



TOWN OF LEDYARD

CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman Kevin J. Dombrowski

MINUTES
LEDARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

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

Chairman Dombrowski welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He 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
Kevin Dombrowski	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Andra Ingalls	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Whit Irwin	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
John Marshall	Town Councilor	Excused	
Mary McGrattan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary Paul	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Timothy Ryan	Town Councilor	Excused	
William Saums	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS – None.

- V. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS – None.

- IV. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

- VI. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Paul thanked Resident Ms. Hilary Evans for her donation of two VIP Taylor Swift Concert Tickets to the Ledyard Music Boosters to auction off as a fundraiser. He stated the tickets were \$5.00 and that people could purchase the tickets at LedyardMusic.com and following the on-line instructions. He stated the Drawing would be held on May 17, 2023 at 5:55 p.m. for the May 20, 2023 Concert that will held at Gillet Stadium. He stated as of 8:00 a.m. this morning they have raised \$13,000. He stated during her time in Ledyard Ms. Evans has been an active member of the community volunteering her time to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Ledyard Housing Authority and on the Conservation Commission. He stated Ms. Evans wanted to do something inspiring and helpful for the community before leaving Ledyard this June to return back to her home state of Tennessee. He again thanked Ms. Evans for her very generous donation and for her service to the town, and he wished her a safe and healthy move back home.

Ms. Evans thanked Councilor Paul for mentioning the Taylor Swift Concert Tickets Fundraiser for the Music Boosters. She noted that there was still seven-days left before the raffle is called. She stated that she enjoyed volunteering to serve the town and she thanked Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher for the support she provided to the town’s volunteers.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2023
Moved by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez

VOTE: 7- 0 Approved and so declared

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Dombrowski stated a Communications List has been provided. He noted there were no referrals listed.

COMMUNICATIONS LISTING FOR MAY 10, 2023

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Ms. Evans ltr dated 5/3/2023 re: Resign Housing Authority
- 2. Conservation Commission email dated 5/9/2023 re: Response to LUPPW Cmt memo dated 5/2/2023: Request Review of Administrative Control of Town-Owned-Town Leased Property

OUT GOING CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 04/27/2023 re: Action ltr. Town Council Regular Meeting of April 26, 2023.
- 2. Admin Asst ltr to Town Clerk dated 04/27/2023 re: Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Referendum
- 3. LTC ltr to St. Vil dated 4/27/2023 re: Appointed to Planning & Zoning Commission
- 4. LTC ltr to Senior Citizens Commission dated 4/27/2023 re: Adopted Ordinance #100-016 (rev.1) *An Ordinance Combining Parks And Recreation Commission and Senior Citizens Commission for the Town of Ledyard*” – Request Members for Appointment
- 5. LTC ltr to Parks & Recreation Commission dated 4/27/2023 re: Adopted Ordinance #100-016 (rev.1) *An Ordinance Combining Parks And Recreation Commission and Senior Citizens Commission for the Town of Ledyard*” – Request Members for Appointment
- 6. Chairman Dombrowski memo dated 4/27/2023 re: Assignment of Duties – Chairman Pro-Tem Marshall
- 7. LUPPW Cmt Memo to Conservation Commission dated 5/2/2023 re: Request Review of Administrative Control of Town-Owned-Town Leased Property

NOTICE OF AGENDAS

- 1. Housing Authority Agenda 5/1/2023
- 2. Permanent Municipal Building Cmt Agenda 5/1/2023
- 3. Economic Development Commission Agenda 5/2/2023
- 4. Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission Agenda 5/2/2023
- 5. Farmers Market Committee Agenda 5/3/2023
- 6. Conservation Commission Agenda 5/9/2023
- 7. Planning & Zoning Agenda 5/11/2023
- 8. Finance Cmt Agenda 5/3/2023
- 9. LUPPW Cmt Agenda 5/1/2023
- 10. Admin Cmt Agenda 5/10/2023
- 11. Town Council Agenda 5/10/2023

MINUTES

- 1. Housing Authority Minutes 4/3/2023
- 2. Permanent Municipal Building Cmt Minutes 4/3/2023
- 3. Economic Development Commission Minutes 4/4/2023
- 4. Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission Minutes 4/4/2023
- 5. Farmers Market Committee Minutes 4/5/2023
- 6. Conservation Commission Minutes 4/11/2023
- 7. Planning & Zoning Minutes 4/13/2023

8. Finance Cmt Minutes 4/19/2023
9. LUPPW Cmt Minutes 4/3/2023
10. Admin Cmt Minutes 4/12/2023
11. Town Council Agenda 4/26/2023

REFERRALS

Administration Committee

1. Ms. Evans ltr dated 5/3/2023 re: Resign Housing Authority

X. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Ingalls stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening and forwarded the following items to the Town Council for action at the May 24, 2023 meeting: (1) Reappointment to the Housing Authority; and (2) Updated Job Description for the Director of Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizens Department.

Community Relations Committee

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting. He noted the Committee would be meeting on May 17, 2023 and he welcomed residents to attend.

Finance Committee

Councilor Saums stated the Finance Committee met on May 3, 2023 and he noted in addition to the one item on tonight's Agenda that the Committee also discussed the following: (1) American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) – Councilor Saums noted that Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained that according to ARPA rules, the Federal Treasury definition of “*Obligated Funds*” meant “*An order has been placed for property and services, or contracts, or some awards were made*”. He stated just saying that the funds were going to be used for a particular project, was not considered “*Obligated*” and that it did not meet the Treasury's definition. He stated for the funds to be *obligated* the town had to have contracts or purchase orders in place; (2) ARPA Projects List Review - The Finance Committee discussed an updated ARPA Projects List provided by Finance Director Matthew Bonin, and noted that of the \$4.3 million received, \$1.1 million has been spent on 13 completed projects with \$30,000 left over to be reallocated to other projects. The Committee also noted that there were now 15 projects in progress, and only 9 not started yet; (3) Board of Education Roof Projects - The Finance Committee took no action on the request for a bid waiver to STV Construction for the oversight of the school roof project, because the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) planned to start the bid process over again. The Committee removed the Bid Waiver Request from its agenda until new bids were received; (4) Nip Bottle Surcharge Revenue - Public Act No.21-58 “*An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management*” - “*Resolution Regarding Revenues Received from Beverage Container Surcharges*” - The Finance Committee continued to discuss the \$13,048.20 Ledyard received from the State's Nip Bottle Surcharge, noting that the \$13,048.20 equated to approximately 260,964 nip bottles, or 17 nips bottles per resident per day sold in Ledyard during the past six-months. Councilor Saums noted that during the recent Earth Day cleanup, the Vajdos family collected over 500 nip bottles from one section of one road in Ledyard. He stated Councilor Ingalls has initiated communication with the Ledyard Beautification Committee to organize another roadside cleanup in November, and to collect nip bottles for delivery to Hartford to shine a light on this failed piece of legislation; (5) Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget - The Annual Town Meeting regarding the proposed Budget would be held on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, and would adjourn to a Referendum on the voting machines the following day (Tuesday, May 16, 2023). All polling locations would be voting at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex; (6) Remembrance of Conor Irwin – The Finance Committee, the Mayor, and the Finance Director wore green in memory of Conor Irwin, who would have turned 21 years old on May 3, 2023.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor Paul stated the LUPPW Committee met on May 1, 2023 and continued their work to update the List of Administrative Control of Town-Owned and Town-Leased Property. He stated the Committee hoped to complete their work within the next month to forward to the Town Council for action.

Economic Development Commission

Councilor Paul stated the EDC met on May 2, 2023 and he noted that they were getting the Businesses together to begin to shoot footage on June 14, 2023 for the Marketing Video.

Councilor Ingalls questioned whether the Marketing Video the EDC was producing would include town events such as capturing the Farmers' Market. Councilor Paul stated the video would have six-segments that would cover an array of things such as businesses and events, etc.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) Public Act No. 21-58 "*An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management*" - "*Resolution Regarding Revenues Received from Beverage Container Surcharges*" - Nip Bottle Surcharge Disbursement - Mayor Allyn stated that there was a plan to take the Nip Bottles to the Capital in Hartford for the next Legislative Session. He stated he would share this Plan with Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) at their May 24, 2023 meeting to obtain regional support. He stated they would like to bring a tremendous number of bags full of Nip Bottles to Hartford to show the impact just in Southeastern Connecticut; (2) Senate Bill 1242 "*Solid Waste Management Disposal*" - Mayor Allyn stated Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) has created a Solid Waste Task Force, noting that he would be serving as the Chairman. He stated the objective was to develop a Plan for waste products such as Organics, Plastics, Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) for certain packaging such as Vacuum Packaging, and Energy Opportunities. He stated that SCCOG believed that *Trash to Energy* has a place in all of this, especially with the State looking to annually haul 800,000 – 900,000 tons of waste out of Connecticut to landfills in different states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio, etc., noting that this was not a solution. He stated as Chairman of the Solid Waste Task Force that his role would include interfacing with the State, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), and Southeastern Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA) to produce a Report at the end of November, 2023; (3) Eversource Emergency Response Planning Meeting – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the Annual Meeting which was held in preparation for Hurricane Season. He stated Eversource was doing a good job to prepare in the event of a hurricane, noting they have brought back the "*Make Safe Plan of Action*" which involved sending out Tree Crews with Lineman Crews to cut clear trees from the power lines and to keep moving; (4) Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) Housing Plan – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the CHFA Housing Plan Presentation. He stated the Report included a link where residents could provide comments regarding the Housing Plan which included the Affordable Housing Action Items. He stated that he would forward the Report to the Town Council Office, noting that the Public Comment Period was open until May 22, 2023; (5) Kings Corner Manor Senior Housing Facility Improvement Project – Mayor Allyn stated he attended a meeting on May 4, 2023 at the Kings Corner Manor with Housing Director Colleen Lauer and the Contractors to review a potential Change Order at the Facility. He stated because it was a small issue, that rather than have the Senior Housing Authority absorb the \$20,000 cost for the Change Order, that the Public Works Department would do the job. He stated by the Public Works Department taking on the small Change Order that it would not take funding away from the construction work that they wanted to accomplish at the Senior Housing Facility. He stated because the Senior Housing Authority was a stand-alone agency and was not an agency of the town they typically do not get involved. However, he stated in this case it was important to the residents that they were able to have the work that was planned/anticipated completed; (6) Zoning Enforcement Officer – Mayor Allyn stated the new Zoning Enforcement Officer Mr. Alex Samalot began on May 1, 2023. He stated Mr. Samalot was currently enrolled in the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement (CAZEO) Certification Program. He stated because he was not already CAZEO Certified that he would be working under the guidance of Land Use Director Juliet Hodge. He stated Ms. Samalot has begun to take on the List of the Blighted Properties and Junk/Unregistered motor vehicle cases; (7) Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Legislative Meeting – Mayor Allyn stated today he

attended the CCM Legislative Meeting noting the following: (a) State Budget negotiations were underway, with 28-days remaining in the Legislative Session. Both the Governor's Budget and the Democrats Budget were flat funded. He stated the Republican provided a Budget for the first time in a long time which included a substantial increase in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Funding. He stated that he has complained to the State Legislature that Flat Funding to Municipalities during an inflationary environment, such as what we were currently experiencing, was not actually Flat Funded; (b) Early Voting Bill - Mayor Allyn explained the House approved an Early Voting Bill that included the following: 14-Days of advanced Early Voting for General Elections; 7-Days advanced Early Voting for Local and Congressional Primary Elections; 4-Days advanced Early Voting for Presidential Primaries and Special Elections. Mayor Allyn stated there would be **No Early Voting for Budget and Town Referendums**, noting that this was good news explaining that based on Ledyard's Town Charter pertaining to their local budget process, that they could not make early voting happen. He stated the State has set aside \$8 Million to fund the entire State for the 2-weeks of Early Voting. He explained Municipal Registrars and Town Clerks were required to prepare and submit to the State a budget showing how many Poll Workers would be working during the Early Voting Days (including Saturdays & Sundays); (c) Changes to Auto Assessments – Mayor Allyn explained the Legislature was looking to use the Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) and then a straight-line depreciation after that. However, he stated they realized those numbers would not work and that they were now looking to start off at 90% of MSRP and then a straight-line depreciation year after year and doing away with the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Book Value; (d) Legal Notice Bill – Mayor Allyn stated the Legal Notice Bill came out of Committee Joint Favorable and was still on track; (e) Reduce Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes – Mayor Allyn stated currently the Interest Rate of Delinquent Taxes was set a 18% annually (1.5% per month). The Legislature was considering reducing that to 12% annually (1% per month); (f) Housing Bills included a Fair Share Plan which would require a percentage of Affordable Housing in Every Town – Mayor Allyn stated under this Bill that if the town did not meet the percentage requirement that they would be required to pay up front for the construction of Affordable Housing, noting that Municipalities did not want to be in the construction business; (g) Raised Bill 1213 “*Reformulation of the Pequot Fund*” - Mayor Allyn stated this current year represented the single lowest year of the Pequot Funding distribution. He explained that the State was only distributing about 15% of the money collected to Municipalities and that the State was retaining the remaining 85%. He stated Senator Cathy Osten's proposed Raised Bill 1213 would flip the percentage of the distribution to provide 85% of the Pequot Funding to the Municipalities and the State would retain the remaining 15%. He stated per the proposed Bill that the percentage distribution could only be changed in the case of extreme fiscal duress for the State. He stated that he hoped the Bill would be approved and that he appreciated the work Senator Osten has done; (h) House Bill 5917 - Automated Traffic Enforcement associated with School Zones, Pedestrian Zones and Traffic Lights - Mayor Allyn explained that this would involve the use of radar detectors and cameras to automatically generate an Infraction and mail it to the Registered Vehicle Owner; (8) Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) Program – Mayor Allyn stated today the Town received a notice from the DOT regarding Federal Traffic Safety Funding. He stated the Report provided data for the four-year period of 2018- 2022 as follows: Montville 4 Fatal Accidents; East Lyme 5 Fatal Accidents; Preston 5 Fatal Accidents; Waterford 5 Fatal Accidents; Ledyard 8 Fatal Accidents; North Stonington 11 Fatal Accidents; Stonington 14 Fatal Accidents; Colchester 15 Fatal Accidents. He stated this data was not unlike what was happening throughout the State. He stated he met with Police Chief Rich today to talk about directing some of the Federal Traffic Safety funding toward some of enforcement, noting that people were driving under the influence, driving faster, driving more reckless, and driving distracted.

Questions to the Mayor -

Councilor Ingalls addressed the Federal Traffic Safety Funding and she questioned whether the Report provided any data for the four years prior to 2018 to see if the numbers were increasing. Mayor Allyn stated that the Report did not provide any data prior to 2018, but that DOT Commissioner Garrett T. Eucalitto stated that all the statics were climbing due to more distracted driving, faster driving, less consideration for other drivers, and driving in neighborhoods. Mayor Allyn stated recently Ledyard had someone driving 65-miles per hour in a residential neighborhood.

The Town Council and Mayor Allyn discussed Traffic Safety noting that people were blatantly violating motor vehicle laws by being on their phones, not stopping at stop signs or stopping at traffic lights before making the “Right on Red”, driving excessively fast, etc.

Chairman Dombrowski stated since the horrific April 21, 2023 Gold Star Bridge fatal accident that there have been two fatal accidents on Buddington Road noting that both the accidents were head on collisions because the people were driving on the wrong side of the road.

XII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee

1. MOTION to appropriate \$9,500 to Account #21020301-57300-G0015 (Fire Marshall - New Equipment - State Grant).

In addition, authorize the expenditure of up to \$9,500 for the purchase of three 800 MHz radios for Emergency Management.

The funding source for this project is the Town of Ledyard’s FY 2023 Nuclear Safety Emergency Program Funding Allocation (2023-47).

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated the town has already applied for and received this Nuclear Safety grant funding. He stated tonight’s action was to appropriate and authorize the spending of the grant funding to purchase three 800 MHz radios for Emergency Management.

Mayor Allyn, III, explained that the State was moving to the 800 MHz radios (Tri-BAN), which would allow everyone in the state to communicate with each other. He stated this project has been in-process for about ten-years. He stated Director of Emergency Management Jim Mann has received approval from DEMIS Region 4 to use these funds to purchase the radios.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER: Bill Saums, Town Councilor
SECONDER Andra Ingalls, Town Councilor
AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Saums
EXCUSED: Marshall, Ryan

General Discussion

5. Discuss Work Session Items as time permits.- None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Irwin moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez
7 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

VOTE:

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

I, Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting held on May 10, 2023.

Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman