

**Town of Montville Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall – via GoToWebinar**

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**On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology.**

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**For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town Charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via GoToWebinar.**

**Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk at [townclerk@montville-ct.org](mailto:townclerk@montville-ct.org) at least 1 working day in advance (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).**

**Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Mayor and Council.**

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**Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.**

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 Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Billy Caron, Tim May, Colleen Rix, and Joseph Rogulski. Absent were Councilors Joseph Jaskiewicz, due to a conflicting meeting, and Kathleen Pollard, due to a conflicting engagement. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda  
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Caron, to remove item 14(g) from the agenda. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.  
  
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Rogulski, to amend the following item:
  - 14(i) To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Karen ~~Perkins~~ *Doherty* to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on November 20, 2023.Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to add the following item to the agenda:

- 14(j) To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Wills Pike to the Board of Education with a term to expire on November 8, 2021.

Discussion: Chairman May proposed postponing the appointment and requested that the Republican Town Committee (RTC) endorse at least two candidates for the Board of Education (BOE). Councilors Rix and Rogulski stated that the RTC unanimously endorsed the appointment of Wills Pike to serve on the Board to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Steven Loiler. Mr. Pike is a dedicated and knowledgeable individual and a very active member of the community; he also acted as the BOE liaison as a member of the Town Council. During these trying times and resulting attendance issues, they did not feel it would be prudent to postpone the appointment. Following their discussion, Councilor Caron agreed that the item should be added to the agenda and Mr. Pike be considered for the appointment. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

- a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2020

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, 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 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.

*Mayor McDaniel felt, and the Councilors concurred, that no Executive Session should be necessary as no changes have been made since their last conversation.*

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

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the September 2020 Financial Report from Terry Hart, Finance Director

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 recognized and commended the Fire Companies, Fire Marshal, Dispatchers, EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), paid and volunteer staff, and Police Department on a phenomenal job saving the lives of a senior, who went into cardiac arrest at Orchard Grove Specialty Care Center, and an unresponsive child, who was en route to the hospital.

He also recognized and commended the Fire Companies who successfully fought a major fire at Connecticut Scrap. Approximately one million gallons of water was utilized to contain the fire, resulting in water pressure and flow issues due to the simultaneous use of three fire hydrants, which, in turn, led to flow issues with Ledyard's pressure tank, whose water derives from Groton. The town's pump station pumped 2,200+ gallons/minute, as expected. An After-Actions Report will be generated from the incident and the system and process will be improved from the lessons that are learned. No injuries occurred and the fire was controlled in a reasonable amount of time. Immediately following the incident, the area's waterways and air quality were investigated and cleared by CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection).

Region 4 EMS (Emergency Medical Services) meetings revolving around the COVID-19 pandemic, drought, hurricanes, and the like are continuing. The Finance Director's report includes details regarding the status of the town's receipt of pandemic-related funding from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. He commended the Finance Director on the successful receipt of 75% of the COVID-19-related expenses to June 2020 from FEMA. The remaining funds are expected to be received from the CARES Act. They plan to apply for additional COVID-19-related

expenses for July to October 2020. These funds are separate from that which would be applied for and received by the BOE.

The \$386,000.00 Grant received for the proposed improvements to the intersection of Routes 32 and 163 was received and repurposed as the cost of the project far exceeded the grant funds. The funds were combined with another grant for road improvements in the Fitch Hill Road area, but due to projected issues with the Army Corps of Engineers, the funds will be utilized for sidewalk construction/improvements between Church Lane and Golden Road. An additional grant application has been submitted for the same on the other side of the road. The project will provide a continuous flow of the existing sidewalks and improve the public safety of the pedestrians. The grants were applied for with the assistance of the town's Planning Department. He has requested and received letters of support for the project from the Mohegan Tribe, Senator Cathy Osten, and Representative Mike France. He hopes to receive additional letters from other members of the delegation.

During a series of Eversource Response meetings regarding their response to Tropical Storm Isaias, the Mayor expressed his disdain as six of the town's roads were closed for four days.

