



**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot, Don Walsh, David Veleber, Fiona Pearson, Tricia Cramer, Greg Wolff, Lou Todisco, Deb Manke

Staff/Guests: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio; Finance Director Jim Jaskot; Police Chief Fred Jortner; Vincent Masciana, Chief Project Officer, Cheshire Public Schools; Emily Taylor, Chief Operating Officer, Cheshire Public Schools; Fire Chief Jack Casner

Absent:

Jim Jinks

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 7:08 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 Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans.

Peter Talbot presented a Certificate of Recognition to Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans.

B. Proclamation for Juneteenth.

Peter Talbot read a proclamation for Juneteenth.

C. Proclamation for Flag Day.

Peter Talbot read a proclamation for Flag Day.

D. Proclamation for Pride Month.

Peter Talbot read a proclamation for Pride Month.

E. Public comments.

Joanna Giddings, 503 Oak Ridge Drive, expressed concern that development's impact on stormwater was not discussed during the I&I study presentation at the last Town Council meeting. She mentioned that mature trees with their canopies slow the rate of rainwater. She recommended that the Town consider requiring developers to maintain some number of native trees and also focus on the understory.

Ken Krayeske, BBB Attorneys, explained that he represents the family of Shane Anthony DeJongh. He expressed concern about the inability to contact the Police Chief and asked why there has been no prosecution. He asked the Cheshire Police Department to investigate the investigation.

Ray Bennet, 840 N Brooksvale, and Diane Calabro, Steering Committee for the 250th Celebration, overviewed the Town's 250th celebration at Bartlem Park. On July 1st, they will put up signs of all the stories of the signatories. The event will include the Police Chief and Fire Chief, Declaration of Independence delivered by a horse rider, the opening of a time capsule, games for kids. The traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence will occur at Bartlem Park.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the May 27, 2026 Town Council Special Meeting.

Fiona Pearson motioned to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2026 Town Council Special Meeting, and Deb Manke seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-2, Don Walsh and Greg Wolff abstained from the vote.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of \$100.00 from the parents of Officer Michael Kahn to the Police Explorer Program.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5.00 donation from Hubert Dixon to the Police Gift Account for the Animal Control Division.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10.00 donation from Deanne Westmoreland to the Police Gift Account for the Animal Control Division.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5.00 donation from Leslie Gonzalez to the Police Gift Account for the Animal Control Division.
- E. Approval of tax refunds in the amount of \$103,312.34.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for June 9, 2026, as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of \$100.00 from the parents of Officer Michael Kahn to the Police Explorer Program.*
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5.00 donation from Hubert Dixon to the Police Gift Account for the Animal Control Division.*
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10.00 donation from Deanne Westmoreland to the Police Gift Account for the Animal Control Division.*
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5.00 donation from Leslie Gonzalez to the Police Gift Account for the Animal Control Division.*
- E. Approval of tax refunds in the amount of \$103,312.34.*

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

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of 2026 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program submissions.

Lou Todisco motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the following submissions to the State of Connecticut 2026 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, as presented at a Public Hearing on June 9, 2026:

- *The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs Inc. – Cheshire YMCA Childcare Expansion - HVAC*
- *Ball & Socket Arts, Inc. – Energy Conservation – Installation of energy efficient insulations and roofing materials, insulation in flooring and doorways*
- *The Hometown Foundation, Inc. – Police K-9 Program*

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. The motion passed 7-0-1, Greg Wolff recused himself from the vote.

- B. Approval of school construction grant resolutions for projects associated with Energy Performance Contract 2.0.

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-3a

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Window Replacement Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the Window Replacement Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Window Replacement Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the Window Replacement project, \$1,588,988 at Doolittle Elementary School is approved.

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. Vincent Masciana explained that the six resolutions tonight all having to do with different elements of work being done as a part of the energy performance contract and is required to apply for school construction grants. He reviewed the projects. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-3b

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the HVAC Project for Highland Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the HVAC Project for Highland Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the HVAC Project for Highland Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the HVAC project, \$354,434 at Highland Elementary School is approved.

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

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-3c

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the HVAC Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the HVAC Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the HVAC Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the HVAC project, \$9,396,822 at Doolittle Elementary School is approved.

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

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-3d

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the HVAC Project for Cheshire High School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the HVAC Project for Cheshire High School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the HVAC Project for Cheshire High School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the HVAC project, \$1,030,828 at Cheshire High School is approved.

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

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-3e

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the HVAC Project for Dodd Middle School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the HVAC Project for Dodd Middle School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the HVAC Project for Dodd Middle School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the HVAC project, \$814,549 at Dodd Middle School is approved.

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

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-3f

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the HVAC Project for Humiston School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the HVAC Project for Humiston School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the HVAC Project for Humiston School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the HVAC project, \$666,414 at Humiston School is approved.

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

C. Approval of Fire Hydrant Maintainer / Firefighter job description.

Tricia Cramer motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Town Council approves the Fire Hydrant Maintainer / Firefighter position job description as presented.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Tricia Cramer explained the job description. Don Walsh inquired if there is a list of private hydrants and who would be responsible for making sure owners are keeping up with the maintenance. Discussion was had on possibly adding the phrase "to the NFPA standards" to the job description, but the Town Council decided to continue with the draft job description as presented. Greg Wolff requested that a status report on the fire hydrants be added to the fire department monthly report. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

D. Approval of Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Manager job description.

Tricia Cramer motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Town Council approves the Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Manager position job description as presented.

Don Walsh seconded the motion. Sean Kimball explained that this would not be a net new position but taking advantage of the broader skill set of the current plant electrician. All in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0. David Veleber was absent for the vote.

E. Approval of tax incentive policy.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Economic Development Commission, the Town Council approves the Tax Incentive Policy as presented effective immediately through June 30, 2029.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Andrew Martelli explained that every three years the town reviews its tax incentive policy. He reviewed the Economic Development Commission's recommendations and explained the process of a tax incentive application. Fiona Pearson clarified that a tax incentive application has not been received in the last five years. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously of those present, 8-0.

F. Approval of amendment to AJ Waste Systems, LLC contract re: trash compactors and front load trash service at the schools.

Don Walsh motioned to table agenda item F "Approval of amendment to AJ Waste Systems, LLC contract re: trash compactors and front load trash service at the schools," and Fiona Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion to table passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

G. Reappropriation of NEF funding to the Board of Education for the continuation of the school composting program.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-8

BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee, the Town Council hereby reappropriates \$16,365 and any remaining unspent funds from prior appropriations for the composting program from previous school years to the Board of Education for the continuation of the school composting program in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Greg Wolff suggested the Board of Education attend a Sustainability Committee next year and review what they are willing to budget before budget season is over. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0.

H. Amendment to East Mitchell Avenue Extension road acceptance resolution.

Greg Wolff motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #060926-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby amends Resolution #011425-4 adopted at the January 14, 2025 regular meeting to the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the extension of East Mitchell Avenue as a town road, conditional upon the filing of a maintenance bond and recording of the warranty deed for the roadway and the storm drainage and sightline easements, free and clear of all encumbrances, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby discontinues, abandons, and/or releases all rights of the Town of Cheshire and the public in and to the 1,065 sq. ft. East Mitchell Avenue Extension Area as depicted in the Exhibit A map dated June 3, 2026.

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. Chris McKeon explained that he represents the current property owner and that this is a technical clarification of what was done in January 2025. This one piece of East Mitchell Avenue was not discontinued in the original resolution, and this update will eliminate any doubt about where the Town's road actually is. He mentioned that this is an insignificant piece of land that would now be owned by the property owners. 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 new version of the Town Square newsletter. Don Walsh commended the Police Department for the number of warnings issued.

Peter Talbot congratulated Deputy Police Chief Durkee for participating in the torch run along with

officers from CPD and the Cheshire Correctional Institution. He further updated that the Cheshire softball team ranked 25 nationally and number 1 in Connecticut.

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

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

A. Chairman's Report.

i. Referral of ordinance(s) on Street Takeovers, ATV use, and Dirtbike use.

Peter Talbot referred the ordinance(s) on Street Takeovers, ATV use, and Dirtbike use to the Ordinance Review Committee for their review and recommendation.

B. Liaison Reports.

Deb Manke updated that feedback on the new library system has been positive. At the last Board of Education meeting, they celebrated the retirement of eight teachers. Lou Todisco updated that he attended the last Public Safety Commission meeting, and the Commission was grateful for the increase in their appropriation and working on the stop the bleed kits project.

C. Miscellaneous.

11. APPOINTMENTS

Greg Wolff motioned to appoint:

- Michelle Madeux, U, to Chesprocott Health District Board, filling the vacancy of Barbara Ecke, term of 06/09/26 - 01/31/27.

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

12. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

David Veleber read for the record the letter received from Advocacy for the Animals (AFTA) with a summary of services provided to Cheshire Animal Shelter.

Fiona Pearson read a letter received expressing concern about the inadequacy of the public pre-school program in town.

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. RFP for 10-acre parcel of State conveyed land adjacent to Cheshire Correctional Institution property.

Peter Talbot asked for a motion to go into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6) to discuss matters concerning an RFP for 10-acre parcel of State conveyed land adjacent to CCI property to include the Town Manager Sean Kimball, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Martelli, Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio, and Management Specialist Noelle Shepard. He explained that the Town Council would not be taking any action following the executive session. Fiona Pearson so moved, and David Veleber seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0. The Town Council entered executive session at 8:43 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council exited executive session at 9:10 p.m. David Veleber 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 9:10 p.m.

Attest: _____
Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist