

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026, CHESHIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 104 MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

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

Staff/Guests: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Finance Director James Jaskot, Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio; Deena Allard, Regional Water Authority RPB Cheshire Representative

Absent: N/A

1. Roll Call.

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Noelle Shepard called the roll, and a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge was recited.

3. Public Communications.

a. Annual presentation from Cheshire's Regional Water Authority Representative Policy Board member.

Deena Allard, Cheshire representative for the Regional Water Authority RPB, provided history on the RPB. She reviewed the boards of the RWA. David Veleber arrived at 6:40 p.m.

She reviewed the Regional Water Authority's acquisition of the Aquarian Water Authority. The RWA currently has 227 acres within Cheshire. The most recent rate increase was 3.4 percent for 18-month period. She discussed issues with lead and PFAS. She discussed Hazwaste Central and how Cheshire will be hosting an event in October 2026. Jim Jinks arrived to the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

b. Public comment.

Liz Linehan, State representative, overviewed the difference between Flock cameras and traffic cameras. She explained that she plans to propose a Connecticut-specific LPR system rather than a national vendor/database.

Mike Rapetski, 855 Ives Row, spoke in opposition to Flock cameras. He expressed his belief that the data is stored insecurely.

Matt Kozloski, 395 Sir Walter Drive, expressed that he opposed the use of Flock cameras and supports their immediate suspension in Cheshire.

M. Hourigan, 101 Lanyon Drive, expressed concern over the proposed capital project to install sidewalks on Lanyon Drive. She suggested that the school buses are currently underutilized and could fit additional kids.

S. Yurkow, 33 Glenbrook Drive, echoed opposition to the Flock cameras.

Sonda Amann, 381 Westland Avenue, echoed the previous suggestion made for use of school buses.

Winston Hill, 267 Oak Avenue, expressed his belief that the collection of data of every person that passes the license plate readers is not constitutional or morally justified.

Robin Tiso, 9 Summer Hill Court, expressed concern that the decision for the Flock cameras was made by the Town Council rather than by vote.

Matthew Federico, 84 Glenwood Dr. Ext., mentioned that he feels the Town should cancel with Flock.

Evan Missakian, 348 Spring Street, expressed his concerns over the possibility of Flock data being accessed despite the State laws.

Michael Gallo, 59 Pleasant Drive, expressed concern that this issue was not voted on and feels that the public should be allowed to vote on Flock cameras.

Anthony Gorman, 832 Marion Rd., echoed the previous commenters' opposition of Flock cameras. He read information directly from Flock.

Peter Talbot encouraged residents to reach out to the Town Council and suggested the possibility of a public information session.

4. Approval of Minutes.

Jim Jinks motioned to approve the meeting minutes of the Tuesday, June 9, 2026 regular meeting and public hearing, and Fiona Pearson seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

5. Consent Calendar.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #080426-1
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for August 4, 2026, as follows:*

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$70.00 donation from Jan Cowles to the Cheshire Fuel Bank account.*
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,600 donation from Hope For Our Neighbors, Inc. to the Human Services Gift Account to be used as rent support.*
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100.00 donation from Christy Bernard to the Police Department Cadet Program.*
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$286.50 donation from Double Good to the Police Department Gift Account.*
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$700.00 donation from The Bowman Corporation, R.W. Hine Hardware, to the Human Services Gift Account.*
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,740.00 donation from Hope For Our Neighbors, Inc. to the Human Services Gift Account for securing housing for an unsheltered individual.*
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of \$3,147.12 in National Opioid Settlement Funds to the special revenue account for the continuation of the approved opioid remediation plan.*
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$83.00 donation from the Big Y Community Bag Program to the Human Services Gift Account.*
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25.00 donation from Shari and Valentino Guarino to the Police Cadet Program.*

- J. Acceptance and appropriation of \$20,415.62 National Opioid Settlement Funds to the special revenue account for the continuation of the approved opioid remediation plan.*
- K. Acceptance and appropriation of \$5,229.15 in National Opioid Settlement Funds to the special revenue account for the continuation of the approved opioid remediation plan.*
- L. Acceptance and appropriation of \$5,785.52 in National Opioid Settlement Funds to the special revenue account for the continuation of the approved opioid remediation plan.*
- M. Acceptance and appropriation of \$10,245.32 in National Opioid Settlement Funds to the special revenue account for the continuation of the approved opioid remediation plan.*
- N. Approval of \$25,607.20 in tax refunds.*
- O. Approval of \$5,819.98 in tax refunds.*

Don Walsh seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

6. Items Removed from Consent Calendar.

7. Old Business.

a. School Building Committee update.

