

**Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall – via GoToWebinar**

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On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town Charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via GoToWebinar.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least 1 working day in advance (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Mayor and Council.

Live audio comments may be made via GoToWebinar by registering at the web address or calling from your telephone or computer mic & speakers (VoIP) noted above.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

1. Call to Order
Chairman May called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Colleen Rix, and Joseph Rogulski. Absent were Councilors Billy Caron and Kathleen Pollard. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations
5. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to remove the following items from the agenda:
 - 7(b) Executive Session
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 Eileen Duggan.

- 16(g) **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Montville Teamsters Transfer Station Employees, Local 493 for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2020 (Tax Exemption, Farm Buildings) Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2020 Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session
 - a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for the Farmers Market Committee and Inland Wetlands Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Joseph Berardy opted to be interviewed by the Town Council in public regarding his interest in serving on the Inland Wetlands Commission. Mr. Berardy currently serves on the Democratic Town Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals and was a long-time member of the Parks & Recreation Commission. He expressed his enjoyment of living in and serving the town. Given his background, he felt that serving on the Commission would be a fun and enriching experience. In response to Councilor Bunnell, he stated that he has attended the past three Commission meetings and has found the meetings to be smooth and productive and sees no necessary changes. The Councilors and Mayor thanked him for his continued willingness to serve the town. Mayor McDaniel added he would serve the Commission well.

Joan Kovalic was not present for her interview to serve on the Farmers Market Committee.
 - b. 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 Eileen Duggan.

Item was deleted from the Agenda.
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the August 2020 Financial Report from Terry Hart, Finance Director
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of July 2020
 - c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of July 2020
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel reported that they are awaiting the Town Attorney's comments on the IT Policy.
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred

Mayor McDaniel announced the recent donation of 33 acres to the *Connecticut Audubon Society's* Morgan R. Chaney Sanctuary, which was published in *The Day* newspaper.

The CT Department of Veterans Administration will be hosting its two-day Veterans Stand Down 2020 event on Thursday, September 24 (virtual) and Friday, September 25 (in-person). The in-person event will be held at four regional centers. Transportation will be provided through the Southeastern Area Transit for veterans interested in learning about their support services.

The Town of Montville was one of the first 69 towns in the region to join the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM), which was created to explore ways to reduce the amount of waste generated, improve reuse, recycling, and organics collection, and seek innovative solutions.

He commended Calvin LaFrance, who reached out to volunteer to help veterans and seniors with their lawn care needs. Councilor Bunnell is working with Mr. LaFrance and is donating the fuel to help him accomplish the 50 Yard Challenge.

He congratulated Montville Little League's Boys All-Star team, which paired up with New London and won the District 10 Tournament.

CT DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) has begun drawing down Oxoboxo Lake in preparation of their year-long project. Residents interested in acquiring more information on the project may contact the Mayor's office.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *item(s) on agenda*
- b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *item(s) on agenda*
- c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron

In lieu of Councilor Caron, Councilor Bunnell provided the report for the Committee. The Public Works Department has begun to complete their updates for the stormwater drainage work, per an inspection conducted by CT DEEP. The power has been re-established and two automatically draining dehumidifiers have been placed in Raymond Hill Church to help control the mold. The Committee discussed the possibility of speaking with the Library Committee regarding their interest in the building. A list of the roads slated for re-paving was reviewed. Fitch Hill and Jerome Roads have been completed and Black Ash and Raymond Hill Roads are slated for completion this year. They are currently six months behind schedule. The possibility of prorating the Transfer Station stickers and the technical difficulties with the scanner will be discussed with the Mayor.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

- a. Councilor Bunnell: Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau
Councilor Bunnell provided the following data:

The Animal Control Officer received 103 complaints, for a total of 199 complaints for the year; six (6) animals were impounded, for a total of 15 impounded animals this year, and; one (1) bite complaint was received, for a total of four (4) for the year. In the Town of Salem, seven (7) complaints were received, totaling 11 complaints received for the year and four (4) bites were investigated; no animals were impounded.

In the month of July, the Police Department received a total of 1,429 calls for service, 134 of which derived from the Troop and 228 through the Police Department. In August, the Department received 1,490 calls for service, 172 of which came through the Troop and 240 through the Police Department.

The Fire Department received 244 calls for service and one (1) fire investigation with a loss of \$8,000.00. Of the calls, 75 (approximately 30%) of the calls were for EMS (Emergency Medical Services). He continues to meet with the Fire Companies to discuss staffing issues and other concerns. The progress has been slow and steady any many helpful comments have been received.

The part-time help that was laid off during the summer months at the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) have been re-hired. Nineteen children, ages 13 to 16, enrolled in the 18-week summer program. They are working closely with the schools and the BOE to prepare for the

afterschool program. To date, 34 children have signed up for one of the 70 available spots. The Bureau will be hosting its 4th Annual Mud Run on Saturday, September 26 at Camp Oakdale and a Movie Night event on Saturday, October 17. The Montville Youth Action Council's Penny Drive raised \$1,000.00; the funds will benefit the Larry Pontbriant Athletic Safety Fund. The Junior Review Board continues to be very active. They are currently working on a joint Crosswalk Project, which will transform the current white crosswalk in front of the Community Center to a rainbow, with the Police Department. He commended Youth Services Coordinator Barbara Lockhart for the receipt of a \$21,667.00 grant from the CT Youth Services Association. The funds will be used to offset staff salaries and for families, tutoring services, transportation, and other services for the youth.

In response to an e-mail received from the Mayor, Councilor Bunnell is working with 12-year old Boy Scout Calvin LaFrance, who is volunteering to mow the lawns, shovel snow, and the like of veterans and seniors as part of the *Raising Men Lawn Care Service*. Should anyone know of any individuals who need such services, please contact Councilor Bunnell.

Chairman May expressed his appreciation to and commended Councilor Bunnell for his efforts with the Fire Companies. Councilor Bunnell, likewise, commended the Fire Companies, stating that they are a true value to the town.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services – *not present*

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education (BOE)

The BOE and school administration continues to work very hard, making their schools safe during these unprecedented times. The BOE is currently in the middle of the teachers' contract negotiations.

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Conservation Commission
Councilor May commended the WPCA who reported on the continued lowering of their oxygen levels. The Conservation Commission did not hold their meeting due to the lack of a quorum and may be planning a Special Meeting.

e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations – *not present*

f. Councilor Rix: Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Economic Development Commission held an informational meeting during which Town Planner Marcia Vlaun reported that the 1,000 Mohegan Sun furloughed employees will be permanently laid off.

The Planning & Zoning Commission approved a site plan for a Self-Storage Facility to be located on Leffingwell Road.

The Parks & Recreation Commission is continuing to make positive progress. They are requesting the Town Council's written guidance as to whether the Route 32 seasonal decorations and annual Carnival event are under the purview of the Commission.

Mayor McDaniel explained that the Commission voted to utilize part of their funds to purchase holiday decorations for Route 32 and the Public Works Department was directed to install and store the decorations. The project initially began with Christmas decorations and progressed to the installation of the flags. The Finance Committee later approved their request for funds to purchase and install additional decorations during the budget process. He felt that the funding for the decorations should derive from the Commission's budget and the Commission should decide upon the selection and timing of their installation. Councilors May and Jaskiewicz requested additional information.

g. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund – *no report*

Councilor Rogulski agreed to reach out to the Library Committee regarding their possible interest in the Raymond Hill Church.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to nominate and appoint Kevin Clang or Sonja Campbell to fill a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire on May 11, 2023.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Chairman May stated that both are outstanding candidates. Ms. Campbell's application will remain on file for a period of one (1) year. Roll Call vote, 3-2, in favor of Kevin Clang. Voting in support of Kevin Clang: Councilors Bunnell, Rogulski, and May. Voting in support of Sonja Campbell: Councilors Jaskiewicz and Rix. Kevin Clang was appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- b. To Consider and Act on a motion to waive the waiting period for appointments, Rule 14C of the Town Council Rules of Procedure, for the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Joseph Berardy to fill a vacancy on the Inland Wetlands Commission with a term to expire on May 11, 2021.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2020-54. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES TO** refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$767.47 (seven hundred sixty-seven dollars and forty-seven cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2020-55. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES TO** transfer \$500 to Legal-Labor (10340-52046) from Contingency (10480-52164) for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Finance Director Hart stated that Items 16(a) and (b) refer to bills that arrived following the Council's August meeting and have placed the two line items over budget. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2020-56. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES TO** transfer \$200 to Other Insurance (10425-52024) from Contingency (10480-52164) for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2020-57. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES TO** establish line item 10460-52112 interest payments for the 2020 Equipment Lease and fund it in the amount of \$5,500 from Contingency (10480-52164). (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **Resolution #2020-58. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to consider and act on a motion to introduce and set the date for a public hearing on an

ordinance titled “Noise Control Ordinance” on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The Public Hearing will be held in the Town Council Chambers. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rix. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that the Ordinance has been in discussion for several years and was postponed due to the pandemic. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- f. **Resolution #2020-59. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Montville Teamsters Town Hall Employees, Local 493 for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Rix, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- g. **Resolution #2020-60. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the funds necessary to implement the written agreement, and the terms of the written agreement, between the Town of Montville and Montville Teamsters Transfer Station Employees, Local 493 for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Mayor McDaniel)

Item was removed from the Agenda.

17. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Councilor Bunnell further commended Calvin LaFrance for his willingness and efforts; he plans to provide additional information regarding the program next month.

Councilor Rogulski expressed his concerns regarding the attendance for the Public Hearing regarding the Noise Ordinance. Chairman May encouraged the Councilors to do their due diligence to inform the public and help promote the Public Hearing.

Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that he is looking forward to holding in-person meetings in the future and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor McDaniel stated that the town continues to be in a State of Emergency and will not violate the current Executive Order. The town will continue to err on the side of safety and allow in-person attendance for members of boards and commissions, special guests, presenters, and/or the like. The public should be informed that they may not attend a meeting in-person and may submit their comments in writing prior to the scheduled meeting. Despite the pandemic, the town was able to host a number of successful programs, including the summer camp, and thanked the Mohegan Tribe for helping fund the cost of the tents. He commended Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway for his efforts to host sports programs for the children in an effort to provide some sense of normalcy.

Chairman May stated that a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Noise Ordinance was held earlier in the year and is providing another opportunity for the public to voice their opinions. He encouraged the Councilors to do their best to promote the Public Hearing and the public to submit their comments. He added that he has received six (6) calls regarding the need for the Ordinance, which is clearly impacting their quality of life. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a good week.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

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