



TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

MINUTES
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Rodriguez welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She stated for the members of the Town Council and the Public who were participating via video conference that the remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town’s Website – Granicus-Legistar Meeting Portal.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL –

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Kevin Dombrowski	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary Paul	Town Councilor	Present	Remote
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	Remote
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS – None.

V. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Mr. Stephen Munger, 12 Nutmeg Drive, Gales Ferry, began his comments by thanking Chairman Rodriguez and the members of the Town Council for opportunity to speak tonight. He stated that he along with many others appreciate and respect the dedication of all the members, even if he disagreed with none, some, or all of their decisions. He stated that he has watched the videos of some of the Town Council meetings that were available on-line and he noted that the Town Council has allowed members of the public to speak for more than three minutes. He stated although he was going to try to present his comments within the three-minute limit that he may go a little over the allowed time and that he would appreciate if the Town Council would allow him to finish his comments this evening, noting that he was present to address the following two items: (1) Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget and (2) Raising of the Pride Flag.

Mr. Munger proceeded by noting that tonight was his first time speaking at a Town Council Meeting. He stated that he missed the April 15, 2024 Public Hearing and May 20, 2024 Annual Town Meeting regarding the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget. He stated that he was disappointed that he did not attend either of these meetings to voice his opinion on the Annual Budget because some of the information that was presented was not 100% correct. He stated based on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget presentations that most taxpayers were supposed to see an increase of about \$150.00 a year in their taxes. However, he stated in speaking to a knowledgeable friend that most of them were going to pay more than an additional \$150.00 a year. He stated he did not think the wrong number was put out on purpose, noting perhaps that number should not have been put out at all, because many taxpayers would see a higher increase in their taxes; and he commented that the information

provided was disingenuous. He stated that he was also sad to see that only 4% of residents voted on the budget regardless of how they chose to vote. He stated going forward that he planned to get more people involved. He stated in watching the Budget Meeting Video that he got upset because one resident who was in the audience complained because some members of the Town Council were not at a meeting. He thanked Chairman Rodriguez and appreciated her comments in which she stated that people have lives outside of the Town Council; and that those Town Council Members had been excused because they had a reason not to be there.

Mr. Munger went on to note for those who do not know him, that he served in the US Navy for 24.5 years protecting the rights of all Americans regardless of their beliefs, race, creed, religion, as long as they did not infringe on the beliefs; or the rights of others. He stated that he was a firm believer that they have a short life on this planet, and therefore, everyone should live their life the way they want to.

Mr. Munger continued to address the flying the Gay Pride Flag in Ledyard Center. He stated that he did not have a problem with that; but that this would be a major issue if the town breaks the law and does not follow the Supreme Court decision of May, 2022 that simply stated: "*Fly One; You Must Fly All*".

Mr. Munger presented the following flags that he would like the town to fly as noted below:

- Pine Tree Flag - General George Washington Commissioned the Pine Tree Flag to be put on all Naval Ships when they first went into battle for the Revolutionary War.
- Thin Green Line Flag – First Responders
- Thin Red Line Flag - Firemen.



Pine Tree Flag



Thin Green Line Flag



Thin Red Line Flag

Mr. Munger stated he did not think anyone would have a problem with any of these three categories. He stated if the town decided to raise one flag that they need to consider every flag that someone wanted to put up. He suggested before people do something, that they should take a step back and consider how many people it would affect, whether it was good or bad.

Mr. Munger thanked the members of the Town Council and Board of Education Member Joanne Kelley, noting that these volunteer commitments take a lot of time out of their personal lives, noting that they do not receive any compensation for their work. He stated that he appreciated the opportunity to speak this evening and that he hoped they would make the correct decisions moving forward.

Ms. Anne Roberts-Pierson, 4 Anderson Drive, Gales Ferry, thanked the volunteers who serve on town commissions, and she thanked the Town Council for the time they give to the town. She went on to thank the Town Council's Administration Committee for their quick action to include a discussion regarding an Ethics Commission on their June 12, 2024 Agenda, as was suggested by herself and Mrs. Edwards at the Town Council's May 22, 2024 meeting. She stated unfortunately she was not able to attend the Administration Committee's meeting earlier this evening and she questioned the status of their work on the proposal. Chairman Rodriguez stated the Administration Committee's first discussion regarding a proposed Ethic Commission went well, noting that they had some work to do. Ms. Roberts-Pierson suggested the Administration Committee review the Town of Norwich's Ethics Code, noting that it was far superior to the 2019 Draft Ordinance that was attached to their Agenda on the Meeting Portal this evening.