

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

**1. Roll Call.**

***Council Members***

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman  
Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman  
Dr. Stewart Beckett III  
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll  
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh  
Ms. Mary LaChance  
Mr. Jacob McChesney  
Mr. George P. Norman  
Mr. Whit C. Osgood

**1. Roll Call.**

**(a) Pledge of Allegiance.**

***Led by Mr. Johnson***

**2. Public Comment.**

***Mr. Chittaranjan Sahay of 170 East Opal Drive*** said his children were grown but supports education as it is an important investment. He continued saying he was unsure why there is a change in sentiment in town adding that 95% of the budget is fixed costs. He emphasized that spending on education is an investment in the future and urged the Council to show leadership and protect the system it took decades to build.

***Mr. John Langmaid of 2200 Main Street*** said he paid \$18K in taxes last year which is a lot of money for his family. He said he's here so he must be willing to pay it. He expressed support of both the education and town budgets as originally proposed and urged the Council to maintain the excellent services. He remarked that people choose Glastonbury for the school system, not a low mil rate, and those that want cut services and a low mil rate can live elsewhere.

**Ms. Julie Thompson of 252 Bluff Point** noted that she's a member of the Board of Education, and said that education was an important factor in her decision to come to town among other assets. She said that she appreciated suggestions for savings and that the Board of Education reviewed and questioned as well. She said they are all answerable to the services provided to an essential portion of the town, 6K children in 9 schools five days a week. She expressed concern about slashing the budget and the inability to maintain the excellence.

**Mr. Jeremy Grieveson of 3 Tryon Street** and of the Board of Education although he said he was speaking on his own behalf. He emphasized that they are all conservative spenders praising the administration for creativity with programs like LINKS and self-insurance and technology. He said that this budget was crafted to support the minimum status quo and urged the Town Council to think hard before accepting the Board of Finance budget.

**3. Special Reports. None**

**4. Old Business. None**

**5. New Business.**

**(a) Action on 2019-2020 General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Capital Improvement Budgets for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing.**

**(1) Recommend General Fund Appropriations and Transfers.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council recommends an appropriation of \$42,884,025 for the 2019-2020 General Town Budget for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing.

**Disc:** Mr. Gus Constantine, Board of Finance Chairman, said it was their job to balance the requests with what the town can afford. He noted their budget was unanimously approved and introduced Ms. Jennifer Sanford, Board of Finance Member. Ms. Sanford said that they considered affordability, the state of the state and fiscal responsibility. She expressed concern about asking residents to pay 2.5% of the home values in taxes and approaching 40 mils. She noted some positive economic factors and then expressed support for the Board of Finance budget saying that it doesn't add to the problems in the future. Dr. Beckett noted that pensions were the biggest issue and asked about the investment assumption. Finance Chairman Constantine said they were trying to get to 6%. Ms. Sanford said that the rate of return was 3% so best practices dictate decreasing it to 6%, at least.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked if the mil rate would get to 40 mils if property values and the mil rate remain at the status quo. Mr. Johnson said no. Vice Chairman Niland asked about the suggestion to add another \$200K to the insurance fund. Mr. Johnson said he did think a discussion should happen regarding the insurance fund and they did push the amount up for the premium equivalent by \$200K. Mr. Norman asked how Glastonbury compares for mil rates and supported the Board of Finance budget. Mr. Osgood also supported the Board of Finance budget noting the people in town that are on public assistance. Mr. Johnson reviewed the mil rates across the state. Mr. Johnson took pride in the limited increases for the town budget over the years and said that it's becoming difficult to maintain. Ms. LaChance said that she didn't find it helpful to look back at home values ten years ago given the housing bubble and financial crisis but over the last four years, home values have increased from \$300K to \$327K. Ms. Carroll said that this number may not be where they end up but she would support it going to hearing.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council recommends an appropriation of \$13,973,755 for the 2019-2020 Debt and Transfer Budget for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing.

**Disc:** Ms. Susan Karp, Chairman of the Board of Education, spoke in support of the kitchen project. She also said that all have acknowledged the need for the field house for Title IX and ADA but not acting in a timely manner exposes the town even more. She expressed support for the allocation for the field house. Mr. Norman asked if the field house should have been a priority over the air conditioning. Board Chairman Karp said that the lack of air conditioning was significantly impacting the education of a large number of students noting that even if Mr. Johnson's proposal is passed, the field house wouldn't be built until the summer of 2020.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council recommends an appropriation of \$108,049,846 for the 2019-2020 Education Budget for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing.

**Disc:** Education Chairman Karp said she believed the budget should focus on the ability to pay but given they are known for excellence, it is appropriate to also focus on expectations. She noted their PPE is consistently in the lower half if not the lower third of the state. She was

critical of those that would take their total budget and divide it by the number of students saying that it is irresponsible to ignore what it takes to educate students in 2019 and what costs remain when enrollment drops. She spoke to how well they educate and the changes they made such as closing Eastbury. She noted that special education is 11% of the school population. She emphasized that they are always evaluating staff and tasks and changing as appropriate. She said all new employees select high deductible plan. She stated that they must meet the needs of students or they will be hurt and it will require time to rebuild their reputation. Finance Board Member Sanford said her costs didn't go down a lot when her sons moved out so she needs to close and sell her house.

Dr. Bookman said that 85% of their budget is benefits and salary increases and the Board of Finance budget doesn't account for the increase in utilities or special education. Vice Chairman Niland said they should all be team Glastonbury and not be adversarial adding they need to take care of all taxpayers, families with children to seniors. He said that they have to face the realities of the big changes coming but don't want to gut the education budget. He continued saying that if the schools aren't quality, no one will come and the house values will drop. Mr. Norman echoed Vice Chairman Niland's sentiments. Dr. Beckett concurred and said the grand list growth is not matching the budget increase and there is no land for big subdivisions.

Mr. Osgood said he would support the finance budget as proposed noting that they need to evaluate budget increases against the CPI and took issue with saying they would be gutting the education budget. Mr. McChesney said he would support the finance budget to go to public hearing. He said that they moved here for the education, he takes to heart the impact of the cuts and is also sensitive to taxes increasing such that it is hard for people to choose Glastonbury. Ms. Carroll urged people to come to the public hearing March 21, 2019, or communicate in other ways if unable to come. Ms. LaChance echoed Mr. McChesney's remarks.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**(2) Recommend General Fund Revenues, Transfers and Use of Fund Balance.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council recommends 2019-2020 General Fund Revenues and Transfers in the amount of \$164,907,626 for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**(3) Recommend Capital Improvement Program.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Glastonbury Town Council recommends the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$10,168,216 for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing. Funding will be provided as follows:

Capital Reserve Fund	\$9,707,000
Town Aid Road	\$461,216

**Amendment By:** Mr. Osgood

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Glastonbury Town Council hereby modifies the motion on the floor reducing the Capital Improvement Program to \$9,918,216 and Capital Reserve Fund to \$9,457,000 and Town Aid Road remaining at \$461,216, for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing. Funding will be provided as follows:

**Disc:** Mr. Osgood said that the \$250K reduction should be for the field house project saying that \$1.5M should suffice for three locker rooms. Vice Chairman Niland said he couldn't support this and wants to hear from the public on the budget as proposed from the Board of Finance. Mr. McChesney agreed adding that if they build three new locker rooms, there will still be inequity.

**Result:** Amendment fails {3-5-0}

**For:** Dr. Beckett, Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Osgood.

**Against:** Chairman Gullotta, Vice Chairman Niland, Ms. Carroll, Ms. LaChance and Mr. McChesney

**Abstain:** None

**Result:** Original motion carries {8-1-0} with Mr. Osgood opposing.

**(4) Recommend Special Revenue Funds.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council recommends 2019-2020 Special Revenue Fund Appropriations and Transfers and Special Revenue Fund Revenues and Transfers for presentation at the March 21, 2019 Final Budget Hearing as follows:

- **SEWER OPERATING FUND** \$3,170,642
- **RECREATION ACTIVITIES FUND** \$1,487,716
- **POLICE PRIVATE DUTY** \$400,000
- **RIVERFRONT PARK FUND** \$253,200

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**(5) Setting of Town Council Special Meeting and Final Budget Hearing for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019 – Council Chambers.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council schedules a Special Meeting and Final Budget Hearing for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, to consider the 2019-2020 General Fund (Town Operating, Debt & Transfer, Education, Revenues and Transfers), Special Revenue Funds (Sewer Operating, Recreation Activities, Police Private Duty, Riverfront Park Fund), and Capital Improvement Program.

**Note:** *The Final Budget Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury. Council Action on the FY2019-2020 Budget is scheduled for the Special Meeting immediately following the Final Budget Hearing on March 21, 2019.*

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**(b) Action on Agreement between Town of Glastonbury and Ambulance Service of Manchester (ASM) for paramedic services.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to execute the Agreement for Coordination of Paramedic Intercept Services between the Town of Glastonbury and Ambulance Service of Manchester (ASM), as described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 8, 2019.

**Disc:** Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo on the subject to the Council dated March 8, 2019. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the required response time and if it's monitored. Mr. Johnson noted that there are zones with one he thought was 8 minutes 59 seconds and the other eastern zone he thought was 10 minutes 59 seconds but the police are the first responders and it is validated by radio contact. Dr. Beckett congratulated Mr. Johnson on bringing this to fruition after being discussed for a decade. Vice Chairman Nilan questioned if there was a more central location for the headquarters. Mr. Johnson said that often times, there are units in surrounding communities that enable a quicker response.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**6. Consent Calendar.**

**(a) Action on Application for Change of Zone – 340 Hebron Avenue (set public hearing).**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby schedules a Public Hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street on the Application by 340 Hebron Avenue, LLC for a Change of Zone – 340 Hebron Avenue from Planned Business and Development to Town Center Zone, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 8, 2019.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**7. Town Manager's Report.**

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the Council dated March 8, 2019. Ms. LaChance thanked him for his work on the uranium issue. Ms. Carroll praised the parks and recreation open gym

opportunity. Mr. Cavanaugh said that Plan B may need a visit and said that he and Mr. Norman represented the town in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Police Department.

**8. Committee Reports.**

**(a) Chairman's Report.**

Chairman Gullotta noted that it's spring and the dump is open late on Wednesdays.

**(b) MDC. *No Report***

**(c) CRCOG. *No Report***

**9. Communications.**

**(a) Sprint notice of intent to modify existing telecommunications facility located at 58 Montano Road.**

**(b) Notice of Exempt Modification from SAC Wireless regarding 58A Montano Road.**

**10. Minutes.**

**(a) Minutes of February 26, 2019 Regular Meeting.**

***Motion By:*** Ms. Carroll ***Seconded By:*** Dr. Beckett  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves as submitted, the minutes of the meeting held February 26, 2019.

***Result:*** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**11. Appointments and Resignations.**

**(a) Appointment of Gayle Kataja to the Commission on Aging to fill the unexpired term of Denise Weeks (D-2019).**

***Motion By:*** Ms. Carroll ***Seconded By:*** Dr. Beckett  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby appoints Gayle Kataja to the Commission on Aging to fill the unexpired term of Denise Weeks (D-2019).

***Disc:*** Chairman Gullotta said that they will sorely miss Denise Weeks.

***Result:*** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}



**12. Executive Session.**

**(a) Potential property acquisition.**

**(b) Draft terms and conditions for potential sale of Town-owned land – Eastern Boulevard.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 8:38 pm, for the purpose of discussing potential land acquisition and draft terms and conditions for sale of Town owned land off Western Boulevard. In attendance will be Council members and the Town Manager.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

*Present for the Executive Session were council members, Mr. Tom Gullotta, Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman, Dr. Chip Beckett, Ms. Deborah A. Carroll, Mr. Kurt Cavanaugh, Ms. Mary LaChance, Mr. Jacob McChesney, Mr. George Norman and Mr. Whit Osgood with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson.*

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 9:15 pm.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**13. Adjournment**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of March 12, 2019, at 9:16 pm.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Kimberly Meanix Miller*

**Kimberly Meanix Miller  
Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta  
Chairman**