

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 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
Mr. Jacob McChesney
Mr. Whit C. Osgood
Ms. Lillian Tanski
Ms. Mary LaChance {excused}
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh {excused}

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

2. Public Comment.

Ms. Carroll read the written comments received, as listed on the Town website:

Jonathan Caron of 129 Moseley Terrace, explained that the parking situation at the boat launch has gotten out of control this summer. The town needs to post no parking signs on the ground and enforce them.

Miranda Bliss of 34 Hubbard Run Drive, stated that the opening of the Puppy Palace is horrible. The town should not allow third party stores to sell dogs, and this store should be removed.

Haley Shi of 29 Crossroads Lane, expressed that the GoNetSpeed company offers fast internet that is better than the near-monopoly that exists in town. She asked the Council to promote this company to residents.

Pamela Lucas of 145 Moseley Terrace, asked the Council to declare racism a public health crisis. She stated that Glastonbury should play a role in rectifying systemic racism.

Paula Bacolini of 11 Garland Drive, supports the resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. She stated that it is everyone's responsibility to make reparations to their black and brown residents. This must be a bipartisan vote.

Jack Morris of 317 Farmcliff Drive, stated that they should rethink the Slocomb Dam and consider it a part of Glastonbury's heritage. That would save both money and their town's history.

Mr. Niland opened the floor for attendees to comment. With no comments, he closed the public hearing.

3. Special Reports.

4. Old Business.

a. Discussion and possible action concerning Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) – letter of support regarding options for disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW).

Mr. Johnson summarized that Tom Kirk, the CEO of MIRA, attended the Council meeting back in March, where he explained that the current trash plan is at the end of its useful life. By 2022, MIRA will begin hauling solid waste out of town into landfills in other states. That is a huge step backwards in terms of environmentally sustainable solid waste disposal. This proposed action by the Council was respected by MIRA. The expectation is that other towns would follow this proposal, too.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby expresses its support to the Materials Innovation Recycling Authority (MIRA) in establishing an efficient, forward thinking, environmentally sensitive and cost effective solution to municipal solid waste disposal by replacing current outdated and inefficient facilities and equipment with state of the art technology to provide a cost effective solution for solid waste disposal within the greater Hartford area and hereby requests Governor Lamont, State Legislature, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and all those involved with this important matter to work cooperatively and expeditiously to achieve these goals on behalf of communities now served by the MIRA Trash to Energy Plant and all others who currently or will prospectively benefit from updated facilities.

Disc: Dr. Beckett explained that he has read a couple of editorials against the trash energy plant because they can compost yard and house waste. Dr. Beckett explained that their approach is not mutually exclusive from that idea. They can expand recycling as much as they can, as well. Mr. Osgood supports the motion, and requested they send the letter to all MIRA towns, requesting that they do the same. Mr. Niland agreed with Dr. Beckett, stating that these two things are not mutually exclusive. Mr. Gullotta reminded the Council that he had asked that this item be put on the agenda. He is embarrassed that it needed to be put on the agenda because the thought that their waste going to Ohio or Pennsylvania is absurd. He urged legislative officials to do something serious about this.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

b. Discussion and possible action concerning Bulky Waste Closure Fund.

Mr. Johnson explained that he had sent out a summary form for the basis of this discussion. This is a proposal to create a closure fund for the Bulky Waste facility. He went over a presentation on the different paths that the Council can take regarding this matter. Mike Bisi, Director of Sanitation, added that they would rather not have any surprises in the next 20-30 years. Ms. Carroll asked, if they choose to pursue the bifurcated rate, would it be onerous for Town staff if they come in with a mixed load? Mr. Johnson replied, if they bring in a mixed load, the higher rate prevails. He added that there would be a learning curve, and users would catch on fairly quickly. Mr. Osgood suggested they not vote on this tonight, since the fees should be higher in order to get them closer to the \$3 million closure cost. However, he expressed support for the bifurcated fee and believes that the mixed rate concept is very good. He thinks that they should institute this in the fall so that the user is paying for it, not the taxpayer.

Dr. Beckett asked if they could recycle more of what is landfilled or find an alternative to landfilling. Mr. Bisi explained that they are always looking for opportunities to recycle but marketing it has been a problem. Ms. Tanski asked where people are turning, since Glastonbury's rates are expensive, and who are their most frequent users. Mr. Bisi stated that they can provide that information from the surveys they have from other towns, but users range. He noted, though, that there are very few bulky waste funds in town, and the town's rate is still very low compared to others overall. Mr. Niland expressed support for the bifurcated rate. He asked if implementing it this fall would be a possibility. Mr. Gullotta explained that the Council would need to take action in 2 weeks if they hope to implement this in the fall. He cautioned against charging too much, lest they find bulky waste all up and down the streets.

The Council agreed to table the motion and revisit it during their next meeting.

5. New Business.

a. Discussion concerning Council Resolution – Racism as Public Health Crisis.

Ms. Carroll explained that councilmembers received a draft of the resolution last week. At the heart of the declaration is that racism is a public health crisis. She asked to table the resolution for two reasons: first, she and Ms. Tanski could draft a more tailored resolution for Glastonbury; and second, two council members are absent tonight and she would like to have everyone present. Ms. Tanski explained that, as a mixed-race woman raised by a black mother and grandmother, she never escaped racism. This moment brings a lot of new energy and hope for many town residents, as well as lots of personal and collective memories of racism and the outstanding race problems in the country. She stated that we cannot just offer a Band-Aid or a pat on the shoulder to residents of color. She requested that residents

be patient with the Council and continue to have faith in them as they prepare to lay out a resolution at their next meeting.

Mr. Osgood stated that the draft resolution to be presented tonight was not actionable, but rather than tabling the discussion, he would like to send this to the subcommittee, so that Ms. Tanski and Ms. Carroll can craft something that feels more authentic and actionable for Glastonbury.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby refers the Council Resolution – Racism as Public Health Crisis to the subcommittee.

Disc: Mr. Gullotta stated that he is not expecting the resolution to be wonderful, nor will the discussion be easy, but it needs to be done. Mr. Niland disagreed with Mr. Osgood that the draft resolution wasn't actionable. He thinks that there are goals that can be achieved through this, but he agrees that it could be better. He is happy that Ms. Tanski and Ms. Carroll will work on this further. Mr. McChesney expressed that he was supportive of the draft, but he sees no issue with making some changes. He is interested to see what comes back from the subcommittee.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

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

NO 1: ACTION ON PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MAFFE FOUNDATION, CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, EXCHANGE CLUB CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE OF CT, INC. D/B/A KIDSAFE CT, AND TOWN OF GLASTONBURY – OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION FUND UNDER THE 2020 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the proposals submitted by (1) The Maffe Foundation, (2) Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce, (3) Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of CT, Inc. d/b/a KIDSAFE CT, and (4) Town of Glastonbury – Open Space Land Acquisition per the 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated July 10, 2020.

Disc: Mr. Niland opened the floor for public hearing.

Eric Jay, Chief Financial Officer of Stone Academy, explained that they are a beneficiary of this program. Mr. Gullotta asked what a degree at Stone Academy costs. Mr. Jay explained that their most expensive program is \$36,000. Scholarship averages around \$3,000 and the rest are covered by loans

and grants. Mr. Gullotta asked what the graduation rate is. Mr. Jay replied, around 65-70%. Dr. Beckett asked how many people have been served in these programs over the past couple of years. Mr. Jay explained that they have 3 campuses and 55 scholarships were issued at their East Hartford campus.

Mary Ellen Dombrowski, president of the CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce in Glastonbury, added that they have done this several times as a chamber and are happy to participate and help people get an education.

Sarah Adanti, Senior Director for Development at The Village for Families & Children (also known as KidSafe), explained that they have been around for over 200 years. Last year, they served over 20,000 individuals. The proposal they are presenting is for their KidSafe location in Rockville. They seek to upgrade 19 air conditioning units, for a total cost of \$4,750. Mr. Gullotta asked why they do not approach the town of Rockville, too. Ms. Adanti explained that they have, but they also have children coming to them from Glastonbury. They have also asked Manchester to help with their plumbing. They are only asking Glastonbury to help with their air conditioning costs.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

b. Action on appropriation and bond authorization under the Reserve for Land Acquisition and Preservation.

Mr. Johnson explained that, since 1988, there have been 11 referenda that have funded some 2,200 acres of land and open space in Glastonbury. He noted that once the Council introduces the matter, they can decrease the dollar amount but cannot increase it without the entire process starting over.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$3,000,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND ACQUISITION OF LAND PURSUANT TO THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TOWN'S RESERVE FOR LAND ACQUISITION

RESOLVED, That a Public Hearing be held on July 28, 2020 at 8:00 P.M., via Zoom Conferencing <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87045460390?pwd=ZmZXblUvaE03MkozNnZKRSszOW9qdz09> (password 458717) on the resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$3,000,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND ACQUISITION OF LAND PURSUANT TO THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TOWN'S RESERVE FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

and the full text of such resolution shall be included in these minutes as an attachment.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a notice of such hearing be published and posted.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a meeting of the Town Council be held on July 28, 2020 following said Public Hearing to act on said resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That said resolution be referred to the Board of Finance for approval under the Charter.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the proposed project be referred to the Plan and Zoning Commission for a report under Section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNOR LAMONT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7B.1 "SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS", THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020 WILL BE CONDUCTED THROUGH ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87045460390?pwd=ZmZXblUvaE03MkozNnZKRSczOW9qdz09>
(password 458717)

Disc: Mr. Gullotta explained that this is a bipartisan effort by the town that has resulted in over 2,000 acres acquired of land for the public's use. Times are difficult, but they are in discussions for some parcels of land. It would be very sad if the Town were not able to acquire them, so this process needs to move forward.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

1. Appointment of Bond Counsel.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

RESOLVED: that the law firm of Day Pitney LLP, of Hartford, Connecticut, is designated as bond counsel in connection with the issuance of \$3,000,000 bonds or notes and temporary notes to finance the appropriation in the same amount for the purchase of development rights and acquisition of land pursuant to the ordinance establishing the Town's reserve for land acquisition.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

c. Discussion and possible action concerning release of recreation easement – refer to Town Plan and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Niland stated that he is more than happy to send this to the Commission. Dr. Beckett understands the business owner's concept, but he recognizes precedence. He explained that they do not want to be

on the slope of releasing this on an ad hoc basis. He would prefer a different land swap that would be more beneficial for the town. Mr. Osgood asked if the condominium complex has been notified of this. Mr. Johnson replied no, but they would be notified if a proposal went forward with this project. Mr. Gullotta stated that he will vote against sending this to TPZ. He would like the condominium owners and tenants to be informed before the Council sends it off because they should be able to have their input. Ms. Tanski agreed with the Chairman.

Motion by: Mr. Osgood

Seconded by: Ms. Carroll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby tables the motion, with the understanding that the property owners and tenants would be notified of the action.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

d. Action on employment agreement and general wage adjustment effective July 1, 2020 – Town Manager.

Motion by: Dr. Beckett

Seconded by: Ms. Carroll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the following actions:

- 1. Extends employment agreement with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, through December 31, 2022.*
- 2. 1.5% general wage adjustment effective July 1, 2020.*
- 3. \$5,000 contribution to the Town Manager's retirement fund.*

Disc: Ms. Carroll stated that working with Mr. Johnson continues to be one of the greatest pleasures of serving on the Town Council. He has done yeoman's work these last handful of months in making sure that town employees and residents are safe, and that things are getting done. Mr. Osgood and Mr. Niland agreed. Dr. Beckett added that Mr. Johnson is a definition of excellence. Mr. Gullotta echoed all previous sentiments expressed.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

6. Consent Calendar. None

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson explained that the \$1 million grant for the library project is on the bond commission agenda, which is good news. He also provided the Town bond rating reports, which continue to show that Glastonbury is handling its finances very well. About 30 or so residents have taken advantage of the refuse disposal permits thus far, and about twice as many online payments have been made for the annual tax payments than they were last year. The Minnechaug Golf Course is doing quite well, with nearly 14,000 rounds through yesterday; last year, they had 15,000 rounds for the whole season.

Responding to the public comment on the boat house, Mr. Johnson explained they will formally paint over spaces so that anybody parking outside that will be issued a warning or possible infraction.

Mr. Osgood appreciated seeing the list of all of the acquisitions. He asked the Town Manager if he could provide it in a spreadsheet form with date, acreage, price, and dollars per acre. Mr. Johnson said yes, he will show the gross and the net. Mr. Osgood stated that the dam concern, which was expressed during the public comment session, has come up before. He asked if just putting another hole in the middle of the dam does not work with their DEEP requirements. Mr. Johnson stated that is correct. It is a common question, but that idea is not as straightforward as opening the relief area. They would have to go through a permitting process and that would likely cost as much, if not more, than just removing the dam. However, he will get back to Mr. Morris, the public commenter.

Motion by: Dr. Beckett

Seconded by: Ms. Carroll

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby accepts the Town Manager's expense report.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

8. Committee Reports.
a. Chairman's Report.

Mr. Gullotta explained that he is extremely pleased to see how Connecticut is doing compared to southern states, in terms of handling the COVID-19 crisis. He added that masks will continue to make all the difference for preventing the spread of the virus.

b. MDC.

Ms. Carroll gave the MDC report, in light of Ms. Carroll's absence. She explained that notices went out for the class action lawsuit. People have reached out, inquiring how to get their check. She explained that they should contact the MDC Customer Service to receive their check in the mail.

c. CRCOG. None

9. Communications.
a. Letter from CT Siting Council regarding shared use of an existing telecommunications facility located at 115 Birch Mountain Road.

10. Minutes.
a. Minutes of June 16, 2020 Special 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 June 16, 2020.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

b. Minutes of June 19, 2020 Special 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 June 19, 2020.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

c. Minutes of June 23, 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 June 23, 2020.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

11. **Appointments and Resignations.** *None*

12. **Executive Session.** *None*

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

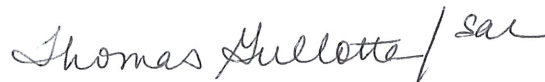
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their meeting of July 14, 2020 at 8:45 P.M.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {7-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilly Torosyan

Lilly Torosyan
Recording Clerk



Thomas Gullotta
Chairman

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$3,000,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND ACQUISITION OF LAND PURSUANT TO THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TOWN'S RESERVE FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Glastonbury appropriate THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000) for the purchase of development rights and the acquisition of land pursuant to the Town's Ordinance establishing a Reserve for Land Acquisition, as it may hereafter be amended from time to time. Such funds shall be used for the purchase of development rights and/or the acquisition of land but only after referral of the proposed purchase or acquisition to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and after public hearing as required by said ordinance and approval by the Town Council. The appropriation may be spent for survey fees, feasibility and planning studies related to any potential acquisition, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project and its financing.

(b) That the Town issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project, unless the Town approves an additional appropriation to spend such grants. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

(c) That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes if the notes do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(d) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

(e) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(f) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

(g) That the Town Manager, on behalf of the Town, is authorized to apply for and accept federal and state grants to help finance the appropriation for the project, and to enter into any grant agreement necessary to obtain such grants. Any grant proceeds may be used to pay project costs or principal and interest on bonds, notes or temporary notes.

(h) That the Town Manager or his designee shall administer and supervise the project. The Town Manager, the Treasurer and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds, notes or other obligations to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

(i) That this resolution shall not become effective until approved at referendum pursuant to Section 312 of the Town Charter. The wording of the question for the referendum ballot shall be:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF GLASTONBURY APPROPRIATE \$3,000,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND ACQUISITION OF LAND PURSUANT TO THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TOWN’S RESERVE FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”