GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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 Chairman Gullotta

2. Public Comment.

Mr. Chip Geer of 86 Sunset Drive spoke to uranium in some of the wells in town and explained that the research indicates that elevated levels can impact kidneys over time but there is nothing definitive. He felt the town and state were overreacting and that the residents were entitled to know the breath and depth of the issue through the publicizing of the water test results before individuals are forced to pay significantly for public water.

Mrs. Susan Karp of 32 Rampart Drive called the gun issues pervasive and horrifying and agreed it should not be political or divisive but instead, she would like to see unified support in the community. She noted that while she did not have all the answers, the items in the resolution have the overwhelming support of the country and Washington is at a standstill. She said that State laws are not enough and urged people to use their voices instead of doing nothing and leaving it to the federal level.

Mr. John Sakon was critical of the town detailing several events, calling it corrupt and discriminatory.

Ms. Ann Bowman of 62 Morgan Drive expressed support for national background checks on all gun sales, for the closure of the gun sale loop, a ban on assault rifles and large capacity magazines. She said that they all need to be protected.

Mr. Bevan Moore of 65 Hurlburt expressed support of the gun control resolution saying he's a teacher and should be teaching not learning how to respond to an active shooter or stopping blood loss. He said that there are far too many guns.

Mr. Scott Van Sicklin of 38 Kimberly Drive expressed support for the town to get involved to help the residents with the uranium issue saying it's a perception issue.

Mr. Chris Coutu of 61 Hale Road expressed concern when the town removed a sign, "Slow Down", from his property without any notification.

Ms. Janet Bryant of 248 Hollister Way West said she was a gun owner but favored responsible gun control and encouraged the Council to take action. She also expressed support for the Council to help the residents with well water issues.

Ms. Kristi Vitelli of 9 Martin Terrace expressed support for the gun control resolution saying she was a prosecutor in Colorado and after she left, there were two mass shootings in her district and 5 months later, Sandy Hook. She said now they are happening so frequently, they don't make the news. She spoke to the national statistics with overwhelming support for measures such as background checks and a licensing and even a mandatory buyback has almost 50% support.

Mr. Carl Talley of 98 Olde Wood Road expressed support for the town to take action regarding the uranium in wells and didn't understand why no town official spoke during the MDC hearing. He said that he felt residents would be treated unfairly without town involvement and was struggling getting technical information.

Ms. Beth Crane of 70 Johnny Cake Lane commended the town for following West Hartford in bi-partisan support of the gun control resolution. She said that it is an uphill battle at the national level and it needs to start locally.

Mr. Akella Sarma of the Glastonbury Lions Club informed the Council that the Lions got a citation for 100 years of service helping the community with health issues among other initiatives. He noted they have a fundraiser this coming Saturday, pancake breakfast at St. John's on Main Street 8-11:30.

3. Special Reports.

None

4. Old Business. None

Chairman Gullotta said they would be considering the resolution on gun control, New Business item (g) next.

- 5. New Business.
- (g) Discussion and possible action on Council resolution in support of gun control.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

WHEREAS, gun violence is a serious threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut, like other states, experiences gun violence on an almost daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut has been the location of some of the worst mass-shootings in the history of the United States, including the Connecticut Lottery shooting, the Hartford Distributors shooting, and the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting; and

WHEREAS, the United States is in the midst of an epidemic of gun violence, with tens of thousands of gun deaths per year, and a much higher rate of gun deaths and injuries than other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, a succession of mass shootings has taken place over the past few weeks across the United States, including in the communities of Odessa, TX, Dayton, OH, El Paso, TX, and Gilroy, CA and other communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, high-capacity assault weapons serve no legitimate purpose in civilian society; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a patchwork of gun laws and regulations, meaning that gun violence can easily be exported from states and communities with lax gun laws and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council calls on the United States Congress to immediately fund federal research on gun violence prevention and to adopt comprehensive gun reform, including universal background checks, a ban on high-capacity assault weapons, ammunition that "mushrooms" upon impact, a federal "red flag" law allowing police to confiscate firearms from people who are deemed to be a danger to themselves or to others, and a federal registry for dangerous weapon offenders.

Disc: Mr. Norman said that it is past due for a federal discussion and it would be easy to vote yes. He continued saying that they should be focusing on the issues that face them locally and that he was concerned taking on other issues will hurt their ability to solve those local issues. He said he would abstain because he didn't feel it was their issue. Mr. McChesney didn't want to wait until it was a Glastonbury problem before taking action and expressed shock at the frequency the country is experiencing mass shootings. He said this shouldn't be an issue that divides the Council and that they need to show that this needs to be addressed adding that he didn't feel comfortable remaining quiet.

Mr. Osgood asked Chairman Gullotta, who brought forth this agenda item, what value this motion had. Chairman Gullotta said he was immensely impressed with what West Hartford did to tackle the issue. He noted the young person purchasing a gun from out of state and had planned a mass shooting at CCSU. He also quoted a Bloomberg article speaking to the weapons and ammunition meant to destroy tissue and kill such that doctors say when they get victims into surgery, there is nothing left to repair. He emphasized that this has got to stop. Mr. Osgood questioned what the Town Council would accomplish given the current legislature supports the cause. Chairman Gullotta said that he thinks it does have value.

Mr. Niland spoke to the frequency of mass shootings and said that it is unconscionable to sit and do nothing and accept the status quo. He expressed hope there would be a groundswell of support. Ms. LaChance said that hers is a military family, she does not favor taking away guns and this should be non-partisan. She said the Council is charged with protecting the health and safety of the residents and found the prevalence of gun violence appalling. She said more and more people need to stand up and say something. Mr. Cavanaugh said that he believed this to be partisan and political with an upcoming election. He said that the resolution does not mention mental health, a significant factor in mass shootings. He questioned what was comprehensive gun control and said a red flag law allows police officers to go into homes and remove guns. He continued saying who are they to say how many are too many guns. He questioned what the resolution would accomplish questioning if congress would listen to them. He said that this is an election issue and he wouldn't support it.

Ms. Carroll said that West Hartford asked that their resolution be passed around and suggested that it was absurd that the only seats at the table are at congress. She continued saying that voices can be heard from the ground up and that the nine Council Members aren't the only voices in town. She said that the nature of democracy is the right to push back and they are obligated to push back when government action or inaction is unacceptable. She said that this is non-partisan, it's not an issue of politics but one of humanity. She said that she was hopeful it would have an impact and didn't want to pass on an opportunity to be heard and take action on this issue.

Dr. Beckett said he would abstain saying he felt the substance was correct but it was the wrong venue. He said that a resolution is the easy way out commenting that the Vietnam war ended because people demonstrated relentlessly and bombarded congress with mail and calls. He

emphasized that they should be focusing on local issues. Mr. McChesney said that they have a Red Flag Law in Connecticut and there are limitations but it stopped a mass shooting at CCSU. He said that it should be at the national level but it is here because that is the tools they have and they shouldn't shy away because they feel it won't have impact. He said that issues become political because people make them so and fringe groups latch on opposition but that shouldn't impact common sense legislation. He said that they have to work together to solve real issues.

Mr. Osgood said that he has no issue with improving regulations, but this is a symbolic action and may be cathartic, but it can be addressed on a national level only as they only pay attention to their constituents. He said best of all worlds is that it catches on outside of Connecticut but with meetings twice monthly, he felt they should stick to the issues that face the town. He encouraged all to send letters to the legislators. He said he didn't feel they should set the precedent of taking on national issues. Dr. Beckett said he has friends all over the country and felt handling it this way opens up opportunity for divisiveness within the community. He said that if there is to be national impact, they need to come together.

Result: Motion carries {5-1-3} with Mr. Cavanaugh opposing and Dr. Beckett, Mr. Osgood and Mr. Norman abstaining. Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Osgood also asked to have their name removed from the resolution while the names of Dr. Beckett and Mr. Norman would remain affixed.

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

NO 1 ACTION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BUILDING ZONE REGULATIONS – BUILDING HEIGHTS. PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED FROM JULY 23, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Ms. Khara Dodds, Town Planner, joined Mr. Johnson as staff. Mr. Johnson recommended to the Town Council that this be returned to TPZ with the questions asked previously. Mr. Osgood wanted to be clear that their concerns rested with changing the building heights for the outlying areas such as Buckingham and Buck's Corner. Mr. McChesney concurred in that he wanted to ensure there were no unintended consequences. Chairman Gullotta emphasized that the Council shouldn't see anything until it's ready. A brief discussion ensued in review of the maps.

Ms. Betty Schmitt of 87 Tryon Street expressed support of changes if appropriate for economic development saying she liked the setback to allow for terraces and four stories allows for an elevator suggesting they consider minimum heights for floors as well.

Ms. Barbara Rubin of 1699 Main Street said she was not looking for change in the downtown and that they are losing character. She said she doesn't want the same type of development as Blue Back Square. She said building after building is also going up with inadequate parking.

Hearing nothing further, Chairman Gullotta closed the public hearing.

5. New Business. Continued

(a) Status Report on Education - LINKS Program.

Dr. Alan Bookman, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the report to the Council saying the financials are important but the education program is even more important. He said students move in and out constantly and it isn't their goal to keep them in. He said that they are seeing about a \$2M savings. Mr. Niland asked about the former LINKS facility. Dr. Bookman said that it isn't included and is \$130K this year and next noting that they are still entertaining sublease opportunities but as the time shrinks, it's less viable to make changes for the sublessee. Mr. Norman expressed support of the program and then asked why the report shows higher costs for Glastonbury students than those coming from out of district. Dr. Bookman indicated the numbers aren't perfect but allow them to give the Board of Education and Town Council an idea of the cost and savings. Mr. Norman said he wanted to see what's included in the numbers. Dr. Bookman said salaries and utilities but not depreciation.

Ms. LaChance asked about Glastonbury children being pulled back in. Dr. Bookman said that each child is a unique case and they do what's right for the child at any given time. Ms. LaChance asked about the youth from out of town and Dr. Bookman speculated 15 or 16. Mr. Osgood asked about state funding. Dr. Bookman said that the district pays the first \$70K and the state will pay the excess. Mr. Osgood asked about the reserve. Dr. Bookman says they have good numbers for estimated maintenance for the building and work hard to extend the life adding that they can use tuition money if needed for contingency for Eastbury. Mr. Osgood said that they did a great job saving money but he'd like to see a better breakdown. He asked if the Superintendent's bonus was tied to LINKS and Dr. Bookman replied saying no.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the 1% fund and if it is for the overall board budget. Dr. Bookman said that they have no choice but combine the 15 and the \$150K noting the page in the budget. Mr. Cavanaugh confirmed with Dr. Bookman the \$2M savings and asked what was done with it. Dr. Bookman said that it was part of the budget. Board Chairman Susan Karp said that the Board of Education decides on compensation based on performance at a public meeting. Mr. McChesney expressed appreciation for the cost savings. Mr. Norman asked about budget documentation. Board Chairman Karp said that they see LINKS as part of their overall budget. Dr. Beckett expressed appreciation for Dr. Bookman's report. Chairman Gullotta echoed the remarks saying that the program has to be good for people to come from out of town. He expressed thanks and appreciation.

Ms. LaChance recused herself from the following matter as she is personally impacted.

(b) Discussion concerning uranium in residential wells and possible public water service.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated September 6, 2019, as well as a Powerpoint presentation. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the town policy regarding the release of the results. Wendy Mis, Director of Health, explained that Connecticut General Statutes protect the confidentiality. Mr. Johnson continued with the presentation. Mr. Norman questioned if they have statistically significant information and Mr. Johnson said that they have no real linear relationship. Director Mis said that it is usually found where there is a bedrock well installation. Mr. Johnson said that a group of private citizens petitioned MDC. He continued to say that the MDC decided to delay action for 45 days to determine what role the town and state would have. Mr. Osgood clarified that the MDC would like to hear from the town and the state but could go forward without that information.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the numbers noting that the unintended consequence is the assessment on homes that residents will have to pay if they are served or could be served by any extensions. He said that it creates winners and losers and continuing with the petition process is a fragmented approach. He noted that there is an application pending under the state revolving fund for a low interest loan and some forgiven portion where they could look at the scope and cost to extend public water in cluster areas. He added that there is some concern about the treatment systems discharging salt and uranium into groundwater in the long term. Director Mis said that the discharge has to go somewhere but they are uncertain about the impact as it is an inexact science. Dr. Beckett said that they hear about the concern of road salt in wells and agriculture creating issues with excess salts. He continued saying they should be very careful about a solution for the long term. Director Mis said that in their mass testing through the town, they asked residents if their water was being treated already and about half indicated it was, so they do not have a good handle on it. Mr. Johnson said that there is a group, Earth Exchange, that applied to for some additional scientific expertise at no cost. He said that they sought state funding to explore their options and it could be locally funded as well.

Mr. Scott Van Sicklin of 38 Kimberly Lane noted that they have a community well with over 9 homes and petitioned over a year ago but were caught up in the 45-day delay by MDC. He added that he felt it should be a capital improvement project.

Chairman Gullotta asked if there was controversy. Mr. Johnson noted that there was at least one resident that opposed. Mr. Norman asked about the state application which Mr. Johnson reviewed. Mr. Norman sought a way to smooth out the expenses and perhaps do more cheaply than the MDC. Mr. Johnson said that they have usually done through developments but could do an analysis. Chairman Gullotta said that citizens went to legislators about foundations and the state responded with help. He continued saying that many want the town involved but many do not so they need to balance and be able to justify their involvement. Dr. Beckett said that water is not a new issue in town, it has been since 2005 and it is both a technical and financial issue. Mr. Osgood asked about the state application and Mr. Johnson said he was optimistic.

Ms. Lori Mathieu, Connecticut Public Health Section Chief, said that the community well referenced above is under an order. She also said that the state application is not a grant but a low interest loan of which a portion is forgiven.

Chairman Gullotta questioned if they were to find the discharge bad. Mr. McChesney said that he would like an action plan. Mr. Johnson said they could do an RFQ and discuss with their legislators. A consensus was reached in favor. Mr. Osgood suggested they have a working group on this issue, large enough to be inclusive but not so large to be cumbersome.

Motion By: Mr. Osgood

Seconded By: Mr. McChesney BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby directs leadership and Mr. Johnson to come up with a list of people to serve in a working group and start addressing the issue of uranium in wells but not delay the other aspects of the Town Manager's plan. **Result:** Motion passes unanimously {7-1-0} with Chairman Gullotta opposing.

Motion By: Mr. Osgood

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby supports the MDC proceeding with their planned project to provide water to Kimberly Lane.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

Motion By: Mr. Osgood

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby supports the MDC proceeding with their planned project to provide water to 4 homes on Coleman Road through the back of Chestnut Hill Road.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}.

The meeting recessed from 10:09pm to 10:14pm. Ms. LaChance returned and was recognized for the remainder of the meeting.

Action on proposed sale of Town owned land off Western Boulevard (set public (c) 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, September 24, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street, to consider the proposed sale of the Town-owned land at 280 Western Boulevard, Parcel E7, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated September 6, 2019.

(d) Action on potential land acquisition (refer to Board of Finance and Town Plan and Zoning Commission; set public hearing).

Motion By: Ms. Carroll *Seconded By:* Dr. Beckett BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the following concerning proposed Town purchase of the 72.3-acre Caron Property, Dickinson Road:

- 1. Referral to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a report and recommendation under CGS Section 8-24.
- 2. Referral of a \$385,000 appropriation and transfer under the Reserve for Land Acquisition and Preservation to the Board of Finance for a funding report and recommendation.
- 3. Schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, to consider proposed Town acquisition of the 72.3-acre Caron Property, Dickinson Road and a \$385,000 appropriation per the Reserve for Land Acquisition, all as described in a report by the Town Manager dated September 6, 2019.

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

Mr. Osgood asked if they could take the revenue from the sale off Western Boulevard and allocate it toward land acquisition to which Mr. Johnson said that without other action, it goes to the general fund. Chairman Gullotta asked about the Board of Finance and Mr. Johnson said that it can be part of the budget they review or a referral if outside of the budget.

- (e) Action to adopt fee for non-resident participation in youth sport programs.

 Postponed to Next Meeting
- (f) Action to adopt Affirmative Action Goals for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his memo to the Council on the subject dated September 6, 2019.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll *Seconded By:* Dr. Beckett BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adopts 2019-2020 Affirmative Action Goals, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated September 6, 2019, and as recommended by the Human Relations Commission.

6. Consent Calendar.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

(a) Action on proposed construction of new sidewalks along Addison Road, Bell Street and Neipsic Road (refer to Town Plan and Zoning Commission, set public hearing).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby refers proposed construction of new sidewalks along sections of Addison Road, Bell Street and Neipsic Road to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a report and recommendation under Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 8-24 and schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, to consider construction of new sidewalks along sections of Addison Road, Bell Street and Neipsic Road, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated September 6, 2019.

(b) Action on CT State Department of Children and Families Youth Service Bureau Grant Application - \$18,865.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby authorizes Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager, to execute and file the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families Youth Service Bureau Grant Application for fiscal year 2019-2020, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated September 6, 2019.

(c) Action on transfer from General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance (\$195,001) and Sewer Operating Fund (\$21,080) for goods and services ordered but not yet received at June 30, 2019 (set public hearing).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, to consider a transfer from the General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance (\$195,001) and Sewer Operating Fund (\$21,080) for goods and services ordered but not yet received as of June 30, 2019, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated September 6, 2019.

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the Council on the subject dated September 6, 2019. Mr. Osgood advocated for maintaining the Dolphins as they remove the attractive nuisance dock area, to maintain historic interest. A consensus was reached in favor. Mr. Norman asked if they could have an overview at the start of the budget season, with the key boards in the room. Chairman Gullotta suggested that request come through Dr. Beckett at agenda setting. Mr. Osgood suggested they ask if the Board of Finance would like to. Mr. Johnson said that some years they have had a pre-budget meeting to discuss critical factors and the big picture. Dr. Beckett said that he thought it was helpful. Mr. Cavanaugh congratulated Mr. Johnson for his gain on operations. Mr. Johnson said that revenues exceeded expectations and expenses were less but he would report at the next meeting. Dr. Beckett asked how rain barrels and compost bins are advertised and Mr. Johnson responded that they do so anywhere they think it will get viewed. Ms. LaChance asked about the study on Hurlburt and Mr. Johnson said he would present the data over the next couple of meetings. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the median at Hebron and Main Street. Mr. Johnson explained the proposal to improve safety at the location.

- 8. Committee Reports.
- (a) Chairman's Report.

None

(b) MDC.

None

(c) CRCOG.

None

(d) Policy and Ordinance Review Subcommittee – Status Report.

Ms. Carroll reviewed the status report dated September 6, 2019, noting they were going to wait on further review of the mandating the charge for paper bags. She continued saying that there were no strong feelings to pursue a language change for the reserve for land acquisition and preservation and their review continues for the policy on accepting gifts involving funding, maintenance or materials. Mr. Cavanaugh asked if they would be considering the option of asking the gift giver to contribute to maintenance. Ms. Carroll said they are pursuing protocol to evaluate. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the field at the High School and Mr. Johnson said that it has a life span of 7-12 years and it lasted 10. Mr. Norman explained the suggested changes to the language for the land acquisition program.

- 9. Communications.
- (a) Thank you letter from South Glastonbury Public Library Association.

- 10. Minutes.
- (a) Minutes of August 6, 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 August 6, 2019.

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

- 11. Appointments and Resignations.
- (a) Appointment of Candice Mark to the Community Beautification Commission to fill the unexpired term of Leslie Ohta (D-2019).

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby appoints Candice Mark to the Community Beautification Commission to fill the unexpired term of Leslie Ohta (D-2019)

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

- 12. Executive Session.
- (a) Potential land acquisition.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 10:43 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 were council members, Mr. Tom Gullotta, Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman, Dr. Chip Beckett, Ms. Deb 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 11:20 pm.

13. Adjournment

Motion By: Ms. Carroll *Seconded By:* Dr. Beckett BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of

September 10, 2019, at 11:21 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Moanix Miller Kimberly Meanix Miller Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta Chairman