

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Town Hall Green Room

In Attendance: Chairman Carrie Allen, Hank Teskey, Dennis Donovan, Chris Passante and Mike Shove

Absent: Brian Roccapriore and Chris Aniskovich
Also participated: Michelle Benivegna, Town Manager

C. Allen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Dennis Donovan led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

VISITORS

No visitors wished to speak at this time.

C. Passante made a motion, seconded H. Teskey to add #5B – T-Mobile Hometown Grant to the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 07, 2025</u>

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by H. Teskey to approve the minutes from May 07, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by H. Teskey, to appoint Nancy Adams (D) to the Economic Development Commission for a term until 6/30/2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

POSSIBLE ACTION ON DOWNTOWN AUXILIARY LIBRARY LOCATION

Dylan Walter, representing the Economic Development Commission (EDC), discussed the potential establishment of an auxiliary library location at 10 West Main Street. The property owner is planning to open a coffee shop at the rear of the building and has offered the town a discounted lease for the front space to house the library. Funding for the lease is available within the EDC budget. Additionally, Senior Connection will utilize the space for programming, with staffing hours shared between the library and senior services. The auxiliary library location will focus on selling used books, technology access and programing. C. Passante made a motion, seconded by H. Teskey, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and enter into a 1 year lease agreement with 10 West Main LLC for \$1,200 per month for the Library Auxiliary on Main. The motion was unanimously approved.

T-MOBILE HOMETOWN GRANT APPLICATION

T-Mobile Hometown Grants provide funding each quarter to up to 25 small towns, with a maximum award of \$50,000 per town. These grants support community-driven projects such as revitalizing or repurposing historic structures, creating downtown attractions or destinations, and enhancing spaces where residents can connect and gather. D. Donovan made a motion, seconded by C. Passante to authorize the Town Manager to apply for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant with no matching funds required. The motion was unanimously approved.



LINE ITEM TRANSFER REQUEST

H. Teskey made a motion, seconded by M. Shove to approve the line item transfer requests from Police and WSAM as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Police Department Line-Item Transfer

DECREASE ACCOUNT(S)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
014143-51310	Technology – Salaries Full Time	35,000
014221-51330	Communications - Overtime	30,000
014419-51310	Human Services – Salaries Full	40,000
	Time	
014221	Communications – Salaries Full	5,000
	Time	

INCREASE ACCOUNT(S)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
014201-51310	Police – Salaries Full Time	80,000
014201-51330	Police - Overtime	30,000

WSAM Line-Item Transfer

DECREASE ACCOUNT(S)	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
014193 - 51320	WSAM MAINT - PARTTIME	10,000

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE ACCOUNT(S)
10,000	WSAM MAINT - OVERTIME	014193 - 51330
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AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION WITH STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ON THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON TIDE GATE CARE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION

H. Teskey made a motion, seconded by C. Passante approving the authorizing resolution with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on the Cooperative Agreement on Tide Gate Care, Management and Operation. The motion was unanimously approved.

SET MILL RATE FOR FY2025-2026

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by H. Teskey Motion that the Town Council hereby sets the rate of taxation on the taxable property of the Town for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, fiscal year at 31.14 mills. The motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Robert Tait, Finance Director, reviewed his monthly financial report with the council. A copy of the financial report is attached to the agenda.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Benivegna reported on the following topics.

- Revaluation Bid was awarded to Vision Appraisal
- Hiring update PT Tax Clerk position was filed and the Public Works Admin position was filled internally. The Building Clerk position will be posted next week.
- Public Works has 12 bids posted
- Discussion on Tax letter
- Beach Park Road Bridge
- Library Project presentation will be on the June 4th regular meeting agenda with a workshop to follow for the council to discuss amongst themselves regarding approving the project and funding.
- Memorial Day Parade & Events
- Reminder that M. Benivegna will not be in attendance at the next Town Council meeting

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

C. Allen addressed the various downtown improvements, praising the Town Manager and Economic Development Commission for their dedication and hard work.

TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Town Council discussed the improvements made to the Town Marina.



TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- C. Passante reported on Park & Recreation Commission
- D. Donovan reported on the Police Commission
- C. Allen presented B. Roccapriore report on Planning & Zoning

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL, PURSUANT TO CGS 1-200 (6) (A)

H. Teskey made a motion, seconded by M. Shove, to enter into executive session at 7:52 pm. The motion was unanimously approved. The council came out of executive session at 8:37 PM.

ADJOURN

H. Teskey made a motion, seconded by M. Shove and unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino Executive Assistant Town Manager