Richard Gusenburg provided an update on the two new schools. The old Norton School has officially been demolished, and the house by Barnum will be taken down shortly. He mentioned that Dr. Solan has arranged a dedication of schools tentatively for September 18th. Both projects are on time and under budget. He showed progress photos for each of the two schools. Don Walsh asked when the public will have the opportunity to see the schools, and Rich Gusenburg stated that as of now the September 18th date will be the first possibility for the public.

8. New Business.

- a. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$215,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home, Inc. - \$50,000 as revenue to the Town's General Fund, \$165,000 to the Fire Department Gift Account pursuant to the adopted FY 2026-2027 operating budget.**

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #080426-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts a \$215,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home, Inc. to the Cheshire Fire Department, and appropriates said donation to the following as presented and attached:

- *\$165,000 to the Fire Department Gift Account*
- *\$50,000 to the Town's General Fund as revenue in support of the Fire Department budget*

The motion was seconded by Deb Manke. All in favor, motion passed 9-0.

- b. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$215,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home, Inc. - \$50,000 as revenue to the Town's General Fund, \$165,000 to the Police Department Gift Account pursuant to the adopted FY 2026-2027 operating budget.**

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #080426-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts a \$215,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home, Inc. to the Cheshire Police Department, and appropriates said donation to the following as presented and attached:

- *\$165,000 to the Police Department Gift Account*
- *\$50,000 to the Town's General Fund as revenue in support of the Police Department budget*

The motion was seconded by David Veleber. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

c. Acceptance and appropriation of \$233,879.42 from the sale of Town property located at 422 N. Brooksvale Road to the debt service reserve fund.

David Veleber motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #080426-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts and appropriates \$233,879.42 from the sale of Town property located at 422 North Brooksvale Road to the debt service reserve fund.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Sean Kimball provided the history of the acquisition and sale of the property at 422 North Brooksvale Road. He explained that it is the recommendation of Town staff to appropriate this revenue to the debt service reserve fund. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

d. Call for public hearing on the proposed FY 2026-2027 Annual Capital Expenditure Budget and Five-Year Capital Plan.

David Veleber motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #080426-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut, to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Five Year Capital Expenditure Plan and Annual Capital Expenditure Budget, 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, 9-0.

e. Appropriation of the FY 2025 Workers' Compensation Audit Credit to FY 2026 Insurance Proceeds Fund.

David Veleber motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #080426-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby appropriates a FY 2025 Workers' Compensation audit credit totaling \$174,675 to the Insurance Proceeds Fund in FY 2026 as a reserve for additional insurance coverage or insurance deductibles.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. Jim Jaskot explained that this year the Town received a significant credit back and would want to use these funds towards the insurance proceeds reserve funds to offset premiums, additional coverages, and deductibles. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

f. 8-24 Referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission re: the Adaptive Turf Field project at Cheshire Park.

David Veleber motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #080426-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town Council hereby refers the Adaptive Turf Field project at Cheshire Park to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their review and to issue a report.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

9. Town Manager Report and Communications.

Sean Kimball reviewed the July/August edition of the newsletter. Don Walsh mentioned that the Bartlem Beats have been successful this year so far and thanked the business community who supported the events.

10. Reports of Committees of the Council.

a. Chairman's Report

Lou Todisco explained that the Ordinance Review Committee met last night and advanced the Demolition Delay Ordinance to the Town Council.

b. Liaison Reports.

Lou Todisco mentioned that he attended a Public Safety Commission meeting. Don Walsh updated that the Cheshire Housing Authority is working on getting solar panels at Beachport and the Jacks Farms project is moving along.

c. Miscellaneous.

11. Appointments.

None.

12. Town Attorney Report and Communications.

Town Attorney Donofrio reiterated the Regional Water Authority recreation program offerings.

13. Council Communications.

Jim Jinks read a comment received from Nick Robinette, who expressed concern over a lack of a Town noise ordinance.

Don Walsh read a comment received from Toni Burke, who expressed concern over mixed messages about kids who live within a mile should walk or take bus and sidewalks not reaching close enough to her street for this.

David Veleber read a comment from Pat McKinley, 100 Lanyon Drive, who expressed concern over the extension of sidewalk at Lanyon Drive project and explained she was never presented with a petition.

Fiona Pearson read a comment received from Rob Stevens, 506 Cardinal Lane, regarding McNamara park and concerns over how the project will result in traffic issues.

14. Items for Executive Session.

None.

15. Adjournment.

David Veleber motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Don Walsh seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist