

**Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021, 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.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

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.

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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 7:14 p.m., due to technical issues.

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.

4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – none

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Caron, to add the following item to the agenda:

16(f) THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel and/or Superintendent Derek Albertson to pursue funding for the

replacement of the Cook Drive Water Tower from the Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. (Mayor McDaniel)

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

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Caron, to add the following items to the agenda:

14(g) 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 Zoning Board of Appeals.

14(h) To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Florence Turner to fill a vacancy as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire on November 8, 2021.

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

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

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021

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

b. The Special Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2021 (BOE/MEA Agreement)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. 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 a candidates for the Parks & Recreation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Commission on Aging. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to enter into Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. Discussion: None, Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

The candidates opted to be interviewed in public.

Denise Gladue, Parks & Recreation Commission, who has raised her family in and has been resident of the town for over 30 years, stated that her children have been fortunate enough to enjoy the activities and programs the town has had to offer over the years. She was interested in giving back to the community and felt that it would be a fun experience to be a part of a Commission that has done a great job so far. In response to Councilor Jaskiewicz, she stated that she would not have any issues attending the scheduled meetings. Mayor McDaniel thanked her for all of her past service to the town.

Deborah Schober, Parks & Recreation Commission, an 18-year resident of the town, stated that she currently serves on the Uncas Health District Board and served on the WPCA for approximately 11-12 years. Like Ms. Gladue, she is also interested in serving on a fun Commission. Mayor McDaniel stated that Ms. Schober was a very thoughtful and practical member of the WPCA and felt that she would be a good fit for the Commission. Chairman May agreed, adding that she was a very dedicated member of the WPCA and thanked her for her time and patience. Both the Mayor and the Chairman felt that her service on the Uncas Health District would also be an asset to the Commission.

Florence Turner, who has been a resident of the town for over 30 years and currently serves on the Board of Assessment Appeals, stated that she was informed that the Zoning Board of Appeals was having issues reaching a quorum and was asked to serve on the Board. Councilor Rogulski felt that her common sense, straightforward approach would be a great asset to the Board. Mayor McDaniel thanked her for always stepping up and felt that her

reliability will be helpful for the Board. Chairman May added that she is one of the hardest working people he knows and thanked her for her service.

DeeAnn Morton, Commission on Aging, was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

The Councilors thanked all of the candidates for stepping up and their willingness to serve.

The Councilors and the Mayor exited from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Wills Pike, 71 Pheasant Run, spoke in favor the proposed sale of 611 and 916 Route 163. The Board of Education (BOE) will be holding a meeting tomorrow evening and felt that it was critical for the Town Council to discuss the BOE's letter requesting the allocation of approximately \$605,000.00 to their 2% non-lapsing fund and expressed his willingness to answer any questions they might have.

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the February 2021 Financial Report from Terry Hart, Finance Director
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of January 2021

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 attended meetings with the Eastern Investment Workforce Board to discuss the jobs that will be created at *General Dynamics Electric Boat* and the accompanying need to provide adequate housing and transportation for the workers. He added that the efforts the region has been investing into their infrastructure will aid in accommodating these needs.

The Data Center Incentives measure was passed by the House and the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The measure would offer data centers to establish themselves in the State tax-free. He will be meeting with his fellow CEOs in Norwich, Groton, and Ledyard to discuss the measure and draft their host agreements to ensure that they are all in sync.

He was proud to co-host the Connecticut Organics Infrastructure Forum with CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) Commissioner Katie Dykes regarding the future management of the State's solid waste stream brought on by the expected closing of the MIRA Plant which handles the waste of 40 of the State's towns. It is estimated that 30% of the waste stream is organic and the various options of managing such waste through anaerobic digestion, composting, food recycling, and the like were discussed.

The Housing Authority is planning to move forward with a new action plan, including the hiring of a part-time administrator, which will dovetail into the town's efforts, including the outreach program that was recently established. Seniors and disabled residents of the Housing Authority should be now able to receive rental assistance, vaccinations, etc.

A very extensive call with *Standard & Poor* was held regarding the town's Bond Scale last week. The rating agency was very impressed with the management of the town over the years, their plans for the future, budget authority, financial position, and reserve program and has earned a 1.1% yield for the town's \$3.3 million Road Improvement Project.

Sheri Cote, who was recently named the Economic Development Director for seCTer (Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region), plans to become more active with the economic development in the town.

The Oxoboxo Dam Project continues to be on track for completion in September. Due to the rain/snow activity, the dam did recharge and water is being pumped out of the lake so that the project can continue. Regular updates, which will be relayed to the Councilors, will be provided to the town by the engineer.

