

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 6:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020 VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT)

Public access made available through live streaming on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_xey3QjJmwe57R_6K94Dw

Public comments accepted at Comments@cheshirect.org and by voice mail message at 203 271-6638. Video will be available on Channel 14 and on demand at www.cheshirect.org as soon as possible.

Present

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Chairman; Timothy Slocum, Vice-Chairman; David Borowy, James Jinks, Sylvia Nichols, Sandy Pavano, Peter Talbot, Donald Walsh.

Absent: David Veleber

Staff: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Asst. Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; George Noewatne, PW Director; Gerald Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator.

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Contract Negotiations

B. Personnel Matters

Chairman Oris moved Executive Session to the end of the agenda.

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Slocum submitted three (3) items of public communication in the form of letters as follows:

Cheshire Republican Town Committee; Cheshire Grid Iron Club and CHS Football Alumni Association; and The Cheshire Grid Iron Club.

Chairman Oris acknowledged these letters and the many people who have reached out to him and his family during the threats and devastating comments received. He wrote a letter to The Cheshire Herald regarding the situation, its effect on his wife and children, and continuing his strong voice for the community in spite of what has occurred. Mr. Oris thanked everyone for their support.

A. Public Comments

B. Summary of FY19-20 quarter four consent calendar donations.

Chairman Oris reported on 4th quarter donations of \$54,969.61. Mr. Oris expressed appreciation to all the donors for their generosity to the COVID-19 assistance program and other needs of the community.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of June 9, 2020; Special Meetings of June 16 and 23, 2020.

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of June 9, 2020, and Special Meetings of June 16 and 23, 2020, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Correction – Heading of June 9, 2020 Public Hearing to read:
MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020, AT 6:30 P.M. VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT).

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR – July 14, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-1

RESOLUTION #071420-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR JULY 14, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for July 14, 2020 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$11 donation from Maria Esposito To the Cheshire Human Services Jitney Bus Fund.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5 donation from Aleta Looker To the Cheshire Human Services Jitney Bus Fund.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Ann Arisco to the Cheshire Exchange Senior Services Account to be used for CHAT Programming.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$30 donation from Severino Fasulo To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for the Senior Center.

- E. Acceptance appropriation of a \$25 donation from Dorothy Watkins To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for the Senior Center.
- F. Acceptance appropriation of a \$50 donation from an anonymous donor To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for general purposes.
- G. Acceptance appropriation of a \$2 donation from George Guinta To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for the Senior Center.
- H. Acceptance appropriation of a \$500 donation from Mary Hyson To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for the Senior Center.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,000 donation from Gay Barnett to The Recreation Gift Account for a memorial bench in honor of Cathy Ragone.
- J. Acceptance appropriation of a \$500 donation from Nancy and Bob Knapp To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for general purposes.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and action re: Neighborhood Assistance Program Application From Cheshire Academy.

MOTION by Mr. Walsh; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-2

RESOLUTION #071420-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Cheshire Academy submission for their High Efficiency Boiler Replacement Project to the State of Connecticut 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

Discussion

This item was the subject of a public hearing and Mr. Walsh explained that Cheshire Academy will be replacing a large boiler in its largest dormitory on the campus with NAA funding received.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

B. Acceptance and appropriation of an aggregate of \$2,700 in donations To the COVID-19 Assistance Program for reimbursement to the Human Services Gift Account.

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Slocum

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-3

RESOLUTION #071420-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and approves the following donations totaling \$2,950 to the Human Services Gift Account for the COVID-19 Assistance Program:

Cheshire Interfaith Housing	\$2,500
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Daddio	\$ 200
Brian's Guitars T-Shirt Fundraiser	\$ 250

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. Discussion and possible action re: Economic Incentive Policy

Councilor Borowy is the liaison to the EDC, and he reviewed the proposed changes by the EDC to the Economic Incentive Policy. The current policy expired on June 30, 2020.

The EDC unanimously recommended extension of the policy for an additional three (3) years with modifications. Mr. Stanley, EDC Chairman, cited the modifications.