Compared to 72.5% in 2010, 74.1% of the town's population self-responded to the 2020 Census survey, which closes tomorrow. The Census is utilized to determine the amount of federal funding the municipality will receive.

Four (4) candidates were interviewed yesterday to fill a vacancy in the Police Department.

In response to Councilor Caron regarding the work being conducted at the Oxoboxo Lake dam and the assistance being received by those whose wells have run dry as the result, Mayor McDaniel reported that, according to WestRock, under 10 (mostly shallow dug) wells have been affected by the drawdown and the drought. WestRock is providing water to the affected households. Should any of the residents have issues with their wells, they are urged to contact the Mayor's office to obtain the necessary contact information.

In response to Councilor Caron's question regarding the procedure for wearing masks for town employees, Mayor McDaniel stated that all employees should be wearing masks at all times when it is not possible to physically distance themselves.

Chairman May highly commended the emergency personnel on a phenomenal job saving the two lives and handling of the fire at CT Scrap. In response to Councilor Bunnell regarding the resulting losses by CT Scrap, Mayor McDaniel stated that the monetary value of the losses is unknown at this time. It is also unknown if the exact origin of the fire would be determined due to the type and amount of equipment that is stored at the location.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *not present; no meeting*
- b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *not present; no meeting*
- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron – *no meeting*

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

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

For the month of September, the Animal Control Officer received 57 complaints, for a total of 256 complaints for the year; seven (7) animals were impounded, for a total of 22 impounded animals the year; four (4) animals were sold, for a total of seven (7) for the year, and; there were four (4) bites reported and one (1) infraction issued. In the Town of Salem, seven (7) complaints were investigated and five (5) animals were impounded.

In the month of September, the Police Department received a total of 1,360 calls for service, 70 of which were Type I calls, which usually require further investigation, and 21 of which were motor vehicle accidents. Of those 1,360 calls, 26 were for services, 18 for alarm activations, 1 untimely death, 509 patrol checks, and 47 enforcements. Patrol checks and enforcement actions account for a large part of the police officer's duties and reflect their omnipresence and promotes positive community relations.

In August, the Fire Companies received 292 calls for service and conducted one (1) fire investigation at Rand-Whitney Containerboard, resulting in a loss of \$30,000.00. Of the 292 calls, 100 calls were handled by the Montville Fire Company, 85 by the Mohegan Fire Company, 66 by the Oakdale Fire Company, 25 by the Chesterfield Fire Company, and 16 were out-of-town calls. 196 EMS (Emergency Medical Services) calls were received and the Fire Marshal's office conducted 177 inspections. He congratulated and commended the emergency personnel who responded to the two CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) calls recognized by the Mayor, adding that part of the success of the calls is a result of the good communication between the dispatchers and the responders during very difficult moments. He continues to meet with the Fire Companies to discuss and resolve their existing issues.

The Coast Guard Cadets reached out to the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) regarding their possible interest in establishing a Pen Pal Program between the members of the Coast Guard and the youths as part of their after-school program. The Bureau will be setting up a table outside the Community Center to hand out crafts and treats to the children on the evening of the Trick or Trunk event on October 24. They will also be hosting a Drug Take Back Day at the Public Safety Building on October 24. The youth worked hard on the joint public Crosswalk Project with the Police Department on September 26, transforming the crosswalk in front of the Community Center with colors representing unity, acceptance, and kindness. In lieu of their annual Pancake Breakfast, the YSB is seeking donations for a Basket Raffle Extravaganza. The Extravaganza will begin on Polling Day (November 3) at the polling sites and the drawing will be held on October 23. A very successful Mud Run was held on September 26 at Camp Oakdale, with 75 participants. Community Movie Night will be held on Saturday, October 17, 8:00 p.m., at the Camp Oakdale Pavilion. He commended Barbara Lockhart for receiving a total of \$826,697.00 in grant funds during her 23-year tenure as the Youth Services Coordinator. The funds were used to offset staff salaries and support such programs as juvenile diversion, mental health prevention, positive youth development, youth leadership, and the opioid crisis. He commended her on continuing to do a great job and, on behalf of the Town Council, voiced their support.

- b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services  
Senior and Social Services Department has been busy providing heating assistance and distributing food items and sundries to those in need. Though the Senior Center, which serves approximately 800 members, is closed due to the pandemic, they continue to provide support to the town's seniors, including providing MedRides.
- c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education – *not present; no report*
- d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Conservation Commission  
The nitrogen levels continue to be low at the WPCA, indicating that the system is working very well. The fuel cell is, likewise, performing well. In response to Chairman May, the Mayor added that the Town Hall building does not have enough load to fully support the use of a fuel cell system, but other options are being considered, including the possibility of utilizing a virtual net metering system.

For the fifth consecutive month, the Conservation Commission did not have a quorum. He plans to reach out to all of the members and determine their continued interest and aims to recruit new members to fill the available seats.

- e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations – *not present*
- f. Councilor Rix: Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission  
Economic Development Commission – Councilor Rix reported that the daycare center that was closed due to the pandemic will be reopening. Two to three town businesses have permanently closed. The town's unemployment rate has dropped to 12.1% in July from 13%.  
Planning & Zoning Commission – A Public Hearing will be held on October 27 to discuss and review a proposal to establish a gasoline/convenience store at 1499 and 1505 Route 85.

Parks & Recreation Commission – A drive-thru Trick or Truck event will be held on October 24 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; directional signage will be placed by Old Colchester Road near Montville High School leading to the back of Tyl Middle School. Those interested in participating in the event are encouraged to contact the Parks & Recreation Department.

- g. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund  
The Fire Fighters Relief Fund will be holding their next meeting on October 26.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Steven Loiler from the Board of Education, effective September 23, 2020.  
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Councilor Caron expressed his regrets. Councilor Rogulski concurred, thanking him for his contributions as a very active member of the Board for the past eight years. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint William Pieniadz to the Building Code Board of Appeals, with a term to expire on November 8, 2025.  
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Susan Rickards to the Youth Advisory Board, with a term to expire on November 8, 2022.  
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- e. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Sara Lundy to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire on November 12, 2024.  
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- f. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Anthony Siragusa to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire on November 12, 2024.  
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- g. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Matthew Emilyta to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on November 14, 2022.  
*Item was removed from the agenda.*
- h. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Gary S. Allyn to the Uncas Health District with a term to expire on November 14, 2023.  
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- i. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Karen Doherty to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on November 20, 2023.  
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- j. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Wills Pike to the Board of Education with a term to expire on November 8, 2021.  
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2020-60. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES TO** refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$5,948.31 (five thousand nine

hundred forty-eight dollars and thirty-one cents) as requested by the Tax Collector.  
(Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2020-61. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Montville Association of Management Employees (MAME), Local 818, Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel noted that approvals of items 16(a) and (b) would extend the current contracts for a period of one-year. Full negotiations could not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contract would provide a wage increase and clarify some of the language in the document. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2020-62. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Montville Teamsters Transfer Station Employees, Local 493 for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Bunnell congratulated and offered praise to the Fire Marshal's office for their recent save. He expressed his appreciation to all emergency personnel for their hard work and efforts and, judging by the numbers provided, both the Fire and Police Departments appear very busy.

Councilor Rogulski wished everyone a happy and safe Halloween and commended all of the parents and teachers during these trying times.

Councilor Rix thanked and congratulated both the Fire Companies and the town as a whole as they maneuvered and organized the day while the CT Scrap fire was brought under control.

Councilor Caron echoed Councilors Rix and Bunnell and thanked the town's hard working First Responders, adding that they are very fortunate to have them working for their town. He commended them on an awesome job and reiterated his appreciation.

Mayor McDaniel also praised the First Responders and community for coming together and doing what needs to be done. He wished everyone a great Trick or Trunk event and urged everyone to stay safe.

Councilor May also commended the Fire Companies, relaying an incident at his home approximately 12 years ago, which was successfully handled.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

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