

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011, AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Timothy Slocum, David Schrumm, Michael Ecke, Andrew Falvey, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Peter Talbot.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager, Arnett Talbot, Exec. Assistant to the Town Manager; Town Clerk Carolyn Soltis.

AGENDA

1. Conducted by Town Clerk:

A. ROLL CALL

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

C. ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Sima.

MOVED that Timothy Slocum be nominated for Chairperson of the Cheshire Town Council.

Town Clerk Soltis called for nominations three times. There were no other nominations.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Chairman Slocum thanked the Council members for their support, and stated he looked forward to working with them.

2. Conducted by Council Chairperson

A. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

MOVED that David Schrumm be nominated as Vice-Chairperson of the Cheshire Town Council.

Mr. Slocum called for nominations three times. There were no other nominations.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

B.       REVIEW OF TOWN COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chairman Slocum advised that the only proposed change to the Rules of Procedure is under Section XIII, Town Attorney, with the change to read as follows:

**The Town Attorney will attend all regular and special meetings of the Council, as necessary, at the request of the Chair. The Chairman may seek the advice of the Town Attorney on any parliamentary question.**

Mr. Slocum stated that this is a merging of two sections. He noted that the Council has been operating for the last several years, with or without the Town Attorney present at regular meetings with the consent of the Chair, in conference with the Town Manager. It was felt necessary to clarify this issue and to abide by the rules.

The Council will discuss and vote on this agenda item at its December 13, 2011 meeting.

A question was posed by Mr. Falvey on whether this change will change the contract with the Town Attorney or affect fees or billing charges.

Mr. Slocum stated that by following this procedure there will be about a \$500 savings in Town Attorney fees.

Ms. Talbot informed the Council the attorney fees for some meetings are more and some are less. Most of these fees are covered by the retainer, and over a certain number of hours per month there is an hourly fee of \$225.

The Council was informed by Town Manager Milone that this proposed change will not have any effect on the contract with the Town Attorney.

Mr. Ecke commented on Section VI-A-3, Public Communications – General Items not on the agenda, recommending that “General items not on the agenda” be deleted. He suggested that this order of business item not be limited to items not on the regular agenda. Mr. Ecke noted that people come to the Council meetings, and must stay late into the evening to address an agenda item. He said he believes a change in this section will provide more public input and make the meetings more open.

In response, Chairman Slocum stated that the Chair is willing to accommodate anyone, and as Chair, he would be willing to make that section more open.

According to Mr. Slocum it is better served for the Chair to be able to move an item forward on the agenda for public input.

It was noted by Mr. Schrumm that this is long standing and in Roberts Rules. People can speak to different things on the agenda and require an explanation on an item. This section should be left as is, and if people want to discuss an agenda item, the matter can be moved to the front of the agenda to accommodate the public.

With regard to people speaking at Council meetings, Ms. Nichols asked if it was the policy for people to sign in to speak on an agenda item, and if this works.

When there is a public hearing before a Council meeting, Mr. Slocum said this is when people can speak to an item.

The Council was informed by Ms. Talbot, FOI Officer for the Town of Cheshire, that under FOI, people cannot be required to sign in to speak to the Council on a matter.

Ms. Flynn-Harris commented on the need to assure open communications for all items on the agenda.

When planning the order of the Council meeting, Mr. Slocum said items are rearranged, when necessary.

C. ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments were in the Council packets.

D. SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETING DATES FOR CALENDAR 2012

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Sima.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #120511-1`

RESOLUTION #120511-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the following meeting dates for the 2012 and January 2013 Town Council Regular Meetings. All meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

JANUARY 10, 2012; FEBRUARY 14, 2012; MARCH 13, 2012; APRIL 10, 2012; MAY 8, 2012; JUNE 12, 2012; JULY 10, 2012; AUGUST 14, 2012; SEPTEMBER 11, 2012; OCTOBER 9, 2012; NOVEMBER 13, 2012, DECEMBER 11, 2012; and JANUARY 8, 2013.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Before adjournment, Chairman Slocum informed the Council that they have been invited to have photographs taken for the Kensett event. The photos will be taken on December 13, 2011, at 6 p.m. at the Gaudio home in Cheshire.

E.     ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk