1. Meeting called to order at 7:18 by Matthew O’Brien, Jr., Chair

Members Present: Matthew O’Brien, Jr. and Julie Blanchard with John Elsesser, Town Manager

Members Attending Through Zoom: Jon Hand and Lisa Conant

2. Approval of June 22, 2020 minutes moved by Lisa Conant and seconded by Jon Hand.

Corrections by Jon Hand:

Page 1 second line down in No. 1 change John to Jon
Page 1 10. At end of third line sentence should read: He noted there have been several policies
Page 1 last paragraph third line down “8 Can't Wait Campaign” should be “8 Can't Wait” Campaign
Page 3 fourth paragraph down, fifth line down fire arm training should read firearms training
Page 4 fourth paragraph down, sixth line down facilities should read facilitated
Page 4 fourth paragraph down, tenth line down Chief holes should be Chief hopes
Page 5 8. second paragraph end of first line remove Local Emergency Management Coordinating and insert LECC
Page 5 8. second paragraph last line remove the word put after money
Page 7 9. Fourth line down change Station 18 to Department 18

Correction by Matthew O’Brien, Jr:

Page 7 9. Fourth line down change fire houses to firehouses

Passes unanimously with corrections.

3.A. Chairman O’Brien had no report this evening.

3.B. Council member, Lisa Conant acknowledged the passing of Jon Hand’s father and joined by other members

3.C. Vacancy Report – John Elsesser began a discussion regarding the Council considering disbanding the Ad Hoc Water Supply Committee due to not activity. Lisa C. moved and Jon H. seconded to recommend to the whole Council that we disband this inactive ad hoc committee. Passes unanimously.
4. Resignation – We accept the resignation of Sam Norman from the Inland Wetlands Agency with regret. Chairman O'Brien will see if a previous volunteer (Miss Norman) is still interested in serving on this committee.

5. Reappointments - A. Jon Hand moved and Lisa Conant seconded to recommend to the whole Council the reappointment of Deb Zeppa to the Ad-Hoc Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee unanimously.

5. B. Jon H. moved and Lisa C. seconded to recommend to the whole Council the reappointment of Cara Revett to the Pension & Retirement Committee unanimously.

6. Appointment – Connecticut Water Utilities Coordination Committee (WUCC) is looking for a volunteer appointed by the Council to serve on their committee for meetings twice a year. They ask that the person appointed is a customer of CT Water. Town Manager, John Elsesser will share this information on our Town’s website, local public television, and perhaps Facebook.

7. Not ready for action per Julie Blanchard, Chairwoman Town Council

8. Chairman O’Brien went over the final version of the proposed Ordinance Changes for Creation of Coventry Fire/EMS Department 18. Jon H. moved that we recommend to the whole Council the acceptance of the changes in the ordinance for the Creation of Coventry Fire/EMS Department 18. Seconded by Lisa C. and passed unanimously.

9. Chairman O’Brien will update the Council and then this will go to Planning and Zoning Committee for 8-24 review. Then it will come back to the Council.

10. This modified Charge to Energy & Building Efficiency Building Committee to Include School Roofs and Alarms is ready to go to the full Council for acceptance.

11. Modifications to the Public Gathering Ordinance 70-88 as presented with the following corrections: 66-62 (3) change age from 21 to 18; 66-63 change moral character to moral turpitude in two places; and 66-64 take out the last sentence. The Steering Committee finds the $50.00 fee per permit to be reasonable. These changes should be made and the modified Ordinance and then added to the 8/17/20 Council Agenda.

12. A public hearing will need to be scheduled. John Elsesser, Town Manager is working the Superintendent of Schools, Dave Petrone. Perhaps by end of September the Town Council could have out attorney write a call to public meeting. This item is on the unfinished business portion of the Council’s agenda.

13. Consideration of the possible creation of a Police Civilian Review Board. Chairman O’Brien met with the Chief of Police (with Chairwoman Blanchard’s knowledge). He shared his findings with the Steering Committee. Matt read Bill 34-71 that has passed in the House. Matt asked
the Chief how many annual complaints there are historically, and the Chief responded 6-8. In 2019 there was 1 complaint, and in 2020 there have been none until last week there was one. Matt will have the Chief forward to the Steering Committee the Personnel Complaint Policy. Lisa C. sees this as a long range process. John Elsesser, Town Manager, made the Steering Committee aware that he the review board after the Chief of Police has done an investigation. Town Managers are trained in these type of things and they are part of the grievance process. John Elsesser recommends that the Steering Committee invite our labor attorney and Town attorney to speak about Civilian Review Boards. Jon H. said this is a complex issue, that is structural, and has many implications. John Elsesser also suggested that he can check with our Council of Government if there would be an interest in a Regional Civilian Review Board. He will let us know.

14. Council Authority to Pass Budget During COVID-19 Pandemic with regards to citizen’s correspondence to Council. Jon H. commented that the Council saw they were in unchartered waters and we sought legal advice as to what our options were, more than He also said the Council acknowledged the unique circumstances. Lisa C. shared that we discussed extensively and recognized the unprecedented situation and acting under the Governor’s Executive Order. Chairman O’Brien recognizes that the Executive Orders stood together and we would have been doing something illegal by going against even one. Julie Blanchard volunteered to prepare a response, share it with the Council prior to 8/3/20 Council meeting and read it into the record at that Council meeting.

15. Not Ready For Action

Jon H. motioned to adjourn, seconded by Lisa C. and passed unanimously at 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie A. Blanchard