

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. The video 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. Jacob McChesney  
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh {excused}  
Mr. Whit C. Osgood  
Ms. Lillian Tanski

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

***Led by Mary LaChance***

**2. Public Comment.**

Ms. Carroll noted that all written comments received are listed on the Town website. She explained that she will read the comments regarding today's public hearings during the hearings.

**3. Special Reports.**

**a. Report on Fiscal Year 2020 estimated year and results and preliminary projections for Fiscal Year 2021.**

Mr. Johnson explained that he provided the report for the current fiscal year, as well as the projections for next year. Based on revenues and expenditures through April 30, they expect revenues to approximate the current budget for the current year. However, in 2021, he noted to keep an eye on the investment income, which could run below the budget if they stay at current investment levels, and the collection rate, which for the last 10 years has had a gap between the budgeted/assumed collection rate versus their actual collection rate. He concluded by stating that the Unassigned Fund Balance is important, especially in situations like this, posed by COVID-19.

Dr. Beckett asked, if schools do not open up immediately in the fall semester, what the options are to let go of some employees who would not be working. School Superintendent Dr. Alan

Bookman explained that they are paying everyone, whether or not they are working. They are even paying for gasoline they cannot use for the school buses because they are required to do so. Therefore, those savings are very small. There are some major expenses on the horizon that may or may not happen. The PPE expenses could be drastic, but there are many unknowns for next year. Mr. Niland asked where they will see savings this year, as a result of students staying at home. Dr. Bookman stated that those savings include field trips, overtime for custodians, and money for power and A/C. However, they are not very big savings. On the whole, it is a saving of about \$150k.

Mr. McChesney expressed confusion as to why they pay for the diesel. Mr. Johnson explained that, very often, they buy fuel as a commodity. When they make a commitment with the vendor to lock in that price, they lock in the gallons. They have a contractual obligation to purchase a certain minimum amount. Mr. Gullotta asked for an update on the LINKS program and expenditures, and the implication of this shutdown and how they will move forward, at a later meeting date.

**4. Old Business.**

**5. New Business.**

**a. Presentation and discussion on proposed agreement between Board of Education and Glastonbury Education Association.**

BOE Chairman Doug Foyle explained that they presented the teacher contract, which commences in July 2021. Dr. Bookman added that the teachers asked for a formal negotiation to make changes in their health insurances, so the major changes in the contract are in the high deductible plans. He explained that the 3% increase is not really a 3% increase because teachers are on a 12-step plan, so that increase is scaled. Overall, they think that this budget is a very positive contract for them because years 2, 3, and 4 will be a tremendous offset to the Town and the BOE.

Dr. Beckett stated that the 2.75% budget increase they approved for the BOE when the world is a 1.75% for social security increases is a built-in concern for him. He cannot be satisfied that he has done his due diligence in evaluating this contract at all. Dr. Bookman explained that the previous contract is up online, so he can compare the numbers for health benefits as well as salaries. In years 2, 3, and 4, the salary increases will be minimal compared to what they have seen in the past.

Mr. Gullotta stated that, in the high deductible insurance plan, they are currently paying 4% for Anthem and 0% for ConnectiCare. Dr. Bookman replied, not next year, but the following year, it will go to 12%. The second year, they will pay 14.5%, in year 3, 15.5%, and in year 4, 16.5%. Mr. McChesney shares some concerns with increases in the contract, in light of the current situation, and has some difficulty seeing the cost-benefit analysis here. Mr. Gullotta inquired as

to what would happen, hypothetically, if the contract gets voted down. Dr. Bookman stated that he would have to consult with an attorney to respond.

Discussions will continue at the next scheduled Council meeting.

## **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING – 8:15 P.M.**

### **NO 1: ACTION ON PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDING-ZONE REGULATIONS REGARDING BUILDING HEIGHTS IN COMMERCIAL ZONES.**

Mr. Johnson explained that this process started in 2018 to give consideration to increasing building heights in commercial zones. He gave a brief history of this matter, then introduced Ms. Khara Dodds, Director of Planning and Land Use Services, who is on the call.

Ms. Carroll read the two written comments they received prior to this meeting:

*Mr. John Alan Sakon* expressed frustration at the Town's decision to move ahead with a zone change during a crisis. Contemplating zone changes on this massive scale is hardly an emergency and the constitutional rights of the individual to inspect the document will be abridged. Many law firms in Connecticut have questioned the legality of the government order, which waived the requirement of virtual hearings instead of in-person hearings. The Glastonbury Town Council should cancel all virtual meetings. He also noted that the comments section on the website is limited to 500 characters, which is a violation of a right to appear and be heard at a public meeting.

*Ms. Beverly McGraw of 68 Sulky Lane* asked the Council to consider not raising the heights of buildings in Town. Anything developers lobby for is only for their interests, not the Town's.

Mr. Niland explained the public hearing process for calling in. One comment was received in-person.

*Ms. Jaine Lefebvre of 2847, 2849, 2851, and 2853 Main Street*, explained that the virtual meetings are very confusing for people. She would like to have this hearing postponed and tabled until they can discuss it in person.

With no further comments, Mr. Niland closed the public comment session.

Mr. Johnson explained that the proposal is to allow for all uses to be increased in building heights, but it does not require it.

**Motion by:** Dr. Beckett

**Seconded by:** Ms. Carroll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby continues this public hearing, and accepts longer written comments, recognizing that an individual has a right to speak for up to five minutes.

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

**NO 2: 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.**

With no public comments, Ms. Carroll read the motion on the floor.

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves amendment to Town Code Article XVI, Reserve for Land Acquisition and Preservation, Section 2-287 (a) The types of land to be considered for acquisition and preservation by adding the following: (5) Land that preserves agricultural and farmland soils and uses, protects forest lands and natural resource and (6) Land that promotes orderly development of the Town, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 22, 2020 and as recommended by the Council Policy & Ordinance Review Subcommittee. Said amendment shall be effective June 22, 2020.

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

**NO 3: ACTION ON \$150,000 APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND-UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO CAPITAL PROJECTS-TOWN MANAGER/MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT TO UPDATE PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION EQUIPMENT.**

Mr. Johnson explained that they received a \$150k grant, which will be deposited to the General Fund, and there will be no net cost to the Town. Mr. Niland asked if they would be able to update the equipment in Council Chambers using these funds. Mr. Johnson replied not at this time.

With no public comments, Ms. Carroll read the motion on the floor.

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves a \$150,000 appropriation and transfer from the General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance to Capital Projects-Town

Manager/Machinery and Equipment to update public access television equipment in accordance with the \$150,000 grant award under the Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Program, all as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 22, 2020 and as recommended by the Board of Finance.

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

*The public hearings concluded at 8:44 P.M.*

## **5. New Business.**

### **b. Action on amendment to Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule effective July 1, 2020.**

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the Parks & Recreation Department Schedule of Fees and Charges – General Fund and Special Revenue Fund, as amended, for fiscal year 2020-2021, as detailed in a report by the Town Manager dated May 22, 2020 and as recommended by the Recreation Commission.

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

## **6. Consent Calendar.**

### **a. Action to transfer uncollected taxes to Suspense List - \$146,279.29.**

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the transfer of \$146,279.29 of uncollected taxes to the Suspense List as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 22, 2020 and recommended by the Board of Finance.

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

### **b. Action on proposal for the 2020 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 9, 2020 on the proposals submitted by The Maffe Foundation, Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce and Exchange Club Center for the Prevention

of Child Abuse of CT, Inc. d/b/a KIDSAFE CT under the 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 22, 2020.

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

**c. Action to Appoint of Auditors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.**

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council appoints the firm of RSM US LLP to audit the books and accounts of the Town of Glastonbury for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, in accordance with applicable Town policies, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 22, 2020 and as recommended by the Board of Finance.

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

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

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that as of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 268 residents have tested positive and 71 residents have passed away, 55 of whom were over the age of 80. The Parks and Recreation Department is looking to offer a creative experience for the summer playground program, but there is a lot of work to do. The Main Street sidewalk project has a public hearing scheduled on June 9<sup>th</sup>. A notice will be sent to all homeowners for properties abutting the sidewalk. They have received questions on building inspection activities, and BI staff has restarted interior inspections.

Mr. Gullotta asked if the Eastbury pool is being thrown into the mix, for consideration. Mr. Johnson stated that he would have to double check, but they have been putting up COVID-19 alert signs, so that would likely be their approach for Eastbury. Mr. Gullotta stated that, for the sidewalks, he would like to also send notices out to those residents who will not be affected by the project this year, just so that they know upfront what will soon happen. The Council agreed collectively to notify them.

**8. Committee Reports.**

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

**9. Communications.**

Ms. Carroll explained that they have received a letter from business owner Oakwood Virtual Golf regarding the Town's role in potentially overriding the Governor's executive orders.

**10. Minutes.**  
**a. Minutes of May 12, 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 May 12, 2020.

*Result:* Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

**11. Appointments and Resignations.**  
**a. Appointments to various boards, commissions and committees as available (Republican).**

Mr. Niland read the list of names.

*Motion by:* Mr. Niland

*Seconded by:* Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby appoints the names, as contained in the list just read aloud, to various boards, commissions, and committees as available (Republican).

*Result:* Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

**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 to discuss a potential land acquisition and personnel matter – Town Manager at 9:07 P.M.

*Result:* Motion passed unanimously {8-0-0}.

*Present for the Executive Session item were council members, Mr. Tom Gullotta, Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman, Dr. Chip Beckett, Ms. Deb Carroll, Ms. Mary LaChance, Mr. Jake McChesney, Ms. Lillian Tanski, and Mr. Whit Osgood with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson.*

No votes were taken during the Executive Session, which ended at 9:20 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

**b. Personnel Matter – Town Manager (added to Agenda).**

Following the Executive Session and Meeting Adjournment, the Council, with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson in attendance, entered a non-meeting format -discussion to discuss collective bargaining negotiations. Such discussions are not treated as a meeting under the applicable sections of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Attendees came out of the non-meeting format discussion at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Lilly Torosyan**

**Lilly Torosyan  
Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta  
Chairman**