

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020**

The Glastonbury Town Council Chairman, Thomas Gullotta, and Minority Leader, Stewart Beckett, 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. The remaining Council members participated via conference call. Though public participation was cancelled, the meeting was broadcast in real time and via a live video stream.

1. Roll Call.

Council Members

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

a. A moment of silent prayer for those suffering from COVID-19. ***Led by Chairman Gullotta***

b. Pledge of Allegiance ***Led by Dr. Beckett***

2. Public Comment - NONE.

3. Special Reports - NONE.

4. Old Business - NONE.

5. New Business.

(a) Action on Rules of Procedure:

1. Allow for remote participation by Council members and general public as applicable.
2. Suspend public comment session until further notice.

3. Other amendments as may be necessary (e.g. format of Agenda) in response to the COVID-19 virus.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the Council Rules of Procedure dated January 14, 2020 as follows:

1. Allow for remote participation by Council members and general public as applicable.
2. Suspend public comment session until further notice.
3. Other amendments as may be necessary in response to the COVID-19 virus.

as described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 20, 2020.

Disc: None

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

- (b) Action on Declaration of Emergency.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the Declaration of Emergency – Global Pandemic of Corona Virus Disease dated March 24, 2020, as described described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 20, 2020 and as attached hereto.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF CORONA VIRUS DISEASE

WHEREAS, there exists a global pandemic of Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has resulted in the spread of infections throughout the United States and the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State pursuant to sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"); and

WHEREAS, it is critically important that the Town Manager have all authorities necessary to limit the spread of the COVID-19 and protect and preserve public health and safety within the Town of Glastonbury; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 307 of the Town Charter, the Council authorizes the Town Manager to take the actions necessary to preserve the health and safety of the Town and its inhabitants and per Section 6-4 of the Town Code, protect and preserve human life in the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a state of emergency exists in the Town of Glastonbury as a result of the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such state of emergency shall exist until declared to be terminated.

BY THIS DECLARATION, the Glastonbury Town Council hereby authorizes and directs the Town Manager to meet the emergency by continuing to mobilize, organize and direct the forces of the Town as he determines to be in the best interests of the Town, enlisting the support of other entities as applicable, and calling upon and cooperating with the forces of the Federal, State and local governments, and other political subdivisions of the State.

Disc: Ms. Carroll remarked that these actions are not new; they simply codify the work that has been done by the Town Manager and Council for the past several weeks. She thanked the Town Manager for all of his hard work in addressing this emergency. Ms. LaChance echoed Ms. Carroll's comments. Mr. Niland thanked all Town staff. Mr. Osgood asked Mr. Johnson if what the Council is authorizing may not have been approved in the budget. Mr. Johnson stated that there may be some minor expenditures, but they are operating within the budget that has been allocated. He clarified that, at this point, they have not expended any extra funds; this action is to grant the ability to manage their programs and take the necessary steps to protect staff and the public. Ms. Tanski echoed Ms. Carroll's sentiments, and stated that they are fortunate to have such capable and caring Town staff.

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

6. Consent Calendar - NONE.

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson followed up on the declaration that was just approved on COVID-19. He noted that most Town facilities are closed, though public safety, bulky waste, and a few other industries are still operating. He noted that a number of Town activities are now conducted online and much of

their staff has been working remotely. The Town website is being updated on a daily basis. As time goes on, they expect to be able to provide more financial assistance to residents in need, such as gift cards for groceries. They are encouraging residents to donate any amount they can to the food bank. He thanked Town staff for pitching in and doing a great job. He encouraged residents to make a donation to the food bank, and to visit the Town website for updates and suggestions, if they have any. He noted that he heard from a resident recently about some suggestions for how another state is handling this crisis, which was helpful.

Mr. Johnson then explained that, at the last Council meeting, Tom Kirk presented on MIRA. As Mr. Kirk mentioned, there wasn't much enthusiasm for a \$145 per ton tipping fee. He had stated that it would need to be under \$100 per ton. Mr. Osgood asked if they need to wait until their next scheduled meeting on April 28 to take action? Mr. Gullotta stated that they could take action tonight.

Motion by: Dr. Beckett

Seconded by: Mr. Niland

MOVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adds the MIRA action item to the agenda.

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

Motion by: Dr. Beckett

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

MOVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby sends the form letter to MIRA, which indicates that the tipping fee would be less than \$100 per ton.

Disc: Mr. Osgood stated that this is a good approach.

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

Mr. Niland noted that this meeting is not livestreaming on COX. Mr. Gullotta explained that the meeting is recorded, so it is live on the website and will be available on the site later. Dr. Beckett asked if they could push other helpful resources and updates to people, in addition to the website. Mr. Johnson stated that the website contains all of the Town operations updates and is modified every day. He noted that he has been using the Everbridge system once a week to call attention to a different topic every time, such as the food bank. While the system has a 30-45 second limit, it has been very well-received by the public.

8. Committee Reports

(a) Chairman's Report.

Mr. Gullotta gave all councilmembers an opportunity to state anything they would like to the public.

Dr. Beckett beseeched everyone to practice good hygiene, to stay six feet away from others, and to wash their hands. Ms. Carroll thanked the teachers in Town and the BOE, stating that they have been going out of their way to make this unprecedented time as nondisruptive to children as possible. Ms. LaChance echoed Ms. Carroll's comments. She also called on everyone to fill out the census, which is being mailed out to everyone's homes, stating that it is very important because it affects funds that come to our state and town. Mr. McChesney stressed what Dr. Beckett said, and hopes that everyone is practicing social distancing. He asked everyone to be kind to one another as they get through this as a community. Mr. Niland stated that he is proud of this Town and they will all get through it together. Ms. Tanski echoed all of the prior sentiments and added that, as a mom of four who was not well-prepared for this, she sends a special 'thank you' to all members of our community who do not have the option of staying home at this time.

Mr. Gullotta recommended a book by Odell Shepard, called "Connecticut Past and Present," for people to read. He also shared a story about astronaut Stuart Roosa, who orbited around the moon with "Moon Seeds," which were tree seeds that were planted in various states, upon his return. Ms. LaChance acquired seeds from one of those harvests, she and Mr. Gullotta planted them, and they are beginning to germinate. Mr. Gullotta explained that if humans were able to go to the moon, come back, plant the seeds they took with them, and a second generation of one of those seeds can grow in his greenhouse—then COVID-19 has no chance. They will come up with treatments, and eventually, a vaccine. He concluded that the most important thing, right now, is to keep distance from each other, so that public health authorities can get a handle on this.

(b) MDC - NONE.

(c) CRCOG - NONE.

9. Communications - NONE.

10. Minutes.

(a) Minutes of March 4, 2020 Special Meeting (BOE Workshop).

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 March 4, 2020.

Disc: None

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

(b) Minutes of March 5, 2020 Special Meeting (Final Budget Hearing).

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 March 5, 2020.

Disc: None

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

(c) Minutes of March 10, 2020 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 March 10, 2020.

Disc: None

Result: Motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Osgood, since he was not present at the meeting {8-0-1}.

11. Appointments and Resignations.

(a) Resignation of Chittaranjan Sahay from the Board of Education (D-2023).

(b) Appointment to Board of Education (D) to fill the unexpired term of Chittaranjan Sahay.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the appointment of Matthew Saunig to the Board of Education to fill the unexpired term of Chittaranjan Sahay (D-2023).

Disc: None

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

12. Executive Session - NONE.

Mr. Gullotta stated that the next Council meeting is not scheduled until April 28, so they are looking into ways of using technology, like livestreams, etc. to communicate with the public during this time, perhaps once or twice a week.

13. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING

NO 1 POSTPONED -

ACTION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TOWN CODE ARTICLE XVI,
RESERVE FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION, SECTION 2-287 (A)
THE TYPES OF LAND TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACQUISITION.

NO 2 POSTPONED -

ACTION ON \$50,000 APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER FROM THE CAPITAL
RESERVE-UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO CAPITAL PROJECTS-PUBLIC
WATER SERVICE.

14. Adjournment.

Motion By: Ms. Carroll

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of March 24, 2020, at 7:42 pm.

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

Lilly Torosyan

Lilly Torosyan
Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta
Chairman