

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,  
AUGUST 8, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**This meeting can be viewed live at  
[youtube.com/c/CheshireChannel](https://youtube.com/c/CheshireChannel) 14 or on Channel 14**

**Public comments can be made virtually via [zoom.us/my/townofcheshire](https://zoom.us/my/townofcheshire),  
via e mail at [Comments@cheshirect.org](mailto:Comments@cheshirect.org),  
and by voice message prior to the meeting at 203-271-6638.**

**Present**

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Chairman; Timothy Slocum, Vice-Chairman; David Borowy, James Jinks, Sylvia Nichols, Sandy Pavano, Peter Talbot, David Veleber, Donald Walsh.  
Staff: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Asst. Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Al Smith, Town Attorney; CPD Chief Neil Dryfe.

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 7:05 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. Labor Negotiations**

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

**4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

**A. Public Comments**

**Note: Public comments can be made virtually via  
[zoom.us/my/townofcheshire](https://zoom.us/my/townofcheshire). Participants will be admitted to speak one at  
a time, and can be seen and heard by Council members. It is  
recommended that speakers view the meeting on YouTube.**

There were no public comments or e-mails.

On behalf of the Town Council and the Cheshire community Mr. Oris expressed sympathy and condolences to the Winters family on the sudden death of Mike Winters who was a Cheshire Police Department employee for 31 years. Mr. Winters worked as a CPD Dispatcher, was president of the Dispatcher Union, and appointed Technical Coordinator in 2005. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and CPD.

Thoughts and prayers are with the Winters family and the CPD family. A moment of silence was held in honor of Mike Winters.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting of August 18, 2020; Special Meeting of August 11, 2020.**

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

MOVED to approve the minutes of August 18, 2020 and August 11, 2020 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Veleber

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #

**RESOLUTION #090820-1  
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 8, 2020**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for August 8, 2020 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from The Cheshire Lion's Foundation to the Police Gift Account to be used for personal protective Equipment.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,000 donation from Temple Lodge AF&AM To the Human Services Gift Account for Cheshire families in need.
- C. Authorization to apply for the annual Connecticut Department of Mental Health And Addiction Services Local Prevention Council Grant in the amount of \$5,342.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous donation of \$50 to the Human Services gift account for general purposes.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from the Cheshire Lion's Foundation to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Lisa Pattin in Celebration of Tracy Ajello to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.

- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$30 donation from Martin Cobern to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of an \$1,800 donation from the Friends of the Cheshire Public Library to the Library Gift Account for programming.
- I. Acceptance of two replacement gazebos from Cheshire Dog Park Inc. for The Cheshire Dog Park, pursuant to the Town's requirements.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Call of public hearing to consider an amendment to extend the Unsafe Premises Ordinance.**

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #

**RESOLUTION #090820-1**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council calls for a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Unsafe Premises Ordinance, Section 3-41 Sunset Provision, to extend the ordinance for two years to September 30, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause a notice of said public hearing to be posted and published according to law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date, time, and place or any postponements thereof shall be determined by the Town Manager with the approval of the Chairman of the Council.

Discussion

Mr. Veleber stated the ordinance was passed a few years ago and is related to unsafe situations on premises in Cheshire. Former Fire Marshal Andrews found the ordinance to be a good tool to help address issues of concern. The ORC will review and recommended updating the ordinance with extension of the sunset provision.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**B. Possible discussion re: School Modernization Committee appointments.**

Ms. Nichols updated the Council on the SMC with the appointment of Kate O'Donnell to fill the vacancy of Ann Marie Kemp, and the need to appoint a Council representative to fill the vacancy with resignation of Peter Talbot.

Mr. Oris said any SMC issues can be addressed under this agenda item.

Mr. Jinks wants to get the SMC back to full operation and progress with their work. His recommendation was to add two public members/females to the SMC for a gender mix.

It was noted by Mr. Borowy that SMC is a large committee, and more members should not be added. If there is a need to "undo" the elected officials as members, it should be recognized that the Council and BOE members will be part of the decision making for the SMC recommendations.

Mr. Jinks suggested there be one Council and BOE members on the SMC, and add more public female members to the committee.

The Council was told by Ms. Nichols that the SMC wants to get the seats filled as soon as possible so they can continue with their work and the process ahead. This is an SMC conversation; the committee is large now; and there could be sub-committee chairs as the projects move forward. SMC does not want to lose its momentum...it wants to move forward as originally set up and make decisions.

Chairman Oris stated that if SMC decides to have modifications to its membership it must advise the Council. At this time there is nothing to address. And, new members could have an issue with getting up to date with SMC business. Mr. Oris further commented on the false accusations towards him and false information, and he is staying out of all of it.

**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** (a copy of the Town Manager's report is attached to the minutes)

**Fall Fireworks** – the fireworks display will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> at Bartlem Park under CDC guidelines...people wearing masks and social distancing. No food or beverages will be sold; people can bring their own picnic food; Sunday is the rain date.

**Debris Collection** – 50% completed; crews working in the town south to north. The pickup and disposal will be for home and business owners. The collection will begin at the south end of Town, work north, with a crew on each side of Route 10. There will be one pass through Town; the crew will not enter private driveways or condominium complexes; pickup is for brush only (no leaves or grass clippings); branch diameters must be 8 inches or less; brush must be at the curb. Larger diameter logs can be taken to the Old Transfer Station, self-transported and unloaded via self-service, Monday to Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Tax Bills** – Tax payments are due on October 1, 2020; payments were extended 60 days to October 1<sup>st</sup> and are late after that date; payments can be made on-line, by mail, or drive-up payment box in the Town Hall parking lot.

In response to a question from Mr. Borowy about projections of tax payments, Mr. Jaskot advised payments are coming in earlier than expected, and collection is at the normal rate of past years.

**Expansion of Services Plan** – On a limited basis, the Cheshire Public Library will soon reopen and begin welcoming a limited number of patrons. No food or beverages will be allowed; some tables and seating have been removed; plexiglass dividers are in place; restrooms are closed to the public. The “grab and go” service continues. The reopening date will soon be announced.

**Cheshire Police Department** – Mr. Kimball expressed sympathy, thoughts and prayers to the Winters Family and CPD family on the loss of Mike Winters, CPD employee for 31 years.

Mr. Kimball announced two new police officers, Alex Wells and Tonny Francois will be sworn in and join CPD on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Walsh expressed appreciation to PW Director Noewatne and his crew for the job well done with the ongoing debris collection. There is also debris drop-off at the transfer station.

Mr. Veleber stated the debris collection was a job well done, and he has referred people to the map when there are questions about the program progress. Mr. Veleber also asked about how many new police officers there are in CPD and recent changes in the department.

Chief Dryfe reported two (2) new police officers graduated from the Police Academy in January 2020, and two (2) graduated in March 2020...and one (1) of them has since left CPD. Deputy Chief Pichnarcik retired two weeks ago and many years of experience has been lost with his retirement; two new officers will be the replacement for these two

vacancies; and the CPD will be at 47 police officers. One (1) position has been frozen this year.

**Upcoming Meetings** – Planning Committee, September 8, 2020, 7:30 p.m.; Personnel Committee, September 15, 2020, 4:00 p.m.; Ordinance Review Committee, September 16, 2020, 4:00 p.m.; Town Council Regular Meeting, October 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m.; School Modernization Committee (SMC) September 16, 2020, 7:00 p.m. and October 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

## **11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.**

### **A. Chairman's Report**

- i. Consideration of a Poet Laureate referred to the Planning Committee**
- ii. Review of AARP Livable Communities Program referred to the Planning Committee.**

Personnel Committee – Ms. Nichols reported the committee will meet on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Planning Committee – Mr. Slocum reported the committee meets on September 9<sup>th</sup> to review items postponed due to the pandemic...the Town Attorney contract and consideration of Poet Laureate.

Ordinance Review Committee – Mr. Veleber reported the committee meets on September 16<sup>th</sup> and will have an agenda with many items for review and consideration.

Budget Committee –Mr. Borowy commented on the capital budget being done earlier this year, and referendum questions on the ballot will have a great impact on the town.

BOE – Ms. Pavano reported the BOE has met twice on the teachers' contract; two more meetings are planned and they are making headway.

### **B. Miscellaneous**

## **12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Liaison Reports**

**Cheshire Housing Authority** – Mr. Walsh reported that CHA met on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Beachport has 100% occupancy; The Commons has one 2-bedroom unit open; Affordable Housing is 100% occupied; CHA is reviewing beautification ideas to enhance the properties.

### **B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions - None**

**i. Appointment to fill vacancy on School Modernization Committee**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Walsh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #09082020-3

**RESOLUTION #090820-3**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints Councilor Jim Jinks as a Council representative member of the School Modernization Committee to fill the vacancy of Peter Talbot.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols pointed out that three (3) Council members serve on the SMC...at this time Councilors Nichols and Walsh serve and Councilor Jinks will be the third Council member.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Letters to Council.**

Chairman Oris read a letter from Diane Visconti regarding the SMC situation into the record.

**B. Miscellaneous**

**3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Contract Negotiations**

**B. Labor Negotiations**

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Jinks.

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to include Town Manager Kimball, Asst. Town Manager Talbot, Town Attorney Smith, CPD Chief Dryfe, Asst. Town Manager Zullo, Finance Director Jaskot to discuss contract negotiations and labor negotiations.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Councilor Talbot left Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

The Council exited Executive Session at 9:09 p.m.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk