

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 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

(a) Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Police Chief Marshall Porter

2. Public Comment.

(a) Bicycle Friendly Community.

Mr. Johnson spoke to the prestige of the designation. Ms. Susan Smith, Executive Director Bike Walk CT, said that they work statewide to keep the roads as safe as possible for cyclists. She also spoke to the prestige of the designation. Mr. Dan Sharp of Bike Walk Glastonbury thanked the town for their support and said that they could improve their designation by improving their education. He said that they had suggested how the schools could integrate cycling into the curriculum, but it was rejected by the superintendent. Mr. Osgood thanked the town and the organization and said that they would soon start on the trail from Western Boulevard to House Street.

Mr. David Brown of 61 Coach Road opposed the pool project saying that a special interest minority is pushing for the project the town has no obligation to provide and the facility is expensive. He submitted a petition from a few neighbors and asked the Town Council to end the pursuit of the project and avoid a referendum.

Mr. Joel Ellis of 46 Deerfield Drive also opposed the potential pool facility referendum expressing concern about taxpayer burden.

Mr. Charlie Smith of 417 Buttonball Lane expressed support of the project including the gymnastics facility saying it would add to their property values. He encouraged the project to be considered a recreation center instead of just an aquatic or gymnastics facility.

Mr. Donald Kray said he voted in all the previous referenda but questioned the reason for this proposed facility. He questioned the site and what it would cost for 500 seats. He encouraged the group to put money up for the facility to offset costs.

Ms. Rachel Soporin said she lived across from Grange and is a lifelong swimmer and having an aquatic center in town would mean everything to her and help her choose to stay during retirement.

Ms. Jen Siskind of 101 Fairview Terrace said she was uncertain how she felt about the facility but if it were built, she encouraged the town to consider solar and geothermal.

Ms. Cheryl Edison said she swims three times per week at Trinity and expressed support of the project. She questioned why there was no diving well proposed.

Ms. Jinny Kim of 169 Lakewood said she was part of a larger group in favor of the project. She continued saying that they have formed a non-profit and she was comfortable they would be able to raise funds to offset some of the expenses.

Without objection, Chairman Gullotta re-ordered the agenda to handle the following agenda item next.

5. New Business.

(a) Discussion concerning Condition of Approval – possible turning lane – The Tannery.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the council on the subject dated May 24, 2019. Police Chief Porter said that they studied the area and felt there was sufficient room for south bound traffic to bypass with no concerns about the existing traffic patterns. Mr. Norman asked how they studied it and if there was any concern about the crosswalk. Chief Porter said that they have officers actually observing the traffic and there are no sight line issues, no complaints and no issues. Mr. Cavanaugh commented on the success of the flashing crosswalk. Mr. McChesney said he had been concerned but was satisfied with the result. Vice Chairman Niland expressed concern

about increased capacity. Mr. Johnson said that he thought they were at or near capacity and that when the bond is released, any work would be on the town.

3. Special Reports.

(a) Report on feasibility study – Indoor Aquatic Facility.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the council on the subject dated May 24, 2019, noting that they had voted for some repairs on Grange to extend the life approximately 5 years. He said that this is preliminary, order of magnitude information, anticipating there would be questions. He emphasized that this does not include site acquisition and a site has not been identified. Mr. Jim Bell of Moser Pilon Nelson architects introduced John Guinan and George Deines of Counsilman Hunsaker, aquatics consultants. Mr. Bell presented slides speaking to their charge, the process and the options being presented, all of which are two bodies of water with separate temperatures. He said that they propose 200 seats which will seat a dual meet but 600 would be required for state events and 1000 for a sectional event. He said that there were some concerns raised in their meetings including suggestions for a community survey before a referendum, lack of support for library referendum and the high subsidy. He reviewed the three prepared options ranging from \$14.4M to \$18.6M and operating costs which would require a 60-70% subsidy. He said that typically an area of 100,000 people is required to support a 50M facility.

Vice Chairman Niland questioned why a 50M option wasn't included saying while it was more expensive, it is also likely to bring in higher revenue. Mr. Deines said that there wasn't overwhelming support from the community, costs are nearly double and requiring significant manpower to operate. Vice Chairman Niland felt the range of options was too narrow. Mr. Deines said that they try to provide options that best meet needs of the community and are most likely to move forward. Ms. Carroll said she would like to see more variation in the options and questioned how they would divide use. Mr. Johnson said that he could get back to them with an idea for programming. Mr. Cavanaugh said he wasn't interested in the high school commandeering the facility. Mr. Johnson said that the High School would not transition to the new facility.

Ms. LaChance asked if it was predicated on 300-600 memberships. Mr. Deines said that they will look at the rate structure with a lot of factors in the determination. Mr. Norman confirmed that it was not likely there would be any charge to answer the questions and said he wasn't interested in sending it to referendum in November as it needed more time and work. Mr. McChesney indicated he would like to explore more options and felt the population circles don't really work given the significant obstacle of the river. He also said that Glastonbury has a much lower population base than West Hartford. Vice Chairman Niland asked about splash fees going to the club and if there is a revenue potential for an outdoor pool. Mr. Johnson said they would have to look who is renting the facility and determine the best way to maximize revenue but outdoor pools are unlikely to bring revenue.

Dr. Beckett said that they are far too focused on youth swimming from 5 to 18 and wanted greater consideration for other population segments such as those under 5 and 65+. He spoke to livability and all residents living their fullest life saying they have not spent much on non-student community assets since the community center and library. He said it needs time to work on it and wanted to consider a wider spectrum. Mr. Osgood said that the study began when looking for a replacement for Grange Pool and the suggestion they look at a 12-month alternative. He noted that with the repairs recently done, they have extended the life of Grange Pool 3-5 years. He suggested looking at CIP in the budget process and that they don't have to finetune it now.

Mr. McChesney suggested getting more information now saying he would like to see a single pool facility as what was proposed seems like a duplication of the High School pool. He said that we want people with kids and whose kids have left, to stay. Vice Chairman Niland said he agreed emphasizing that Glastonbury's population is lower than that of West Hartford. He asked about contingency. Mr. Johnson noted that contingency is typically higher at this point with so many unknowns, particularly the site. Vice Chairman Niland asked what would happen with Academy if Gymnastics is incorporated into a new facility. Mr. Johnson said that it had been used for the teen center and coffee houses so it would return as a community resource. Mr. Cavanaugh questioned what size parcel was being targeted and Mr. Deines said less than 5 acres for the 200 seats, .5 to .75 acre for the building and about 3.5 acres for parking. Chairman Gullotta questioned the parking for 500 seats. Mr. Johnson said that it would be 1 space for every 100 square feet so 25,000 square feet is 250 parking spaces. Mr. Cavanaugh questioned the escalation and Mr. Deines said they looked at escalation one year out.

Mr. McChesney felt the costs were excessive and suggested a smaller, more versatile, multi-purpose pool in hopes of bringing the costs down. He said that a 50M pool would normally be built in a larger community. Chairman Gullotta said that the schools are the only reason they have an indoor pool because the state helped pay for it. He suggested they explore potential at Smith and then perhaps have a smaller pool for therapy, etc. He suggested they consider holding a public hearing in a few weeks. Dr. Beckett suggested possible ad alternates and that they consider an expandable facility. Vice Chairman Niland wanted more information on the fees and how they relate to swim teams and town. He said he would be interested in hearing from the public but wanted info back from the Town Manager first. Mr. Osgood agreed. Mr. Norman suggested they consider a survey.

4. Old Business.

None

6. Consent Calendar.

(a) Action to transfer uncollected taxes to Suspense List - \$137,111.78.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the transfer of \$137,111.78 of uncollected taxes to the Suspense List as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 24, 2019 and recommended by the Board of Finance.

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

(b) Action on proposal for the 2019 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program (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, June 11, 2019 on the proposals submitted by Maffe Foundation and Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce under the 2019 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

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

(c) Proposed Amendment to Building Zone Regulations Text Amendment – Section 6.11, Accessory Apartments (reschedule public hearing from June 11, 2019 to June 25, 2019).

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, June 25, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street on proposed amendments to Section 6.11 of the Building Zone Regulations – Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment Within a Single Family Dwelling, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 24, 2019 and as recommended by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission.

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

7. Town Manager’s Report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the council dated May 24, 2019. Vice Chairman Niland questioned the resistance of the Board of Education to cycling education and asked if they could encourage it. Mr. Cavanaugh noted the project to remove the diseased trees and suggested notification for property owners about why and when. Dr. Beckett noted the complaint about speed on Linden Street supporting the flashing speed limit signs but also asked about bringing planters in for summertime. Mr. Johnson said that they were looking to put together a list of traffic calming options to evaluate locations such as Linden Street. Dr. Beckett asked about the

mid-block crossing in South Glastonbury. Mr. Johnson said he would circle back but there was a concern with all the curb cuts, they may create more issues than they solved. Mr. McChesney questioned a left turn lane from Oak Street to New London Turnpike. Mr. Johnson said that the elimination of one of the five legs of that intersection is likely to help as the challenge with dedicated turn lanes is that they add wait time. Mr. Norman said that Parks and Recreation appreciated the support for the Memorial Day Parade which recognized John Davis. He expressed concern for safety of diagonal parking on Main Street. Chairman Gullotta said that at Day Break, people ignore the cars coming from the left.

8. Committee Reports.

- (a) **Chairman's Report.** *None*
- (b) **MDC.** *None*
- (c) **CRCOG.** *None*

9. Communications. *None*

10. Minutes.

- (a) **Minutes of May 14, 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 May 14, 2019.

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

11. Appointments and Resignations. *None*

12. Executive Session.

(a) Draft Terms and Conditions for sale of Town-owned land – Western Boulevard.

(b) Personnel Matter

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 9:13 pm, for the purpose of discussing draft terms and conditions for sale of Town-owned land – Western Boulevard and a personnel matter. In attendance will be Council members and the Town Manager for item (a) and Council Members only for item (b).

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

Present for the Executive Session item (a) 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. Jake McChesney, Mr. George Norman and Mr. Whit Osgood with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson. Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 9:25pm as the Council addressed item (b).

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 9:35 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 May 28, 2019, at 9:36 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller
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Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta
Chairman