

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Jordana Bloom, Chris Smith, Phil Carroll, Ryan Knapp, Judit DeStefano, Paul Lundquist, Chris Eide (via Zoom), Dan Wiedemann, Cathy Reiss, Dan Honan

**ABSENT:** Alison Plante, Andy Clure

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Community Center Director Matthew Ariniello, Community Center Committee Chair Kinga Walsh; 0 public, 0 press

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Lundquist called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 pm.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Mr. Honan moved to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2021 Legislative Council Regular Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Reiss. Mr. Smith and Mr. Carroll abstained. All in favor. Motion passes (10-0).

Mr. Knapp moved to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2021 Legislative Council Public Hearing. Seconded by Ms. Bloom. Mr. Smith and Mr. Carroll abstained. All in favor. Motion passes (10-0).

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Ordinance Committee – Mr. Knapp reported that they had received some questions surrounding the action taken on the volunteer firefighter's abatement. They were mainly regarding how the abatement levels are adjusted, but it was explained that the Council directs the set abatement amount rather than it being a change in the ordinance. The committee had Attorney David Grogins double check this. He felt that the action taken was OK and within their purview based on the language of the ordinance. The next meeting will be held July 22nd in the Alexandria Room of the Edmond Town Hall.

BOF, BOE and LC Joint Committee – Ms. Reiss spoke on their last meeting held on July 1st. Although, they got close to an agreement, the BOE wanted to spend more time going over it. They all agreed that they will not meet again until September. For the non-lapsing account coming up, the BOE would like it if they, along with the BOF, could assemble with the LC – they would present the amount that they want to move into the account, how they plan to spend the money and try to get the approval as one large body. Mr. Lundquist said he will coordinate with the others and speak on this at an upcoming meeting in August.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal reported that the bids for the Sandy Hook Memorial Project were due today. At first glance, the construction manager went through them and everything appears to be on track from a budget standpoint. The goal is to get a GMP from the construction manager at the mid-August BOS meeting which will allow them to move forward on construction. The state funding aspect for the project will go to the state bonding commission on Friday. Starting August 16th, the BOS will begin discussions on how to handle year end transfers. The year ended very well and there was a substantial surplus. It was a good budget year. At that time, they

will also start taking on the Hawley HVAC project. They met with the BOE two weeks ago to go over options. The first option is to close the school beginning June of 2022. The students would be split up among Sandy Hook School and Reed. The project would be completed in April of 2023. The second option is to do the project in phases while shifting the students around within the building. This would cause issues with having the children in a construction site and having to deal with air quality. This would close the school in a very disruptive fashion and would cost almost \$1 million more. The BOE opted to go with option 1 as a recommendation. Public Building and Site will be discussing this at their next meeting on Tuesday. After going through all the proper channels, it would need to be submitted to the Town Clerk by September 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to make in on to the ballot in November.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *Discussion and Possible Action*

- Proposed Ordinance to Create a Community Center Commission

Ms. DeStefano moved to accept the proposed ordinance to create a Community Center Commission. Seconded by Mr. Knapp. All in favor. Motion passes (10-0).

Mr. Lundquist noted that the Council had delayed their action at the last meeting in consideration of the points made by the Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS). He feels the general consensus was that they were all thoughtful suggestions, but he does not feel they rise to the level of requiring specific accommodation in the ordinance language itself. He thanked Mr. Ariniello and Ms. Walsh for all their hard work getting this developed into a commission. He reminded all of the reason we find ourselves with a Community Center in Newtown and it is the core of successfully running the Center going forward. He thanked everyone for all their good work. Mr. Knapp said there will be an adoption notice submitted to the press and will be effective in 30 days. Ms. DeStefano asked if we need to do anything formally to propose to the Charter Revision Commission that they include this language in their update. Mr. Lundquist said he will send a note to them to make sure they include it.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** First Selectman Rosenthal announced that the BOS approved the dispatch contract which was negotiated informally with the dispatch union. From a monetary standpoint, it is a 3 year contract with no impact to this year's budget. Mr. Lundquist thanked Mr. Wiedemann for all his years of hard work on the Council and for his service to Newtown. The Council wished him well on his future endeavors.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm. Seconded by Ms. DeStefano. All in favor.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rina Quijano, Clerk*

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AT THE NEXT MEETING.**