

Town of Montville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman McNally called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Mandler, May, Yuchniuk, and McNally. Absent was Councilor Rix. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

4. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit

Timothy Congdon, President, Montville Professional Firefighters Union, thanked the Councilors for their time and for scheduling the Special Meeting to discuss the contract. He stated that the issue has been discussed since the early 2000s in the Almont Study, the Staffing Subcommittee, and has been re-introduced several times. He clarified that the decision regarding the reward system was unanimous and was found to be favorable for both the Town and Bargaining Unit. Issues regarding the response time can be discussed. He hopes that the issues will be resolved and the Fire Service's communication and data issues will improve. He did not believe that the Town Council was opposed to the Fire Service and felt that the data being presented to the Council may be faulty. He requested that the Councilors maintain an open mind as they review the document and discuss the issues.

Brian Baker, 560 Chesterfield Road, Oakdale, requested clarification regarding the subject of the Executive Session and to confirm that a vote would be taken immediately following the Executive Session.

Chairman McNally confirmed that the Executive Session will include discussions regarding the collective bargaining unit for the Firefighters' Union. The Executive Session is for informational purposes only and a vote will not be taken during this evening's meeting.

5. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Paul Chase from the Conservation Commission, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

- b. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Mr. John Guetens from an Alternate Member to a Full Member to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 10, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

5. Executive Session

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy and/or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, without prejudice to the Council's right to discuss the same in private pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(2). Discussion to include members of the Town Council, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and Attorney Michael Satti.

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Invited parties exited Town Council Chambers for Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. Chairman McNally resumed the meeting at 6:25 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

6. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit

Timothy Congdon, President, Montville Professional Firefighters Union, spoke with respect to the Firefighters' Union Contract and working together with the Volunteer Fire chiefs to provide the best service possible for the town.

Kim Dole, 19 Sharp Hill Road, whose husband and son are members of the fire service, spoke with respect to the need to have a two-person model to help ensure the safety of all firefighters.

Brian Baker, 560 Chesterfield Road, Oakdale, questioned the finances, collective bargaining process, and details regarding the contract.

Because the Public Comment portions of the meeting are not question and answer sessions, Chairman McNally requested he submit his questions in writing following the meeting.

7. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Bunnell stated the importance of ensuring the safety of the staff and volunteer Firefighters. Councilor Caron concurred.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S
WEBSITE LOCATED UNDER RESOURCES – MEETING RECORDINGS**