

AGENDA
Coventry Town Council Special Budget Meeting
March 29, 2021
7:00 PM

(Due to the threat of COVID-19, the Town Council meeting is closed to in-person public attendance.)

Citizens may view the meeting live on YouTube at this link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-bvJ2hvyzji_Gitdr7NAA/live

Meetings are also visible live on Spectrum Cable channel 191.

A recording of the meeting is available on the Town's video-on-demand system for those who wish to watch the meeting but are unable to view it live, at this link: <https://coventryct.viebit.com/?folder=ALL>
Please allow approximately 48 business hours after the meeting for the video to be published.

1. Call To Order, Roll Call
2. Pledge Of Allegiance
3. Unfinished Business:
 - 3.A. 20/21-56: Consideration/Possible Action: FY 2021/2022 Budget (E)
 1. Discussion/deliberations
 2. [LINK TO BUDGET DOCUMENTS](#)

Documents:

[BUDGET MOTIONS 2021-22.PDF](#)
[FY2021 BUDGET CALENDAR.PDF](#)
[BUDGET MEETINGS 2021.PDF](#)

4. Miscellaneous/Correspondence:
 - 4.A. * Correspondence Emailed To Budgetcomments@Coventryct.org From 12 PM On March 11, 2021 To 12 PM On March 25, 2021 (E)

Documents:

[BUDGET COMMENTS THROUGH 3.25.PDF](#)

5. Adjournment

(E) - denotes enclosures

BUDGET MOTIONS

I move that the Town Council make the following appropriations for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022:

General Government	\$
Board of Education	\$
Capital Expenditures	\$
Debt Service	\$
For a Total of:	\$

I move that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to enter into agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation for Town Aid Funds available to the Town of Coventry under Chapter 240 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

I move that the Town Council, pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 116b of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopt the FY 21/22 Capital Improvement Plan, as amended by the Council, and further, that the Town Manager be authorized to make application for funding for eligible projects under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP).

I move that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of tax collections as needed to meet current expenses.

I move that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to make any adjustments needed to correct any mathematical errors in the budget.

2020/2021 BUDGET CALENDAR

ACTIVITY	LATEST DATE PER TOWN CHARTER	RECOMMENDED DATE
Capital Budget forms prepared & sent out.		October 5, 2020
Completed Capital Budget forms returned to Town Manager (including Board of Education)		December 4, 2020
Operating Budget forms prepared & sent out.		October 30, 2020
Completed Operating Budget forms returned to Town Manager (excluding Board of Education)	March 12, 2021	December 18, 2020
Capital Budget discussion & presentation before Council		January-February 2021
Operating Budget meetings with Town Manager, Departments, Boards		Jan. 4 - Jan 31, 2021
Capital Budget forwarded to Planning & Zoning		February 15, 2021
Board of Education Budget <u>totals</u> to Town Manager	March 12, 2021	February 12, 2021
Board of Education Budget filed with Town Clerk & forwarded to Town Council	March 12, 2021	February 19, 2021
Planning & Zoning 8-24 Review		February 22, 2021
Town Manager's Proposed Operating & Capital Budget to Town Council & Town Clerk (filed)	March 23, 2021	March 1, 2021
Public Copies for Hearing Available	April 11, 2021	March 1, 2021

2020/21 BUDGET CALENDAR (Continued)

ACTIVITY	LATEST DATE PER TOWN CHARTER	RECOMMENDED DATE
Legal Notice on Hearing	April 11, 2021	February 25, 2021
Public Hearing on Town, School & Capital Budget	April 22, 2021	March 11, 2021
Council meets with Board of Education on Budget		March 15, 2021
Council Budget Adjustments		March 2-April 5, 2021
Council's Final Adjustments & Budget Adoption & Warning of Town Meeting		April 5, 2021
Document Preparation		April 6-9, 2021
Legal Notice to Paper		April 8, 2021 AM Latest
Annual Meeting Legal Notice	April 13, 2021	April 13, 2021
Annual Town Meeting	April 24, 2021	April 24, 2021
Adjourned Town Meeting/ Referendum	May 4, 2021	May 5, 2021

NOTE: SCHOOL VACATION DATES

February 15, 16
 April 2
 April 19-23 Spring Break

Town Council
Proposed Budget Meetings – March/April 2021
Rev. 2/18/20

Date	Meeting Type	Time	Location	Group(s)
3/1	Regular	7:30 PM	Annex/ZOOM	Library (7:45 PM) Land Use/Development (8:15 PM)
3/8	Special	7:00 PM	Annex/ZOOM	Fire (7:00 PM) Public Works (7:45 PM) Human Services (8:30 PM)
3/15	Regular	7:30 PM	Annex/ZOOM	Board of Education (7:45 PM)
3/22	Special	7:00 PM	Annex/ZOOM	Parks & Recreation (7:00 PM) Registrar of Voters (7:30 PM) Police (8:00 PM)
3/29	Special	7:00 PM	Annex/ZOOM	Budget deliberations
4/5	Regular	7:30 PM	Annex/ZOOM	Vote (per Charter regulations)

NOTE: The Finance Committee monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 PM on 3/8, and the Steering Committee monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 PM on 3/22.

Amanda Backhaus

From: Heather Frazier <heather12676@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 12:44 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Girls Softball

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for including the \$300,000 allocation toward fields for girls softball in this year's budget. The town's support for this important project is needed and much appreciated. I am writing to ask Council to maintain this allocation that works toward equaling the playing field in Coventry for all of our kids.

Thank you,
Heather Frazier
1565 N River Rd
Coventry, CT. 06238

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Amanda Backhaus

From: Jeff LaHouse <jefflahouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:44 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Softball field

Hello,

My name Is Jeff LaHouse, I am the HS Varsity Softball Coach at Coventry HS, I am writing to you on behalf of the young athletes, I have been working with these kids from the age of 5 right up until they graduate, All the years Its been a struggle for them to play ball, the middle school fields are nice when they are in playable condition, some years Its out of commission most of the time, the HS field is not available to where they can plan an actual schedule, softball seems to be the only sport in town where the girls at this age have no reliable fields that they can schedule a normal season, and enjoy being a part of something every kid should have the opportunity to be a part of, Getting outside, being part of a team, representing their town in a competitive and positive experience, please do not put these kids on the back burner, they deserve more from us.

Thank you for your time
Jeff LaHouse

Amanda Backhaus

From: Brenda Bissell <brendabissell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:44 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for softball

I am writing to express our family's full support for the funding of the recreation softball fields. Our 15 year old daughter has played for Coventry Softball since the instructional level and the experience has been nothing but positive. The girls and dedicated coaches of Coventry deserve to have their own safe and well-maintained fields so that they can practice and compete at a level that will make Coventry proud!

Thank you,
Brenda Waterhouse
117 Mountain Ridge Drive

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Amanda Backhaus

From: tswan@igc.org
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:39 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Girls softball field Bond proposal

I appreciate living in Coventry and have for nearly twenty years. My wife and I believe there are many reasons we are raising our soon to be 10 year old daughter and 3 year old son here. We love this town and think the recreation programs for youth are awesome.

However, we are at a loss to explain to our daughter why the boys her age have dedicated little league fields while she and her peers go from field to grass patch to field to try and play and practice. In 2021 – over 50 years after passing Title IX – it is embarrassing and morally wrong that girls growing up in Coventry are provided second class opportunities to boys. I strongly urge you to begin to right this wrong and approve the proposed \$300,000 bonding package to begin work on softball fields.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Swan
155 Standish Road
860 742 6919

Amanda Backhaus

From: Daniel Norman <dnorman22@cpsctg.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:41 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: Softball

Thank you for including the \$300,000 allocation toward fields for girls softball in this year's budget. The town's support for this important project is needed and much appreciated. I am writing to ask Council to maintain this allocation that works toward equaling the playing field in Coventry for all of our kids.

Daniel norman
225 Avery Shores

Amanda Backhaus

From: Caitlyn Jones-Henry <caity29x@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 5:04 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coventry Budget: Softball Fields

Good afternoon,

Thank you for including the \$300,000 allocation toward fields for girls softball in this year's budget. The town's support for this important project is needed and much appreciated.

I am writing to ask Council to maintain this allocation that works toward equaling the playing field in Coventry for all of our kids.

* Mom to three girls and one boy that are all active in our towns sports programs.

Respectfully,
Caitlyn Jones-Henry
460 Broad Way
Coventry

Amanda Backhaus

From: Brooke Blouin <brookeblou@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 5:52 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Hi my name is Brooke Blouin,

I'm 11 years old and I've been playing for Coventry softball since I was 4 years old.

We currently play at the school fields, which are not always available. Over the past few years we have had so many softball teams that we have not had enough space to practice. Also, we have had to play most of our games as away games in other towns.

The boys in our town have three fields at Miller Richardson in addition to the fields at the schools. So they are able to have practices and games in Coventry. It would be great if the girls could have the same opportunity.

Thank you to everyone that has worked on getting us our fields! I hope to play on them soon!

Amanda Backhaus

From: tracie johnson <tpfeif5084@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 4:06 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Hi,

My name is Tracie Johnson from 52 Leslie Lane, Coventry, CT and I just want to ask that you consider helping Girls softball to have equal playing fields like the boys. By allowing it in the budget to give the girls that. I have coached softball for 2 years and am appalled and embarrassed when other towns come to Coventry and realize we do not have adequate fields to practice and play on.

Please help make this equal for the girls as it is for the boys by approving it in the budget to give these girls the fields they need and deserve to thrive as athletes.

Thank you for your time,

Tracie Johnson

Amanda Backhaus

From: Dave Kawalec <kawalecd@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:20 PM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fields.

My name is David Kawalec I reside at 50 tall oak drive and am in favor of the addition of softball fields for the girls.

Sent from my iPhone

Amanda Backhaus

From: Sarah Gagnon <sarahjak1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 6:47 AM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fields

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for including the \$300,000 allocation toward fields for girls softball in this year's budget. The town's support for this important project is needed and much appreciated. I am writing to ask Council to maintain this allocation that works toward equaling the playing field in Coventry for all of our kids.

Thank you,
Sarah Gagnon

Sent from my iPhone

Amanda Backhaus

From: Lisa Garay
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 8:03 AM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: Equal Opportunity

To The Town of Coventry Ct,

Thank you for including the \$300,000.00 allocation toward fields for girls softball in this years budget. The town's support for this important project is needed and much appreciated, I am writing to ask Council to maintain this allocation that works toward equalling the playing fields for ALL of our kids.

Thank you,

Lisa Garay
1386 South Street
Coventry, Ct
06238

Amanda Backhaus

From: Richard kandolin <rakandolin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 8:06 AM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Softball

Thank you for including the \$300,000 allocation toward fields for girls softball in this year's budget. The town's support for this important project is needed and much appreciated. I am writing to ask Council to maintain this allocation that works toward equaling the playing field in Coventry for all of our kids.

Richard Kandolin
505 Daly Rd
Coventry Ct
06238

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Amanda Backhaus

From: Laura Mirante <twiblel1970@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 8:40 AM
To: TH - Budgetcomments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 300,000 allocation towards softball fields

Thank you for including the \$300,000 allocation toward fields for girls softball in this year's budget. The town's support for this important project is needed and much appreciated. I am writing to ask Council to maintain this allocation that works toward equaling the playing field in Coventry for all of our kids.

Laura Mirante

4052 South Street

Coventry, CT 06238

860-670-5736

From: [Patricia Hodge](#)
To: [TH - Budgetcomments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed budget
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 11:02:58 AM

To the Town Council,

Having read the proposed budget and Town Council Goals, I think it's important to recognize your and Mr. Elsesser's efforts in effecting the complicated operations of our town. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work, a seemingly thankless yet well accomplished job.

I can see there has been much thought and likely aggravation in the decisions made to fulfill your obligation of providing a manageable budget. None of us like tax increases, yet we must expect them. I'm thankful that there is very little frivolity in your final product.

I have one final note, if possible, for future budgets. Besides the frisbee golf course erected at Creaser Park, I'm sure some residents would appreciate a dog park near the entrance in that location. Considering the amount of trees at Coventry's roadsides that have to be taken down annually, that chipped wood would be excellent bedding for a dog park. A couple of good examples are in Willimantic and Colchester if the topic ever comes up.

Best regards,
Patricia Hodge
175 Pucker Street

Sent from my iPhone