

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Jeffery Capeci, Tom Long, Phil Carroll, Chris Gardner, Dan Honan, Lisa Kessler, Ryan Knapp, Michelle Embree Ku, Matthew Mihalczik, Charles Gardner, Angela Curi

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Bob Tait, Wes Thompson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Capeci called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Matt Mihalczik moved to approve the minutes of the 3/15/23 regular meeting. Charles Gardner seconded, all in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Matt Mihalczik reported that the Finance and Admin subcommittee met last Thursday and will be meeting again tomorrow to review the answers that were provided to their questions. Tom Long reported that Municipal Operations subcommittee met and will have budget recommendation at next week's meeting. Michelle Embree Ku reported that in the past there was a working group between the BOF, LC and BOE for the Education Non-Lapsing Fund policy. The LC and BOE have the same policy but the BOF is a little different. The BOE and the BOF are working to come to an agreement.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:** First Selectman Rosenthal reported that they authorized a letter of intent for the sale of 3 Main Street, the old Police Department. This gives the prospective buyer the ability to go to P&Z and let them come back in mid-May with an offer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*American Rescue Plan Appropriation: \$200,000 for two Borough of Newtown Sidewalk Projects – Charles Gardner moved a resolution providing for an appropriation totaling \$200,000; for two Borough of Newtown Sidewalks at Church Hill and Queen Street from American Rescue Plan grant. Matt Mihalczik seconded.* The borough has already paid for the engineering and they are shovel ready. All in favor

Capital Projects to be included on April budget referendum ballot –Charles Gardner moved to refer the following capital projects to the April referendum, High School HVAC Replacement (\$1,200,000), Library HVAC (\$800,000) and the Municipal Roof Remediation and Replacement (\$1,550,000), Matt Michalick seconded. Ryan Knapp pointed out that they want the tax payers to vote at design phase to make sure they support the project. Ryan Knapp moved to amend the motion include Middle School HVAC Design (\$450,000). First Selectman Rosenthal suggested not to include the Library HVAC because they just got a design firm so the funds may not be needed for a while, it can be done on the November ballot if needed. Charles Gardner withdrew his motion, Matt Michalcik withdrew his second and Ryan Knapp withdrew his amendment.

Charles Gardner moved to refer the following items to the April referendum: The Municipal Roof Remediation and Replacement (\$1,550,000), High School HVAC Replacement (\$1,200,000), and the Middle School HVAC Design (\$450,000), Matt Michalcik seconded. Michelle Embree Ku asked if it was typical for the LC to leave several million dollars in the cap? First Selectman Rosenthal responded that there isn't an exact number but generally they left about a ½ million.  
Motion Passes 11 Yes to 1 NO (Embree Ku).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*2023-2024 Budget Discussion* – Ryan Knapp asked the question about pensions and contributions. Why the police going up and town employees is going down? Also, how funded is our town pension? Bob Tait explained that there is a page in the actuary report that explains the ups and downs. The ups are the investment performance, the downs would be the number of employees leaving the pension plan. Ryan Knapp also expressed concern that people are voting on a 1.85% budget increase but when they open their tax bill they will have a much larger increase than that. Bob Tait responded that the estimated mill rate was published and it is the most accurate way to estimate taxes.

Announcements - None

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Arlene Miles, Clerk*