



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Town Council

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339-1551
(860) 464-3203
council@ledyardct.org

Chairman Gary St. Vil

Organizational Meeting

Monday, December 1, 2025

7:00 PM

Town Hall Council Chambers

In-Person: Council Chambers Town Hall Annex

Remote: Information noted below:

Granicus/Legistar Meeting Portal

Join Zoom Meeting from your Computer, Smart Phone or Tablet:

<https://ledyardct.zoom.us/j/89795087718?pwd=JjIZPiI6Rij52BqqgFL9PXM3mzJd9b.1>
Or by Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 897 9508 7718; Passcode: 004301

I. CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Fred Allyn, III called the Organizational Meeting of this Twenty-seventh Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Allyn welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting, noting that tonight's meeting format would provide for both in-person and remote participation via Video Conference. He noted that the remote meeting information for members of the Public to participate in this evening's meeting was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town's Website - Granicus-Legistar Meeting Portal.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. SWEARING IN OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH TOWN COUNCIL BY TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Patricia Riley administered the Oath of Office to the members of the Twenty-eighth Town Council.

Mayor Allyn, III congratulated the Town Council.

IV. ROLL CALL

Present: Town Councilor William Barnes
Town Councilor April Brunelle
Town Councilor Jessica Buhle
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry
Town Councilor Ty Lamb
Town Councilor Adrienne Parad
Town Councilor James Thompson
Chairman Gary St. Vil

Excused: Tim Ryan

V. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

Mayor Allyn, III called for a nomination for Town Council Chairman.

MOTION to nominate Councilor Gary St. Vil for Chairman.
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER: April Brunelle, Town Councilor
MOTION to close nominations

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Brunelle
VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: ADOPTED 8 - 0
MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER: April Brunelle, Town Councilor
AYES: Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED: Ryan

Mayor Allyn, III called for the vote on the Chairman.
VOTE: 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: ADOPTED 8 - 0
AYES: Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED: Ryan

RESULTS OF VOTE: Mayor Allyn, III announced that Councilor St. Vil has been elected Chairman of the Twenty-eighth Town Council. He congratulated Chairman St. Vil and turned the meeting over to him.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chairman St. Vil thanked the Town Council for their support. He went on to note in accordance with Chapter III; Section 3 of the Town Charter "*Town Council*" the first Order of Business was to Adopt the *Town Council's Rules of Procedure*.

He stated a Draft Resolution was provided for tonight's meeting which included a few revisions from the last Resolution to provide for additional clarifications. He note the revisions were noted in ***blue italic font***.

1. MOTION to adopt a Resolution Establishing the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-eighth Town Council.

DRAFT: 11/08/2025

Res: 001-2025/Dec 01

RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE
TWENTY-EIGHT LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Twenty -eighth Town Council of the Town of Ledyard adopts the following Rules of Procedure:

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. Regular meetings of the Town Council will be held in the Ledyard Town Hall Annex, Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.
2. Special meetings of the Town Council may be called by the Town Council Chairperson or upon written request to either the Town Council Chairperson or the Administrative Assistant by three (3) Town Council members.
3. The Town Council Chairperson may, with the consensus of six (6) Town Councilors, cancel any regularly scheduled meeting should the need arise.
4. All meetings of the Town Council for the transaction of business will be open to the public and the votes will be recorded as prescribed by Section 1-225 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut (CGS), as amended.
5. Six (6) Town Council members constitute a quorum, but no ordinance, resolution, or vote, except a vote to adjourn or to fix the time and place of the next meeting, will be adopted by less than five (5) affirmative votes.

Members of the Town Council may participate in a meeting remotely by means of electronic equipment in accordance with CGS Section 1-200; and strictly adhere to the rules set forth in the "*Town Council Policy Guidelines Remote Meeting Participation*"

In the absence of a quorum at a regular or special meeting of the Town Council, no business will be transacted, but the following actions may be taken and will be binding on the

Town Council:

- a. Fix the time at which to adjourn.
- b. Recess to contact absent Town Council members.
- c. Adjourn.

The Town Council Chairperson will preside at all meetings of the Town Council and at the stated hour and upon the appearance of a quorum, will call the Town Council to order. The Chairperson will also perform all the duties and accept all responsibilities of a Councilperson.

8. It will be the duty of the Town Council Chairperson to preserve order, to conduct Town Council business in accordance with these rules, to recognize and grant the floor to members wishing to speak and to declare all votes.
9. The Town Council Chairperson may speak on and will decide questions of parliamentary law and Town Council procedure, subject to appeal to the Town Council by a motion duly seconded. Such appeals to the Town Council will be entertained by the Town Council Chairperson and has precedence provided they are made at the time of the ruling by the Town Council Chairperson, and no debate or business has intervened between the ruling and the motion to appeal.
10. The regular agenda will be ordered as follows:

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Residents' & Property Owners Petitions
Committees, Commissions & Boards Reports
Comments of Town Councilors
Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
Communications/Referrals
Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports
Report of the Mayor
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment

There will be a Consent Calendar and those items on the “*Consent Calendar*” will be listed under New Business with an *asterisk preceding its number. Any item(s) objected to by a Town Council member shall be removed from the Consent Calendar, but will then automatically be considered under New Business.

Communications published with the Agenda shall consist of written correspondence formally submitted to the Town Council for the record.

The following will not be published with the Agenda, but will remain public records:

- a. *Communications that contain confidential personnel or protected information;*
- b. *Social media posts, screenshots, or online commentary;*
- c. *Communications containing profanity, threats, or defamatory statements;*
- d. *Communications unrelated to items within the Town Council's legal jurisdiction.*

A short agenda will be optional as follows:

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Residents' & Property Owners Petitions
Committees, Commissions and Boards Reports
Communications/Referrals
New Business/Business of the Meeting
Adjournment

A special agenda will contain only those items related to the stated purpose of the meeting and may follow the format below. Additional non-business items may be added at the discretion of the Chairperson.

*Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Business of the Meeting
Adjournment*

The Town Council Chairperson will cause to be prepared and have posted, the Town Council agenda not less than twenty-four hours prior to the regular Town Council meetings in accordance with CGS Section 1-225 (c). The agenda will also be electronically posted on the town's internet web site.

12. There will be the following standing committees of the Town Council:

- a. Administration Committee
- b. Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- c. Finance Committee
- d. Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

The Town Council may establish additional standing committees and may dissolve standing committees by a two-thirds vote.

Additionally, there will be the following standing liaisons:

- a. Agricultural Commission
- b. Board of Education
- c. Conservation Commission
- d. Economic Development Commission
- e. Gales Ferry Fire Company

- f. Historic District Commission
- g. Inland Wetland/WaterCourses Commission
- h. Ledyard Fire Company
- i. Ledyard Beautification Committee
- j. Ledyard Farmers' Market Committee
- k. Ledyard Housing Authority
- l. Library Commission
- m. Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission
- n. Permanent Municipal Building Committee
- o. Planning & Zoning Commission
- p. Public Safety Commission
- q. Retirement Board
- r. ~~Youth~~ & Social Services Board
- s. Water Pollution Control Authority
- t. Zoning Board of Appeals

13. The Town Council Chairperson will appoint members of the Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees of the Town Council and the Standing Liaison Assignments. The Town Council Chairperson will be a member ex-officio of all Town Council Committees. The Town Council Chairperson will appoint the Committee Chairpersons.

14. Each Town Council Committee will consider matters referred to it by the Town Council Chairperson or by a majority vote of the Town Council, and will report to the Town Council respecting such matters and submit resolutions or ordinances when necessary to carry out Committee recommendations. In order that business may be handled in an expeditious manner, the Town Council Chairperson may refer items to a Committee at any time.

For any item referred to two or more Town Council Standing Committees that may result in a proposed ordinance, the Committees should resolve any differences before the proposed ordinance is recommended to the Town Council for the setting of a public hearing date.

15. Each Committee agenda will be prepared and posted not less than twenty-four hours prior to the regular meetings in accordance with CGS Section 1-225 (c).

Each Committee Chairperson will ensure that written minutes are submitted and electronically distributed to all Town Council members using the town's internet website. Roberts's Rules of Order will govern minority reporting. Committee Chairpersons will provide written reports using the meeting portal and give a verbal synopsis or outline of the report during the Committee Reports of the Town Council meeting.

Committees may conduct all of their in-person meetings in a Hybrid Format enabling both in-person and remote participation, providing the appropriate technology and equipment is available at the physical meeting location, in accordance with Policy #2022-03-23-01

“Policy and Guidelines for Meeting Participation”.

16. All voting for the transaction of business and the setting or staying of rules of procedure will be by roll call taken alphabetically, but starting at a random name established by the Town Council's Administrative Assistant at each meeting.
17. In the absence of the Town Council Chairperson, a Town Council Chairperson Pro-tem, will be appointed on a lottery basis and as Town Council Chairperson Pro-tem, will sign all ordinances or resolutions passed at the meeting over which they preside. They will also perform all other duties of the Town Council Chairperson at that meeting.

Should the Town Council Chairperson step down from the position, the Town Council shall elect a Chairperson at their next Regular or Special Meeting.

18. All ordinances and resolutions will be confined to one subject which will be clearly stated in the title.
19. All ordinances and resolutions will be presented to the Town Council in writing by the Town Council member introducing such items.
20. The Town Council may, by majority vote, limit remarks of all members to a specified length of time in debating a particular subject.
21. When an Executive Session is necessary, reasons for such a session and all persons who will be in attendance will be publicly stated and all other requirements of the Freedom of Information Act will be adhered to. A two-thirds vote of the Town Council members present will be necessary to go into Executive Session.
22. Members will confine their remarks in debate to the pending question and must avoid personalities or improper motives.
23. The Administrative Assistant will be the custodian of all papers, correspondence, magnetic/electronic media and records of the Town Council and will keep for public inspection a journal of its proceedings, including all roll call votes by the Town Council and such further details of the proceedings of the Town Council as may be approved by a majority vote.

In the event the Administrative Assistant is not present at the Town Council meeting when the Chairperson calls a meeting to order, the Town Council Chairperson will appoint an Administrative Assistant Pro-tem to keep the minutes of that meeting.

The Administrative Assistant will file the record (minutes of each meeting) with the Town Clerk. All meeting records will be authenticated by the signature of the Administrative Assistant and the Town Council Chairperson or the Town Council Chairperson Pro-tem and will be posted on the town's internet meeting portal web site.

24. All requirements of the Charter of the Town of Ledyard with respect to the proceedings of

the Town Council are to be strictly followed and no rules will ever be adopted by the Town Council which will be in conflict with the Charter.

25. The rules of the Town Council, except those specified in Chapter III, Section 3 of the Charter of the Town of Ledyard, may be altered, extended or repealed by an affirmative vote of five (5) members of the Town Council at any meeting of the Town Council, providing a descriptive notice of the proposed changes will have been given in writing at a preceding regular meeting.
26. Any single rule may be suspended for the proceedings of any meeting of the Town Council upon an affirmative vote of seven (7) members present, the motion for suspension detailing the specific rule to be suspended and the reason for suspension.
27. The Town Council Chairperson or any Standing Committee Chairperson may be removed from their position of authority by an affirmative vote of at least six (6) other Town Council members. Such removal will in no way serve to restrict that person's duty, authority or responsibility as a Town Council member.
28. Beyond the aforementioned rules of procedure and for all situations not specifically covered therein, the Rules of Procedure for the Town Council and its Standing Committees will be those stipulated in Roberts Rules of Order.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

_____, Chairman

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Thompson

Discussion: Councilor Lamb addressed Item #10 specially the paragraph pertaining to the "Special Agenda" format noting the following:

"A special agenda will contain only those items related to the stated purpose of the meeting and may follow the format below. Additional non-business items may be added at the discretion of the Chairperson.

*Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Business of the Meeting
Adjournment"*

Councilor Lamb stated that he would like to see the Special Agenda Format include "Residents and Property Owners Comments". He stated that all of the Town Council meetings should include a portion for Residents and Property Owners Comments and that it should not be at the desecration of the Chairman.

❖ MOTION to amend the “*Resolution Establishing the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-eighth Town Council*” paragraph 10; to include a provision for “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” in the Special Agenda Format as follows:

“A special agenda will contain only those items related to the stated purpose of the meeting and may follow the format below. Additional non-business items may be added at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions

Business of the Meeting

Adjournment

(friendly amendment to Councilor Lamb’s “Amendment” proposed by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, please see discussion below)

- *For Special Meetings “Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions” be restricted to the topic of the meeting.*
- *Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions” would be excluded from Executive Session Meetings”*

Moved by Councilor Lamb, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: Councilor Lamb stated during the last Town Council’s term there were a lot of special meetings called. He went on to note that there was no opportunity during those special meetings for the people who elected the Town Council to express their thoughts during the special meetings.

Chairman St. Vil addressed Councilor Lamb’s proposed “Amendment” noting that the language regarding the format of the Special Agenda stated; *“May follow the format as noted below. Additional non-business items may be added at the discretion of the Chairperson”* He stated the words “*may follow*” contained the core elements that were required by the State’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). He stated including “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” as part of the Special Agenda format would potentially complicate the intended purpose of the Special Meeting. He stated that he would recommend they not approve the proposed “Amendment” because there was no preclusion of adding a “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” to the agenda that the draft Resolution as presented this evening would leave adding “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” to a Special Agenda to the Town Council to make that decision.

Councilor Buhle stated that she was always in support of hearing from the their residents during the “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” portion of their meetings. However, she stated the Town Council’s Special Meeting were typically to address specific items of business such as “Executive Session” items;

or to approve a Grant Application in working to adhere to an application deadline. Therefore, she stated to require “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” as part of the Special Agenda format would create more of a problem, noting that as the Resolution was written for tonight’s consideration that it did not prohibit them from adding “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” to a Special Agenda; stating when making major decisions that there would be value in adding this portion to a Special Agenda.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry addressed the purpose of a Special Meeting, explaining that they occurred outside of their Regular Meeting schedule, because they were to address pressing matters. Therefore, she suggested should the Town Council decide to add *Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” to the Special Agenda format that they may want to consider the following:

- For Special Meetings “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” be restricted to the topic of the meeting.
- Include language that would state the Special Agenda format would include “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” excluding Special Meetings pertaining to “Executive Sessions”

Councilor Barnes noted a Special Town Council Meeting that was held in July at which a former Mayor, who because of some physical ailments had difficulty traveling, attend the meeting. He stated the resident was not afforded the opportunity to speak, because “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” was not on the agenda. He stated regardless of the decision they make this evening, that he hoped that they would not have a situation like that again. He stated if an individual attended a Special Town Council meeting they should have had an opportunity to speak; and the Town Council have the opportunity to hear their comments. He stated they should have done better at that time, noting that they did a disservice to an individual who served this town for a number of years; and that the hoped this Town Council would do better.

Chairman St. Vil noted for clarification, that a Special Agenda was constrained, and was very different from a Regular Meeting format. He stated a Special Agenda could not be modified during the meeting.

Councilor Lamb stated during Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget process that there were a lot of residents that wanted to revoice their comments. He stated although residents attended all of the Special Meetings that occurred after the budget failed, the residents were not allowed to have their voices heard; and they were frustrated that they were shut down. He stated that they needed to allow the residents who elected them to have a voice. He stated that he liked Councilor Garcia-Irizarry’s suggested language to his proposed “Amendment”.

The Town Council agreed to Councilor Garcia-Irizarry’s suggested language as noted below and above as a “*friendly amendment*”

- *For Special Meetings “Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions” be restricted to the topic of the meeting.*
- *Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions” would be excluded from Executive Session Meetings”*

Chairman St. Vil noted that Mayor Allyn, III; and Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher have some history, and he asked them to comment.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated that he agreed that they could not have “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” at Executive Session Meetings. He stated for Special Meetings they could allow for “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*”. However, he stated that he would agree it should be at the desecration of the Town Council Chairman.

Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher stated as the proposed Resolution was drafted it would not preclude the Town Council from adding *Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” to a Special Agenda, noting to add that portion to the agenda would be at the Town Council Chairman’s desecration. She explained by changing the language to include “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” in the Special Agenda format that they would be required to include that at every Special Meeting.

Chairman St. Vil stated by requiring “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” be included in the Special Agenda format that the *Rules of Procedure* would be deviating from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements.

Councilor Parad stated that she heard her fellow Town Councilor’s comments that there should be an opportunity for “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” at many meetings to occur. However, she stated amending the proposed language in the draft “*Resolution Establishing the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-eighth Town Council*” presented this evening would limit the Town Council’s ability to have some quick meetings that were necessary to keep the business of the town moving forward. She stated as currently proposed that the Town Council was saying that they would like Chairman St. Vil to add “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” to as many meetings as possible, without them having to do that every time.

Councilor Buhle stated that she recalled the Special Meeting that Councilor Barnes noted (see above). She stated the meeting was a Special Meeting to approve the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget and to set the Mil Rate after the two Budget Referenda had failed. She stated as a member of the Finance Committee that they had several meetings at which time for “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” was provided, noting that they probably had nine meetings at which no members of the public attended. She also noted that only five members of the public attended the April 21, 2025 Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Public Hearing. She

stated there was ample time for the public to comment. She stated that she was disheartened that their residents who do come to speak did not feel they had the right opportunity. She stated because that meeting was a Special Agenda that they did not have the ability to modify the agenda during the meeting. She stated that she did not foresee Chairman St. Vil not including “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” on an Agenda regarding the Budget. She stated forcing “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” or restricting public comment only to the topic at hand on a Special Agenda at which the Town Council would be addressing issues such as a Grant Application or Bid Waiver, would become more complicated. Therefore, she stated that it made sense to leave the language as proposed in the draft “*Resolution Establishing the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-eighth Town Council*” presented this evening; and not to bind themselves to that requirement.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she sees all sides; and the challenge of pigeonholing them into a corner. She stated because the Town Council always wanted to be transparent and invite “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*”. Therefore, she stated that she was leaning toward including Councilor Lamb’s proposed amendment, with the exception of “Executive Sessions” meetings.

Chairman St. Vil called for a vote on the proposed Amendment as follows:

❖ MOTION to amend the “*Resolution Establishing the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-eighth Town Council*” paragraph 10; to include a provision for “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” in the Special Agenda Format as follows:

“A special agenda will contain only those items related to the stated purpose of the meeting and may follow the format below. Additional non-business items may be added at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions

Business of the Meeting

Adjournment

(friendly amendment to Councilor Lamb’s “Amendment” proposed by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, please see discussion below)

- *For Special Meetings “*Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions*” be restricted to the topic of the meeting.*
- **Residents’ & Property Owners Petitions* would be excluded from Executive Session Meetings”*

Moved by Councilor Lamb, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

VOTE: 4 - 4 Motion Failed (Buhle, Parad, St. Vil, Thompson not in favor)

Chairman St. Vil asked whether there were any additional comments on the Main Motion. He asked Councilor Lamb to provide his administrative editorial corrections to Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher, noting that they were not substantive changes to the *“Resolution Establishing the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-eighth Town Council”*.

Chairman St. Vil called for a vote on the Main Motion as follows:

MOTION to adopt a *“Resolution Establishing the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-eighth Town Council”* as presented in the draft dated November 8, 2025.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Thompson

VOTE: 7 - 1 Approved and so declared (Lamb not in favor)

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Buhle

SECONDER: James Thompson

AYE: 7 Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Parad, Thompson, and St. Vil

NAY: 1 Lamb

EXCUSED: 1 Ryan

2. Conduct Lottery for Chairperson Pro-Tem.

Chairman St. Vil explained in the absence of the Town Council Chairman that members of the Town Council would each serve in the capacity of Chairman Pro-tem. He stated as part of their Organizational Meeting the Town Council conducts a Lottery for Chairperson Pro-tem to determine the order of rotation in which the assignment of duties would be delegated. He asked that each Town Councilor draw a number.

The results of the Chairman Pro-Tem Lottery were as follows:

2025-2027 Lottery for Chairperson Pro-Tem

1. Councilor Ryan
2. Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
3. Councilor Parad
4. Councilor Thompson
5. Councilor Buhle
6. Councilor Brunelle
7. Councilor Lamb
8. Councilor Barnes

Chairman St. Vil explained the order of the Chairman Pro-tem list will rotate successively. He stated in the absence of the Town Council Chairperson, the Town Council Chairperson Pro-tem, would sign all ordinances or resolutions passed at the meeting over which they preside; and that they would also perform all other duties of the Town Council Chairperson at that meeting.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. MOTION to appoint Mr. Ian Stammel as the Town Treasurer.

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Buhle
Discussion: None.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Carmen Garcia-Irizarry

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle

AYE: 8 Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 1 Ryan

2. MOTION to appoint Ms. Roxanne M. Maher as the Administrative Assistant to the Ledyard Town Council.

Moved by Councilor Lamb, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Lamb noted that Ms. Maher has always been very helpful, noting that she does an outstanding job. He stated that the town benefits from her work in the Town Council Office.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Ty Lamb

SECONDER: April Brunelle

AYE: 8 Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 1 Ryan

3. MOTION to appoint the Twenty-eighth Town Council as the Flood/Erosion Control Board.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: Chairman St. Vil stated the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) grant local towns the authority to establish Flood and Erosion Control Boards (FECBs). He went on to note that it has been the town's practice for the Town Council to serve as the Flood/ Erosion Control Board. This Board

would meet on an "As Need Basis". To his knowledge, in the past they have never had to meet.

VOTE: **8 - 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Buhle

SECONDER: April Brunelle

AYE: 8 Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Thompson, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 1 Ryan

VIII. APPOINTMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Appointment of members to the Standing Sub Committees

Chairman St. Vil announced the 2025 - 2027 Standing Committee Assignments as follows:

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL
2025-2027**

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

 Councilor Barnes

 Councilor Brunelle

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Chairman Councilor Brunelle

 Councilor Lamb

 Councilor Parad

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Councilor Buhle

 Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

 Councilor Ryan

LAND USE/PLANNING/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chairman Councilor Thompson

 Councilor Buhle

 Councilor Lamb

RESULT: COMPLETED

2. Town Council Liaison Assignments

Chairman St. Vil announced the 2025 - 2027 Liaison Assignments as follows:

**TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS
2025-2027**

<u>Commission/Committee Board</u>	<u>Town Councilor</u>
Agricultural Commission	Councilor Lamb
Beautification Committee	Councilor Brunelle
Board of Education	Councilor Barnes
Conservation Commission	Councilor Barnes
Economic Development Commission	Councilor Buhle
Gales Ferry Fire Company	Councilor Buhle
Historic District Commission	Councilor Lamb
Inland Wetland/WaterCourses Commission	Councilor Thompson
Ledyard Farmers' Market Committee	Councilor Brunelle
Ledyard Fire Company	Councilor Buhle
Ledyard Housing Authority	Councilor Ryan
Library Commission	Councilor Parad
Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission	Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
Planning & Zoning Commission	Chairman St. Vil
Public Safety Commission	Chairman St. Vil
Permanent Municipal Building Committee	Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
Retirement Board	Councilor Ryan
Social Services Board	Councilor Parad
Water Pollution Control Authority	Councilor Thompson

Zoning Board of Appeals

Councilor Ryan

IX. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

1. New Chairperson Comments

Chairman St. Vil stated before they begin the work of this new term, that he wanted want to start with a simple word that carries a lot of meaning tonight: “*Gratitude*”. He thanked the residents of Ledyard for placing their trust in them once again. He stated that their vote was not just an endorsement; it was a responsibility. He promised that this Town Council would honor that responsibility with transparency, with ethical leadership, and with a steady commitment to doing what was right for this community.

Chairman St. Vil continued by addressing his returning colleagues, stating “*Welcome back*”; and he stated to their newly elected Town Councilors “*Welcome aboard*”. He stated that they each bring experiences, perspectives, and the passion that Ledyard truly needs. He stated the work ahead would require all of them, and that he was grateful to be serving alongside them.

Chairman St. Vil also recognized the outgoing Town Councilors for their service. He stated that public office was not easy, and their contributions helped carry the town forward; and for their efforts they thank them.

Chairman St. Vil went on state that tonight begins the work of the 28th Ledyard Town Council. He stated the last term was, at times, contentious, noting that processes were tested, relationships were strained, and trust - both among Councilors and from the Public was challenged. However, he stated that tonight was a new beginning; and in setting the foundation for how this Town Council would conduct itself that they would work openly, respectfully, and always with Ledyard’s best interest at heart.

Chairman St. Vil stated in that spirit, that he wanted to offer a heartfelt and very deliberate acknowledgment of Councilor Jessica Buhle. He stated as the highest vote-getter in this election, Councilor Buhle had every right, and every qualification to seek the Chairmanship. He stated that Councilor Buhle was capable, experienced, and deeply committed to their town. But instead, she made a choice that speaks volumes about her character and her approach to governance. He stated that Councilor Buhle stepped back from a position she absolutely earned because she believed for this term that he was the right person to lead this Town Council. Chairman St. Vil stated that kind of humility, that kind of partnership, and that kind of commitment to the greater good was exactly the standard they should all aspire to. He thanked Councilor Buhle stating that she sets the tone for the culture they would build together - one grounded not in individual authority, but in shared purpose and shared responsibility. He stated that this was how they would restore trust; how they would move from contention to collaboration; and how they would serve Ledyard with integrity.

Chairman St. Vil stated as Chair, that he would do everything he could to foster an atmosphere where every voice was heard, every viewpoint was respected, and every decision was made with transparency and fairness. He stated that they would not always agree - but they would always conduct themselves with professionalism and with a focus on what moves Ledyard forward. He stated the Town Council was here to do the people's work; to protect their confidence in local government; to show that leadership, even in disagreement, could be honest, civil, and constructive.

Chairman St. Vil concluded his remarks by stating as they begin this term, that his hope was simple: "*That we approach our work with clarity, respect, and a shared commitment to serving the people who placed their trust in us*". He stated that they have an opportunity tonight to set a tone that reflects the very best of Ledyard - steady, thoughtful, and united in purpose. He stated that he was honored to serve with each member of the Town Council and he looked forward to what they would accomplish together. Thank you.

2. Members of the Twenty-eighth Town Council Comments

Councilor Barnes stated he was excited about the Town Council's upcoming term. He noted as Chairman St. Vil mentioned they learned a great deal about a number of issues; and they tested their relationships, tested the trust of the town. He stated he was optimistic of this new beginning. He stated it was a pleasure to serve with those who were on the last Town Council, for the short time he served with them. He also welcomed the new members of the Town Council noting that they would find serving town was an awesome experience. He congratulated Chairman St. Vil noting that he believed that he would lead the Town Council well in the coming term.

Councilor Brunelle stated that they were in the midst of the Holiday Season for many different cultures. She noted the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry could use a little more help this time of year. She congratulated all those who were elected to serve on the Twenty-eighth Town Council noting that she looked forward to working with all of them. She encouraged residents to attend their meetings noting that she was interested in hearing what was on their minds, what they would like to see the town do; and what they would not like to see the town do.

Councilor Thompson stated that he was grateful and to be serving on the Town Council, noting that it was a privilege. He stated that he appreciated the work that the Town Council has done and that he was looking forward to working with the members of the Town Council, working with Mayor Allyn and Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher and working with the public. He thanked the residents for their good faith.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry thanked the residents who attended their meetings and who voted in the November 4, 2025 General Election, noting that it was one of the highest voter turnout Ledyard has had for a local election; and she

hoped that trend would continue. She stated that she was exciting about their upcoming term, and to work with the members of the Town Council. She noted with the addition of Councilor Lamb who comes to the Town Council from the Board of Education that she hoped he would bring his insight into the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget preparation. She went on to state that she was looking forward to working with Councilor Thompson, noting his experience and perspective from his service on the town's Land Use Commissions. She stated she was happy to be serving on the Town Council once again.

Councilor Lamb stated that he was glad Chairman St. Vil assigned him to the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion. He stated in talking with Councilor Brunelle that they shared a similar vision. He noted the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget preparation, stating that the Board of Education has prepared their Capital Improvement Plan for the coming year. He stated the Town Council needed to build a partnership with the Board of Education, noting that he would like to understand the Town Council's vision regarding the capital needs for their school buildings and the importance to put a plan in-place. He stated the Board of Education has projected a \$56 million issue that would require bonding (borrowing); noting the Middle Schol Cafeteria Project. He stated during the November 4, 2025 General Election that the Democrat ran on establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to develop the end to end process for capital building projects. He stated these were all issues that they needed to start working on. He stated, "*They were elected to serve, so let's start serving*". He concluded his comments by pointing out concerns that some past members of the Town Council did not attend the meetings of their Liaison Assignments. He pledged to attend the meetings of his Liaison Assignments; and that he was hopeful that the members of this Town Council would do the same. He stated that he looked forward to serving the town.

Councilor Parad stated that she was happy to be sitting here today, noting that it was exciting to see this group of people; and to have some hope in the things they could accomplish together. She stated the Town Council can not do their work alone, noting that they could not make up ideas and execute them without the support of the members of their community. She stated she looked forward to hearing what people would like to accomplish over the next two-years and beyond. She stated that she was excited about her assignments noting as a Physician that Social Services was important to her; and that she also looked forward to serving as the Liaison to the Library Commission as well. She thanked the residents for the opportunity to serve them.

Councilor Buhle stated the she echoed Chairman St. Vil's comments. She stated that several people asked her if she wanted to serve as the Town Council Chairman. She stated that while she thought that Chairman St. Vil was amazing; which was the reason she nominated him; that she also thought that she could do the work of the Town Council Chaiman. However, she stated that her heart was in the Finance Committee, noting that was where her

educational background and goals lied, noting that finance was her passion. She stated that finance makes her happy and brings her joy, noting that she was looking forward to working on their goals. She addressed the importance to seek support from their residents, noting that she planned to follow-through on the things she said during her last term on the Town Council, and being more vocal at other levels to make sure they were getting the funding needed for their town; and they were looking at every possible revenue stream. She stated they could make lists of everything the school buildings need. However, she stated they had to have the money to do those things; noting that the money would have to come from either the taxpayers or from somewhere else, noting that she wanted to work on the “*somewhere else*”.

Councilor Buhle concluded her remarks by stating that serving on the Town Council should not feel like a punishment, a chore, or something they felt like they had to do. She stated that they were all grateful to be serving the residents of their community. She stated the voices of each member of the Town Council carried weight and value, noting that they all have important things to say, the come to the Town Council with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. She commented on the members who have lived in different locations, noting that they get to experience different life viewpoints from different towns, with regard to what liked or disliked from other areas; while those who have been lifelong Ledyard residents had a history and background that was deep and rich in their community. She stated that she was grateful for their Liaison Assignments because they would enrich all of them, and bring their strengths to right places to make sure their town gets the best service. Thank you.

Chairman St. Vil provided an overview of all the Town Councilor’s comments noting the best way they could support each other was by writing down where their focus for the upcoming year. He asked for their first Regular Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2025 that each member of the Town Council identify one initiative that they would like to focus on; noting that it would provide this Town Council the Vision that Councilor Lamb identified, as well as the support of the community. He stated that it would also give them a marker to check themselves this this time next year.

X. MEETING SCHEDULE

1. MOTION to set the Town Council’s Regular Meeting schedule for the 2026 Calendar Year to be the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. as follows:

January 14, 28	February 11, 25	March 11, 25	April 8, 22
May 13, 27	June 10, 24	July 8, 22	August 12, 26
September 9, 23	October 14, 28	November 18*, 25^	December 9, 23^
January 13, 27, 2027			

Flood/Erosion Control Board

This Board will meet on an as needed basis.

^ Denotes meeting cancelled due to holiday

* Denotes regular meeting date scheduled is different from regular schedule

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

Discussion: Chairman St. Vil noted the "*Rules of Procedure*" the Town Council was required to set its regular meeting date for the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. He stated the Town Council and its Sub Committees' meetings would be held in a Hybrid format (in-person and remote) in accordance with Policy #2022-03-0 "*Policy and Guidelines for Remote Meeting Participation*".

VOTE: 8- 0 Approved and so declared

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Barnes, moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Buhle

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Transcribed by Roxanne M. Maher
Administrative Assistant to the Town Council

I, Gary St. Vil, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council,
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and
correct copy of the minutes of the Town Council
Organizational Meeting held on December 1, 2025.

Gary St. Vil, Chairman

DISCLAIMER:

Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.

The Town Council's Official Agenda and final Minutes will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.