



**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot, Don Walsh, David Veleber, Fiona Pearson, Tricia Cramer, Jim Jinks, Lou Todisco, Deb Manke

Staff/Guests: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; Sheila Adams, Aquatic Director; John Gawlak, Director of Parks and Recreation; Don Falk, Cheshire Veterans Advisory Committee

Absent:

Greg Wolff

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Noelle Shepard called the roll, and a quorum was present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Recognition of Alexa VanderVliet and Aria Swan for development of a Hands for Life Hands Only CPR, AED, and First Aid program for Cheshire youth.

Peter Talbot read a certificate of recognition for Alexa VanderVliet and Aria Swan.

- B. Public comments.

Joe Bandurski, 153 Lancaster Way, expressed concern about the 8-10% tax increase and suggested implementing an elderly tax freeze.

Joanna Giddings, 503 Oak Ridge Drive, expressed her belief that the Town should abide by the preferred planting plan from the Town Beautification Committee for public property as well. She

explained that she reached out to the Next Generation School Building Committee regarding the tree plan and putting in ecologically sound trees. She further mentioned her concerns at North Brooksvale Road at Lock 12 with Crimson King Norway maples and Cornwall Avenue with small Ginkgo trees. She suggested considering adopting a native plant policy that directs that all tree plantings are native on public properties.

Joanna Debear, 11 Shire Court, suggested that the town follow best practices to ensure that new trees are properly cared for. She explained that she feels there is volcano mulching present at Bartlem Park, which can cause issues for tree growth. She suggested adopting a donut method for mulching trees as well as keeping the root flare exposed.

Lisa Giugno, 1201 Long Hill Road, discussed the Bradford pear trees in Town, which she mentioned are invasive, weak trees. She explained that the Town planted them as street trees many years ago. She asked the Town Council to form a plan and plant trees that are appropriate for the ecosystem.

Jeff Natale, 512 Cardinal Lane, asked that the referendum questions include tax impacts for each question. He asked that the Town Council have the Town Attorney work with the Town Clerk on this.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes of March 10, 2026 Town Council regular meeting; March 23, 2026 Town Council special meeting; March 24, 2026 Town Council special meeting; March 31, 2026 Town Council special meeting.

Jim Jinks motioned to approve the minutes of March 10, 2026 Town Council regular meeting; March 23, 2026 Town Council special meeting; March 24, 2026 Town Council special meeting; March 31, 2026 Town Council special meeting. Fiona Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10.00 donation from Breina Schain to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$250.00 donation from the Cheshire Historical Society to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100.00 donation from Judy & Kenneth Boynton in memory of Jack Bengston to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50.00 donation from Severino Fasulo to the Jitney Bus Fund Account.

- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25.00 donation from Terri Higgins to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of \$4,979.84 from National Opioids Settlements Walgreens Payment Year 4 to be used for opioid remediation.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100.00 donation from Erin Miller to the Youth Services Gift Account to be used towards Yellow House programming.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of \$180.00 in Town Hall Dress Down Days donations to the Human Services Gift Account.
- I. Acceptance of a donation from the Estate of Mary Jane Richards in the amount of \$10,000 to the Senior Center Gift Account for Senior Center programming.
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of \$100.00 from Linda Buckley in memory of Lucy Heath to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- K. Approval of \$80,969.54 in tax refunds.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #041426-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for April 14, 2026, as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10.00 donation from Breina Schain to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.*
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$250.00 donation from the Cheshire Historical Society to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.*
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100.00 donation from Judy & Kenneth Boynton in memory of Jack Bengston to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.*
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50.00 donation from Severino Fasulo to the Jitney Bus Fund Account.*
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25.00 donation from Terri Higgins to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.*
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of \$4,979.84 from National Opioids Settlements Walgreens Payment Year 4 to be used for opioid remediation.*
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of \$180.00 in Town Hall Dress Down Days donations to the Human Services Gift Account.*
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100.00 donation from Erin Miller to the Youth Services to the Youth Services Gift Account for Yellow House programming.*
- I. Acceptance of a donation from the Estate of Mary Jane Richards in the amount of \$10,000 to the Senior Center Gift Account for Senior Center programming.*

- J. Acceptance and appropriation of \$100.00 from Linda Buckley in memory of Lucy Heath to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.*
- K. Approval of \$80,969.54 in tax refunds.*

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Don Walsh commented that Mary Jane Richards was a great volunteer for the community. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Approval of CT Beekeepers Association lease extension for Boulder Knoll Parcel.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #041426-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the First Lease Amendment for a two-year term with the Connecticut Beekeepers Association, Inc. of 49 Old Sherman Hill Road, Woodbury, CT for Parcel B at 866 Boulder Road as presented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Sean M. Kimball to execute this lease amendment pursuant to the terms and conditions as presented and the approval by the Town Attorney as to form and function.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Fiona Pearson thanked the Environment Commission for reviewing this matter and providing a recommendation. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Veterans Advisory Committee Bartlem Park Memorial Project Discussion and possible architectural engineering contract.

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #041426-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the execution of an Agreement by and between the Town of Cheshire and SLR International Corporation ("SLR"), for engineering services for the proposed Veterans Memorial project at Bartlem Park in the amount of \$60,000, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Town said Agreement pursuant to the terms and conditions as presented and the approval by the Town Attorney as to form and function.

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. Andrew Martelli provided the history. About a year and a half ago, the Town received \$200,000 for upgrades to the Veterans Memorial. He explained that the Town was approached by many individuals who wish to have their names added. He explained that the plan would be to recast two panels out in front of Town Hall and also install a memorial at Bartlem Park. He reviewed the concept for Bartlem Park received from SLR, who submitted a contract for engineering and design. In addition, there is a plan to install at Bartlem Park a 120-foot flagpole, which would be the largest in Connecticut. Don Falk explained that the Veterans Advisory Committee has been trying to get additional names for the memorials.

Don Walsh asked how citizens could contact the Veterans Advisory Committee. Andrew Martelli mentioned that the email address for the Committee is on the Town website. Fiona Pearson suggested using the Town Square newsletter to circulate information about the application. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

- B. Adoption of amendment to ordinance Sec. 2-8. - Fee Schedule pertaining to fee for use of a handheld scanner device to copy documents.

Lou Todisco motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #041426-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Ordinance Review Committee, the Town Council hereby adopts the amendment to the Section 2-8 "Fee schedule; copies of public records" as follows:

Sec. 2-8. Fee schedule; copies of public records.

Pursuant to Section 1-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the following schedule of fees shall pertain to all copies of public documents generated or transcribed in any manner:

(1) As to all departments

Fee for copy of public document (per page) \$0.50

Certified copies (first page) 1.00

Additional pages 0.50

*Computer printout or transcription (per page) Cost of
..... preparation*

(Copies of voter registration lists shall not exceed \$0.03 per name)

(2) As to the town clerk's office

Survey maps:

1. Large size (2' × 3') 7.50

2. Small size (18" × 24") 5.00

3. Section 1.00

Zoning regulations 15.00

Subdivision regulations 15.00

Inland wetlands regulations 10.00

Zoning/inland wetlands maps

1. Large size (2' × 3') 7.50

Code of Ordinances 65.00

Charter 3.00

Use of handheld scanner device to copy documents \$20.00 per day

(3) *As to the public works department*

Topographic map (3' × 3½' using blueline paper) 12.00

Street map (3' × 5' using blueline paper) 12.00

As-built map (2' × 3' using blueline paper) 7.50

(4) *As to the planning department*

Assessor's map (2' × 3') 7.50

Wetlands map (2' × 3') 7.50

(5) *As to the assessor.*

Assessor's map (24" × 36" black and white) \$12.00

Assessor's map (24" × 36" color) \$20.00

Section of map (8½" × 11" color) \$5.00

Section of map (11" × 17" color) \$8.00

Grand list property data \$50.00

(Ord. Enact. 11-12-96; Res. Enact. 12-10-02; Ord. Enact. 6-8-04; Ord. of 11-13-07; Ord. of 11-14-13)

This ordinance amendment shall go into effect twenty-one (21) days after publication.

The motion was seconded by David Veleber. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

C. Approval of bid waiver for pool laterals.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #041426-5

WHEREAS, the filter media and main filter laterals at the Cheshire Community Pool must be replaced, and

WHEREAS, CT Custom Aquatics has been providing much of the service, equipment and repair of the Cheshire Community Pool since it was built, and has been certified by Neptune Benson as the sole source distributor in the State of Connecticut,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to Section 7-8(c)(11) of the Town Charter, approves a waiver of bid requirements for the purchase and installation of said equipment from CT Custom Aquatics in the amount of \$51,900.

The motion was seconded by David Veleber. Sheila Adams explained that pool laterals typically last 15–20 years. They are currently getting sand in the pool because they are starting to fail. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

9. TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Status Report.

Sean Kimball reviewed the Town Square newsletter April edition.

B. Department Status Reports: Police, Fire, Economic Development.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

A. Chairman's Report.

Fiona Pearson updated that the Budget Committee will be meeting after this, and there will be a public hearing tomorrow on the proposed operating budget. Jim Jinks updated that the Sustainability Committee met last week to discuss options for bulky waste pickup. Deb Manke explained that the Audit Committee will have its first meeting next week.

B. Liaison Reports.

Don Walsh mentioned that the Town Beautification Committee met last week and finished approval of signs down at Stone Bridge. Tricia Cramer mentioned that the Environment Commission discussed the start of the CT NEMBA trail work at Yankee Highlands along with a recommendation for renewing a lease for the beekeeper at Boulder Knoll.

C. Miscellaneous.

11. APPOINTMENTS

Peter Talbot motioned to appoint:

- Mike Tiraj, D, Energy Commission, following the term of Dan Knudsen, 4/14/2026–1/31/2028.

David Veleber seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

12. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

Peter Talbot explained that the letters received for the budget will be taken up during public hearing tomorrow.

B. Miscellaneous.

14. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT

Fiona Pearson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Jim Jinks seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Attest: _____
Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist