

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026
ROOM 207/209, CHESHIRE TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.

Chairman Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

1. Roll Call.

Town Manager Sean Kimball called the roll.

Present: Peter Talbot, Chair; Gregory Wolff, Patricia Cramer, Don Walsh, Lou Todisco, Deb Manke, David Borowy

Absent: Jim Jinks, Vice Chair; A. Fiona Pearson

Also Present: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

4. Appointment to the Town Council to fill the vacancy of District 1 Representative.

David Borowy, new Town Council member appointed to the vacancy created by the resignation of David Veleber.

5. Proposed FY 2026-2027 Capital Budgets.

a. General Services Vehicles – Police.

Chief of Police Frederick Jortner addressed the Council. F. Jortner explains that due to the mileage and wear and tear put on the vehicles he respectfully requests four cars. S. Kimball states that in the request it references the increase on the per hour fee for road jobs and that it had generated just under \$300,000. Therefore, it would be generating even more than what is needed for the request itself. Kevin Zaksewicz, Fleet Manager, addressed the Council. K. Zaksewicz explains that some of the frontline cars have very high mileage on them, as well as cars that are not on the frontline.

D. Walsh asks if they see the maintenance cost going up on these vehicles given the aging of the cars. F. Jortner explains how maintenance costs come out of their budget and that it has stayed pretty steady. S. Kimball states that having more vehicles in the fleet would increase the need for maintenance. D. Walsh also asks what happens to the cars that age out. F. Jortner explains that they either go to auction or to other departments. K. Zaksewicz states that if they got four new cars, they would be frontline cars and the four older cars would be transitioned to road job, etc. which would then replace the current older cars that are at the end of their life.

G. Wolff asks if they have seen an increase on mileage given all the new development in the north end. F. Jortner states that not really since it is still within the limits of town, but there are more calls to that area. K. Zaksewicz mentions that mileage has gone up because if an officer is in the north end and receives a call in the south there is more mileage going to and from.

D. Bowery asks what the lead time would be. F. Jortner and K. Zaksewicz explains that if their request is approved it could take at least six months.

b. General Services Vehicles – Fire.

Fire Chief Jack Casner addressed the Council. J. Casner explains that the vehicle request is to replace one of the SUVs. He states that he works with the town garage and have them evaluate the older vehicles to see which are worth keeping or replacing.

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39 D. Walsh asks who would be using this vehicle. J. Casner explains that usually it goes to one of the Chief
40 Officers and then they would put their current vehicle to a fire marshal or inspector.

41 G. Wolff asks if they have seen an increase on wear and tear of vehicles with needing to go to the new
42 north end developments more. J. Casner states that he would assume that there is. G. Wolff also asks
43 about the new engine and which one would be replaced by it and if it would be worth keeping the older
44 one. J. Casner states that he doesn't believe it would be worth keeping and that they don't have the floor
45 space.

46 S. Kimball brings up a north end fire station and the requests that go along with that. He also mentions
47 that there is a need for a study on the fire services, from call volume, responses, new north end, etc. J.
48 Casner states that he has spoken with consultants regarding getting a study done. P. Talbot asks if this
49 request is approved when would the study actually be done. J. Casner explains that a consultant had stated
50 that it would take about six months. D. Walsh says that he is favor of this and that it would give them an
51 idea of at what point would they need paid firefighters.

52 The Council talks about the agreement that they have with Trinity Health and the services they provide.
53 G. Wolff asks if they want to include them in the study as well. J. Casner explains that they can but it
54 depends on what data Trinity is willing to give out.

55 *c. Parks and Recreation.*

56 John Gawlak, Director of Parks and Recreation addressed the Council. J. Gawlak mentions the adaptive
57 field that they had presented a few weeks ago and asks if there are any questions on it. He also mentions
58 the various improvements to parks and open spaces. J. Gawlak states that he would like to see the Bartlem
59 skate park to have lighting added. Also, they are looking to convert Bartlem diamond 1 so that it can
60 accommodate the different age groups. They would need a portable mound and would need to do some
61 field work to make this conversion. J. Gawlak explains that this would maximize the space and allow for
62 more usage.

63 J. Gawlak explains that some of the courts around town need maintenance done to increase their
64 longevity. They talk about some specific courts and properties across town and what would be needed to
65 improve them. D. Walsh states that accessibility to some of these fields should be high on the priority list.

66 J. Gawlak asks about Chapman school's fields and how it will affect the town not having them anymore.
67 P. Talbot explains that they have an RFP out to look at the Chapman and Darcy property and give
68 recommendations.

69 *d. Finance/IT.*

70 Corey McQuade, of Apex Technology Group, addressed the Council. C. McQuade explains that the
71 server infrastructure that they are looking to replace is at the end of its lifetime. With this request they are
72 looking to avoid emergency purchases.

73 D. Walsh asks about safety and how they are preventing systems from being hacked. C. McQuade
74 explains that over the years they have taken a lot of protective measures and have done preparation.
75 Further, he explains that with this request it is more so stability and reliability across town departments
76 and schools.

77 P. Cramer asks about AI usage and if the town would subscribe to any services. C. McQuade explains that
78 as the industry progresses, they will continue to look into services that are government friendly.

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6. Other Business

P. Talbot states that there are some changes to committee assignments and liaison assignments. D. Bowery is going to the budget committee and Mr. Walsh is going to Ordinance Review. Mr. Walsh will be the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission and D. Bowery is going to the retirement board.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: D. Bowery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by D. Manke.

The motion was passed unanimously by Council members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Attest: Colleen Costello