

Town of Montville Town Council
Organizational Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2019
8:00 p.m. – Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

Organizational Business

1. Call to Order

Katie Sandberg, Town Clerk for the Town of Montville, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, Colleen Rix, and Joseph Rogulski. Absent was Councilor Billy Caron. Also present were Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Town Clerk Katie Sandberg.

4. Oath of Officers

Town Clerk Sandberg welcomed Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, who expressed her pleasure to be in Montville and thanked the audience for attending this evening's meeting. She also thanked and recognized all of those who have served our country, adding that she has witnessed, first-hand, the Town's ongoing support of their veterans, most recently honoring and recognizing nearly 200 Vietnam War Veterans and their families. She further wished to recognize all of those who put their name on the ballots, adding that it takes a lot of courage to run for office; the full complement of people helps to strengthen our democracy. She proceeded to thank those who were elected and their willingness to serve and dedicate their time to their fellow residents and extended her appreciation to include all of the spouses and family members whose patience, support, and sacrifice make it possible for our elected officials to serve their Town. She is honored to swear in Mayor McDaniel, whom she has known since his days as a Probate Judge and whom she considers a friend.

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz administered the Oath of Office to the newly and re-elected Mayor and members of the Town Council. She congratulated the Mayor and Town Councilors.

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to take a short recess for photographs at 8:08 p.m. The meeting was resumed at 8:13 p.m.

5. Election of Chairperson of the Town Council

Town Clerk Sandberg opened the nominations for Town Council Chairperson.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to nominate Councilor May as Chairman of the Montville Town Council. There being no additional nominations, Town Clerk Sandberg closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Councilor May was elected as Chairman of the Town Council. Town Clerk Sandberg congratulated Councilor May and turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairman May.

Chairman May welcomed everyone to the meeting.

6. Election of Deputy Chairperson of the Town Council

Chairman May opened the nominations for Town Council Deputy Chairperson.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilor Caron as Deputy Chairman of the Montville Town Council. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Councilor Caron was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Town Council. Chairman May stated that Councilor Caron is out of town for a family matter and sent his regrets.

7. Formation of Standing Committees:

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedures

Chairman May asked for nominations for the Town Administration/Rules of Procedures Standing Committee.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to nominate Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, and Rogulski. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Finance

Chairman May asked for nominations for the Finance Committee.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilors Jaskiewicz, May, and Rogulski. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

c. Solid Waste Disposal/Public Works

Chairman May asked for nominations for the Solid Waste Disposal/Public Works Committee.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to nominate Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Pollard. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Appointment of Liaisons to Boards and Commissions:

a. Board of Education

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Board of Education.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilor Jaskiewicz. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Jaskiewicz as the liaison to the Board of Education, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Commission on Aging

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Commission on Aging.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilor Caron. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Caron as the liaison to the Commission on Aging, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

c. Economic Development Commission

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Economic Development Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to nominate Councilor Rix. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Rix as the liaison to the Economic Development Commission, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

d. Library Committee

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Library Committee.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilor Rogulski. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Rogulski as the liaison to the Library Committee, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

e. Parks & Recreation Commission

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to nominate Councilor Rix. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Rix as the liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

f. Public Safety Commission

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Public Safety Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to nominate Councilor Bunnell. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Bunnell as the liaison to the Public Safety Commission, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

g. Planning & Zoning Commission

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to nominate Councilor Rix. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Rix as the liaison to the Planning & Zoning Commission, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

h. Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to nominate Councilor Bunnell. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Bunnell as the liaison to the Youth Services Bureau and Advisory Board, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

i. Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilor Rogulski. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Rogulski as the liaison to the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Relief Fund, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

j. Non-Profit Organizations

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Non-Profit Organizations.

Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to nominate Councilor Pollard. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Pollard as the liaison to the Non-Profit Organizations, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

k. Social Services

Chairman May asked for nominations to Social Services.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilor Caron. There being no additional nominations, Chairman May closed the nominations. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor Caron as the liaison to Social Services, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Appointment of a Town Council member to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Chairman May asked for nominations to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to nominate Councilor May. Discussion: None. Discussion: None. Voice vote to appoint Councilor May to the Water Pollution Control Authority, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Alteration(s) to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to move item 11(d) to follow item 18(b) Executive Session. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.
Motion carried.

10. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*

11. New Business

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, October 10, 2019

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, October 16, 2019

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

- c. **Resolution #2019-80. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$12,705.85 (Twelve Thousand Seven hundred-five dollars and eighty-five cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, May, Pollard, Rix, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None.
Resolution passed.

- d. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Settlement Agreement between the Town of Montville and the Teamsters Local 493 regarding Case No MPP-33754. (Mayor McDaniel)

Item was moved to follow item 18. Executive Session.

- e. **Resolution #2019-81. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to utilize \$10,000 from Contingency to comply with a Consent Decree issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the Old Colchester Road culvert project no. 85-144. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Rix, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the original project was approved by the CT DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) and the Army Corps of Engineers. As the project evolved, it was determined that they would be able to improve the method used to divert the water and, at the same time, decrease its completion time. As such, the water was diverted through an existing smaller tributary, which caused the water to be impounded upstream resulting in the de-oxygenization of the water downstream resulting in the deaths of native trout. This led to the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order by the State of CT. The engineer, contractors, and Town Counsel have met to discuss the revitalization and completion of the project and a Consent Decree was issued by the CT DEEP. A fine of \$5,000.00 was imposed upon the contractors and the Town, the permit holders for the project, and an additional \$5,000.00 must be paid for a special fund to support a future environmental project(s). The project is under a time constraint due to the winter closing of the asphalt plants. The Town will begin negotiating the matter with the engineer and contractor to assign liability and recoup some or all of the funds. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, May, Pollard, Rix, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None.
Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2019-82. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** that Mayor Ronald McDaniel be and hereby is authorized to accept a grant in the amount of \$3,300 from the Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors for the Montville Dog Park and execute any and all documents pertaining thereto. (Mayor McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Through the efforts of Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway, the Dog Park Committee, and himself, the Town applied for and received a grant from the Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors. The funds will be utilized to purchase and install dog agility equipment at the Dog Park. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, May, Pollard, Rix, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.
- g. **Resolution #2019-83. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to set the date of December 9, 2019, at 6:45 PM for a public hearing regarding an ordinance titled “An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance 2006-003, Establishing The Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Program Of The Town Of Montville” (Mayor McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: The amendment involves the correction of a technical error regarding the quarterly, rather than annual, stipend payments to the firefighters. The amendment has been reviewed and approved by the Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Committee and the Town Administration/ Rules & Procedures Standing Committee. In response to Chairman May who questioned whether the language in Section 5.01 should also be amended, Mayor McDaniel stated that that item was discussed and it was determined to maintain the language as, while the payments would be made quarterly, the point system would be determined on an annual basis. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, May, Pollard, Rix, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.
- h. **Resolution #2019-84. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to appoint Agnes Miyuki as the Town Council Minutes Clerk for the term of November 11, 2019 through November 8, 2021. (Mayor McDaniel)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that Ms. Miyuki is the former Minutes Clerk for the Town Council and will be returning; he is glad to have her back. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, May, Pollard, Rix, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.
12. Communications
- A copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage, dated September 2019
 - A copy of the legal bills from Suisman Shapiro dated September 2019
 - A copy of the October 2019 budget report from Ms. Terry Hart, Finance Director
- Chairman May recommended the Councilors review the legal bills and budget report. He hopes to have Finance Director Hart provide any necessary explanations of the line items in the future.
13. Reports from the Town Attorney on matters referred
- Mayor McDaniel reported that a Special Meeting may need to be scheduled to set a Public Hearing for the purpose of amending the Solid Waste Ordinance to align with a change to the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority’s (SCRRA) decision regarding the location to which the Town’s waste will be directed.

14. Reports from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads

Mayor McDaniel reported that the Councilors will be provided with a Town e-mail address and will be informed regarding any pertinent issues within the Town as they arise.

An issue regarding the loss of gas pressure at Montville Manor arose this morning. The issue did not cause any significant negative disruptions, i.e., evacuations, leaks, emergencies, etc., to the area it served. The cause is undetermined, but may have been related to the Old Colchester Road Culvert project. Eversource continues to work in the area to ensure that the residents are safe and secure. He commended them for their expedient response and handling of the matter.

Eversource is planning to make improvements to their Substation located on Killeen Road. To help facilitate access to the Substation and avoid disrupting the neighboring properties, they plan to construct two permanent access roads. They expect the bulk of the work to be completed prior to the end of the calendar year and the entire project, including the paving of the roads, to be completed during the Spring of 2020.

15. Reports from Standing Committees (n/a)

16. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Committees (n/a)

17. Appointments and Resignations from Boards and Commissions

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to re-appoint Mayor Ronald McDaniel to the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA) with a term to expire on November 11, 2022.

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

18. Executive Session

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of providing the status update on a Personnel Matter to include the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Invited parties exited Chambers for Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. Chairman May resumed the meeting at 8:52 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

11(d) Resolution #2019-85. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the Settlement Agreement between the Town of Montville and the Teamsters Local 493 regarding Case No MPP-33754. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, May, Pollard, Rix, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

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

Matt Suarez, 18 Cranberry Drive, congratulated the newly and re-elected Town Councilors. He stated his hope that the Councilors will be able to create and implement a plan to resolve the shortage of Fire/EMS (Emergency Medical Services) coverage in the Town. The Volunteer Fire Companies are evolving into career departments with volunteers providing support where they can. The number of applicants is decreasing as fewer and fewer qualified individuals are volunteering and more schooling is being required. The issue is not just in Montville. The shortage has led to the lack adequate coverage to respond to emergency calls, citing a recent incident that was responded to by the Mohegan Tribe's Fire/EMS as the result. Such incidents are increasing. Oftentimes, volunteers are not available or are, sometimes, unable to respond to a call in a timely manner. Many

individuals are working overtime to accommodate the lack of coverage, resulting in an additional safety issue as they become tired and overworked. He urged the Councilors to fund the Department as necessary to ensure the public safety of its residents.

Chuck Longton, 31 Laurel Drive, congratulated newly and re-elected Town Councilors, adding that he is aware of the hard work involved to run for office and work as a Councilor; the Town, he feels, is lucky to have them as their representatives.

Councilor Pollard introduced Lynda Jean, 1583 Route 163, who reached out to Councilor Caron and herself, and wished to recite a letter she has drafted to the Councilors. Ms. Jean read her letter regarding the possibility of instituting a Holiday Memorial Service and Tree to honor the memories of their loved ones who have passed away. Individuals would be invited to place an ornament of their choice on a living tree to celebrate the lives of their loved ones during the holidays with others. With their approval, she stated her willingness to spearhead and organize the acquisition and planting of a new tree or the use of an existing tree, promote the event, establish the rules, and make the arrangements for a short service to be held on Saturday, December 21 during the early evening hours. She hopes to involve the music department and Montville Youth Services to provide music and hot chocolate. The event, she hopes, would continue on an annual basis and help those who have lost their loved ones with the healing process.

Councilor Pollard expressed her support and stated that, should the Town Council be in favor of the project, they would need to act quickly. Councilor May suggested utilizing the Town's Holiday Tree. Mayor McDaniel agreed and stated that the Holiday Parade, Tree, and decorations are under the purview of the Parks & Recreation Commission and recommended she present her idea to the Commission at their next meeting. Councilor Jaskiewicz recommended she take her time organizing the event, improving upon it from year to year.

22. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Pollard thanked Ms. Jean, adding that, having been working in the funeral home industry for close to 18 years, her idea is very close to her heart. She stated that Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Rix, and herself would be able to help implement her idea. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the public's vote of confidence.

Councilor Rogulski offered his congratulations to his fellow Councilors and hopes they have a fruitful term. He cautioned and expressed his concern to Chairman May regarding the current audit which the Water Pollution Control Authority is currently undergoing. He is looking forward to working with his fellow colleagues.

Councilor Bunnell wished everyone an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday and offered his congratulations to his fellow Councilors. He is honored that the townspeople have elected him to represent them and will work hard in hopes that his presence will be beneficial to the town and its residents. He looks forward to a rewarding experience. In response to Mr. Suarez, he stated that (as the former Lieutenant of the Montville Police Department) he has experienced, first-hand, the difficulties involved with the shortage of public service individuals and, while he does not yet know how to resolve the issue, he is willing to do whatever he could to do so, including receiving any incite and/or suggestions from the public. To this end, he not only offered his availability via e-mail, cell phone, and home phone, but also opened his home to the public.

Councilor Rix thanked everyone for attending the meeting, adding that she has attended numerous Town Council meetings, herself. She thanked the public for their vote of confidence and is energized by her fellow Councilors, all of whom, she feels, has something valuable to bring to the table and work hard to provide the townspeople with everything that they deserve. She looks forward to serving the townspeople, for whom her door is always open.

Councilor Jaskiewicz congratulated all of his fellow Councilors and looks forward to working with them for the next two years. He reminded his colleagues that their main goal is to set aside their differences and work for and do what they feel is best for the people of the Town. He thanked the public for electing him and is grateful to have received the second highest votes in the election.

Mayor McDaniel provided an update to the loss of gas pressure at Montville Manor, reporting that, at this time, 21 residences remain to be contacted regarding the issue. He thanked the residents for, again, placing their faith in him. He reminded his colleagues that it is their job to work together to serve the residents and looks forward to working with them to do so. He will try to keep them informed as much as possible and requested that they do the same. He is available via e-mail, phone, and text and his doors are always open. While there may be some remaining bitterness in the public regarding the election, he hopes that they will be able to move forward in a positive manner. Montville is a great Town that gets better every day. He also commended and expressed his appreciation to the Town Clerk for organizing the materials for this evening's meeting and the Town's Registrars who did a great job with the election. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Chairman May, who has been sitting on dais since 2003 in various capacities, wished to charged himself and his fellow Councilors with the goal of setting Montville first, putting their politics aside, and questioning whether each item that is discussed and/or voted upon is right for Montville. He congratulated all of his fellow Councilors.

23. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes 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 – FORM REPOSITORY – MEETING RECORDINGS