

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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. John Sakon noted an email from Mark Branse saying Attorney Branse is the town attorney claiming he works for a firm that represented the town in a court proceeding. He said that what he represented previously was court testimony. He advocated for the town to have a police commission for oversight claiming inappropriate action and corruption.

3. Special Reports.

None

4. Old Business.

None

5. New Business.

None

6. Consent Calendar.

(a) Action on FY 2019-2020 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant - \$23,698.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager, is authorized to make, execute, and approve on behalf of the Town of Glastonbury, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the Capital Region Council of Government for the FY 2020 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

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

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the Council dated October 18, 2019, noting his expense report.

Motion By: Dr. Beckett

Seconded By: Vice Chairman Niland

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby acknowledges receipt of the Town Manager's quarterly expense report for July through September, 2019.

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

Mr. Johnson continued his overview of his report to the Council. Mr. McChesney said that he and George participated in the Spooky Strolls program praising Parks and Recreation and the library for their work. Mr. Cavanaugh said that when leaving the last meeting, there had been a recent motor vehicle accident that took out trees on New London Turnpike and asked if there would be restitution. Mr. Johnson said that the party would make restitution. Ms. Carroll noted that this was the last meeting of their term and thanked the Town Manager for his endless patience, responsiveness and support, particularly as a first term Member. She said that she speculates no one truly understands the scope of the Town Manager's work. Ms. LaChance said that an accident at the end of Woodhaven took out the curb and the homeowner conveyed to her that the officer was very helpful.

8. Committee Reports.

(a) Chairman's Report.

Chairman Gullotta said that it was amazing how fast two years flies thanking all at the table, Jill Barry who served early in the term and the Town Manager. He continued saying that with little exception, the work was bi-partisan and they did what they were supposed to do which is make decisions in the best interest of the town.

(b) MDC.

Mr. Osgood stated that the MDC is going forward with the Raymond and Kimberly water project but the Chestnut Hill and Lenti project was delayed. Chairman Gullotta said that Mr. DiBella of the MDC had reached out. Mr. Johnson continued saying that Mr. DiBella had agreed with the town's approach on the water issues and indicated they were willing to partner with the town. Chairman Gullotta asked if they could reach out to the Manchester Water Company as there are impacted residents that are in that area as well.

(c) CRCOG.

None

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

Ms. Carroll reviewed the Subcommittee's report to the Council dated October 18, 2019, indicating that they are proposing a process for Council Recognitions. Mr. Johnson said that there would be specifics at the next meeting. Mr. Norman clarified, and a consensus was reached in favor of the approach that any such proposed recognition be presented to Policy and Ordinance Review Subcommittee who, in turn, would make a recommendation to the Council as a whole.

9. Communications.

(a) Email from Attorney Mark Branse regarding recent Public Comments

10. Minutes.

(a) Minutes of October 9, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the minutes as submitted for the meeting held October 9, 2019.

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

11. Appointments and Resignations.

None

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 7:21 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 7:59 pm.

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

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

NO 1 ACTION ON PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE 542± ACRES LOCATED OFF HEBRON AVENUE, KEENEY STREET AND HOWE ROAD AND AN \$8M APPROPRIATION, BOND AUTHORIZATION AND TRANSFER FOR THE PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves Town purchase of the 542± acres of land owned by the Pension Fund of the Metropolitan District comprised of 4 parcels located off Hebron Avenue, Keeney Street and Howe Road as outlined on the attached page, and in accordance with the Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Real Estate dated October 1, 2019 and an \$8M appropriation and transfer for the proposed acquisition as follows:

- As approved by Town Council action of July 29, 2016, a \$5M appropriation of Bond Authorization and transfer
 - \$2.3M appropriation from (Bond Authorization) from the Reserve for Land Acquisition and Preservation; and
 - \$2.7M appropriation and transfer from the General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance

- \$3.0M appropriation and transfer from the Reserve for Land Acquisition and Preservation (\$2M) and General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance (\$1M)

as recommended by the Board of Finance and described in a report by the Town Manager dated October 18, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council approval is subject to Town satisfaction with the due diligence process including boundary survey, environmental analysis and title search.

Disc: Chairman Gullotta called for public comment.

Ms. Jill Barry of 199 Cabin Lane and State Representative said that she is aware of decades of effort from the town to acquire over 500 acres of land from the MDC. She said the town wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the endless efforts of the Town Manager. She also thanked Chairman Gullotta and Dr. Beckett for meeting at the capitol to speak to the largest open space acquisition in the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Charlie Smith of 417 Buttonball Lane echoed the remarks by Ms. Barry saying he was surprised to learn this was still in the works. He expressed support and thanked Mr. Johnson, and all involved in bringing this to fruition.

Mr. Richard Abrahams of 44 Goodrich Road expressed support adding he had spoken about this 25 years prior when the property was being considered for affordable housing even though he was an advocate of affordable housing. He said that he used to live adjacent to this property and encouraged that the town keep it as open space leaving it undeveloped even for town purposes.

Mr. Osgood said he was very much in favor of this acquisition adding that he has been involved in pursuing this property for 25-30 years. He noted the state is requiring this remain open space but that the town occasionally needs municipal space. He said he hoped there would be flexibility and that it could be addressed. Dr. Beckett said that it has been in the works for 45-50 years repeatedly being resurrected and he was pleased to be able to put it to bed. Chairman Gullotta said that it has been a very very long time acknowledging those involved in the past, some who have passed, Jolly Steffans, Don Noelle, Hartford Times Editor, George Graves, Town Reporter for the Hartford Courant, who wrote an editorial advocating for the property to remain open space during the controversy that occurred 25 years ago regarding proposed development. He expressed support and hearing nothing further, the public hearing was closed.

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 October 22, 2019, at 8:09 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller
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Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta
Chairman