

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Capeci, Phil Carroll, William DeRosa, Charles Gardner (7:13 pm), Chris Gardner, Lisa Kessler, Ryan Knapp, Michelle Embree Ku, Tom Long, Matthew Mihalcik

ABSENT: Angela Curi, Dan Honan

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, 6 public, 0 press

CALL TO ORDER: This is a public hearing to hear voter comments on the 2022-2023 Annual Budget of The Town of Newtown. Mr. Capeci called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:07 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: One voter comment submitted via email. *See attachment A.*

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Capeci closed the public hearing at 7:27 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rina Quijano, Clerk*

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE NEXT MEETING. ANY EDITS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Attachment A

Sent: Tue, Mar 15, 2022 at 5:45 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

Submitted on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - 5:45pm

Your name: Robert W. Katrinak

Your e-mail address: rwkatrinak@gmail.com

Subject: 2022/23 Budget - Commentary For Mar 16 2022 Public Meeting

Dear Newtown Legislative Council,

I am a Newtown resident who won't be able to attend the public hearing for 2022/23 Budget live, I have a scheduling conflict, I hope you will accept my commentary via this email.

I oppose the 2022/23 Budget as submitted, I feel the requested amount is too high and should be reduced greatly, town and school sides both. Here's why.

1. Budget does not reflect the poor state of our economy. Inflation is running rampant and taxpayers are struggling to pay their bills. Any salary increases received are not keeping up with inflation in most households.
2. Budget is mostly salaries and benefits and all workers appear to be receiving salary increases yet no productivity is offered to the taxpayers. I've not seen this practice in the private sector. Since a benefit to the taxpayers hasn't been demonstrated I am opposed.
3. Education budget is difficult to interpret given the poor presentation but appears to be increasing again with relatively flat enrollment. More staff is added with purpose not clear. No useful metrics provided to taxpayer in presentation such as student test scores achieved or cost per pupil. Again, since a benefit to the taxpayers hasn't been demonstrated I am opposed.
4. I've grown tired of the same old budget routine in Newtown that provides no benefit to the taxpayer. Pay the unions their salary and benefit increases each year for no productivity returned to the taxpayer, cut back on services that actually matter to taxpayers so the unions can be paid, find more taxpayers to pass the higher costs onto via unwanted real estate development in our town to hold the mil rate down, repeat next year.

Thanks for listening - and thank you for volunteering to run our town.

Now go do the right thing!

Regards,

Robert W. Katrinak