

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street, with an option for attendance through 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

Ms. Deborah A. Carroll {participated via video conferencing}

Mr. White Osgood

Dr. Stewart Beckett III

Ms. Mary LaChance

Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh

Mr. Jacob McChesney

Ms. Lillian Tanski

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

***Led by Rep. Jill Barry***

**2. Public Comment.**

***Representative Jill Barry of 199 Cavan Lane***, thanked the Town Council, the Town Manager, the Police Chief, the GPD, and the Glastonbury community for speaking up, acting out, and working on the frontlines to address the issue of rising juvenile crimes. Glastonbury is changing the narrative in Hartford. She will continue to work with leaders on both sides of the aisle and remains optimistic that progress will be made in the Special Session in September.

***Chris Haaf of 39 Strickland Street***, expressed concern about the ways that people are talking to each other nowadays, calling it ugly and damaging. He wants to be an example of how to be respectful towards each other, despite political differences. He stated that the consensus from polling has shown that people are anti-mask, so people have the right to be skeptical about the conflicting directives that have been made regarding masking children for the upcoming school year. During the BOE meeting last Monday, many people called their neighbors horrible things; among them was one of the council women. He hopes that the Council will work to adjust the damage that is being caused by these discussions.

Mr. Niland read the written comment received, as listed on the Town website.

**Geralyn Laut of 126 South Mill Drive**, urged the Council to postpone making any decisions on allowing marijuana in Glastonbury. For many years, she has volunteered to curb underage drinking and tobacco use and is now advocating for the same for marijuana. Adolescent use can have negative effects on the brain. The newly established marijuana industry is trying to lure children into being lifelong customers, just like the tobacco industry. No tax revenue is worth the potential risk.

There were no comments from Zoom attendees.

- 3. **Special Reports.** *None*
- 4. **Old Business.** *None*
- 5. **New Business.**
  - a. **Action on Council Resolution concerning crimes by juveniles.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Niland

**Seconded by:** Mr. Osgood

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adopts the Resolution entitled “Resolution in Support of Action Concerning Crimes by Juveniles” dated August 11, 2021 and as attached hereto.*

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACTION CONCERNING CRIMES BY JUVENILES**

**WHEREAS**, the frequency of crime by juveniles and young people has increased significantly in Glastonbury and communities across the State; and

**WHEREAS**, crimes by juveniles and young people include theft of motor vehicles, theft of valuables from motor vehicles, intrusion to private property (garages, driveways), display and use of handguns, motor vehicle accidents involving others when young people are fleeing in stolen vehicles, and other related crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, crimes by juveniles and young people present a threat of serious injury and death involving juveniles, property owners, and others and potential for significant property damage; and

**WHEREAS**, residents and property owners in Glastonbury and surrounding communities have expressed a range of emotions including fear, concern for safety of person, family and property, anger and frustration; and

**WHEREAS**, current state laws allow juveniles to commit crimes often as repeat offenders with little regard for police officers or concern for consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the Glastonbury Police Department continues to effectively respond to these incidents with professionalism and dedication, however, the lack of consequences makes meaningful enforcement difficult; and

**WHEREAS**, on Thursday, July 22, 2021, the Glastonbury Town Council sponsored a public forum to bring awareness to this issue and other communities have similarly sponsored forums with the common goal of bringing this serious issue to the attention of Governor Lamont, State Representatives and Senators with a demand for meaningful legislative change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Glastonbury continues to develop and implement actions and strategies in response to crimes by juveniles with examples including Community Outreach Officer assigned to work with Safe Streets Group, Police Task Force established to focus on street crimes, Glastonbury Police participating in Capitol Region Task Force, website continually updated to provide information and crime data, public education distributed through Town publications and businesses, training and equipment, additional staffing and equipment under review for possible budget funding, reverse 911 system to be implemented to provide important public safety updates, and other initiatives on an evolving basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council is prepared to provide the support and resources required as the Glastonbury community continues to respond to this serious public safety threat to personal well-being and property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Glastonbury Town Council on behalf of the citizens of Glastonbury and communities across the State calls upon Governor Lamont and the State Legislature to convene a Special Session for the purpose of enacting meaningful and effective reform to juvenile laws to provide consequences, accountability and resources to support law enforcement and to protect the safety and well-being of citizens and property from serious and potentially life threatening crimes now being committed by juveniles and others and presenting a continuing public safety issue within communities across the State.

**Disc:** Mr. Johnson explained that he drafted this legislation with the intent to capture the suggestions made by Ms. Tanski during the last meeting. Ms. Tanski thanked the Town Manager for putting together this resolution. She noted that, in their limited scope as council members, this is another thing that they can do to pressure the legislature to keep their residents safe. Ms. Carroll expressed concern about the language of the fourth ‘whereas,’ explaining that the emotional tenure of their residents is not necessary to include. Mr. Osgood disagreed, stating that it defines part of the problem, and the way residents are experiencing it. The resolution will be given to state legislators, so it is important to have the context for why this is important to them. Mr. Cavanaugh concurred, stating that, if this is what citizens are feeling, then they ought to represent that. Ms. Tanski reiterated, stating that it is not only appropriate but important to leave in that description. It is fair to acknowledge that they are dealing with a significant concern.

Mr. Osgood supports the motion as written, while realizing that other things need to be implemented, as well, to help improve the environment where many of the offending children are coming from. Ms. LaChance agreed. It is important for the Council to keep the pressure on the state in any way that they can. Mr. McChesney is frustrated that the resolution is just saying what

they have done before, but he recognizes the value of reaffirming that Glastonbury wants action taken. He also noted that he attended a press conference yesterday with Rep. Barry at the State Capitol which was hosted by Republicans. This is not a partisan issue. It is something that they really need action on. Mr. Cavanaugh discussed the Broken Windows theory in policing, stating that motor vehicle stops are vital because they lead to the authorities finding more things than one can think of. He finds this resolution to be appropriate, and he also agrees with Rep. Barry that Glastonbury is the loudest voice in this. He cautioned that this issue is going to get worse before it gets better. Chairman Gullotta thanked Mr. Johnson for expressing the sentiments of the community.

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

**b. Action to amend Town Code Article IV – “Tobacco-Free and Smoke-Free Recreation Areas” to include cannabis (set public hearing).**

**Motion by:** Mr. Niland

**Seconded by:** Mr. Osgood

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 14, 2021 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street and/or through Zoom Video Conferencing to consider proposed amendment to Town Code Article IV - “Tobacco-Free and Smoke-Free Recreation Areas” to include cannabis products as a prohibited use in Town recreation areas as described in a report by the Town Manager dated August 6, 2021.*

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

**c. Action on appropriation and transfer – parks and open space signs (refer to Board of Finance; set public hearing).**

Mr. Johnson explained that this was a suggestion which came from the Commission on Racial Justice and Equity (CRJE). The two council members to that group, Ms. Carroll and Ms. Tanski, suggested that there be a sign or logo added to existing signs to confirm that parks and open spaces are open to all. The signs will be at 25 different locations and could be either circular or rectangular and added to existing signs or freestanding. They would read “Glastonbury Parks and Open Space: Open to All Who Enjoy the Outdoors”. The logo would denote outdoor activities. Mr. Johnson noted that this is not a budgeted item. Town staff will install the signs over time.

Ms. Tanski stated that this is something that the CRJE is interested in. She reminded the Council that the origin of this commitment was the Council resolution which was passed last July. She and Ms. Carroll would like time for review and funding for a plan which would gain full approval from the Council. Ms. Carroll stated that there has been concern regarding the cost of signage. She also reiterated that this was a commitment that the Council unanimously passed last year. Letting visitors know that all are welcome is a good thing. She asked to table this action so

that she and Ms. Tanski could look at where they will need signs and how to potentially make this action less expensive.

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Mr. Niland

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby tables action on the park and open space signage.