- 1) The deadline for applying for incentive assistance would be 60 days after the issuance of a CO.
- 2) The policy will mention the availability of Tax Increment Financing (TI) in lieu of tax assistance.

Mr. Stanley reported that the subcommittee met, compared Cheshire's policy to other towns, discussed the policy with Mr. Sitko, and the modifications were approved. There is also the TIF program for the Industrial Zone. The Incentive Policy and TIF program cannot be used together.

A question was asked by Mr. Walsh about incentive policies of neighboring towns, and what they offer. He noted Southington's policy is 7 years; Wallingford is 5 years.

It was pointed out by Mr. Stanley that Southington has an enterprise zone, and Wallingford has its own electric company with lower rates, and Cheshire has the TIF program.

EDC member, Mr. Dobbs, noted that the Industrial Zone makes a big difference in attracting new business to Cheshire.

Regarding what Cheshire or other towns have, Mr. Sitko said we are in the middle...some towns have more, some less, and Cheshire is trying to stay competitive and responsible. Since 1994 there have been 37 agreements with companies; things have slowed down; but Cheshire is still getting projects.

Chairman Oris commended Mr. Sitko and the EDC members for their hard work and efforts for the community, and said they deserve more credit than they receive. He also thanked the Chamber of Commerce Director Auger and staff for their efforts on behalf of the town. Mr. Oris supports the resolution.

Mr. Slocum talked about the “deadline of 60 days” and if it was in the original policy.

There is no actual “deadline” and Mr. Sitko clarified that a timeline was decided on as a good idea and 60 days is sufficient. He noted the program requires a company to stay in town for 10 years and have a certain percentage of employees. The town has not lost any tax dollars with the program. The issue of loans was raised and discussed at the EDC meeting, and Mr. Sitko said some companies have gotten loans as money is available, but not with this program. Regarding façade improvements, Mr. Sitko said the program is okay with these improvements.

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-4

RESOLUTION #071420-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Economic Incentive Polity for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, as presented and attached, per the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission.

Discussion

Mr. Talbot thanked Mr. Sitko and the EDC membership for their work on behalf of the town. He said the program is vital to the success of the town.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

D. Authorization to apply, acceptance of, and appropriation of the Town’s chare of a \$200,000 Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition Program Grant for the purchase of Fenn Road property.

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Walsh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-5

RESOLUTION #071420-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council retroactively authorizes application for a \$200,000 Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition Program Grant for the purchase of 257 Fenn Road, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates the Town's share of approximately \$106,000 for said property purchase, with the remainder shared with the Regional Water Authority per the Memorandum of Agreement on said property.

Discussion

Mr. Borowy explained this is a State program which helps organizations with land projects. It is not to be confused with the Audubon grant from the Land Trust. There are three (3) parties involved in the land purchase. \$200,000 from the Land Trust; \$225,000 from Regional Water Authority; and \$250,000 from the Cheshire Land Acquisition Account. Cheshire's share is 53% of the total cost.

If the grant is received it will defray most of the town's cost for the land. The Council is asked to appropriate \$106,000 for the property purchase.

The Town of Cheshire applied for the \$200,000 grant by the June 30, 2020 deadline and is requesting retroactive authority for this application.

Chairman Oris reached out to David and Sally Schrumm and thanked them for their hard work to make this happen. He supports the resolution.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

E. Discussion and possible action regarding appropriation of auction proceeds totaling \$10,292.35 from the sale of equipment and vehicles to the Auction Proceeds Account for purchase of future equipment or vehicles.

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-6

RESOLUTION #071420-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts an aggregate of \$10,292.35 in proceeds from the sales at auction of Public Works equipment and vehicles, and appropriates said amount for maintenance and purchases of Public Works equipment and vehicles.

Discussion

Mr. Borowy explained that these auction funds are used for vehicle purchases, and sometimes for maintenance of vehicles with purchase of large parts.

Five pieces of equipment were auctioned off, and the funds are used for vehicle purchases and not general maintenance. The funds can be used for purchase of larger parts for vehicle maintenance.

Mr. Noewatne advised that the sale of equipment goes through an auction service, and the amount cited is the net proceeds.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

F. Discussion and action re: Approval of auditor agreement and Appointment of auditor.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-7

RESOLUTION #071420-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Town Council approves the multi-year auditing agreement with Blum, Shapiro & Company PC, per the terms as attached, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints Blum, Shapiro & Company, PC as auditor for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints Blum, Shapiro & Company PC as auditor for a one-time internal control and operational review of certain funds at the Cheshire Public Schools.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols briefly reviewed the process undertaken for hiring of a new auditing firm for the Town of Cheshire. The previous auditing firm, RFM, is phasing out of the municipal market and did not re-bid for the contract. There were two submissions to the RFP; interviews were held; and the costs for each firm's auditing services were close. The Audit Committee selected Blum, Shapiro as the new auditing firm for the Town of Cheshire. The firm has many clients, 500+employees, the auditing staff/team to do an audit, it is a regional firm, their presentation was good, and the committee was also comfortable and very satisfied with their presenters. The contract is for five (5) years, and renewable after three (3) years for another two (2) years.

The Town Council appoints the auditor for FY 2019-2020, and once approval is granted, the auditing work begins. The town's financial statement is complex with state and

federal single audit that covers all grant funding; there will also be a separate audit of BOE special accounts; and review of I.T. issues and controls for the Town and BOE.

For the technical aspect of the audit, Ms. Nichols said the auditors will review current policies, make recommendations for any significant issues. There will be continuation of the work of the Technology Committee.

Mr. Jaskot noted the audit will focus on internal controls, weaknesses in some of the practices, review of the controls for all financial processes, and separate focus on technology.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

G. Discussion and possible action re: Award of contract for design, bidding and construction administration services for the Norton Cafeteria capital project to Wojas Arch, LLC in the amount of \$29,700.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-8

RESOLUTION #071420-8

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council awards the contract for design, bidding and construction administration services for the Norton Cafeteria capital project to Wojas Arch, LLC in the amount of \$29,700, per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission.

Discussion

The PBC recommends the Council award a design contract to WOJAS, Arch LLC, and Mr. Slocum noted that this contractor has done prior satisfactory work in Cheshire. The scope of the work is to upgrade the server, kitchen, and storage areas for better flow and more usable space for students and staff. The project is funded with a \$400,000 capital appropriation. Construction is expected to take place in Summer 2021.

In looking at the bid prices, Mr. Walsh questioned the range of the amounts for the contract, and asked about making sure we are getting the same services with each bid.

The Council was informed by Mr. Noewatne that some of the bidders included hiring a “kitchen designer” for the project, which was unnecessary. A similar project was done at Doolittle School using WOJAS, and there was a good result with the project.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

H. Discussion and possible action re: Award of contract for design, bidding and construction administration services for the Police Department locker rooms and HVAC capital project to Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC in the amount of \$70,000.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-9

RESOLUTION #071420-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council awards the contract for design, bidding and construction administration services for the Police Department locker rooms and HVAC capital project to Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC in the amount of \$70,000 per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum said this is a new project that has been funded. The PBC reviewed the qualifications of the bidders, and selected Jacunski Humes Architects as the best fit for this project. In negotiations, the firm reduced its fee to \$70,000.

This project is funded with an existing \$400,000 capital appropriation and additional \$1.4M capital appropriation referendum to be approved in November. Construction is expected to occur in Spring of 2021.

Mr. Noewatne noted that eight (8) bidders responded; numbers were all over the board; and Jacunski Hums has an excellent track record in public safety buildings. CPD favored Jacunski Hums as the contractor.

Ms. Pavano asked about "testing" in the building, and if there is a contingency for asbestos if it is found.,

A testing company will be hired and Mr. Noewatne said the addition to the CPD building is fairly new, but the older part should not have too much asbestos. He will provide a breakdown of the services and forward to the Council.

With regard to the bid and breakdown of costs in each phase of \$100,000 and then negotiated down to \$70,000, Mr. Oris is curious about the phases. He will support the project because having a specialty firm doing public safety work is important. The public needs to know this is not the lowest bid; we are about \$30,000 higher than some lower bids; and there is a reason for PBC supporting the higher bid.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

I. Authorization for allocation of \$9,415 from the Capital Non Recurring Account to remedy previous structural and liner installation issues At the pool.

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-10

RESOLUTION #071420-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council allocates \$9,415 from the Capital Non Recurring Account to remedy previous structural and liner installation issues at the pool.

Discussion

This funding is to improve the community pool with the new liner installed for a good fit, and Mr. Borowy noted there is now new technology and materials for installation of a liner.

Mr. Oris supports the pool facility as a big asset to the community, even if it is a facility that not everyone uses. We have this asset and must work and repair prior issues. He commended Mr. Kimball and Mr. Gawlak for their efforts with the pool.

The Council went with the more expensive bid for the new liner for an earlier reopening and Mr. Walsh said the pool is open and running efficiently. He is disappointed about more money into the pool...but the town owns the pool and must take care of it. Mr. Walsh said Director Gawlak is insuring efficient operation of the pool going forward, and he will support the resolution.

Ms. Nichols informed the Council that she was around when the original pool was done, and for the initial proposal in 1970 for a new high school pool for \$180,000, which was turned down by electorate. She supports the pool; is pleased to see better monitoring procedures and schedules for maintenance issues. The pool is a big asset to the town and needs to be maintained. Ms. Nichols pointed out the incorrect grooving which was done the wrong way; it may not have been evident until the entire liner was taken out; and she supports the pool.

In the letter from Mr. McMillan and closing paragraph, Mr. Slocum had questions, and read the paragraph into the record. He asked if this information dovetails with the warranty.

Town Manager Kimball visited and toured the empty pool, inspected the grinding areas, and got a better understanding of what had to be done. The new liner is a bit thicker than the old liner; it will not be subject to any weather elements...sunlight/winter weather, etc. and should last 25 years. Consultants did a full analysis of the pool and

the report should be ready next month. Mr. Kimball talked about the advancements in technology in the pool industry, and better quality liners intended to last many years.

Another piece regarding the pool is \$7,657 which is additional repair work costs. Mr. Kimball explained that next year, January 2021, there would be replacement of the drain/safety mechanisms. This involves hiring scuba divers to do this work, which is another expense. This process was undertaken when the pool was empty.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

J. Discussion and possible action re: appointment of Sustainable CT Team.

MOTION by Ms. Pavano; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-11

RESOLUTION #071420-11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints the following members to the Town of Cheshire Sustainable CT Team:

Jennifer Dillon, Cheshire Academy Department of History and Sustainability Coordinator
Doug Noble, Rails to Trails
Fiona Pearson, CCSU Department of Sociology and Grant Writer
Karen Schnitzer, Cheshire Land Trust
Bill Stanley, Economic Development Commission

Discussion

Ms. Pavano read an excerpt into the record about Sustainable CT and stated her support of the team.

Mr. Oris supports this resolution, and said each person brings something different to the team. Other members can be added to the team as things move forward.

This is a good team and Mr. Jinks said it is a combination of expertise and perspectives.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Oris will appoint Mr. Jinks as the Council liaison to the team.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

K-1 Approval of naming a memorial for Mark Jardim and status of naming process.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Walsh.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-12

RESOLUTION #071420-12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the Town of Cheshire's Naming Policy and the recommendation of the Planning Committee, names the Cheshire Park Pavilion in memory of Cheshire resident Mark Jardim, while maintaining the recognition of the Cheshire Jaycees for donating the Pavilion. The signage shall read:

*Mark Jardim Memorial Pavilion
Built and Donated by the Cheshire Jaycees 1981*

Discussion

Mr. Borowy informed the committee of his personal relationship with Mark Jardim, as a classmate of CHS 1980, his connection with the Jardim Family, and their working together in Cheshire. Mark was a runner on the CHS track team, so there was thought to name a town trail in his memory. He died in the 9/11 tragedy. Mr. Borowy said it is time to recognize Mark and his contributions to the Town of Cheshire during the 40th year reunion of the Class of 1980 in October. The Cheshire Jaycees built the pavilion at Cheshire Park and have agreed to naming the pavilion in honor of Mark Jardim.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

K-2 MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Pavano

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-13

RESOLUTION #071420-13

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council suspends further naming of Town-owned property until the Council has reviewed and updated the Policy on Naming of Town-owned Property that was adopted in 2008.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum said it is appropriate for the Planning Committee to review the process adopted in 2008.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

L. Discussion and possible action re: appointment of Clerk of the Council (possible executive session)

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #071420-14

RESOLUTION #071420-14

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints Marilyn Milton as Clerk of the Council for the term February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021, pursuant to the terms as presented and attached.

Discussion

Chairman Oris stated this item has been reviewed by Councilors and does not require executive session.

Ms. Nichols advised that the contract for Clerk of the Town Council expired in January 2020, and Ms. Milton brought this to the attention of the Personnel Committee at that time. Due to the pandemic any action on the contract was delayed. In a recent memo to the Personnel Committee, Ms. Milton agreed to continue to work under the current contract without additional increases. The Personnel Committee agreed it was fair to extend the current contract to January 2021.

Chairman Oris supports the resolution on the floor.

Mr. Walsh stated his support of the resolution. He noted the last three (3) months have been difficult for everyone, especially the Clerk of the Council. He commented on Ms. Milton doing a great job, and appreciates her willingness to keep the same contract through January 2021.

Mr. Talbot said the Personnel Committee unanimously supported the appointment of Ms. Milton as Clerk of the Council, and he echoes the comments of Mr. Walsh. He expressed appreciation for the work and efforts of the clerk.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

10. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Monthly Status Report - in Council packets**
- B. Department Status Reports: Police, Fire, Fire Marshal.
In Council packets**
- C. Other Reports**

Town Manager Kimball presented an overview of his monthly report.

Updates on COVID-19 Expansion of Services Plan

Town Hall – continues to be open and available to the public during regular business hours; a staff person is located at a table in the main lobby to admit visitors in order to manage traffic and receive tax payments. Representatives from town offices are called

down to greet visitors and assist as needed for departments. One visitor per office at a time; visitors can wait in the lobby.

Cheshire Community Pool – Reopened on June 22nd with social distance markings and procedures; times reserved in advance (3 hours, 15 minutes long); 30 minute breaks for extensive cleaning; day rates \$5.00 residents; \$10.00 non-resident per time slot; more information at <https://www.cheshirect.org/recreation-and-leisure/community-pool>.

Cheshire Public Library – Grab ‘n Go pick up of books began on June 23rd; this service includes black and white printing options and tax documents; orders made through Library’s online catalog system; main drop box on parking lot side opened June 19th all materials are quarantined for 7 days before recirculation; no fines for accruing late materials; information at <https://www.cheshirelibrary.org/grab-n-go/>

Playground/Courts – all playgrounds and courts are reopened with signs advising anyone with possible symptoms not to use; signs advise that playgrounds are not sanitized and should be used cautiously; Bartlem Kids in Motion Playground is waiting for two last pieces to complete renovation; should be open in about two weeks.

Town Council Adopted Capital Budget – The Town Council adopted the FY21 Annual Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Plan on June 23, 2020. Capital Budget approved at \$6,110,000; three projects go to public referendum on November 3, 2020. \$1,400,000 – HVAC and Locker Room Improvements at Police Station
\$1,600,000 for the Road Improvement Program
\$620,000 for Road Reconstruction of Industrial Avenue

Tax Bills – Tax bills were mailed the end of June; Residents are reminded that the Council approved a 60-day extension per the option available by the Governor’s executive order. Deadline for tax bills to be considered late is now October 1, 2020; taxpayers are encouraged to pay online, by mail, or use the drive-up payment box located in the circle of Town Hall parking lot.

Yard debris Drop-Off Scheduled – The Town of Cheshire will open the former transfer station at 1304 Waterbury Road (Route 70) for resident drop-off or organic yard debris, without a charge. Grass clippings, leaves and brush can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. from Monday, July 20th until Friday July 24th, and again Monday, July 27th until Friday, July 31st. No logs or stumps will be accepted; no contractors or landscapers will be allowed; proof of residency may be required. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, participants must off-load their own vehicles.

Electronics Recycling Scheduled – The Town will hold a free electronics recycling on August 15th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. location to be determined (tentatively Town Hall Parking Lot). List of acceptable items can be found here: <https://www.cheshirect.org/media/164635/electronics-recycling-2020.pdf>.

Residents may also dispose of up to seven (7) electronics items (no charge) at the AJ Waste Transfer Station at 22 Burton Drive, Cheshire CT on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

New Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off-July 1,2020-October 31, 2020

The Town is contracting with Regional Water Authority to dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven. The 2020 season starts July 1 and runs through October 2020. Facility will be open Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon. Proof of residency, online pre-registration and COVID-19 protocol are required. The link for more detailed instructions and online pre-registration is: <https://www.rwter.com/in-the-community/hazwaste-central>.

Jarvis Street Connectivity Sidewalk Project – The Town has begun construction of about a one-half mile long sidewalk on Jarvis Street between the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and Guinevere Ridge beginning week of July 6th. Martin Laviero Contractor Inc., of Bristol CT is performing the work which will take about two months to complete. This project has been awarded a \$386,100 sidewalk connectivity grant from the State DOT; it will provide increased pedestrian access and public safety to and from the Linear Trail for several large area neighborhoods.

West Johnson Bridge Replacement Project, July 1, 2020-September 30, 2020

The Town is in the process of replacing the bridge on West Johnson Avenue over the Ten Mile River. West Johnson Avenue will be closed to all thru-traffic including buses and emergency vehicles (day and night) between Dickerman Road and Reinhard Road for three (3) months, commencing on July 1, 2020, and remaining closed through September 30, 2020. Peck Lane and Schoolhouse Road have been designated as the detour route during this time period. Questions may be directed to the Public Works and Engineering Department at 203-271-6650.

DOT Traffic Cameras at Intersection of Maple and West Main Street

Some questions have been received regarding the traffic cameras installed by the CT DOT at this intersection. The Town has been advised it is only for traffic management; they are not live streaming; they take a snap image, convert the data and the image is deleted. The camera detects how many vehicles are stuck in traffic, and adjusts the lights to keep traffic flowing to prevent backups. These cameras cannot be used for traffic or red light enforcement by law.

Current Road Milling/Paving Information (Round #2)

The updated schedule is Cheshire St from Riverview Ct to East Johnson Avenue; Oregon Road from South Meriden Road to 1000' E South Meriden Road; Oregon Road from 1000' S E Meriden Road to Meriden Road.

Town Energy Efficient Lighting Upgrade – Notice has been received that the Town is eligible for additional rebates totaling \$28,023 as part of the Townwide LED conversion in municipal buildings and facilities. The Council authorized this project to use “on-bill”

zero interest financing and these savings will reduce the payback time substantially. The project is about 95% complete with the upgraded field lights as Cheshire Park currently in progress.

Bartlem Park Kids in Motion Playground Improvements – This playground is receiving much needed improvements thanks to the Town Council’s capital budget appropriation last Fall. Failed fencing was replaced; upgrades to the entire playground are proceeding including replacement of six pieces of equipment; most of the “poured in place” surface material will be replaced with ADA compliant pre-engineered wood fiber mulch; new equipment is almost complete with two remaining apparatus to be completed before reopening in two weeks.

Chesprocott Drive Through Flu Clinic – Chesprocott has announced a “Drive-Thru” flu clinic for Thursday, October 1, from 10 A.M. to Noon at the Cheshire Congregational Church Green. Participants will drive up, remain in cars, and nurses from Hartford Healthcare will provide the vaccination. More information and promotions will follow.

Upcoming Town Council & Sub-Committee Meetings – Town Council Regular Meeting August 11, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Council Questions and Comments for the Town Manager

Mr. Walsh asked about the cancelled mattress recycling (in April), and if it will be rescheduled with information on the website. He also asked about Mixville Park and if the beach is open for public use.

The Council was told by Mr. Kimball that the beach at Mixville is not open for swimming on the advice of Chesprocott and following the State’s rules for inland swim areas. There has been testing; the beach is safe; there is discouragement to have a large number of people for long periods of time. Rec Director Gawlak is putting together ideas on recreation issues. The geese issue has subsided and the staff is in contact with the mitigation specialist. Mixville restrooms are not yet open per advice of Chesprocott, and this discourages large groups of people from using the park for long periods of time. The mattress recycling has not yet been rescheduled.

There was a question raised by Mr. Jinks about traffic jams at the two cited locations, and if DOT is looking to make changes.

This intersection was upgraded a few years ago and Mr. Noewatne said the State is using software to determine traffic/congestion/backup/ and smart signal.

Mr. Slocum expressed appreciation to Ms. Talbot for her help in securing a place for the Historical Society to hold its annual reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Regarding the Zoom meetings, Mr. Slocum hopes they come to an end, and soon. He said everything is being done to accommodate getting meetings more available to the

public, and the public wants to speak to the Council and other Commissions. He noted the Governor is changing procedures all the time. What is going on is a disservice to people.

Chairman Oris stated everything is being done to provide public access for people to speak on any matter. We should be prepared for the next Council meeting to be an “in-person” meeting, and it must be done with support of everyone in the process.

Fire and Police Reports – Mr. Slocum commented on motor vehicle thefts being way up, and requested more information on CPD enforcement. Motor vehicle warnings and arrests are down, probably due to COVID-19, and he asked about the impact on public safety.

This has been discussed with the Chief and Mr. Kimball said there are fewer accidents and arrests due to less people on the roads. Chief Dryfe has sent a message to the CPD officers to get back to full enforcement.

It was noted by Ms. Pavano that there were 31 alarm calls in June, and she asked how this happens...is it alarm malfunction.

Mr. Talbot explained that local businesses do have false alarms; CPD gives warnings; and there is a penalty after a certain number of alarms.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.

A. Chairman's Report – Mr. Oris referred the following:

- i. Referral of Naming Policy to the Planning Committee**
- ii. Referral of Legal Services RFP process to the Planning Committee**

Audit Committee – Ms. Nichols stated the committee completed its work.

Personnel Committee – Ms. Nichols reported the committee is working with contract negotiations and will continue with this work.

Planning Committee- The committee will meet sometime in July to discuss the RFP for legal services and Naming Policy.

Solid Waste Committee – Mr. Walsh will schedule a committee meeting to address some issues.

B. Miscellaneous

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports

The Beautification Committee – Mr. Jinks attended a meeting in Chambers with the room set up for committee and staff...and no one else.

Public Safety – Mr. Jinks reported this committee met last week; nothing to report.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Town Council approve the following appointments:

Public Building Commission - Diane Waldron (U); term of office present to 1/31/21; replacing Mark Nash.

Public Building Commission – Don Nidoh (R); term of office present to 1/31/22; replacing Art Crooker.

Energy Commission – George Romania (R); term of office present to 1/31/21; replacing Timothy White.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No report

14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

Chairman Oris read two letters dated June 17, 2019 and June 23, 2020 into the record from Mrs. Bonnie DiMauro regarding a blight issue with two private properties in Cheshire. The letters are included with the minutes.

Mr. Oris commented on the Council sharing Mrs. DiMauro's concerns. This matter will be referred to the Ordinance Review Committee, which is trying to craft a blight ordinance. The ORC needed more time to consider the appropriate way to handle blight. The properties cited in the letters will be brought forward to the ORC.

B. Miscellaneous

3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Contract Negotiations

B. Personnel Matters

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to include Town Manager Kimball, Asst. Town Manager Talbot, PW Director Noewatne (for contract negotiations), and Town Attorney Smith.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

The Council exited Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk