

**Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2021, 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.

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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.

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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.

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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., Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, and Joseph Rogulski. Absent was Councilor Colleen Rix. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Special Recognitions/Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to amend the following item:
To Consider and Act on a Motion to accept the resignation of Matthew Emilyta from the Inland Wetlands Commission *and Conservation Commission*, effective immediately.
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard, to remove item 16(e). Discussion: The item is being proposed for removal to ensure that the Town Council has had time to review the documentation. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:

a. The Public Hearing Minutes of January 11, 2021

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

b. The Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2021

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, 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 Conservation Commission. Discussions to include members of the Town Council and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Bonnie Bacon, who is interested in serving on the Conservation Commission, opted to be interviewed in public. Having recently retired and aware of the town's need for volunteers, Ms. Bacon expressed her interest in serving on the Commission and learning more about the town's natural areas that she often frequents.

The Councilors thanked her for taking the time to apply, expressing interest, and attending the interview this evening. Mayor McDaniel and Councilor Caron were confident that she would be an asset to the Commission and the town.

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

9. Communications

- a. Copy of the January 2020 Financial Report from Terry Hart, Finance Director
- b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of November 2020
- c. Copy of the legal bills from Halloran & Sage for the month of December 2020

10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*

11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred
Mayor McDaniel reported that the town has been busy organizing vaccination schedules, providing transportation, and ensuring that the town's qualified residents have access to the vaccination. Issues were encountered during Phase 1a of the vaccination rollout due to a large number of eligible individuals. The registration portals for individuals 65 and older will open this Thursday, February 11. Positive COVID-19 cases in the town's Public Works Department were contained and the Department has been able to continue working.

Due to the resignation of the town's Fire Marshal and the recent workplace injury of the Assistant and Acting Fire Marshal, Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., who is also a certified Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director, and himself are serving as the Acting Fire Marshal in the interim. Applications have been received for the position.

The Town Engineers, Public Works Department, and Planning staff are in the process of finalizing the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Ordinance and will be presented to the Town Council in the near future.

The Governor will be presenting his budget address this Wednesday, February 10, which will, hopefully, hold harmless and/or increase the town's Municipal Aid. As a town that is home to multiple State facilities and tribal property, the Mayor has been actively pursuing the support of the Legislators to receive additional PiLOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funds. Other issues, including property tax reform, that are proving controversial may hinder their efforts.

EB (General Dynamics Electric Boat) recently held their Legislative Meeting via conference call to discuss their plans and hiring schedule with State and Federal Lawmakers and Municipal Officials. They introduced a very robust schedule with a long-term work program which will affect the region's transportation and housing. Several towns have established or are investigating the possibility of establishing an Affordable (i.e., Workplace) Housing Commission to prepare for the influx. As such, he, too, is in the process of reviewing the Ordinances of other towns.

The town has re-engaged its conversations with the City of New London regarding the possibility of joining their Regional Animal Shelter. Following the receipt of the cost estimates, the proposed agreement will be presented to the Public Safety Commission and Town Council for consideration and approval. The New London Regional Animal Shelter currently accommodates the Towns of East Lyme and Waterford.

12. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz

Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that he hopes for and looks forward to the Councilors' support for item 16(b) on the Agenda.

b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no meeting; no report*

c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron

The Committee discussed the establishment of procedures for sanitizing the town's vehicles, the Old Raymond Hill Road Church, the re-pointing of the bricks in the Social Services Building (old Town Hall), the plowing of the roads, and the status of the budget.

13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors

a. Councilor Bunnell: Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau

Youth Services Bureau did not meet. According to their monthly issue of *Youth Scoop*, Councilor Bunnell reported on the following events/activities:

Healthy Relationship Week, February 8 – 12

Join them on Instagram or Facebook to discuss relationships. Wear purple to show your support.

February Food Frenzy Month

Help restock the local food bank by donating tuna, *SPAM*, peanut butter, cereal, and *Spaghetti-O's* to the Montville Community Center, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Afterschool Program

A reminder that the program aligns with the school schedule for closures.

Public Safety Commission was pleased to welcome their newest Commissioner, Gary Murphy. The following statistics were reported:

Police Department

1,332 Calls for Service	75 Type I Calls
	32 arrests; 0 juvenile arrests

Officer Lindsey Michaels, who has approximately six (6) weeks remaining in her training, is progressing well at the Academy. Officer Caleb Osunniyi began attending a two-month virtual Zoom training at the Academy on January 28. The Police Department received correspondence commending the actions of Office Edwards (December 24 ATV crash), Officers Edwards and Kelly (December 24 administration of CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)), and Officer Stuart (December 25 domestic dispute involving knife).

Fire Department

The Fire Department reported 279 Calls for Service, 199 of which were Medical EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Calls.

Animal Control Officer

Montville:	4 Impounded, 45 to date	Salem:	0 Impounded
	85 Complaints, 504 to date		6 Complaints, 34 to date

Building Department

The Building Department reported the issuance of 110 Permits and 3 C/Os (Certificate of Occupancy), 85 Open/Pending Permits, 96 inspections. The Blight numbers remain the same as the town continues to search for a Part-time Blight Officer.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services

Councilor Caron reported that, though the Senior Center remains closed, they continue to offer services and aid the town's seniors and residents-in-need. He invited the Councilors to visit the Food Bank, which continues to be very busy and is, as always, in need of donations. He questioned the possibility of utilizing the State's Municipal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Program funds to purchase food items, PPEs (Personal Protection Equipment), hand sanitizers, and the like for seniors and those in need. He spoke in support of item 16(b), which would add ten hours to an existing position to provide outreach services to the community. Senior and Social Services Director Kathie Doherty-Peck successfully applied for a \$2,500.00 Grant, which will be utilized to purchase a SMART Board. He expressed his appreciation to Charter Oak Federal Credit Union for their \$2,000.00 donation to the Food Bank.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education (BOE)

Councilor Jaskiewicz reported that the teachers' contract, which was removed from the agenda, was approved after going into mediation. A letter was received from the Superintendent requesting that the BOE's unexpended funds of \$605,360.00 be transferred into their dedicated non-lapsing account. The computer equipment in all of the town's schools is in need of replacement due to their age. The equipment replacement is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000.00. He commended the school and its staff for their hard work and efforts in keeping the children engaged as they continue to receive hybrid schooling. Depending upon the case numbers, they are hoping to return the students to full in-person learning in March. Members of the BOE and Finance Committee are planning to meet in March to discuss the budget.

d. Councilor May: Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Conservation Commission

The WPCA canceled their regularly scheduled meeting due to inclement weather. The Conservation Commission did not meet due to the lack of a quorum.

e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations – *no report*f. Councilor Rix: Economic Development Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission – *not present; no report*g. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund – *no report*

The Fire Fighters Relief Fund is scheduled to meet tomorrow, Tuesday, February 9.

14. Appointments and Resignations

a. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Matthew Emilyta from the Inland Wetlands Commission and Conservation Commission, effective immediately.

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

b. To Consider and Act on a motion to accept the resignation of Jennifer Hajj from the Parks & Recreation Commission, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: Chairman May commented on her untimely resignation. Councilors Caron and Jaskiewicz expressed their regrets. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint John Estelle to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire on March 13, 2025.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- d. 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 Conservation Commission.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
- e. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Bonnie Bacon to fill a vacancy as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on May 21, 2021.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Due to acceptance of Matthew Emilyta's resignation from the Commission (item 14(a)), the motion was amended to read:
To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Bonnie Bacon to fill a vacancy as ~~an~~ **Alternate a Full** Member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on ~~May 21, 2021~~ **November 14, 2022**.
Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Councilor May. Motion carried.

Mayor McDaniel stated that the recent influx of resignations is primarily due to the individuals moving out of town.

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2021-06. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$4,050.74 (four thousand fifty dollars and seventy-four cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.
- b. **Resolution #2021-07. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to review and approve the position description for the Administrative Assistant II (Social Services Assistant/Outreach Worker), as recommended by the Town Administration/Rules & Procedures Standing Committee. (Councilor Jaskiewicz)
Motion made by Councilor Rogulski, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that the amendments made to the position include ten additional hours to provide outreach services to the town's residents, especially those who are homebound. Funding for the additional hours is currently available in the Department's budget. In response to Councilor Pollard, Councilor Caron stated that other towns offer an outreach program to their residents and added that it is especially important during these difficult times. Mayor McDaniel and Councilor Caron felt that the expansion of the position has been an ongoing need and is long overdue. The individual will be personally visiting and connecting with the town's homebound residents to assist them with any needs they might have. The Mayor will be discussing the position with the Union and does not foresee any issues. Senior & Social Services Director Peck thanked the Councilors for considering the position and reiterated the Mayor and Councilor Caron's statements regarding the ongoing need for the position, especially in light of the town's growing elderly population. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- c. **Resolution #2021-08. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the contract between the Town of Montville and Montville Police Union Local 2504 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2020-June 30, 2024. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that no substantial changes were made to the existing four-year contract. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- d. **Resolution #2021-09. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the Amendment to the Salem Animal Control Service Contract to extend service through June 30, 2026. (Mayor McDaniel)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel stated that the service exemplifies the concept of providing a regionalization of services. The terms of the five (5) year contract remain unchanged. In response to Chairman May, Mayor McDaniel stated that the agreement should not significantly affect any future agreement(s) with the New London's Regional Animal Shelter. Councilor Bunnell added that the activity generated in Salem is not excessive and does not take away from the services they offer in Montville, referring to the reported numbers from the ACO. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Resolution passed.

- e. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Montville Board of Education and Montville Education Association for the period September 1, 2021-August 31, 2024.

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 commended the members of the Police, Fire, Public Works, and Public Safety employees for all of their efforts during the recent storms. He wished everyone to be safe and a Happy Valentine's Day.

Councilor Jaskiewicz thanked the Councilors for supporting the amendments to the Social Services Assistant/Outreach Worker position description. He wished everyone to stay safe and encouraged them to receive the vaccination.

Councilor Rogulski thanked the Public Safety and Public Works Departments on a great job.

Councilor Pollard echoed her fellow Councilors and wished everyone to stay safe and well and a Happy Valentine's Day.

Councilor Caron also thanked the Councilors for their support of the additional hours for the Social Services Assistant/Outreach Worker position and also commended and expressed his appreciation to the Public Safety and Public Works Departments. He wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mayor McDaniel echoed the Councilors' appreciation and praise for the Public Safety and Public Works Departments and extended the appreciation to all of the town's employees, adding that they are very fortunate to have the staff they have. He is working with the Mohegan Tribe to maintain and extend their testing site as a vaccination site and encouraged everyone to receive the vaccination. He reported that the generator at the Public Safety Building is in need of repair and approximately \$15,000.00 will need to be expended for a rental unit and the repairs. He is working with Region 4 to establish a regional system in which such costly equipment can be shared and utilized by the towns during such times. He commended Public Works Director Bourdeau for agreeing to serve as the Acting Fire Marshal. He wished everyone a Happy Presidents' and Valentine's Day and to stay safe.

Chairman May also commended the town's municipal and emergency workers during the recent (and future) snowstorms.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Bunnell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 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

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