In response to Councilor Rogulski, Mayor McDaniel confirmed that the Data Centers Incentive is related to the previous year's request by the data centers' for a tax break. The State Statute will state that those who wish to develop a data center must have a host agreement with the town in which they will be established. It is not required for the town to agree to house a data center. Data centers are attracted to the region as its geographical location is ideal for data latency. The main data center would also require a mirror data center within a certain proximity to house the back-up for the data. An estimation of the jobs that the data center was provided. The data center(s) would also invite the establishment of financial service companies who wish to be close to the centers. He confirmed that building permit fees would be applied to any construction work and the Host Agreement would require the approval of the Town Council. The establishment of a data center(s) could be very lucrative for the town, based on its production.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no report*

b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz

The Finance Committee is preparing for the FY2021/22 Budget discussions.

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron

The Committee's discussions included the cleaning of millings and brush by the Camp Oakdale Pavilion; the re-pointing of the old Town Hall building; the repair of the Social Services building due to ongoing leaks, and; the paving and drainage schedule, which will be posted on the town website for the public.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

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

Public Safety Commission

The application deadline for the town's Fire Marshal position recently closed and the Commission will begin scheduling the interviews for the qualified candidates.

The Commissioners extensively discussed the establishment of an Animal Control Facility and provided a brief history. Councilor Bunnell, Commissioner Gary Murphy, and the Animal Control Officer conducted a site visit to the Norwich facility and will be visiting the facility in New London to gauge the possibility of regionalizing their services.

The budget proposals for FY2021/22 for the Animal Control, Building Department, Police Department, Emergency Management, Fire Marshal's office, and the Fire Companies were approved by the Commission.

Police Department

1,453 Calls for Service 75 Type I Calls
22 Arrests; 0 Juvenile Arrests

Officer Lindsey Michaels continues to progress well at the Academy; her graduation date has been cancelled. Officer Caleb Osunniyi is also continuing his virtual Zoom training. Lt. Radford reported an increase in DUIs in the area over a two-week period.

Fire Department

243 Calls for Service 171 Medical EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Calls
1 Vehicle Fire

Animal Control Officer

Montville: 3 Impounded, 48 to date Salem: 1 Impounded, 8 to date
95 Complaints, 599 to date 5 Complaints, 39 to date

Building Department

102 Open Permits 2 Certificates of Occupancy (C/O)
131 Inspections

The Blight numbers remain the same (539) as the town continues to search for a Part-time Blight Officer.

The Youth Services Bureau received its fourth \$5,000 State Grant for the Opioid Crisis. The funds will be utilized to provide new initiatives related to building awareness, education, prevention, supporting families, and creating a traveling quilt. The Bureau will also be hosting a Drug Take-Back Day in April. Their funding has remained whole in the Governor's budget with a slight increase in the JRB (Juvenile Review Board) Budget. Two Montville students provided written testimony to the State's Appropriations Committee regarding their personal experiences with the Bureau. The members of the Bureau met with Senator Cathy Osten and Representative Toni Walker to discuss increases in requests regarding issues related to the social and psychological well-being of youths as a result of the pandemic. The results of a survey that was distributed to the town's parents and youth were provided to the Mayor, Town Council, and the schools. The Youth Action Council (YAC) created a community campaign based on the survey results, including a billboard that was recently posted on Routes 32 & 2A. March is Gambling Awareness Month, Shamrock Shakes will be available for the after-school families, and a Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, April 13, at the Montville Community Center.

Councilor Rogulski questioned the reasoning/matrix behind the Fire Companies' request for three additional firefighters.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services

The Social Services Department continues to distribute food at the Senior Center and the need for food remains high. After reaching out to the Mohegan Tribe, Councilor Caron was able to reserve a time period during which approximately 40 homebound and disabled seniors were able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination; transportation was also provided. He expressed his appreciation to the Mohegan Tribe, Senior and Social Services Kathie Doherty-Peck, and Yale-New Haven Health for organizing the event.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that members of the Finance Committee and BOE met to discuss their FY2021/22 budget, their request for the funds to be added to their 2% non-lapsing fund, and updating their outdated IT infrastructure. The BOE also discussed the allocation of the funds received through the State for COVID-19 expenses. The purchase of the 600 Chromebooks is not related to the need to update their IT infrastructure. He stated that the delayed approval by the Town Council for the proposed allocation of funds to their 2% non-lapsing fund is not time-sensitive. Copies of the letter requesting the allocation will be provided to the Councilors. With respect to the teachers receiving vaccinations, BOE Member Wills Pike reported that the Superintendent and Uncas Health District Director Patrick McCormack are working together to make arrangements for the School staff to receive their vaccinations at a local level.

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority, Conservation Commission

The WPCA was awarded the 2021 Wastewater Utility Award by the New England Water Environment Association in recognition of their outstanding performance. The WPCA is considered the second-best performing plant in the State out of 79 plants. A Sanitary Survey was recently conducted by the Connecticut Department of Health and no significant findings were found in the water supply. He commended the WPCA, which is among the top 10% of the utility plants in performance.

After not being able to receive a quorum for the past ten months, the Conservation Commission held a successful meeting and is now able to move forward.

With respect to the Cook Drive Tower Project, which is on this evening's agenda, Chairman May stated that other options were considered and it was determined that the replacement of the tower was the best option. The item on this evening's agenda will provide the Mayor and/or the Superintendent to seek funding from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH). The project is estimated to cost approximately \$2 to \$3 million.

e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations – *no report*

- f. Councilor Rix: Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission
Councilor Rix reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission will be hosting a Diamond Painting Class on March 13, the deadline to turn in applications for Camp Councilors is April 7, a Summer Concert featuring the band, *Nightshift*, will be held on July 17 and fireworks are being tentatively planned should the Carnival take place.
- g. 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 Heather Kenniston from the Parks & Recreation Commission, effective immediately.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Jessica LeClair to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on April 13, 2023.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Timothy Sullivan to the Housing Authority with a term to expire on April 30, 2026.
Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Deborah Schober to fill a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire on November 8, 2022.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- e. 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 Parks & Recreation Commission.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- f. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Denise Gladue to fill a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire on November 14, 2022.
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- e. 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 Zoning Board of Appeals.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- f. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Florence Turner to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire on November 8, 2021.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2021-11. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$6,620.01 (six thousand six hundred twenty dollars and one cent) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)
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.

- b. **Resolution #2021-12. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the use of the Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network. (Mayor Ronald McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel explained that the Memorandum would provide the town with the ability to utilize the same available frequencies on equipment that is already owned by the town. Councilor Bunnell added that some of the surrounding towns are already utilizing the radio network and the MOU would allow them to communicate with other police departments throughout the State and have a dedicated frequency for the town. 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. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the use of the Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network. (Mayor Ronald McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Caron, to remove the item from the agenda. Discussion: The item is a duplicate of Item 16(b). Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- d. **Resolution #2021-13. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel to enter into an agreement with Bonnie Yacovetsky of Re/Max to represent the Town of Montville in the sale of 611 and 916 Route 163. (Mayor Ronald McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: In response to Councilor Caron, Mayor McDaniel stated that Ms. Yacovetsky represented the town in its last sale. She is also the seller of the adjacent property and approached him regarding potential interest. The same terms of agreement will apply as in the sale of the previous property. The sale of the property will require a Section 8-24 Review by the Planning & Zoning Commission. 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.
- e. **Resolution #2021-14. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to extend the term of the Nonbinding Letter of Intent between N. Silver Brook Holdings, LLC and the Town of Montville for 6 months. (Mayor Ronald McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the resolution is a Non-binding Letter of Intent to provide an extension of a power purchase agreement as the process was interrupted by the pandemic. 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.
- f. **Resolution #2021-15. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to authorize Mayor Ronald McDaniel and/or Superintendent Derek Albertson to pursue funding for the replacement of the Cook Drive Water Tower from the Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. (Mayor McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. 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.

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

Florence Turner, 204 Route 163, Uncasville, thanked the Councilors for appointing her to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate Member. She also spoke with respect to a previous proposal to establish the Animal Control Facility at the Prison, which she felt would have been

ideal. She has worked with the prisoners at the Transfer Station and has visited the Prison Facility and felt that the rehabilitative aspect of the animals with the prisoners would have been very positive. She felt that the idea should be reconsidered.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Bunnell stated that every effort was made to establish the Animal Control Facility at the Correctional Facility. Unfortunately, it did not materialize. He sent his thoughts and prayers to Public Safety Commissioner James Moran for medical issues he has been experiencing and his hopes for a quick recovery. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and wished everyone the best.

Councilor Rogulski wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and International Women's Day and asked everyone to take a moment to recognize the boy who lost his life in New London yesterday.

Councilor Jaskiewicz expressed his appreciation to his fellow Councilors and to keep up the hard work.

Councilor Pollard thanked everyone who attended this evening's meeting. She wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and to stay safe and be well.

Councilor Rix thanked everyone who was interviewed this evening and sent her prayers to Commissioner Moran and his wife. She wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Mayor McDaniel agreed with Ms. Turner's comments regarding the establishment of the Animal Control Facility at the Prison, which would have benefited all who would have been involved; unfortunately, the State was opposed to the idea. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day, March Madness, and beyond. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. He apologized for this evening's technical difficulties.

Councilor May thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and expressed his appreciation to those who are willing to volunteer to serve on the various boards and commissions.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 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

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LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS**