



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

November 13, 2023

6:00 PM - Council Chambers

<https://youtube.com/live/6HCavqFBWl0>

1. CALL TO ORDER - Sheila Bailey - Town Clerk

Town Clerk Sheila Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PRESENTATION OF COLORS - Enfield Police Department

Presentation of Colors was made by the Enfield Police Department.

3. PRAYER - Michael Cicero

A prayer was made by Reverend Michael Cicero of Crossroads Ministries, Chicopee, Massachusetts.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Recited

5. OATH OF OFFICE - Sheila Bailey - Town Clerk

- Constables

Town Clerk Sheila Bailey administered the oath of office to Constables-Elect Maria Diana, Dean Gousse, Walter Kruzel, Robert LeMay, Joseph Muller and Zack Zannoni. Mark Cekala Jr. was absent.

- Town Council

Town Clerk Sheila Bailey administered the oath of office to Councilors-Elect Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Doug Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson, Marie Pyzner, John Santanella and Lori Unghire.

6. ROLL CALL

Present: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Douglas Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Lori Unghire

Absent: None

Also Present were Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda; Assistant Town Attorney, Mark Cerrato; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

7. APPOINTMENT FOR MAYOR

NOMINATION #6755 by: Marie Pyznar, seconded: Michael Ludwick to nominate Ken Nelson Jr. Mayor of the Town of Enfield.

Councilor Pyznar spoke of the accomplishments of Councilor Nelson, stating that he has shown true leadership across party lines and has worked in a bi-partisan fashion to move Enfield forward. Councilor Pyznar further stated that Councilor Nelson has shown his dedication to Enfield time after time, and it was her privilege to nominate him.

Councilor Ludwick stated that Councilor Nelson's experience and hard work make him the ideal candidate for mayor.

MOTION #6756 by: Michael Ludwick, seconded: Maria Pyznar to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6756** adopted unanimously and nominations were closed.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **NOMINATION #6755** adopted and Ken Nelson Jr. was appointed Mayor of Enfield. Yes: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Douglas Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Lori Unghire No: None Abstain None.

Mayor Ken Nelson thanked members of the Republican Town Committee, former Enfield Mayor Scott Kaupin, Representatives Hall and Arnone as well as Republican State Party Vice-Chair Mary Ann Turner for their support and encouragement. He also thanked former Mayor and Councilor Michael Ludwick for his many years of service and expertise in leading Enfield and looks forward to his guidance during the next two years. He also thanked former Mayor and Councilor Robert Cressotti and members of the Council for their support. Mayor Nelson extended thanks to the residents of Enfield, town employees, friends, as well as his family and stated that he looks forward to working for the town.

8. **APPOINTMENT FOR DEPUTY MAYOR**

NOMINATION #6757 by: Doug Finger, seconded: Jim Nasuta to nominate Marie Pyznar, Deputy Mayor of the Town of Enfield.

Councilor Finger recommended Councilor Pyznar and stated that she is strong-willed, transparent, and that he is proud to nominate her for Deputy Mayor. Councilor Nasuta agreed with the sentiments of Councilor Finger and voiced his support of Councilor Pyznar as Deputy Mayor.

MOTION #6758 by: Doug Finger, seconded: Lori Unghire to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6758** adopted unanimously and nominations were closed.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **NOMINATION #6757** adopted and Marie Pyznar was appointed Deputy Mayor of Enfield. Yes: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Douglas Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Lori Unghire No: None Abstain None.

Deputy Mayor Pyznar expressed her gratitude for the nomination, stating that it had been a dream of hers to serve on the Council and that she has learned a tremendous amount during the past two years. She said that she has always made decisions based upon what she believed was right for the town. She thanked members of the RTC, Council members, family and many others for their support and looks forward to doing the very best for Enfield.

9. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MANAGER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

A. Resolution Appointing Christopher Bromson as Town Manager of the Town of Enfield **RESOLUTION #6759** by: Michael Ludwick, seconded: Lori Unghire.

Councilor Cekala expressed her frustration at the circumstances regarding the resignation of former Town Manager Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and the manner in which it transpired. She also thanked Ms. Zoppo-Sassu for her hard work during her time as Town Manager. Councilor Cekala spoke about Christopher Bromson's accomplishments but stated that she was less than happy with how he ended his previous administration. Councilor Cekala said she welcomed him back as Town Manager and was confident he would do a good job.

Councilor Santanella shared with the community a portion of the feedback former Town Manager Zoppo-Sassu received as part of her review from Police Chief Alaric Fox. Chief Fox spoke about her character and leadership. Councilor Santanella stated that he previously spoke with Christopher Bromson and explained the reason he would vote present for Mr. Bromson's appointment. He said that he looked forward to working with Mr. Bromson and he knows that he can do the job.

Councilor Cressotti thanked the voters of Enfield for their support and wished Mayor Nelson and Deputy Mayor Pyznar success. Councilor Cressotti said Ms. Zoppo-Sassu really embraced Enfield in the short time she was here and thanked her for her leadership and commitment. Councilor Cressotti thanked his family and said he worked across party lines, and he is proud to work together for the betterment of Enfield. Councilor Cressotti stated he believes in second chances and looked forward to working together with Mr. Bromson to move Enfield forward.

Councilor Mangini thanked Ms. Zoppo-Sassu for her dedication to Enfield. Councilor Mangini was confident in the abilities of Mr. Bromson. It is her hope that the new council

can put aside differences going forward and show respect to one another.

Councilor Ludwick stated that the reinstatement of Mr. Bromson was based on the voice of the people and Councilor Ludwick wished Ms. Zoppo- Sassu well, but he looks forward to a return to the Council/ Town Manager form of government with a focus on the Town Charter.

Councilor Finger thanked Ms. Zoppo-Sassu and stated that she did a good job as Town Manager. He expressed his hurt in the manner in which Mr. Bromson left his previous role as Town Manager, as well as his reservations about reinstating him, but he would vote yes.

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 1 of the Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby appoint Christopher Bromson as Town Manager for the Town of Enfield, said appointment to take effect immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize the Mayor to sign the employment agreement with Christopher Bromson as Town Manager for the Town of Enfield.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6759** adopted. Yes: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Douglas Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire No: None Abstain John Santanella.

Town Manager Bromson offered his thanks and stated he looks forward to working with all the council members and moving Enfield forward. He also thanked Ms. Zoppo-Sassu for her dedication to Enfield over the past two years. He thanked the residents of Enfield and expressed his desire to work for the best interest of the town.

10. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM TOWN ATTORNEY EFFECTIVE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT TOWN ATTORNEY

- The Chair announced that this matter would not be taken up at this time.

11. RESOLUTION TO SET MEETING DATES

A. Resolution Regarding Town Council Regular Meetings

RESOLUTION #6760 by: Gina Cekala, seconded: John Santanella.

WHEREAS, the Town Charter, Chapter III, section 4 provides in pertinent part that: "At the first meeting of Council following the Town election, the Town Council shall fix the time and place of its regular meeting, which shall not be less than once each month..."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the first regular meeting of the 2023 - 2025 Council be held on Monday, November 20, 2023 in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, thereafter, the Council shall meet in the regular session on the first and third Monday of each month, excepting the month of November, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chamber, or at any other place as the Council may designate. In the month of November, the Council shall meet on the Monday immediately following Election Day and the third Monday of the month. When Monday is a holiday, the regular meeting shall be held on the following day at the same hour unless otherwise provided for by motion. The day, time and place of the meeting may be changed by a majority vote.

Councilor Ludwick noted that the meeting of February 19, 2024 that was marked canceled due to the holiday should be held on February 20, 2024 according to the resolution. Mr. Bielenda made note of it.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6760** adopted. Yes: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Douglas Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Lori Unghire No: None Abstain None. ***The schedule of Town Council meeting dates is appended to these minutes.***

12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE (3 MEMBERS) TO REVIEW THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

APPOINTMENT #6761 Mayor Nelson appointed Deputy Mayor Marie Pyznar, Councilor Robert Cressotti and Councilor Lori Unghire as members of the Policy and Procedure Committee to review procedures for Town Council meetings.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6761** adopted. Yes: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Douglas Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Lori Unghire No: None Abstain: None.

Mayor Nelson gave council members the opportunity to express their thanks.

Councilor Santanella thanked his family for their support. He said it is a joy and pleasure to serve the town and represent his district, which holds a special place in his heart. He also thanked the voters for exercising one of their greatest gifts as an American. He looked forward to working with the new council to do what's in the best interest of Enfield.

Councilor Cekala offered her thanks to her family and friends for their sacrifice and understanding so that she could serve the Town of Enfield. She looked forward to

accomplishing great things with the new council.

Councilor Cressotti stated that he has appreciated the relationships he cultivated with department heads over the past two years and will continue to meet with them. He once again thanked the voters as well as his wife and family and said that he looked forward to spending more time with them.

Councilor Mangini said that as the longest serving member of the council, she has seen a lot of change over the years, and she hoped that all the council members could work together as a team. She gave thanks to her friends, family and granddaughter Carrie, who had been showing an interest in the town. It is her hope that the youth of Enfield will want to learn about town government and do the right thing to serve the public.

Deputy Mayor Pyznar stated that they have a great team of council members and that she was truly humbled to be working for the town of Enfield. She believes they will get a lot accomplished.

Councilor Ludwick thanked his wife, daughters and father for keeping him grounded. He felt blessed to work as a council member and knows what it takes to be mayor. He worked alongside Mr. Bromson during the pandemic to guide the town through a difficult time. Mr. Ludwick spoke on the importance of freedom, especially freedom of speech, regardless of your political affiliation.

Councilor Hendrickson thanked his wife for her support over the last two years of campaigning. He also thanked his children for helping whenever he needed them, and his mother, who looked forward to standing at the polls in support of his campaign. He looked forward to working together and shared Councilor Mangini's sentiment about putting differences aside to work for the people of Enfield.

Councilor Unghire thanked the voters and said that her position is one of service to the community. She also thanked her husband, children, family, members of the RTC and others who worked hard for a successful campaign.

Councilor Finger thanked members of his campaign for all their hard work and dedication. He thanked his wife for her support and understanding. He also thanked former council member Matt Despard for his dedication to District 3 and stated that Mr. Despard had apprised him of issues he was working on for the residents. He expressed his gratitude to the voters of Enfield and stated that all the members can work together towards a common goal.

Councilor Nasuta said he was happy to be sitting up with the council and looked forward to working together over the next two years. He appreciated the help of the voters as well as his family for their support and encouragement.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6762 by: Michael Ludwick, seconded: John Santanella to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6762** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Lindsay Petrucci, Assistant Town Clerk
Secretary of the Council

Town Council Meeting Dates

(1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted)

January 1, 2024 (Holiday) – Moved to January 8, 2024

January 15, 2024 (Holiday) – Moved to January 22, 2024

February 5, 2024

February 19, 2024 (Holiday) – No Meeting

March 4, 2024

March 18, 2024

April 1, 2024

April 15, 2024

May 6, 2024

May 20, 2024

June 3, 2024

June 17, 2024

July 1, 2024 – No Meeting

July 15, 2024

August 5, 2024 – No Meeting

August 19, 2024

September 2, 2024 (Holiday) – No Meeting

September 16, 2024

October 7, 2024

October 21, 2024

November 4, 2024 – No Meeting

November 18, 2024

December 2, 2024

December 16, 2024

Meetings in Italics to be cancelled