

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 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 {arrived 7:08pm}  
Ms. Mary LaChance  
Mr. Jacob McChesney  
Mr. George P. Norman  
Mr. Whit C. Osgood

**(a) Pledge of Allegiance.**

***Led by Director of Sanitation, Mike Bisi***

**2. Public Comment.**

***Mr. Michael Tierney of 84 Hurlburt*** expressed concern for the amount and speed of traffic through his neighborhood asking the Town Council to make it a no-through zone and submitted a petition of his neighbors.

***Mr. Bevan Moor of 65Hurlburt*** echoed the comments above saying that a tragedy is inevitable but preventable asking the Town Council to take action.

***Mr. Justin Copeland of 187 Hurlburt*** echoed the comments above urging the Town Council to take action to prevent through traffic.

**(a) Greg Manzotti – Glastonbury Hartwell Soccer Club**

Mr. Manzotti presented draft plans for a turf field at Baldwin Fields saying that youth soccer is the largest in town and one of the largest youth programs in the state. He said that there is a long and proud tradition in town and this would help lacrosse as well.

*Mr. Cavanaugh arrived at 7:08pm.*

Mr. Manzotti explained that if it is dark or rainy, their teams lose playing time and the competitive environment is moving toward turf.

**3. Special Reports. *None***

**4. Old Business. *None***

**5. New Business.**

**(a) Action on amendment to fees and charges – Transfer Station operations - effective July 1, 2019.**

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the council on the subject dated June 6, 2019, noting that fees are designed to offset costs. Mr. Osgood asked if the payment had changed for just recycling. Mr. Johnson replied saying it's a fixed cost of \$30. Mr. Osgood asked about dropping refuse with recycling and Mr. Johnson said that they would pay the per trip fees. Ms. Carrol asked about how to move forward with a senior discount. Chairman Gullotta said that being a senior, he would recuse himself. Vice Chairman Niland chaired the meeting. Dr. Beckett said that getting rid of their trash is a rapidly increasing cost to the town and knowing many seniors who have significant wealth, he couldn't support the senior discount. He said that instead, they should look at usage and implement a pay as you throw. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about mattresses. Mr. Bisi said that if they are wet or soiled, the mattresses aren't free.

Mr. McChesney supported a senior discount noting many are on fixed incomes. Mr. Osgood also was supportive of a senior discount noting that they will generally produce less trash. He also suggested they look into a volume-based program. Mr. Norman asked about the suspected \$3000 reduced revenues if they provide a senior discount. Mr. Johnson explained their estimates noting that it would only be on the unlimited permit to avoid staff having to evaluate each visit. Mr. Norman asked about pay as you throw. Mr. Johnson said that either bags or stickers are sold and much of the cost is public education. Dr. Beckett suggested they look into vans as many are as big as trucks. Mr. Bisi noted that they used to be able to use the type of plates but that's no longer indicative. Mr. McChesney said he was not opposed to looking into pay as you throw. Mr. Niland supported the senior discount saying he would like to see a 25% savings for seniors noting they produce less waste.

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves amendments to the Schedule of Fees and Charges for Refuse Disposal Operations effective July 1, 2019, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated June 6, 2019.

**Amendment By:** Mr. McChesney

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends to motion on the floor to include the 10% senior discount option for unlimited permits as discussed and as described in the report by the Town Manager dated June 6, 2019

**Disc:** Mr. Osgood expressed support.

**Result:** Motion to amend passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

**Result:** Amended motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

*Chairman Gullotta returned and chaired the rest of the meeting.*

(b) **Action on Agreement between the Town of Glastonbury and Wastewater Treatment and Facilities Maintenance Collective Bargaining Unit (AFSCME) effective July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021.** *No discussion or action*

(c) **Action on lease of Town-owned property – 35 Bell Street.**

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the council on the subject dated June 6, 2019.

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the residential lease for the Town-owned property at 35 Bell Street effective June 22, 2019 through June 21, 2020 as described in a report by the Town Manager dated June 6, 2019.

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

6. **Consent Calendar.**

*None*

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

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the council dated June 6, 2019, and his supplemental report dated June 11, 2019. Mr. McChesney questioned if the \$500K in state funding that was restored could be used to reduce the mil rate this year and if not possible, if they could use it to reduce the coming year's mil rate. Mr. Johnson said that there was no practical way to adjust the current mil rate for 2020 but they could look at 2021. Mr. Cavanaugh said that once again, Plan B has trash and boxes outside while the other restaurants handle their space appropriately. He suggested that they may need to incur a fine. Ms. Carroll suggested they have an agenda item on gifts. Mr. Osgood asked about Hurlburt. Mr. Johnson said that it is more complicated but would look into it.

## **8. Committee Reports.**

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

Chairman Gullotta said that the town has excellent compost and mulch urging all to take advantage of it.

### **(b) MDC.**

Mr. Osgood said that the MDC board referred to the water board subcommittee the request from Chestnut Hill residents for public water.

### **(c) CRCOG.**

*No report*

### **(d) Policy & Ordinance Review Subcommittee - Status Report (Tobacco and Nicotine Products).**

Ms. Carroll said that this was put on hold due to movement at the state level.

## **9. Communications.**

### **(a) Letter from CT Siting Council regarding shared use of an existing telecommunications facility located at 63 Woodland Street.**

**10. Minutes.**

**(a) Minutes of May 28, 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 28, 2019.

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

**11. Appointments and Resignations.**

**(a) Resignation of Kim Perna from the Board of Assessment Appeals (R-2019).**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Kim Perna from the Board of Assessment Appeals (R-2019).

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

**12. Executive Session.**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adds to the agenda, Potential Property Acquisition.

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

**(a) Potential Property Acquisition**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 7:54 pm, for the purpose of discussing a potential property acquisition. In attendance will be Council members and the Town Manager.

**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.*

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 8:00 pm.

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

## **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING – 8:00 P.M.**

### **NO 1 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MAFFE FOUNDATION AND CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UNDER THE 2019 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM.**

Mr. Eric Jay, CFO Stone Academy, explained that the program allows 0 EFC students to attend college with no out of pocket expenses. He said that it allows about 13 low income students receive scholarships from the greater Hartford area. Dr. Beckett asked how many students from Glastonbury are impacted and questioned why they had to come to Glastonbury Town Council. Mr. Jay said that there are a couple from Glastonbury and when the East Hartford Chamber dissolved, they merged and joined with the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Gullotta expressed concern about the program. Mr. Osgood noted that up to \$150,000 goes through Chamber to Stone Academy for scholarships asking if it can be used for anything else. Mr. Jay said it could be used for programs. Mr. Osgood said that even though it is convoluted, he it is a good cause and he has no issues. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Gullotta closed the public hearing.

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the proposal submitted by The Maffe Foundation under the 2019 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated June 6, 2019.

**Disc:** Mr. McChesney, Vice Chairman Niland, Ms. LaChance expressed support. Dr. Beckett expressed support although was unclear why the Town Council was involved. Chairman Gullotta said that Stone Academy is a for-profit organization and that the students would be better off counseled to go to Community College.

**Result:** Motion carries with Chairman Gullotta opposing {8-1-0}.



**Ms. Emmy Weil of 233 House Street** expressed support of the proposed ordinance saying while she likes plastic bags, she likes the planet better.

**Ms. Denise Weeks of 334 Hollister Way West** expressed support of the proposed ordinance and the 10-cent fee to ensure the businesses aren't penalized.

**Ms. Andrea Allen of 70 Homestead Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance saying they need to change their approach and showed everyone lightweight cloth bags that can be used again and again.

**Miss Saachi Shah of 57 Church Hill Road** expressed support of the proposed ordinance saying that the average use of a bag is twelve seconds and it could take 1000 years to break down. She also supported the 10-cent fee and change of the mil thickness. She thanked them for their help for her future and for all the youth.

**Miss Cora Smith of 1459 Neipsic Road** expressed support of the proposed ordinance saying that not only will it help with pollution but it would reduce greenhouse gases. She was also supportive of the 10-cent fee.

**Miss Kelly McCabe of 33 Sunny Slope Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance and the 10-cent fee.

**Miss Alinn Nietupski of 41 Ripley Road** expressed support of the proposed ordinance to protect the ocean animals.

**Mr. Bevan Moor of 65 Hurlburt Street** expressed support of the proposed ordinance including the fee for businesses to charge and increase of the thickness of the plastic. He said he was an educator and regulations were important to enact policy changes on top of education.

**Mr. Tom Metzher of 406 Georgetown Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance saying that they can't sell their recyclables to China due to the contamination of plastic bags, a problem not shared by Canada. He said that after bags, they need to go after straws, stirrers and Styrofoam to get rid of what they don't need. He said that from someone that works at the state level, they do listen to the municipalities and it is important that it be passed at this level.

**Ms. Hannah Montesi of 65 Briarwood Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance and the 10-cent fee.

**Ms. Lisa Eldridge of 108 South Mill Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance, the 10-cent fee and the increase of the mil thickness.



**Mr. Steve Dickison of 168 Forest Lane** expressed support of the proposed ordinance, the 10-cent fee and the increase of the mil thickness adding that it is particularly important as a town that borders the Connecticut River.

**Mr. Rick Eldridge of 108 South Mill Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance, the 10-cent fee and the increase of the mil thickness.

**Ms. Kristi Vitelli of 9 Martin Terrace** expressed support of the proposed ordinance, the 10-cent fee and the increase of the mil thickness. She said she hopes people will use reusable bags instead of thicker plastic bags as they are known carcinogens as well.

**Mr. Luther Weeks of 33 Hollister Way West** expressed support of the proposed ordinance and spoke to how critical the inclusion of the 10-cent fee was to ensure success and avoid all residents paying.

**Ms. Shawnie Baldwin 57 Nuthatch Knob and the Interreligious Ecojustice Network** expressed support of the proposed ordinance noting that plastic bags disrupt the recycling process. She added that education has not been sufficient as she is aware of most young people continuing unsustainable practices.

**Ms. Gail Goddard of 176 Pennywise Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance showing a cloth bag that is fully washable and easy to make.

**Ms. Jen Siskind of 101 Fairview Terrace** expressed support of the proposed ordinance showing the Council the number of plastic bags collected in one afternoon. She went into the existing laws in the state and country.

**Misses Katie Matson of 61 Colton Road and Alison Desmairis of 252 Woodpond Road** expressed support of the proposed ordinance saying plastics are injuring and killing marine life.

**Miss Bridget Hernandez of 85 Aspen Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance to reduce pollution and green house gas problem as well as set an example for other governments.

**Ms. Diana Neff of 35 Stanley Drive** expressed support of the proposed ordinance as well as 10-cent bags noting that it is similar to the deposit on cans and bottles.

Mr. Norman thought the state passed a law so he was confused about concerns about delays at the state level. Mr. Johnson said it was part of the budget package instead of a formal act. Mr. McChesney asked about impact to town recycling. Mr. Johnson said that plastic bags jam the equipment. Mr. Osgood says that use of plastic garbage bags has the same impact. Ms. Carroll said that at first the subcommittee wasn't excited about requiring business owners to charge the 10-cent fee but they can add it. Chairman Gullotta said that they did hear from Gardiner's who

asked for the 10-cent fee. Mr. Osgood questioned if it was on the public hearing notice. Mr. Johnson said that the question is would it be considered a substantial change.

*The meeting recessed at 9:06pm and reconvened at 9:12pm.*

Chairman Gullotta closed the public hearing.

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enacts new Town Code Chapter 13, Article V, entitled "Ordinance Regarding Retail Checkout Bags", Sections 13-60 through 13-66, Option 2 and yellow highlighted language which enacts the law January 1, 2020, and allows enforcement by penalty as of July 1, 2020, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated June 6, 2019 and as recommended by the Policy & Ordinance Review Committee.

**Amendment By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Mr. McChesney

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor to change the banned bags from less than 12 mils to less than 8 mils.

**Disc:** Ms. Carroll said 12 mil bags don't exist so to ban up to 12 mil bags is essentially a total ban without saying it. She said she wasn't willing to do this at this point. Mr. Norman said they wanted to be careful about pick your own farms. Mr. Bisi said they use 6 mil bags. Chairman Gullotta indicated that this would provide time to transition to cloth bags.

**Amendment By:** Dr. Beckett

**Seconded By:** Mr. Norman

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor to change the banned bags from less than 8 mils to less than 6 mils to allow for the pick your own farms to continue as they have.

**Disc:** Mr. Johnson spoke to the state proposal. Mr. Cavanaugh confirmed a farm stand was a retail establishment. Chairman Gullotta said he would support the amendment.

**Result:** Motion to amend carries by the following vote with Mr. Cavanaugh opposing {8-1-0}.

**Amendment By:** Vice Chairman Niland

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor to require a 10-cent fee be charged for bags and that fee be retained by the business.

**Disc:** Vice Chairman Niland expressed support saying that the current language doesn't prohibit it. Mr. Osgood suggested the subcommittee discuss this further and delay it for two weeks to ensure it is right. Ms. Carroll said she would have more discussion about the fee but opposed the

delay. Mr. Norman opposed the amendment saying that he agrees they should allow merchants to charge a fee but shouldn't mandate it. Mr. McChesney supported the ordinance but wasn't entirely sure about the 10-cent fee.

**Result:** Motion to amend and second withdrawn.

**Amendment By:** Mr. Osgood

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor enacting the ordinance July 1, 2020, with enforcement 6 months after that to January 1, 2021.

**Disc:** Vice Chairman Niland said that they are already out one year which is enough.

**Result:** Motion to amend fails {3-6-0} with Dr. Beckett, Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Osgood in favor.

**Amendment By:** Mr. Osgood

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor striking the language about no old growth fiber.

**Disc:** Mr. Osgood said if they can't enforce it, it should not be part of the ordinance. Ms. Carroll said that the bags are stamped with language so it is enforceable.

**Result:** Motion to amend fails {4-5-0} with Dr. Beckett, Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Osgood and Mr. Norman in favor.

**Amendment By:** Mr. Cavanaugh

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the motion on the floor exempting farms from this ordinance.

**Disc:** Mr. Cavanaugh said they should do anything they can to support farmers to stay in business. Ms. Carroll said that the change to 6 mils was to ensure there was no impact to the farmers as they contend with food safety. Mr. Norman said that he would oppose thinking the 6 mils change would support the farmers but they should revisit if it doesn't. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the farmers that came out to the subcommittee which was listed by Mr. Johnson. Chairman Gullotta said he would oppose the amendment.

**Result:** Motion to amend fails {1-8-0} with Mr. Cavanaugh in support.

**Disc:** Chairman Gullotta recapped the ordinance. Ms. LaChance and Mr. McChesney thanked the public for their participation. Mr. Johnson explained the most recent language changes to the ordinance. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about other town fines for comparison which Mr. Johnson explained. Norman said he recognizes this won't solve the magnitude of the issue but that they ought to do what they can and that protecting the environment is worthy of regulation. Dr.

Beckett said it was limited in scope but will support in hopes there is more to come. Vice Chairman Niland expressed support and expressed concern that the state action will likely not be enough. Chairman Gullotta said that this is a step and hoped there would be more to come. He hoped the schools would look at their Styrofoam, straws and uneaten food. Vice Chairman Niland thanked Mr. Johnson, Chairman Gullotta, Ms. Carroll and Mr. Norman for their work.

**Result:** Motion carries with Mr. Cavanaugh opposing {8-1-0}.

### **13. Adjournment**

**Motion By:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of June 11, 2019, at 10:06 pm.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Kimberly Meanix Miller*

**Kimberly Meanix Miller**  
**Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta**  
**Chairman**