

**Town of Montville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

All persons in attendance must wear a face mask if not fully vaccinated and remain six feet from others.

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.

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 and former Town of Montville Town Planner Marcia Vlaun.

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Leonard Bunnell, Sr., Billy Caron, Joseph Jaskiewicz, Tim May, Kathleen Pollard, and Joseph Rogulski. Absent was Councilor Rix. Also absent was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

3. Special Recognitions/Presentations

Chairman May recognized former Town Planner Vlaun whom he had the pleasure of working with on many projects in both his professional life and as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission – she will be truly missed. He introduced and welcomed Montville’s new Town Planner Liz Burdick, who will be speaking about the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

Town Planner Burdick also recognized former Town Planner Vlaun who served as her mentor during the years she worked as the town’s Zoning Enforcement Officer. She thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to speak with them regarding the Planning & Zoning Commission’s referral to review the proposed draft amendments to the 2010 POCD. She provided the Councilors with a brief summary of what the document encompasses and how the document is used. Per CT General Statutes, the document is required to be updated and approved by the town every ten years. Due to the pandemic, an extension was received by the State. The Commission will be holding a Public Hearing to discuss the document in December, as required. Additionally, the Town Council may also opt to hold a Public Hearing. The document has also been referred to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Office of Long Island Sound Programs (DEEP OLISP), and various boards and commissions for review and comment. The Planning & Zoning Commission will consider all of the comments and suggestions provided by the various entities and public prior to adopting the document. She acknowledged former Town Planner Vlaun and the Planning Department staff for their hard work. She invited the Councilors to contact her regarding any questions they might have at any time.

Chairman May stated that, due to the upcoming election, she may need to provide the same presentation in November to the new Town Council. He encouraged the Councilors to review and provide comments to the POCD, which includes the direction in which the town views its future and is one of the most important documents for the town.

Town Planner Burdick added that, typically, towns update the plan every ten years, as required, the current trend is to review and update various sections of the Plan periodically, thereby constantly extending the ten-year deadline date.

5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2021
Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. The Special Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2021
Motion made by Councilor Bunnell, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Executive Session – *none*
8. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
9. Communications
 - a. Copy of the September 2021 Financial Reports from Terry Hart, Finance Director
 - b. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of July 2021
 - c. Copy of the legal bills from Suisman-Shapiro for the month of August 2021
 - d. Copy of the Planning & Zoning Commission Referral Letter regarding the proposed 2021 Plan of Conservation and Development
 - e. Copy of the proposed 2021 Plan of Conservation and Development
10. Report from the Town Attorney on Matters Referred – *none*
11. Remarks from the Mayor and/or Administrative Department Heads to include Matters Referred – *none*
12. Reports from Standing Committees
 - a. Town Administration/Rules of Procedure – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no meeting; no report*
 - b. Finance – Councilor Jaskiewicz – *no quorum*
 - c. Public Works/Solid Waste Disposal – Councilor Caron
The Committee discussed several items, including the status of the town’s infrastructure – some of the funding of which was recently approved by the Town Council utilizing the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds – cutting of trees, and road improvement program.
13. Reports from Special Committees and Liaison Councilors
 - a. Councilor Bunnell: Public Safety Commission, Youth Services Bureau
Youth Services Bureau (YSB) – Several interesting guests are scheduled for the Bureau’s bi-weekly podcast, *Community Conversations with Grace*, which continues to interact with and attract a broad audience. YSBs, which are mandated by State Statutes to provide prevention and intervention services and programming for recreational marijuana, continue to work with State Officials to help mitigate the impact of the litigation of recreational marijuana. The Youth Action Council (YAC) will be concentrating its efforts on Mental Health with the *What’s in Head Should be Said* Campaign this Fall. YAC students were joined by the school personnel, YSB Chairperson, and Mayor in a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Training) and Narcan training session. The Bureau also partnered with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) and Montville Police Department to host a successful *Drug Take Back Day* at the Public Safety Building where the Drug Take Back box is located. A Blood Drive was held on October 5 and their Second Annual Basket Extravaganza, which is replacing their Pancake Breakfast Fundraising event, will be held on November 2 at all of the local polling sites.

Public Safety Commission

Fire Department:

295 Calls for Service, 205 of which were medical EMS (Emergency Medical Service) calls were reported for the month of August. To date, there have been 2,024 Calls for Service; this year's numbers are expected to surpass last year's Calls for Service numbers.

Newly hired Firefighter Alex Blais is currently working at the Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Company. The Public Safety Commission interviewed interested candidates for the vacant dispatcher positions and Chris Jaskiewicz was hired to replace former Dispatcher Jon Leonard.

Animal Control:

10 animals were impounded and 84 complaints were investigated for the month of August in the Town of Montville. In the Town of Salem, 1 animal was impounded and 16 complaints were investigated.

Building Department:

A total of 171 permits were issued, 137 permits are pending, and 134 inspections were conducted.

Councilor Jaskiewicz announced that Building Official Vernon Vesey, II, retired on October 1.

b. Councilor Caron: Commission on Aging, Social Services

With the holiday season coming up, Councilor Caron reported that he is awaiting confirmation regarding the donation of approximately 300 turkeys for the holiday season. The town's Senior & Social Services have continued to offer services during the pandemic, including helping residents with energy and housing assistance, homebound meals, MedRides, and grocery shopping trips. Though many classes have been canceled due to a teacher shortage, small classes are continuing to be offered. It is hoped that the Social Services Department will be reopening to the public at the Old Town Hall, which is currently being retrofitted, in the very near future.

c. Councilor Jaskiewicz: Board of Education – *no report*

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

Chairman May reported that the WPCA Plant continues to run very well and meet their target goals.

The Conservation Commission is preparing to utilize its ARPA funds to conduct trail improvements and repairs.

The Economic Development Commission is currently working on its Facebook page and continues to receive feedback and information from the town's businesses.

e. Councilor Pollard: Non-Profit Organizations – *no report*

f. Councilor Rix: Parks & Recreation Commission, Farmer's Market Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission – *not present; no report*

Chairman May reported that the Farmer's Market has been very successful and encouraged everyone to attend the remaining two events.

g. Councilor Rogulski: Library Committee, Fire Fighters Relief Fund

The Fire Fighters Relief Fund will be meeting on October 25.

The Library Committee will be meeting on October 28. He has requested that they prepare a list of needs that might qualify for ARPA Funds. Councilor Caron reported that the neighboring Raymond Hill Church is ready to be utilized. As such, he has

approached one of the Senators regarding possible available grants to connect the Library with the Church to expand the Library and its services.

14. Appointments and Resignations

- a. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Margaret Skinner to the Commission on Aging with a term to expire on November 9, 2024.

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. 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. Motion carried.

- b. To Consider and Act on a motion to re-appoint Joshua Kobyluck to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to expire on November 9, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Pollard, seconded by Councilor Rogulski. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz confirmed that there have been no conflicting issues with Mr. Kobyluck's appointment to the Commission. Roll Call vote, 6-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Motion carried.

- c. To Consider and Act on a motion to appoint Meracus Hernandez to fill a vacancy as a member of the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire on April 9, 2022.

Motion made by Councilor Pollard, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 4-2. Voting in Favor: Councilors Caron, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, and Rogulski. Voting in Opposition: Councilors Bunnell and May. Motion carried.

- d. To Consider and Act on a Motion to appoint Angela Sherbanee to fill a vacancy as a member of the Housing Authority with a term to expire on April 30, 2026.

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

15. Unfinished Business – *none*

16. New Business

- a. **Resolution #2021-56. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to refund taxes due to overpayments and corrections in the amount of \$12,208.91 (twelve thousand two hundred eight dollars and ninety-one cents) as requested by the Tax Collector. (Councilor May)

Motion made by Councilor Jaskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Pollard. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote, 5-0-1. Voting in Favor: Councilors Bunnell, Jaskiewicz, Pollard, Rogulski, and May. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Councilor Caron. Resolution passed.

- b. **Resolution #2021-57. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE HEREBY RESOLVES** to transfer \$19,055 to the Police Car Replacement line (10960-54006) from Contingency (10480-52164). (Councilor Jaskiewicz)

Motion made by Councilor Pollard, seconded by Councilor Bunnell. Discussion: Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that the amount is the remaining balance of the replacement cost, after the insurance has been paid, from the accident involving a police vehicle near St. Bernard's School. The 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.

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

Jim Stuhler, 63 Sarah Drive, Uncasville, stated that COVID-19 is a fraud, conducted by the Illuminati and led by Dr. Anthony Fauci, tantamount to reducing the global population. He

explained the history and process by which the COVID-19 reached its pandemic levels and the harmful ingredients included in the vaccine, itself.

18. Remarks from the Councilors and the Mayor

Chairman May thanked his fellow Councilors, who are not seeking re-election, for their service to the community; he hopes and looks forward to continuing to benefit from their guidance. He also thanked and hopes to be able to share the dais with his colleagues who are seeking re-election.

Councilor Bunnell also extended his gratitude and appreciation to Councilors Rogulski and Pollard, with whom he has had the pleasure of working. They will be missed and, like Chairman May, hopes they will return. He also reminded the public that the Trick or Trunk event will be held on October 23. Another Trick or Trunk event will be held the following weekend at the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Company.

Councilor Rogulski thanked the Councilors for their kind words. He has found his experience as a Councilor very enlightening and encouraged the public to get involved. He felt that the Councilors, as a team, have had many positive accomplishments and reflected on their many spirited conversations and disagreements, which have led to alternative perspectives. He thanked them for the experience, will miss the process, and hopes to return in the future.

Councilor Pollard thanked all of the residents, Town Hall staff, and Councilors. She has enjoyed serving the town with her fellow Councilors with whom a good rapport was had.

Councilor Jaskiewicz also individually thanked Councilors Pollard and Rogulski for their service and civility, stating that it has been a pleasure working with them. He also thanked his fellow Councilors.

Councilor Caron also thanked and commended the two outgoing Councilors. Having served 15 years on the Town Council, he felt that the group treated each other with mutual respect and professionalism and is the best group with whom he has worked. He thanked them for their contributions to the Town Council, specifically, and the town, as a whole, and the sacrifices they have made. He added that it has been a pleasure to serve with his fellow Councilors and for the citizens of the town and thanked Chairman May for his willingness to serve as the Chair. He also expressed his condolences to the Planning & Zoning Department and former Town Planner Vlaun's family. He had the honor to serve alongside and learn from her. Her contributions to the town are great; she will be greatly missed.

Chairman May stated that he has enjoyed serving the town over the past two years; they have had many accomplishments during a very difficult period.

19. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 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