



**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot, Don Walsh, David Veleber, Fiona Pearson, Greg Wolff, Jim Jinks, Lou Todisco, Deb Manke

Staff/Guests: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Jeffrey Donofrio, Town Attorney; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; Michelle Piccerillo, Director of Human Services; Anne Marie Burr, Collector of Revenue; John Gawlak, Director of Parks and Recreation; Marek Kement, Town Engineer; David Milano, WWTP Superintendent; Dennis Dievert, Wright Pierce; John Perrotti, Cheshire WPCA Chair

Absent:

Tricia Cramer

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month.

Peter Talbot read a proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month.

B. Presentation from Wright-Pierce on the I&I Study and recommendations.

John Perrotti, Cheshire Water Pollution Control Authority Chair, updated on the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant system and concerns. He reviewed the history of the plant and explained that the main interceptors and force mains have had little to no maintenance. He explained that

infiltration and inflow (I&I) refers to water that should not be in the system but is getting into the plant, costing the Town money treating this extra water. Dennis Dievert Jr., Wright Pierce Consulting Engineers, reviewed how I&I water gets into the system as well as the general findings of the I&I Study. 16 of 40 areas showed excessive responses to rainfall. He explained that they would like to implement a Find and Fix Program in those 16 areas, which would require budgeting \$400,000 each year for the next five fiscal years. He reviewed a proposed capital improvement plan for the facility. Discussion was had on concrete pipes and possible repair methods.

C. Public comments.

Joanna Giddings, 503 Oak Ridge Drive, expressed her concerns about the use of pesticides. She further mentioned that spraying for mosquitos and ticks is ineffective.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of April 23, 2026 Town Council Public Hearing and Budget Workshop; Minutes of April 28, 2026 Special Meeting / Budget Adoption.

Jim Jinks motioned to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2026 Town Council Public Hearing and the April 28, 2026 Town Council Special Meeting/Budget Adoption. Deb Manke seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500.00 donation from the Sally Bowman Real Estate LLC to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500.00 donation from SBRE Property Management LLC to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of \$3,500 from Hope for Our Neighbors Inc to the Human Services Gift Account to be used to support the remediation of a resident's property.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of \$818.75 from the Greater Waterbury YMCA to support the Cheshire Juvenile Review Board program.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20.00 donation from Kacee Caster to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$150.00 donation from Cathleen Devlin to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.

- G. Acceptance and appropriation of \$1,737.00 from the Library lobby donation box to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,285.14 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Schoonmaker in memory of Ruth Gleeton to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of \$12,387.00 from the Connecticut State Library (borrowIT CT Reimbursement) to the Library Gift Account to be used for general purposes.
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of \$1,457.00 from the Connecticut State Library for the Senate Bill 2 Incentive Grant to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.
- K. Acceptance and appropriation of \$12,313.30 in NEF Environmental Fees from Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc. to the special revenue account.
- L. Acceptance and appropriation of \$1,311.60 from Collette Travel Service Inc. to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- M. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$60.00 donation from Severino Fasulo for deposit to the Jitney Bus Fund.
- N. Approval of tax refunds in the amount of \$31,570.68.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for May 12, 2026, as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500.00 donation from the Sally Bowman Real Estate LLC to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.*
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500.00 donation from SBRE Property Management LLC to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Semiquincentennial Steering Committee.*
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of \$3,500 from Hope for Our Neighbors Inc to the Human Services Gift Account to be used to support the remediation of a resident's property.*
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of \$818.75 from the Greater Waterbury YMCA to support the Cheshire Juvenile Review Board program.*
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20.00 donation from Kacee Caster to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.*
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$150.00 donation from Cathleen Devlin to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.*
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of \$1,737.00 from the Library lobby donation box to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.*

- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,285.14 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Schoonmaker in memory of Ruth Gleeton to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.*
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of \$12,387.00 from the Connecticut State Library (borrowIT CT Reimbursement) to the Library Gift Account to be used for general purposes.*
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of \$1,457.00 from the Connecticut State Library for the Senate Bill 2 Incentive Grant to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.*
- K. Acceptance and appropriation of \$3,295.97 from the Julia M. Thompkins Fund to be used for general purposes for the Cheshire Public Library.*
- L. Acceptance and appropriation of \$12,313.30 in NEF Environmental Fees from Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc. to the special revenue account.*
- M. Acceptance and appropriation of \$1,311.60 from Collette Travel Service Inc. to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.*
- N. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$60.00 donation from Severino Fasulo for deposit to the Jitney Bus Fund.*
- O. Approval of tax refunds in the amount of \$31,570.68.*

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. All in favor, motion passed unanimously of those present, 8-0.

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Amendment to FY 2026-2027 adopted mill rate pursuant to Section 178 of Senate Bill No. 1 (State Budget Implimentor).

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-1

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Town Charter, the Town Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Budget at a Special Meeting of April 28, 2026, and established a Mill Rate of 31.68; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut General Assembly subsequently approved a Fiscal Year 2026-2027 State Budget which included \$1,314,983 in additional state grant revenue compared with the Town Council's adopted budget; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut General Assembly, through the FY 2027 budget implementer bill (the "Bill"), adopted legislation allowing towns that had previously adopted their Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Budget to amend their respective budgets and mill rates to account for this additional funding through a vote of their legislative body; and

WHEREAS, the Bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, subject to the Governor's signature of the Bill, approves Resolution #051226-2;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, effective upon the Governor's signature of the Bill, hereby makes adjustments to the adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Revenue Budget as follows:

TOWN OF CHESHIRE SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (MAY 12, 2026) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027				
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NUMBER	TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED	COUNCIL PROPOSED	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
GENERAL FUND				
REVENUES - INCREASE (DECREASE):				
1. Current Tax Levy (Mill Rate 31.36, Collection Rate 99.2%, Adjustment from 31.68).....	10 4101	\$ 126,368,642	\$ 125,078,147	\$ (1,290,495)
2. Certificate of Occupancy.....	10 4102	219,986	217,764	(2,222)
3. Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax.....	10 4104	1,373,566	1,359,691	(13,875)
4. South Central Regional Water Authority.....	10 4204	830,684	822,293	(8,391)
5. Supplemental Pequot-Mohegan.....	10 4220	-	715,676	715,676
6. Adult Education.....	10 4606	12,768	12,589	(179)
7. Education Cost Sharing.....	10 4614	9,689,993	9,439,993	(250,000)
8. Supplemental Education Aid.....	10 4620	-	849,486	849,486
Total Revenue Adjustments.....				\$ -

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these budget adjustments result in the following language which supersedes the previously adopted revenue budget Resolution #042826-3D:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the sum of all revenues, transfers from other funds and allocation of general fund equity for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget will be in the amount of \$155,550,533, as adopted on April 28, 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the tax rate be set at 31.36 mills which will generate \$125,078,147 at a collection rate of 99.2% for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for real and personal property and motor vehicles; and That the tax payments for motor vehicles and personal property shall all be due and payable in one payment on July 1, 2026; and That real estate tax payments shall be paid in two equal payments with the first payment due on July 1, 2026 and the second payment due on January 1, 2027; and That pursuant to Section 12-144 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that any real estate tax bill on the 2025 grand list in an amount not in excess of \$100.00 shall be due and payable in a single installment on July 1, 2026; and That, pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due July 1, 2026, will be August 3, 2026. Therefore, payment of taxes due July 1, 2026 which are received after August 3, 2026, will be assessed interest calculated from the original due date of July 1, 2026.

The last date for payment of taxes due January 1, 2027 will be February 1, 2027. Payment of taxes due January 1, 2027 which are received after February 1, 2027 will be assessed interest calculated from the due date of January 1, 2027.

This Resolution #051226-2 is expressly contingent upon the Governor's signature of the Bill. If the Governor does not sign the Bill, this resolution shall be null and void without further action of the Town Council.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Sean Kimball explained the background. The updated mill rate would be 31.36. The Councilors thanked the State for the additional funding.

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

B. Call for public hearing re: 2026 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program submissions.

Greg Wolff motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut, to consider submissions to the 2026 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause a notice of said public hearings to be posted and published according to law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date, time, and place or any further postponements thereof shall be determined by the Town Manager with the approval of the Chair of the Council.

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

C. Acceptance of FY 2024-2025 audit report.

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Town Council accepts the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (audit).

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. Jim Jaskot provided a summary of the results. The Town received a clean opinion on the financial statements, and there were no findings or questionable costs on state/federal grants. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

D. Appointment of auditor for FY 2025-2026.

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Audit Committee and the terms and conditions as presented, the Town Council appoints CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as auditors for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

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

E. Assignment of tax liens.

Jim Jinks motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to Sections 12-195h, 7-254 and 7-258 of the Connecticut General Statutes, authorizes the Tax Collector to assign for consideration such tax and sewer liens as deemed appropriate for assignment by the Tax Collector, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the consideration for such assignments be negotiated between the Town, acting through its Tax Collector and the assignee(s), and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council awards the assignments as presented to Tower Capital Management at the bid amount of 108.3%.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Anne Marie Burr updated that three bids were received, and they ranged from 105.56 to 108.3%. She explained that with the 108.3% bid from Tower Capital, the Town should be recognizing approximately \$29,000 in added revenue. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously of those present, 8-0.

F. Approval of transfer of uncollectible property taxes to the Suspense List.

Jim Jinks motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the transfer of uncollectable taxes, as presented and attached, to the Suspense Tax Book.

Fiona Pearson seconded the motion. Anne Marie Burr explained the criteria used for the suspense list. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

G. Approval of contract with F & G.

Jim Jinks motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-8

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee, the Town Council hereby authorizes a bid waiver to allow the execution of a five-year Agreement by and between the Town of Cheshire and F & G Recycling LLC for municipal solid waste disposal services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Town said Agreement in the form and upon the terms and conditions as presented at this meeting.

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

H. Recommitment to the HazWaste Central (HWC) program.

Jim Jinks motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council declares its commitment to continue participation in the regional household hazardous waste collection center for a minimum three-year period (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029), and confirms its intent to contribute financially for the operation, processing, transportation and disposal of household hazardous waste on behalf of its residents. The Town of Cheshire authorizes its Town Manager to enter into this agreement with the South Center Connecticut Regional Water Authority for the operation of the facility. Such agreement will permit the Authority to act as its agent to maintain the facility, to contract with a vendor for the transportation and disposal of the hazardous wastes, to receive financial support from grant sources, to enter into agreements with other municipalities and to operate the facility.

Invoicing will be based on a two-part formula:

- 1. Annual operational costs are based on the number of 1- and 2- family housing units in Cheshire, and*
- 2. Annual transportation and waste disposal costs are prorated by residents' usage.*

This resolution shall be effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

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

I. Approval of rental fee structure for the Bartlem Park Bandshell.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #051226-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Town Council hereby establishes a daily fee amount of \$750 for rentals for the use of the Band Shell located at Bartlem Park.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. John Gawlak clarified that any revenue received from these rental fees was not factored in for this budget year's revenues, so it would be a surplus. Greg Wolff requested that the rental information including AV rates be put on the Town website. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

9. TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Status Report.

Sean Kimball presented the newsletter for May 2026. Don Walsh requested that the Director of Human Services, Michelle Piccerillo, provide a monthly report for future Town Council meetings.

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

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

A. Chairman's Report.

Jim Jinks updated that Sustainability Committee is in the process of scheduling a meeting.

- i. Referral of Fire Hydrant Maintainer job description to Personnel Committee for their review and recommendation.

Peter Talbot referred the Fire Hydrant Maintainer job description to Personnel Committee for their review and recommendation.

B. Miscellaneous.

11. APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports.

Fiona Pearson updated that the adaptive turf field will be under construction at Cheshire Park. The CT NEMBA trails are coming along. Sponsorships for Bartlem Beats are up to \$12,000.

Deb Manke discussed the Youth & Human Services Committee's programming for mental health awareness month. She mentioned that the YMCA and Parks and Recreation Department have camps open. She updated that the Board of Education had a site walk to inspect the turf field and loading dock. They have concerns about infrastructure and the condition of the loading dock.

Don Walsh mentioned that he attended the Retirement Board meeting, and it was updated that the

Town's fund has gone over the \$100 million dollar mark. The Town Beautification Committee had a presentation from Electrify America.

B. Appointments.

None.

12. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Jeff Donofrio brought up cost of service studies as relates to the WPCA.

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

B. Miscellaneous.

14. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session, pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6) to discuss matters concerning:

A. Land acquisition.

Peter Talbot requested to go into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6) for the purpose of discussing land acquisition to include Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio, Town Manager Sean Kinnall, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Martelli, and Management Specialist Noelle Shepard. Don Walsh so moved, and Jim Jinks seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0. The Town Council entered executive session at 9:15 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council exited executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Jim Jinks motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Deb Manke seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist