GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

The Glastonbury Town Council, with Town Manager Jonathan Luiz in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street, with the option for Zoom Video Conferencing. The video was broadcast in real time and via a live video stream.

1. **Roll Call.**

Council Members
Mr. Corey Turner, Chairman
Ms. Jennifer Wang, Vice Chairman
Ms. Mary LaChance, Majority Leader (participated via Zoom Video Conferencing)
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh, Minority Leader
Mr. John Cavanna
Mr. Anthony DiLizia (participated via Zoom Video Conferencing)
Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta
Mr. Larry Niland
Mr. Whit Osgood

   a. **Pledge of Allegiance.** ***Led by Robert DiBella.***

2. **Public Comment.**

Kevin Nursick of 33 Douglas Road. Mr. Nursick, speaking in his capacity as a Fire Commissioner, expressed support for the Fire Commission's recruitment and retention initiatives for volunteer firefighters, including proposals related to refuse permits and pool passes. Mr. Nursick noted that the Commission also submitted a letter regarding a technical issue with the lifetime tax abatement ordinance and stated that additional proposals may be brought forward in the future. Mr. Nursick thanked the Council for its previous support of volunteer firefighter initiatives and offered to answer questions when the agenda item was considered.

John Langmaid of 2200 Main Street. Mr. Langmaid, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Recreation Commission, thanked Mr. DiBella for his contributions to public safety and recreation programs. Mr. Langmaid expressed the Commission's support for the America's 250 Birthday Bash, commended Director of Parks and Recreation, Lisa Zerio, and her staff for their diligence and outreach in developing the program, and announced that the Recreation Commission would make a financial contribution to the event.

Tracey Zolnik-Brown of 318 Three Mile Road. Ms. Brown stated that she has had a contract to sell her property since February and that repeated requests by her, her attorneys, and the buyers for access to the property have not been acted upon by the Council. Ms. Brown referenced a 2000 letter from then-Town Manager Richard Johnson indicating that the Town would grant a permanent easement for driveway and utility purposes and stated that the continued delay has negatively impacted the families involved. Ms. Brown respectfully requested that the Council approve the easement access for the property.

3. **Special Reports.**

   a. **Presentation of Resolution recognizing Robert DiBella's 60 years of employment with the Town of Glastonbury.**

Councilor Cavanaugh presented the resolution honoring Mr. DiBella for 60 years of service to the Town. Mr. DiBella thanked the Council and reflected on his career serving the residents of Glastonbury. Chairman Turner and Councilors Niland, Wang, and Gullotta congratulated Mr. DiBella and thanked him for his longstanding dedication and service to the community.

4. Old Business.

a. Presentation and possible action regarding America 250.

Ms. Zerio provided an overview of the America 250 Birthday Bash plans and fundraising efforts, highlighting community partnerships and the proposed September 26 signature event at Riverfront Park.

Councilor Gullotta recommended a presentation by Jim Hollis on Glastonbury's role in the Revolutionary War.

Councilor LaChance asked about employee contribution program donations, and Mr. Luiz responded that donations may be made to the Town of Glastonbury with an indication that they are for the 250 Birthday Bash.

The Council returned to Item 2 for Public Comment.

Motion by: Councilor Wang ***Seconded by:*** Councilor Cavanaugh

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby endorses Glastonbury's America 250th Anniversary events and programs, as described in a report by the Director of Parks and Recreation dated June 18, 2026, and as recommended by the Recreation Commission."

Result: Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

b. Discussion and possible action concerning proposed amendment to the Building Zone Regulations, Section 4.19.7.d to modify the membership requirements for the Architectural and Site Design Review Committee (ASDRC) (set public hearing).

Chairman Turner asked Mr. Luiz if he had any remarks. Mr. Luiz stated that the Town had advertised the opportunity for approximately one month and received only two responses, neither from individuals with town planning or urban planning experience. Mr. Luiz added that staff returned to both Town Planning and Zoning (TPZ) and ASDRC to discuss the proposed language change, and both bodies indicated their support after learning of the limited public response.

Motion by: Councilor Wang ***Seconded by:*** Councilor Cavanaugh

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury and/or through Zoom Video Conferencing, to consider adoption of the proposed text amendment to the Building Zone Regulations, Section 4.19.7.d, to modify the Architectural and Site Design Review Committee (ASDRC) membership requirements, as described in the report by the Director of Community Development dated June 18, 2026, and as recommended by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission."

Discussion: Councilor Cavanaugh asked about the highlighted language in the document. Ms. Caltagirone explained that it is language from the state statute and that she highlighted the relevant sections for the Council's attention.

Result: Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

5. **New Business.**

    a. **Discussion concerning lifetime abatement benefits and new recruitment and retention initiatives for Glastonbury firefighters.**

Mr. Nursick stated that changing demographics and high housing costs have resulted in more volunteers renting or living in homes they do not own, making them ineligible for the lifetime tax abatement. Mr. Nursick explained that the proposal would provide a payment option so eligible volunteers who cannot fully utilize the abatement would still receive the benefit, and noted that while the number currently impacted is small, the issue is likely to grow in the future.

Councilor Cavanaugh asked what specific "technicality" needed to be addressed. Chairman Turner asked for clarification if the request related to ownership language or the lifetime abatement aspect. Mr. Nursick responded that the issue concerned the lifetime abatement provision for non-homeowner resident volunteers, which had not been included in the previously adopted ordinance language. Mr. Nursick explained that while related recruitment and retention changes were approved, this specific provision was omitted from the final ordinance text and is now being brought back for consideration.

Councilor Osgood asked if the lifetime ownership-based abatement is already in place, and Commissioner Nursick confirmed it is. Councilor Gullotta asked for clarification regarding eligibility if a volunteer moves out of town. Mr. Nursick explained that volunteers who leave Glastonbury residency forfeit the benefit, while those who remain in town but transition from homeownership to renting would receive a cash payment in lieu of the abatement. Councilor Gullotta noted the proposal provides no equivalent benefit for non-resident volunteers and questioned whether they are being shortchanged. Mr. Nursick responded that the Commission considered the issue but determined that extending lifetime payments to non-residents could present administrative challenges, and that the proposal reflects an attempt to balance fairness with what would likely gain Council support through the ordinance process.

Councilor Niland asked how recruitment has been since the recent benefit increases. Mr. Nursick responded that it is too early to fully assess effectiveness, as the changes only took effect in April, but recruitment appears to be proceeding steadily, with continued interest in joining. Mr. Nursick noted the department remains around 100 members but still faces challenges attracting and retaining younger volunteers. Councilor Niland asked whether the proposed payment structure could raise any regulatory issues, such as OPEB implications, since it represents a payment beyond service. Mr. Luiz responded that it could potentially factor into pension calculations and would generally be viewed as a retirement-type benefit based on years of service.

Councilor Wang thanked the Fire Commission for its continued work and noted that the issue ultimately comes down to budget considerations. Councilor Wang acknowledged that the problem of recruitment and retention needs to be addressed. Councilor Wang stated she supported immediate, lower-cost benefits such as pool passes and transfer station discounts, and suggested exploring additional non-monetary or low-cost

incentives such as partnerships with local gyms. Councilor Wang added that longer-term benefits, including retirement-style payments, warrant further discussion and consideration of budget impact and administrative structure, and suggested exploring additional public input or feedback mechanisms before finalizing options.

Councilor Gullotta noted that many of the issues raised would be further discussed in Policy and Ordinance and emphasized the relative cost-effectiveness of the proposal compared to hiring full-time firefighters, stating that even a small number of full-time positions would far exceed the cost of the proposed volunteer incentives, which he believed warranted serious consideration.

Councilor Cavanaugh agreed and requested annual cost estimates, noting the expense would likely be small compared to the cost of a full-time fire department, including staffing and facility upgrades. Councilor Cavanaugh expressed support for maintaining the volunteer system and asked whether focus groups had been conducted with members regarding desired benefits. Mr. Nursick responded that commissioners regularly engage informally with roughly 100 volunteers and have a good sense of member priorities, though they cannot fully account for potential future volunteers. Mr. Nursick stated the proposal reflects membership feedback. Mr. Nursick added that formal cost figures were removed from earlier drafts, but estimated the lifetime abatement proposal would currently affect 1–2 individuals, with up to 4 additional volunteers potentially becoming eligible in the future if they meet service and age requirements while still residing in Glastonbury as non-homeowners. Councilor Cavanaugh noted prior benefits, such as cancer screening, had minimal budget impact and suggested this proposal would also be limited in fiscal effect. Councilor Cavanaugh asked how the new benefits are being advertised and how recruitment is being handled. Mr. Nursick stated the program is not yet formally advertised but the Commission is exploring collaboration with the Town's Communications staff. Mr. Nursick noted efforts to improve outreach materials and the website, and said signage has been effective in recruiting applicants. Mr. Nursick added that recruitment efforts are improving but still evolving.

Councilor LaChance noted that effective recruitment often starts with younger individuals, citing a volunteer firefighter she met who emphasized recruiting at the high school level. Councilor LaChance explained that the volunteer fire service requires adaptability, including the ability to leave activities at any time for calls, and said this mindset is easier to develop when learned early.

Councilor DiLizia stated support for the proposed changes and encouraged the Policy and Ordinance Committee to explore extending eligibility to residents outside of Glastonbury. Councilor DiLizia noted that, barring any significant cost impacts, he would be supportive. Councilor DiLizia also asked whether the Fire Commission had reached out to other municipalities with similar programs, such as Newington, to understand how they manage stipend payments and the administrative process for participants who do not reside within the town.

Chairman Turner thanked Mr. Nursick and the volunteer firefighters for their service and efforts. Chairman Turner noted that the proposed changes would likely not have a significant impact on the Town's budget, particularly given the small number of individuals affected. Chairman Turner requested that the Fire Commission provide comparative figures showing both the cost of limiting the benefit to Glastonbury residents and the cost if eligibility were expanded to include non-resident volunteers, in order to better evaluate the overall financial impact. Chairman Turner added that, in principle, if expansion is feasible, he would be inclined to support it, while recognizing that final decisions would depend on budget considerations, including the upcoming budget cycle.

Motion by: Councilor Wang ***Seconded by: Councilor Cavanna***

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby refers the discussion of lifetime abatement benefits and recruitment and retention initiatives for volunteer firefighters to the Policy & Ordinance Review Subcommittee."

Result: Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

6. **Consent Calendar.** ***None.***

7. **Town Manager's Report.**

The Town Manager presented his report.

Councilor Osgood asked about a prior East Hartford proposal related to Naubuc Bridge, including making it one-way and partnering on potential funding to improve the bridge for pedestrian and bike access.
Mr. Luiz explained that when the town last pursued sidewalk grant funding, it chose other projects, one of which was funded. Mr. Luiz noted that future grant applications would require a Council decision on which project to prioritize, including the Naubuc Bridge concept. Councilor Osgood clarified he was not asking to change current grant priorities, but whether there were other funding opportunities in coordination with East Hartford. The Town Manager said staff could look into that.

Councilor Gullotta raised a point of order, questioning whether Councilor Osgood's comment was appropriate since it was not included in the Town Manager's report and had been discussed previously, suggesting it should instead be raised under Council comments. Chairman Turner clarified that the discussion should have occurred under Council comments and agreed that it would have been more appropriate there.

Councilor Osgood then asked Mr. Luiz for clarification on timing regarding the flags referenced in the Town Manager's report, asking whether "near future" meant weeks, months, or longer.
Mr. Luiz explained that the Town is awaiting a final federal reimbursement under the Safe Streets for All program. Mr. Luiz stated that once received, staff will bring the funds to the Board of Finance and Town Council to be reallocated into the CIP Traffic Calming account, along with new CIP funding starting July 1. At that point, the Council would decide how to allocate approximately $300,000, including potential use for pedestrian safety measures such as crossing flags. Mr. Luiz noted that the Safe Streets for All Committee spoke specifically about the flags, and Town Engineer, Steve Braun, pitched the idea to them. Councilor Osgood noted the flags were positively received.

Chairman Turner thanked NBT Bank for the donation to the musical. Chairman Turner requested more details on the Buckingham Park and High Street Park completion schedules. Mr. Luiz said he would ask Ms. Zerio and get back to him.

8. **Town Council Comments.**

Councilor Gullotta requested an update on the status of a traffic safety camera on Griswold Street.

Councilor DiLizia thanked Mr. DiBella for his service to the Town and expressed his appreciation for his commitment.

Councilor Cavanaugh stated that, based on the Town Attorney's prior opinion regarding administrative questions for the Town Manager, he did not believe Councilor Osgood's question was out of order. Councilor Cavanaugh then asked for an update on 38 Hubbard Street, noting the property remains in a dilapidated condition and requesting information on the status of the situation.

9. Committee Reports.

a. Chairman's Report. ***None.***

b. MDC. ***None.***

c. CRCOG. ***None.***

d. Board of Education Facilities Committee Report. ***None.***

10. Communications. ***None.***

11. Minutes.

a. Minutes of June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Councilor Wang ***Seconded by:*** Councilor Cavanaugh

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the minutes, as amended, of the June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting."

Discussion: Chairman Turner noted the originally approved minutes reflected that the motion to add an agenda item regarding a formal request to the Board of Education to conduct a study of the environmental makeup of the artificial turf fields and whether they contain PFAS had passed. Upon subsequent review, it was determined that the motion required a two-thirds vote and did not receive the required two-thirds vote. Accordingly, the motion failed.

Result: Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

12. Appointments and Resignations. ***None.***

13. Executive Session.

Motion by: Councilor Wang ***Seconded by:*** Councilor Cavanaugh

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of:

(a) Strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.
(b) Discussion of confidential attorney-client communication.
(c) Discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate.
(d) Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation.

Attendees will include Council Members and the Town Manager. Additional attendees by agenda item: (a) and (b) – Town Attorney and Director of Human Resources; (c) – Town Attorney and Director of Community Development; (d) – Town Attorney.

Result: Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

The Council came out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

Motion by: Councilor LaChance ***Seconded by:*** Councilor Cavanna

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns the Town Council meeting of June 23, 2026, at 9:26 p.m."

Result: Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Julia MacLean

Julia MacLean
Recording Clerk

Corey Turner
Chairman