard work. Commissioner Chuck Longton was elected Chairman of the WPCA and Commissioner Shawn Jinkerson was elected Vice-Chairman.

e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations

Councilor Pollard reported that the *New London Homeless Hospitality Center*, which ensures that no one is left out in the cold during the winter months, is seeking donations to help the homeless return to permanent housing. Their Help Center supports approximately 700 individuals annually by providing employment, accessing benefits, obtaining new I.D.'s, obtaining bus passes, and the like. Donations may be mailed to: 730 State Pier Road, P.O. Box 1651, New London, CT 06320.

Safe Futures' Holiday Giving Program is accepting donations of such general items as clothing, footwear, housewares, bedding, towels as well as new and unwrapped toys. Items are being accepted Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from December 9 to 20 at their Jay Street location. She encouraged everyone to donate to the non-profit organizations.

e. Councilor Rix: Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission

The EDC discussed the Town's current real estate properties and, based upon the public's feedback, how to market the Town's need for a local grocery store since the closing of Beit Brothers. Commissioner Heather Harris will be contacting the CT D.O.T. (Department of Transportation) to obtain a copy of the traffic count data for the area in an effort to pursue Aldi's. A rumor regarding the search for a new warehouse by U.S. Foods and the possibility of obtaining their interest in the RockTenn property was discussed, but, due to the scope of their needs, the Commissioners agreed that the project would be beyond their purview. They are planning to request minimal additional funding to their budget for chamber events. Councilor Rix is investigating the possibility of purchasing the EDC Business Recognition Award from a local company.

The Parks & Recreation Commission held a very energetic meeting. There was an increase in the number of attendees and participants at this year's Trick or Trunk, which was held at an earlier time, due to the threat of EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis). As such, the Commission discussed the possibility of holding the event from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. or extending the event to 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. and dividing the event into two, with the younger children coming earlier in the evening followed by the older children. The booklet has been published and includes a trip to Boston for St. Patrick's Day, Newport, R.I., in July, and a trip to New York for Christmas. The Commission also discussed their preparations for the Holiday Parade.

- f. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund – *no report*

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Benjamin L. Crossley from the Conservation Commission, effective November 22, 2019.

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz expressed his regrets. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Alternate Member Zachary Thomas Sweeney-Lespier to fill a vacancy as a Full Member on the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire on June 11, 2020.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Monica MacNeil to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on January 10, 2023.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint James Moran to the Public Safety Commission with a term to expire on January 10, 2023.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Joan Paskewich as an Alternate Member of the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term to expire on November 8, 2021.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- f. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Sean Furlow as an Alternate Member of the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term to expire on November 8, 2021.

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- g. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint one (1) member from the Town Council to serve on the Farmers Market Committee with a term to expire on November 8, 2021.

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to nominate and appoint Councilor Pollard as the liaison to the Farmers Market Committee. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- h. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Heather Kenniston to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term to expire on November 14, 2022.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- i. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Rachel Belardo from the Parks and Recreation Commission, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion:
Councilor Bunnell and Jaskiewicz expressed their regrets. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.
Motion carried.

14. Unfinished Business – *none*

15. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2019-87. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$2,725.47 (two thousand seven hundred twenty-five dollars and forty-seven cents) as requested by the Tax Collector.
(Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None.
Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2019-88. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the 2019 holiday bonuses for Town employees. (Mayor McDaniel)

Non-Union Employees

INDIVIDUAL

MALCHIODI	CONSTANCE	INDV	08/01/2011	\$ 160.00
McFEE	DANA	REGISTRARS	11/01/2015	\$ 50.00
MARQUAND	ROBIN	REGISTRARS	01/09/2019	\$ 50.00
HART	THERESA	INDV	04/14/2008	\$ 220.00
McDANIEL	RONALD	ELCT	11/14/2011	\$ 160.00

PART TIME OVER 780 HRS

BROWN	TINA	PT	992.00	\$ 50.00
ZETTEGREN	ANDREW	PT	817.00	\$ 50.00
WATFORD	RONALD	PT	876.50	\$ 50.00
MARY	DEWOLF	PT	797.75	\$ 50.00
BRENDAN	ROTHOLZ	PT	831.25	\$ 50.00

RECORDING CLERKS

MIYUKI	AGNES	PT	\$ 50.00
GATHERS	GLORIA	PT	\$ 50.00
SPANG	SUSAN	PT	\$ 50.00
EVANS	MARI	PT	\$ 50.00
FRIESS	MARIE	PT	\$ 50.00

TOTAL	\$1,140.00
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Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None.
Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2019-89. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town Charter when utilizing the MHEC

(Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium) contract for said purchase requirements.
(Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: Finance Director Hart reported that the Town's Information Systems Director was able to obtain a better price for the permitting software for the Building and Planning & Zoning Departments if the Town became a member of the Consortium. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2019-90. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept the 2019 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program Grant for the Town of Montville and further, to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement for same. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2019-91. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to accept the DRE Instructor Support grant for the Town of Montville and further, to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement for same. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion Made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: DRE is the acronym for Drug Recognition Expert. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2019-92. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to execute a Non-Binding Letter of Intent for Virtual Net Metering with N. Silver Brook Holdings, LLC. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2019-93. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to adopt the Town Council Rules & Procedure. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- h. **Resolution #2019-94. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve and adopt the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance O-E-3 Ordinance Concerning Solid Waste" as heard at the Public Hearing held on December 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Council Chambers at Montville Town Hall and to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to execute Amendment No. 5 to Agreement Between Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority and Town of Montville A Municipality of the State of Connecticut to Provide Solid Waste Management Services. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- i. **Resolution #2019-95. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve and adopt the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance 2006-003, Establishing The Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Program Of The Town Of Montville" as

heard at the Public Hearing held on December 9, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. in Town Council Chambers at Montville Town Hall. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- j. **Resolution #2019-96. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to close Town offices two (2) hours early on Tuesday, December 24, 2019 in Observance of the Christmas Holiday for non-essential personnel and to award two (2) hours paid time off for Essential Personnel who must remain on the job to be used by April 1, 2020. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- k. **Resolution #2019-97. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the 2020 regular monthly meeting dates of the Town Council on the second Monday of every month, excluding holidays that will be scheduled on the Wednesday of that week. The scheduled meeting dates are as follows: January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 14 (Wednesday), November 9, and December 14 to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll call vote, 7-0, all in favor. Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

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

Matt Suarez, 18 Cranberry Drive, requested that the ordinance requiring the shoveling of sidewalks for parts of Route 32 be extended to include the entire town.

Steve Stewart, 55 Glendale Road, thanked the Council for approving item 16(i) regarding the Volunteer Stipend fund; it will be appreciated by the Town's firefighters.

Vic Lenda, 128 Kitemaug Road, a member of the Public Safety Commission, attended and listened to the Fire Department's Subcommittee meetings and was impressed and enlightened with their conversation, adding that he learned a great deal as to the inner workings of the fire service. He urged the Councilors to listen to and follow some of the recommendations provided by the Fire Marshal regarding the need for appropriate staffing. The Town currently has issues responding to calls and inadequate staffing poses a huge risk for the Town's employees, volunteers, fire and EMS personnel, and residents. He urged them to carefully consider their contract options and include the staffing of career firefighters on Saturdays and increasing the number of firefighters on duty per shift.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Rogulski thanked the Fire Police, who did a great job at the Parade, and wished everyone a great holiday. He suggested the possibility of moving the Executive Session to the end of the meeting when they are expecting an extended discussion in an effort to respect the public's time. Councilor May agreed.

Councilor Pollard thanked the public for attending the meeting, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a safe holiday season. She encouraged everyone to give to their favorite charity.

Councilor Rix reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission approved Lynda Jean's Memorial Tree idea and the flyers promoting the project have been distributed. Ornaments will be accepted until December 21. She added that the project will be a great annual addition to their current celebrations. She thanked the public for attending and staying for the duration of the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

Councilor Caron also thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He commended Ms. Jean on her Memorial Tree concept and apologized for missing her presentation. He stated that he does not take the concerns of the First Responders lightly and hopes the issue(s) will be resolved in the very near future. He urged the Councilors to attend the Public Safety Commission meetings and speak with the Fire Chiefs and First Responders to gain further insight into the issue. He encouraged everyone to donate non-perishable food items to Social Services and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilor Jaskiewicz wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Bunnell provided a brief history of the sidewalk ordinance, stating that the Town Council proposed expanding the ordinance to include the whole town in the past, but the amendment was met with huge opposition from the public. He expressed his willingness to revisit the ordinance. He expressed his appreciation to the Public Safety Commissioners who attended and spoke at this evening's meeting and reiterated his apologies for missing the Subcommittee Meeting. He is pleased that both the DUI (item 16d) and DRE (item 16e) Grants were approved and extended his appreciation to Finance Director Hart and her staff for taking the time to administer the grants, which allow for the necessary visibility and enforcement along the main corridor between Norwich and New London. Though he was unable to attend this year's Holiday Parade, he thanked the Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments, and the Fire Police for providing a safe and enjoyable environment for the public at the parade. The Fire Police, he added, is the best kept secret in town. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

Mayor McDaniel also recalled the strong opposition to the expansion of the sidewalk ordinance. He thanked everyone who participated in the Holiday Parade, making it a success. He added that, while there were four calls for service that were serviced by outside agencies, it is important to note that, under the Mutual Aid Agreement, our Town's emergency services also respond to a multitude of calls for service outside of the Town. He wished everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas.

Chairman May commented on his surprise upon hearing of the passing of WFSB-TV, Channel 3, News Anchor Denise D'Ascenzo, who, he added, was a remarkable person with a remarkable career; she will be sadly missed. Should the solar field come to fruition, its location will be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission as well as the Fire Marshal; he encouraged those who are interested in the project, attend their meeting(s), ask questions, and relay any concerns they might have at that time. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 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 – FORM REPOSITORY – MEETING RECORDINGS**