

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (AMENDED)
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Jonathan Luiz, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street, with the option for 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
Ms. Jennifer Wang, Vice Chairman
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh
Mr. John Cavanna
Mr. Larry Niland
Ms. Mary LaChance
Mr. Jacob McChesney
Mr. Whit Osgood

a. Pledge of Allegiance. *Led by Deb Carroll*

2. Public Comment.

Rep. Jill Barry of 199 Cavan Lane, was on the Council when they first discussed developing Riverfront Park. At that time, Don Longtin spoke in strong support of the project and wrote a personal check to Little League. She encouraged the Council to support the proposed monument and name change from Field Park to Heroes Field.

Steven Broderick of North Stonington, CT, represented a group of operating engineers of the Glastonbury highway, vehicle maintenance, and transfer station. He explained that their contract expires on June 30. They have met with the Town's appointed designee, the Human Resources Director, only once, whereas in previous years, the Town Manager met with them directly. Their group opposes the gag order that the Town is insisting on, with no statements to the public, due to a troubling history of the Town delaying pay increases for many months. He asked the Town to bargain fairly, and noted that they have both the First Amendment free speech right and the right to protected concerted activity, which they are not going to negotiate away.

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

Matt DiDato of 239 Keeney Street, believes that RiseUp should submit three proposals for the MLK mural design to the Council, who would then provide it to the Glastonbury Citizen. Concurrent with that publishing, the Council should schedule a public hearing to enable the public to comment on the proposals. Only then should the Council make its final decision.

3. Special Reports. *None.*

4. Old Business.

- a. Discussion and possible action concerning proposed agreement between Board of Education and Glastonbury Education Association (GEA) – July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029.**

Mr. Osgood thanked the BOE for providing the additional information that was requested. However, he will vote against the proposed increase because this is the same increase that will be proposed for other unions in the BOE's jurisdiction, and it is greater than the 2.5% increase that the Town has adopted for various contracts in town. Mr. Niland pointed out that it is a 2.7% increase in the first year, but it will go down to 2.5%, then 2.28% and 2.15% over the course of four years. Mr. Cavanaugh does not like the prospect of increasing taxes in the next four budget cycles, but he will support this action because the voters have asked for it and because his party is in the minority, with the Democrats having a supermajority on both the BOE and the Town Council. Mr. Gullotta added that if the Council were to deny this budget and it goes to arbitration, it is unlikely that an arbitrator would find in the Town's favor.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the Agreement between the Glastonbury Board of Education and Glastonbury Education Association for the four-year term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, as approved by the Board of Education, and as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 23, 2024.

Result: Motion passed{7-2-0} with Mr. Osgood and Mr. Cavanna voting against.

5. New Business.

- a. Action on First Amendment to Ground Lease between the Town and Glastonbury Housing Authority.**

Mr. Luiz explained that the GHA is exploring different funding opportunities and working with their design team to see if other approaches can reduce costs. Mr. Osgood asked which property the ground lease applies to. Mr. Luiz stated that this focuses on 55 Nye Road, which includes the building and the parcel. He clarified that 50 Nye Road is the one that the Town will own, and 55 Nye Road will be demolished. Mr. Gullotta expressed his frustration with state government in general. He noted that Glastonbury is ready to move forward with affordable housing, but he does not understand why there isn't a rolling application date. He believes that the state should come up with the funds to build these necessary projects. Mr. Osgood commented that this would have moved forward if the cost per unit was not close to \$500,000 for an affordable housing complex.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to execute the First Amendment to Ground Lease Agreement between the Town of Glastonbury and The Housing Authority of the Town of Glastonbury, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 23, 2024.

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

b. Discussion concerning the Unexpended Education Funds Account (1% Fund).

Mr. Luiz indicated that the Governor has signed Public Act 21-24, which means that it will be a local BOE's own choice on whether to create a non-lapsing account, and that up to 2% of unspent funds could be deposited into that non-lapsing account. Mr. Osgood proposed doing away with the 1% fund. He was on the Council when it was first passed, but believes that it has now moved beyond its original intent. He stated that it has become a slush fund, which the BOE spends on capital projects that do not go through their CIP list.