**Result:** Motion to table was passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

**6. Consent Calendar. None**

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

Mr. Johnson asked to appoint a designee to the selection committee for the RFQ process on design guidelines. Also, the TPZ seeks two council members to join their joint subcommittee which will look at building zone regulations. Mr. Gullotta suggested appointing the three designees for those two committees at their September 14 meeting. The Council agreed. Mr. Johnson provided a status report on all capital projects. He also provided an updated grid for the uranium test results which shows the two hotspots on the Chestnut Hill Corridor and Minnechaug Mountain areas. Ms. LaChance asked if they can inform residents on how to move forward regarding the uranium, should their neighborhoods choose to do something. Mr. Johnson agreed to discuss that at a future meeting. Dr. Beckett also thanked Mr. Johnson for the uranium report, which is very helpful for all the people who were concerned about how the uranium distribution is in Glastonbury.

Mr. Cavanaugh inquired about the boat house fencing. Mr. Johnson explained that there are signs up now, warning people not to climb up them. In the long run, they plan to install a steel fence which will come up and angle out toward the deck so that people cannot go over it. In the meantime, though, they will put up a temporary barrier that is very tight. Mr. McChesney asked to pass along a thank you to the Police Chief regarding the carjacking that happened yesterday. He then asked about the funding which was recently received to help combat that issue. Mr. Johnson explained that the Town will be provided \$35,000 in overtime to address these juvenile crimes. Mr. Osgood suggested posting the updates to the Capital Improvements projects on the Town website. He also asked about the status of the leasing and renovation of the house next door. Mr. Johnson explained that they have ordered the materials, but they are in the queue, waiting for them.

Mr. Gullotta stated that Bob Shipman on the Beautification Committee informed him that the 2.5 story site next to St. James is being proposed for redevelopment. Mr. Shipman received a packet talking about its removal, and the building of more than one townhouse in that area. Mr. Gullotta asked the Town Manager to forward additional information about that in the next few days. Mr. Johnson stated that the village district zone regulation draft is done. He will speak with the Town Attorney tomorrow. They will get it to the Council at their September meeting. After which, it could then go to the TPZ, who has 35 days to report back to the Council; then, the Council could schedule the public hearing.

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

Mr. Gullotta explained that the BOE has moved to Zoom meetings. They asked that everybody wear masks at tonight's meeting, regardless of vaccination status. If Town Hall is closed during their September meeting, then the Council will return to the Zoom meeting format. It remains to be seen.

**b. MDC.**            *None*

**c. CRCOG.**

Dr. Beckett stated that they had a meeting today. There was a discussion on what to do once the trash and energy plant closes in June. There was a suggestion that it remains operating. The state has been largely absent on this discussion, but everybody is worried about the impact of municipalities shipping waste to Ohio. CRCOG will try to do an RFP to see if they can go to the next step of proposing a regional, rather than state, solution.

**9. Communications.**            *None*

**10. Minutes.**                    *None*

**11. Appointments and Resignations.**

**a. Appointment of Daniel Horvath to the Water Pollution Control Authority (R-2023).**

**b. Appointment of Neal Cavanaugh to the Fire Commission (R-2021).**

**c. Resignation of Xabian Alarcon from the Commission on Racial Justice and Equity.**

**d. Appointment of Amo-Mensah Amofa to the Commission on Racial Justice and Equity.**

*Motion by:* Mr. Niland

*Seconded by:* Mr. Osgood

*Result:* Resignations and appointments were accepted unanimously {9-0-0}.

**12. Executive Session.**

**a. Draft Terms and Conditions – Sale of Town-owned land – Eastern Boulevard.**                    *None*

*The Council recessed at 7:41 P.M. They resumed the meeting at 8:00 P.M.*

## **PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING**

### **NO 1: PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT – INSERTION OF SECTION 3.27 – BUILDING-ZONE REGULATIONS – CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS, TEMPORARY AND LIMITED MORATORIUM.**

Mr. Johnson explained that Public Act 21-1 was put in place to legalize the sale and production of marijuana through various establishments. Tonight’s public hearing is on an amendment to the building zone regulations to establish a moratorium for up to 18 months to allow the Council, with input and comment by TPZ and others, to thoughtfully review how they want to approach this issue in Glastonbury.

***Motion by:*** Mr. Niland

***Seconded by:*** Mr. Osgood

*BE IT RESOLVED, the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves amendment to the Building Zone Regulations by adding new section 3.27 – Temporary and Limited Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments with said amendment to be effective September 1, 2021, as recommended by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and described in a report by the Town Manager dated August 6, 2021.*

***Disc:*** Chairman Gullotta opened the floor for public comment.

***Geralyn Laut of 126 South Mill Drive,*** explained that she would like to reinforce the statement that she made in her letter, which was read by Mr. Niland during the public comment session. She directed the Council to a website called LearnAboutSam.org. She is not a backyard advocate, having worked on this issue for many years. She stated that it makes sense to limit the access and availability of marijuana that young people will have in Glastonbury. It is one thing to allow the use of marijuana; it is another to promote its use, she concluded.

***Laura Zeppieri at 8 Tarrybrook Drive,*** has worked with Ms. Laut and Rep. Barry on prevention. Her career has been in treatment, and she works at Rushford, which is centered in Glastonbury. She also supports a moratorium where they can look at all the facts, as they should be careful about promoting marijuana in their community.

With no further comments, Mr. Gullotta closed the public hearing.

Dr. Beckett supports a moratorium. He has visited other communities which approved marijuana and witnessed its negative impacts on property prices and nearby businesses. He does not want that to happen to Glastonbury. However, he acknowledged that there has been a war on drugs his whole life and marijuana has never been more available than now. Mr. McChesney is concerned about marijuana coming to town, and its impact on property values and on youth. He finds an 18-month moratorium very much appropriate. Ms. Carroll also supports a moratorium. They need to

be thoughtful in their approach and allow the public a chance to speak on this. They also need to study how this affects other communities. She is not enthusiastic about adding dispensaries to town. The slow roll is appropriate. She agrees with Ms. Laut that there is a difference between allowing versus promoting something, and she is unenthusiastic about promoting marijuana.

Ms. Tanski reminded everyone that the legalization of recreational marijuana is not something that the Council has any control over. Like Dr. Beckett, she has a personal problem with how the War on Drugs has unfolded; however, as a council member, she is concerned about the impact on their community and existing businesses. Her priorities lay in addressing issues of zoning, environmental impacts, and related questions. The new recreational marijuana business has caused clear impacts on other areas of the country, which is not something that she wants to see here in Glastonbury. Whatever tax dollars that come from this is not worth the damage to their property values and their community.

Mr. Osgood agreed that this is an effort to evaluate their ordinances. They should add this to the list of items that the task force of the joint subcommittee will address. He noted that this moratorium will prohibit Glastonbury farmers from growing marijuana for 18 months. He expressed concern about holding this public hearing in August when much of the public cannot attend. He proposed tabling the public hearing on the moratorium so that they can hear from more members of the public. However, his motion did not move forward.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked if cannabis establishments include growing. Mr. Johnson said yes. Mr. Cavanaugh supports banning marijuana tonight. He does not need to wait for an 18-month moratorium, but he will support that if the rest of the Council will. Ms. LaChance would also vote on a ban, but she is open to other points of views and seeing how it affects other communities. She is in favor of an 18-month moratorium. Dr. Beckett pointed out that all growers must be inside in secure facilities. Ms. Tanski remarked that it is precisely the indoor growing nature that leaves her with a lot of questions on the environmental impacts.

Mr. Gullotta stated that if they were to receive enough information, the Council would not have to wait 18 months to make a decision. This is new territory, so it is okay to wait. He shares Mr. Cavanaugh's attitude on this, but he finds no reason to move quickly on this issue because new information may shed a different light on the matter down the line. He thinks that the moratorium makes sense.

**Result:** Motion was accepted unanimously {9-0-0}.

**Motion by:** Mr. Niland

**Seconded by:** Mr. McChesney



BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their Special Meeting of August 11, 2021 at 8:19 P.M.

**Result:** Motion to adjourn was passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

**Lilly Torosyan**

Lilly Torosyan  
Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta  
Chairman