Motion by: Mr. Osgood

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby rescinds the 1% carryover from the BOE.

Disc: Because the current fiscal year ends on June 30, Mr. Osgood suggested limiting it to 0.5% of the BOE's total budget this year, and zero percent next year. Mr. Gullotta questioned whether such an action is possible, since the Governor signed a proposal that allows the BOE to establish a 2% fund. However, he believes that the budgetary authority must have some say in how that money is spent. Mr. Luiz will check whether that language exists anywhere.

Mr. Gullotta asked, who is the appropriating authority to establish the 2% fund: the Council, the BOF, or the BOE? Mr. Luiz thinks that the information will be available by the next Council meeting. Mr. McChesney clarified that 2020 is shown in brackets, which means that it is being removed, and 2024 is underlined, which means that it is being added. Therefore, it is being pushed to the BOE to make the decision.

Doug Foyle, BOE Chairman, read the ordinance which the Council had passed, listing what the funds may be used for. He noted that the ordinance specifically mentions capital projects. He then read the list of projects that the BOE has expended funds for, and provided a copy of that to the Council. Mr. Cavanaugh needs to understand how the Council can rescind the 1% fund if the Public Act has been signed and might become effective soon. Mr. Osgood believes that they should send a message to the school board that the Council does not appreciate the BOE doing capital projects outside the CIP.

Ms. Carroll stated that the BOE has adhered to the ordinance, so she fails to see what the issue is. She finds the use of the term 'slush fund' here to be problematic. Mr. Cavanaugh worries that, when the public act passes, there might be a 3% fund. Mr. Cavanaugh was on the council when this was initially approved, but it was not his understanding that the BOE would build their own stand-alone building.

Result: Motion failed {3-6-0}, with Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Osgood, Mr. Cavanaugh voting for.

6. Consent Calendar.

a. Action to transfer uncollected taxes to Suspense List – \$268,116.09.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the transfer of \$268,116.09 of uncollected taxes to the Suspense List, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 23, 2024 and as recommended by the Board of Finance.

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

7. Town Manager's Report.

Ms. Luiz presented his report. Ms. LaChance commented that there was a fatal accident on Keeney Street on Friday. The woman was one of her coworkers. A few years ago, there was another fatal accident on that section of Keeney. She stated that that section of Keeney Street is not safe and needs to be reviewed. Mr. Osgood stated that Monaco Ford group is installing electric chargers on the corner by Stop and Shop. He suggested perhaps installing a crosswalk at that interchange, between Kreiger Lane and Oak Street.

8. Committee Reports.

a. Chairman's Report. *None.*

b. MDC. *None.*

c. CRCOG.

Mr. Luiz stated that awards will be announced soon for the shared trails grant.

d. Board of Education Facilities Committee Report. *None.*

e. Committee to Name a Public Facility – report, recommendation and action to rename the Makerspace at Welles-Turner Memorial Library.

Ms. Carroll stated that they met to discuss renaming the Makerspace at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the renaming of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library Makerspace to "Second Century Fund (2CF) Studio", as recommended by the Committee to Name a Public Facility.

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

f. Committee to Name a Public Facility – report, recommendation and action to rename the Riverfront Park Baseball Field and placement of the monument.

Ms. Carroll stated that the other committee to name a public facility met to discuss renaming the baseball field at Riverfront Park. The committee was confident that the proposed location for the monument was fine, and there was unanimous support to rename the baseball field. Mr. Gullotta asked if Town Staff was involved in selecting the location of the facility. Ms. Carroll does not know. She stated that their committee received their recommendation from the Recreation Commission. Mr. Gullotta is concerned that a group of citizens can decide on a location without Town Staff review or input. Ms. Carroll added the following line to the motion, "pending the approval of Town Staff on the viability of that location."

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the renaming of the baseball field to “Heroes Field,” the naming of the monument as “Heroes Field,” and the proposed location of the monument at Riverfront Park, as recommended by the Committee to Name a Public Facility, pending the approval of Town Staff on the viability of that location.

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

g. Architectural and Site Design Review Committee Council Subcommittee – report, recommendation and action to make an appointment to the Architectural and Site Design Review Committee.

Mr. Gullotta stated that he, Ms. Carroll, and Mr. Cavanaugh met to review an appointment. They selected a new resident in town, who works in the planning department for the Town of Mansfield.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby appoints Michael Stankov to the Architectural and Site Design Review Committee (ASDRC), as recommended by the Architectural and Site Design Review Committee Council Subcommittee.

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

9. Communications. None.

10. Minutes.

a. Minutes of May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the minutes of the May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting.

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

11. Appointments and Resignations.

a. Resignation of Amo-Mensah Amofa from the Housing Authority (Tenant Commissioner – U-2027).

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby accepts with regret the resignation of Amo-Mensah Amofa from the Housing Authority (Tenant Commissioner – U-2027).

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

The Council recessed at 7:50 p.m. until the public hearings commenced at 8:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

NO. 1 ACTION ON PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE SOUTH GLASTONBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC. AND TOWN OF GLASTONBURY – OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION FUND UNDER THE 2024 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM.

Mr. Gullotta opened the floor for public comments.

Susan Vasellina of 58 High Street, represents the South Glastonbury Public Library. She thanked the Council for approving this last year, but explained that the library was unable to receive money from businesses, so they are asking again this year at a lower amount.

Ms. Wang asked how they typically advertise NAAP opportunities. Mr. Gullotta stated that the library must first line up their businesses beforehand, in order to get tax credits. To try to do this through the website will not work, he cautioned.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the proposals submitted by (1) South Glastonbury Public Library Association, Inc., and (2) Town of Glastonbury – Open Space Land Acquisition per the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 23, 2024.

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

NO. 2 ACTION ON A \$91,967 APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS FUND – ARPA SENIOR CENTER FACILITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT.

Mr. Luiz stated that this amount might be reduced. In the event that it is, he will return to the Council. There were no comments from the public or the Council.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the request for a \$91,967 appropriation and transfer from the Capital Reserve Fund to Capital Improvements Projects Fund – ARPA Senior Center Facility Improvement Grant, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 23, 2024 and as approved by the Board of Finance.

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

12. Executive Session.

- a. Discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate.**
- b. Personnel matter – Town Manager.**
- c. Pending claim – property located at 2577 Main Street.**

Following the Executive Session, the Council will discuss, in private, collective bargaining negotiations and such discussions are not treated as a meeting under the applicable sections of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Attendees for the private session include the Town Council members and the Town Manager.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 8:08 for the purpose of:

- a. Discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate.*
- b. Personnel matter – Town Manager.*
- c. Pending claim – property located at 2577 Main Street.*

Attendees to include Council Members and the Town Manager for Items A and B, and Council Members, Town Manager and Town Attorney for Item C.

Following the Executive Session, the Council will discuss, in private, collective bargaining negotiations and such discussions are not treated as a meeting under the applicable sections of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Attendees for the private session include the Town Council members and the Town Manager.

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

The Council came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Following the Executive Session, the Council discussed collective bargaining with the Town Manager and Director of Human Resources in attendance.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns the Town Council meeting of May 28, 2024 at 9:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Lilly Torosyan

**Lilly Torosyan
Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta
Chairman**

**ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2024
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AGREEMENT REGARDING PLACEMENT OF MONUMENT
AGENDA ITEM 8F**

As the Parks and Recreation Director, I am pleased to announce that I, along with my staff and the Recreation Commission, are in agreement with the placement of the Heroes Field Monument at Riverfront Park. We believe this addition will honor our military veterans, police officers and firefighters and enhance the park's significance for all visitors.



Lisa Zerio
Director of Parks and Recreation

5/28/24