

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014

The Chair called the Legislation & Administration Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

Present: Suzanne Testani, Chairman, Enrico Constantini, Vice Chairman, Joseph Pifko, Daniel Marconi, Edna Colucci, and Ken Martin, Sr., Alternate.

Absent: Patrick Helfrich and Thomas Christiano, Alternate.

Also Present: First Selectman Herbst, Chief of Staff Lynn Arnow, Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr., Town Treasurer John Ponzio, Town Attorney Vincent Marino, (arrived at 8:00 p.m.) and Town Council members Ennio De Vita, Cindy Penkoff and Vicki Tesoro.

Moved by Ms. Colucci, seconded by Mr. Pifko to take item #9 out of order.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

1. RESOLUTION TC25-47: Moved by Mr. Marconi, seconded by Mr. Martin.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Trumbull Town Council hereby authorizes a five (5) member commission and has initiated a third revision of the Charter of the Town of Trumbull as approved November 3, 1981, as revised November 4, 2003 and as revised November 8, 2011.

First Selectman Herbst stated that Standard & Poor's issued a summary upgrading Trumbull to an AA+ bond rating. Trumbull is one step away from an AAA bond rating the highest rating that can be received. Trumbull was upgraded to this rating based upon how the administration has made funding the pension a priority. First Selectman Herbst recommended opening the Charter with a very narrow focus and tight schedule. Requiring funding the pension should be one of the main focuses of the Charter Revision. Language should be placed in the Charter requiring the Town to fund its pensions at the annual required contribution, (arc), every year no matter who the First Selectman is, who controls the Council or the Board of Finance. If this revision were made he believes this would bring the Town's rating to AAA. This administration has increased the pension's contributions and has finally achieved the arc, (actuarial required contribution) on the town side. Under the prior administration the pension was funded at 27%. The police pension fund has also been increased and the goal is in the next year or two to be funded at the arc for both pensions. Trumbull has negotiated nine labor agreements that now have a defined contribution plan

for new hires. This has been well received by the financial rating agencies. This will reduce the Town's unfunded liability in the long term. First Selectman Herbst indicated the concern is if the economy were to rebound, the administrations changes, or the Town Council should change there is no guarantee that the pension would continue to be funded at the arc. It is necessary to make sure history is not repeated. Analysis shows if the funding is kept at the arc and the Town's investments are diversified the pension will be in a much stronger position by 2022. First Selectman Herbst suggested when the Charter Revision Commission is impaneled that the Council gives them 90 days to report and to put the revision on the November ballot. The Town has to make the collective decision whether to make funding the pension annually part of the Charter. First Selectman Herbst believes the Town should.

Mr. Ponzio explained every two years on June 30th the Town receives an actuarial evaluation of the pension by an independent certified actuary. The actuary looks at the population of the plan, their mortality rate, salaries, projected salaries, the Town's investments, and the rate the Town projects their investments to grow. These assumptions are taken into consideration and an actuary calculates the actuarially value. Based on that value they look out at the future of what the Town will have to pay out based on the plan's population and estimates how much funding will be needed every year. Because new hires will go to the defined contribution plan the actuarial is looking to the near future, (approximately only 10 years away) and has calculated that less funding will be necessary. The upgrade to AA+ will save the Town considerable interest on bonding. The Town has a healthy fund balance at \$17 million, approximately 12%. Teachers are in a separate pension plan they are with the State. All unions on the Town side and some BOE employees are in the Town pension plan. There is a separate pension plan for the police department. The police department is funded at 70%, which is why the administration chose to work on the Town pension plan first to get it to 100% of the arc. The administration has done as much as they possibly can; funding the pension plan at the arc, all new employees of all nine unions on the town side will go to a defined contribution plan, and have met with the Pension Board to diversify the pension strategy without incurring more risk. Funding the pension plan had been kicked down the road for 10 to 25 years. The Charter requirement will take it out of the political realm. The rating agencies were very pleased with the last Charter Revision that initiated the \$15 million threshold for capital improvements. This was cited in the report supporting the most recent rating upgrade. The administration has told the rating agencies that they are proposing a Charter Revision to require funding to the arc. The agencies have looked at this proposal favorably and have cited this in the most recent report. First Selectman Herbst noted there are two ways of handling the pension, funding to the arc or through POB's (pension obligation bonds). POB's are not the most prudent way of handling funding the pension because the municipality borrows money to fund the pensions and then pays principal plus interest and here is no guarantee the funding ratios will be at 100%. The city of Norwalk has an AAA rating and their pension fund is funded at over 85% and their police are funded over 78%.

Mr. Ponzio indicated for Mr. Martin that prior administrations have made the decision to fund the police pension at a higher rate than the Town's. The assumed rate of return is 7½%. Some towns use 8½ percent but the auditors don't like that because they feel that the town is chasing return. 7½% is a reasonable return for conservative investment strategy. First Selectman Herbst explained the money represents people's livelihoods, their retirements you want to diversify you don't want to be overly aggressive where it could be dangerous. Norwalk does include language in their Charter with regard to funding the pension he is unsure whether Newtown has included it in their Charter. If this is made mandatory as opposed to being discretionary this will put management in a better position to negotiate more favorable labor agreements because the units will know that the

Town has said as a matter of law that the pension will be funded to its arc each year. Mr. Ponzio indicated that one of the bargaining tools the labor agreements use is the fact that the pension is not funded to the arc. By law the pension cannot be managed in-house, the Pension Board hires the investment management firm. The police pension fund is managed through the Police Commission and through a subcommittee of the Police Commission. The last two years have been the first time in the last seven years the plan has had more revenue than expenses paid out to the pensioners. The Chair commended the Pension Board. Mr. Ponzio stated the goal is to get the Town to the AAA rating which will save the Town significant money. First Selectman Herbst stated that they have had the conversation with rating agencies, where they explained that they knew that the pension fund was a problem and they outlined what it was that the administration had done and what it was that they planned on doing. Rating agencies like to see reform. First Selectman Herbst believes this provision in the Charter is what will bring the Town to the AAA rating. The next time they sit with the agencies will be in September 2014.

First Selectman Herbst indicated for Mr. Constantini the rating agencies have indicated that POB's hold an inherent risk. The cities of Bridgeport, Stratford, Waterbury and the State of Connecticut have all turned to POB's and their pensions are not better as a result. Mr. Ponzio added that POB's increase the Town's debt service and do affect the bond rating. Mr. Marconi commended the administration for the progress that has been made and suggested if this were to be a five-member commission to have someone in the financial/actuarial business on the commission. First Selectman Herbst agreed. Ms. Tesoro stated that she would like to see other charters that have this language included and suggested exceptions are included to safeguard for future issues that may arise. First Selectman Herbst believes that is the job of the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Ponzio also indicated the more leeway for discretion the less by strength this would have with the rating agencies. First Selectman Herbst suggested that it may be possible to include language that a 2/3 vote of the Town Council would be required to override the provision.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Ponzio reported to the committee that there are 436 active participants in the Town pension plan, 325 are currently receiving benefits. There are a total of 835 included in the plan 74 of which are deferred.

2. RESOLUTION TC25-09: Moved by Mr. Pifko , seconded by Mr. Marconi
BE IT RESOLVED, That Section 5, Order of Business of the Town Council Rules and Procedures is hereby amended to include Public Comment. (Full Resolution Attached)

Moved by Mr. Constantini, seconded by Mr. Pifko to amend Resolution TC25-09 (See Attached Amended Version).

Mr. Marconi stated the amended version changes the original intent of the resolution. The amended version limits discussion to the items on the agenda. Mr. Constantini disagreed and indicated the public is encouraged to communicate with the Council members at any time. Limiting comment to agenda items balances the need for the Town Council to get business done and providing the public time to speak on issues before the Council. The Chair stated Greenwich offers public comment on every item of their agenda; all of the public comment is germane to the agenda and is not included in the minutes. Ms. Tesoro stated that she would not vote against this because the public comment would need to be germane to the agenda but does have concern over the second paragraph, (public comment before the start of the meeting) and questioned whether public comment will be included

on the meeting agenda. Mr. Constantini stated per the amendment public comment would not be part of the meeting but a public comment session would be held prior to the meeting. It would be incumbent upon the Town Council members to be present. Ms. Tesoro spoke against this. Ms. Tesoro questioned the reasoning behind not having public comment on the agenda. The Chair suggested starting caucuses earlier to accommodate public comment. Ms. Tesoro stated arriving earlier may not be possible for all Council members. Ms. Colucci suggested starting the meeting later to accommodate public comment, she is of the mind that if timing is the issue it could be adjusted in order to provide public comment. Mr. Costantini does not see this as an issue, public comment could be put at 8:00 p.m. and start the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Ms. Tesoro stated there is a difference of opinion on this matter. (Atty. Marino arrived at 8:00 p.m.) Ms. Tesoro questioned whether there would be a designated time at each meeting. Mr. Massaro stated that this proposed rule would provide for public comment and what he contemplates is putting public comment with the agenda before the meeting is started. There would be a specific time period. Whether the Council meeting is started 15 to 20 minutes later or starting public comment earlier than 8 o'clock is something that can be sorted out. We need to allow time for the Council members to get back to Trumbull for the meeting, be able to caucus and be able to attend the meeting. This is probably one of the reasons why there hasn't been a public comment before because there is only so much time to conduct Council business. Other boards and commissions have public comment but the councils meetings tend to be longer on average. Limiting comment to the agenda was brought up in committee last month. Mr. Massaro takes a business like approach to this; there are other opportunities to discuss items other than what is on a particular agenda. Town Council conducts a lot of business every month and takes a minimum of 2 to 3 hours to complete. If discussion takes place on other topics a good portion of the evening could be spent on business not before the Council. If this were adopted it would be the Chair's intention to implement this rule in April and every month thereafter. The discretion is left to the chairman because it is as the council has always operated. Ms. Tesoro spoke in favor of the chairman's discretion. If people feel strongly enough to come out the Council should let them speak. Ms. Tesoro questioned the restriction of not having the comments included in the minutes of the meeting. The Chair indicated based on the research that she had done Greenwich does not include public comment in the minutes. Ms. Colucci stated the amendment allows the public to come speak to the agenda items and for the Council to conduct business, a fair solution that allows for both. Mr. Constantini explained most towns provide a sign in sheet for the public prior to the comment period. Ms. Tesoro voiced her concern that public comment would not be included in the minutes and questioned if it is prior to the start of the meeting would it be included in the televised portion of the meeting. Mr. Massaro stated he did not contemplate doing that. The purpose of televising the meeting and recording the minutes is to record what the body does. It will keep the evenings of the meetings, at the committee level or the full meeting running in an efficient pace. Mr. Marconi spoke to the business philosophy of continuous improvement. The Council seems to be an agreement to allow public comment, this may not be perfect but we should start and maybe in the future the Council will include it in the meeting. Mr. Martin spoke in favor of a specific timeframe for public comment. Mr. Massaro stated the clerk and he will work out the specific timeframe when the agendas go out a timeframe will be included. The amended rule does not need to be that precise. The Chair and Mr. Constantini stated the amended version allows for flexibility based on a particular agenda and discretion of the Chair. Mr. Martin spoke to the point that a specific time would allow for the public to know that a specific Council person would be present if they wanted to come out to speak. Mr. Constantini indicated for Ms. Colucci the public will learn of the agenda items and public comment in the normal course of how they learn of the agenda now. The Chair stated she sees the public comment being handled similar to when the Council has public hearings for ordinances. No specific time is set; the exact time is not known when a particular resolution will be brought to the floor. Mr.

Massaro stated when whatever form of the rule is adopted, down the road there may be reasons why there would not be public comment at a particular meeting simply because we have public comments scheduled for items already or special meetings where public comment had already been held or would not be needed. It will not be a matter of the guess work. It would be included with the agendas, there will be a notice of a pre-meeting public comment period so people will know that they can come and comment on the agenda. Every other board commission that has public comment has it written and it is known. The Chair stated this educates the public that we are signing into law that there will be public comment. Ms. Tesoro stated that she could not support this format and is concerned with the inconsistency. People will not know that the Council has public comment other than looking at the agenda. This needs to be done like every other board and commission, when the meeting is started the next item is public comment.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 5-1 (Against: Marconi)

VOTE: Motion Carried as amended 5-1(Against: Marconi)

3. RESOLUTION TC25-23: Moved by Colucci , seconded by Martin
BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, That Chapter 7, Article II, Fire Protection Board is hereby amended and disbanded for a job well done.

Ms. Arnow explained this Board was as a result of a statute. Its responsibility was to appoint the Fire Marshal, to oversee the duties and responsibilities and to ensure that the training and necessary educational credits were being obtained. The Fire Marshal and the Deputy Fire Marshal now report to the First Selectman and the Chief of Staff. The current Fire Marshal had been permanently appointed in 2007 by the previous administration. Since then the Board has not met. In response to Mr. Martin, Ms. Arnow stated she was unsure if there were any funds designated for this Board and would check with the Finance Director and report back.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Moved by Ms. Colucci, seconded by Mr. Pifko to take item #8 out of order.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION TC 25-46: Moved by Mr. Marconi, seconded by Mr. Martin.
BE IT RESOLVED, That a special election shall be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2014 in the Town of Trumbull to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Finance for the remainder of the term ending the first Monday in December, 2015. The Town Clerk and the Registrars of Voters are directed to establish the ballots, polling places and dates for party endorsement and a primary election, if necessary, pursuant to law.

Moved by Mr. Constantini, seconded by Mr. Pifko to amend by striking ~~July 2, 2014~~ and replacing it with July 1, 2014.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Atty. Marino stated this resolution was a result of a lawsuit against the Town Clerk by Thomas Kelly and Vicki Tesoro. The lawsuit claims they had filed a petition calling for a special election. The issue related to lawsuit is whether or not the petition was filed timely. The issue was confused by the intervening Thanksgiving holiday and the business day that followed. The clerk's office was closed the day after Thanksgiving. The Town Charter for counting purposes calls only to count business days. Business days exclude weekends and holidays. Business days are defined by

Black's Law as days when the stock market and banks are open. The Friday after Thanksgiving even though the clerk's office was closed was a business day for purposes of the world. This was a legal issue the court was going to decide. When considering the costs associated with litigating the matter as opposed to bringing certainty to the matter it was felt it was best to resolve the matter by having a special election. Based on security issues and the fact that the parties need to be afforded the time to hold their respective caucuses, nominate and allow the candidates time to campaign it was felt the election should take place after the school year was finished. There is an order of the court which is effective February 25, 2014. Atty. Marino is not aware if the petition has been filed with the Town Clerk's office by the plaintiffs. Atty. Marino will request Attorney Schopick to oversee that the petition does actually get filed with the clerk for purposes of process the town is in possession of the petition making this demand. There is a court order therefore he is confident this committee can proceed. The recommendation will be made to hold the special election after the school year closes understanding the recommendation is July 1, 2014. Mr. Massaro indicated after conferring with Ms. Tesoro it will be necessary to see if the July 1st date can work. According to the court order and the statute there is 150 day period where the special election has to be set. Whatever date is chosen you have to count back to certain dates for the primary, endorsements and notice from the Town Clerk. This technically cannot happen until a petition is filed. Atty. Marino confirmed that the petitions are not filed at this time. The court order states that the court accepts this as a fair and reasonable stipulation of judgment and sets the date of February 25th. The 150 days will run from February 25th as stated in paragraph 2 of the stipulation. Ms. Tesoro indicated the deadline for the Town Clerk to notify the Secretary of State and the Town Committees of the special election is February 25, 2014. Attorney Marino explained that the statute sets the time of 150 days. The clerk is not dependent upon this body to notify the Secretary of State and the respective parties of the call. She will do that upon receipt and certification of the petition. She is prepared to do that. Atty. Marino had told the Town Clerk she could not do so until February 25th as set by the judgment. Atty. Marino explained for Mr. Massaro in theory, when the Town Clerk is in receipt of the petition, she would notify the Secretary of State. The statute says that the Town Council selects the date of the special election. Atty. Marino stated if July 1 is the chosen date it could be done. The Secretary of State develops the calendar in conjunction with the Town Clerk. Ms. Tesoro spoke with Mr. Bromley of the Secretary of State's office. The three-week notification is a technicality it would not necessarily disrupt the election date if you are off by a few days. Ms. Tesoro requested that information to be confirmed. Atty. Marino stated he could make the phone call. The window is set as 150 days from the judgment so the election has to be within that window and is narrowed by the desire to hold it post the school year. Attorney Marino suggested holding the special election sometime in July but not to have it too far out to the 150th day due to any unforeseen instances such as a hurricane or any other reason why the election could not be held due to an emergency. If you get beyond the 150th day and the election is not held the question whether or not the election is voidable is something that could be litigated and would prefer to avoid litigation. Mr. Massaro stated the resolution could be moved to the Council and in the interim the petition would be filed, if it has not been filed, and get clarification on the dates. The date of the election could be amended at the full Council meeting if necessary.

VOTE: Motion as amended CARRIED unanimously.

5. RESOLUTION TC25-24: Moved by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Marconi.
BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, That the Insurance Commission is hereby disbanded for a job well done.

Ms. Arnow stated the Insurance Commission has not met in at least five years. The duties of the Insurance Commission have been absorbed by the Board of Finance, the Director of Finance and the Purchasing Agent. The primary duties were to review insurance coverage which covered the Town and its agents and all bid specifications of the contracts of insurance to be awarded. Ms. Arnow will research if there was an existing budget for this commission and report back.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

6. RESOLUTION TC25-33: Moved by Mr. Pifko , seconded by Mr. Constantini.
BE IT RESOLVED, That Daniel Marconi of 40 Brookhedge Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as the Town Council representative for the Emergency Management Shelter Building Committee.

Mr. Scinto explained a Council representative is needed. Mr. Scinto is a member of the Emergency Management Shelter Building Committee. The committee is working on installing a generator at the high school so that it can function as the Emergency Management shelter. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, February 26 at 9:30 a.m. This will be the first meeting since May 2013. It The bids will be in on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. The committee normally does not meet during the day. Ms. Arnow explained the urgency of this meeting is not based on the bids being received but is based on putting together the scope of work and getting bids for the work and additional materials in addition to the generator and to be able to get the entire project completed working around the school schedule. That is setting the calendar and the urgency of the meeting.

Mr. Marconi was present and indicated that he lives at 40 Brook Hedge Rd. He is a degreed industrial engineer and has been in manufacturing in many capacities throughout 40 years. Previously he was the engineering manager for Harvey Hubbell in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Mr. Massaro explained that the committee has had difficulty coordinating their schedules. They need is to choose the size of generator and order it because it is a long lead time item.

The Committee discussed the building committee's quorum issues and it was determined that Ms. Labella's seat would need to be replaced.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

7. RESOLUTION TC25-34: Moved by Mr. Constantini, seconded by Ms. Colucci.
BE IT RESOLVED, That Anne Fers of 257 Pinewood Trail, be and the same is hereby reappointed as a member of the Trumbull Day Commission for a term extending to September 3, 2018.

Mr. Massaro stated Anne Fers is a current member of the commission. This resolution is a reappointment. This is an 11-member commission with six active members and five inactive and/or resigned members. The commission attempted to have a meeting last week but could not assemble a quorum. After discussion with the Chief of Staff instead of trying to fill the vacancies Mr. Massaro suggested reducing the membership to 7. Four members would be needed for quorum and two additional members would be appointed. Mr. Massaro indicated for Ms. Tesoro that Ms. Derrig's term is through September 2014. The reappointment was going to be on this agenda but was told the list of terms was errant showing the term as four years when it's actually five. Two other people had been recommended by the Democratic Town Committee. Mr. Massaro received that information after the agenda had been set. Ms. Arnow indicated that Trumbull Day is a

meticulously orchestrated event and requires as many hands as possible. Ms. Tesoro two additional people wish to serve and suggested not reducing the committee. The Chair indicated the commission was having difficulty reaching the quorum based on 11 members. Ms. Penkoff suggested amending the commission membership resolution to 9 members so that the two additional members can be appointed next month.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

8. RESOLUTION TC25-35: Moved by Mr. Marconi, seconded by Ms. Colucci.
BE IT RESOLVED, That Kimberly Vecchione of 655 Booth Hill Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Trumbull Day Commission for a term extending to September 3, 2018.

Ms. Vecchione was not present. Mr. Massaro stated she had served previously and had expressed an interest to come back suggesting the resolution be moved without recommendation.

Moved by Mr. Pifko, seconded by Ms. Colucci to send without recommendation. VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

9. RESOLUTION TC25-36: Moved by Ms. Colucci, seconded by Mr. Martin
BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, That Resolution TC18-17 as adopted on July 6, 2000 is hereby modified as follows:
There shall be a commission known as the Trumbull Day Commission consisting of seven (7) members, appointed by the First Selectman with the approval of the Town Council. The budget for any event planned by the commission shall be subject to approval by the Board of Finance and the Town Council.

Mr. Massaro explained that 11 members are too many and difficult to assemble a quorum. Mr. Massaro recommended reducing the membership to either seven or nine members. Seven members will be easier for a quorum. With fewer voices the work can be done more efficiently however several people have indicated the more hands the better for this event. Ms. Tesoro clarified for the Chair if the membership were reduced to seven that would not leave seats for the two additional people who wish to serve. Mr. Massaro stated if it is a nine-member commission they would need 5 for a quorum. Ms. Tesoro stated quorum issues could be as a result of a particular group rather than number of members. There are two people who wish to serve and should be given the opportunity.

The Chair stated she was in favor of having the Board of Finance and the Town Council approved the budget based on the previous commission spending \$60,000 for Patty Smythe to sing. Mr. Massaro stated that is why the resolution included that language. There is \$30-\$40,000 in a separate fund for Trumbull Day. Trumbull Day Commission without this language would set its own budget. Trumbull Day costs much more than \$40,000. It is reliant upon good weather and attendance to generate the revenue to cover the cost. Some of us are aware of the past with this issue. There was a contract signed for \$60,000 for musical act. That was all of the money in the account at the time which raised issues and concerns leaving no other money for other vendors, police, and safety concerns. Mr. Massaro explained for Mr. Martin \$30,000 was appropriated to the event last year because the event had not taken place for a number of years. They made a \$6-\$7000 net profit last year plus \$30,000 and that is what is in the account. Ms. Penkoff clarified that the

\$33,000 was a transfer from the concert account, not an appropriation from the general fund. The transfer took place because the concert was not going to happen.

Moved by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Marconi to amend by striking the phrase ~~seven (7) members~~ and replacing it with nine (9) members.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

VOTE: As amended CARRIED unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Ms. Colucci, seconded by Mr. Pifko the Legislation & Administration Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk

TC25-09
FULL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TC25-09: BE IT RESOLVED, That Section 5, Order of Business of the Town Council Rules and Procedures is hereby amended to include Public Comment;

4) Public Comment

- (A) The Town Council welcomes comments from the public. On the agenda of each meeting of the Town Council, a period shall be set aside and designated as an opportunity for the public to address the Council on any issue of importance to the Town. Each speaker will be allowed an opportunity to speak for a maximum of five minutes. Speakers are not permitted to yield any portion of their time to another speaker(s). Any citizen so speaking shall identify him/herself by name and address, and if the speaker is speaking for a group or organization, she/he may so state. Citizen comments will be accepted as presented. Written statements presented by speakers during the public comment section shall be included in the minutes of the meeting. Immediate replies to questions/concerns should not be expected (Chairman's discretion). The Town Council will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Town Council members nor against any person connected with the Town of Trumbull or any other individual, firm or corporation.

TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT

3. MEETINGS

The public is encouraged to communicate with members of the Town Council at any time, personally, or through designated e-mail addresses provided on the Town's website.

At the discretion of the Chairman of the Town Council or the Chairman of any of its Committees, members of the public may offer comment prior to the commencement of any meeting of the Town Council or its Committees.

Public comment shall be directed solely to items scheduled to be considered on the agenda of the meeting. The Chairman of the meeting may limit the time allotment for public comment and may limit individual comment to a maximum of 2 minutes. The Chairman shall announce the parameters of public comment in advance.

Each person speaking shall pre-register to speak by providing their identity and residence address. Individuals may provide oral commentary which shall not become part of the official minutes of any meeting. No individual may yield any portion of their allotted time to any other person. Immediate replies to individual comment should not be expected (Chairman's discretion). The Town Council discourages any disparaging personal complaints or defamatory comments against any Town Council member or any other Town official or personnel.

Public comment referenced herein shall not constitute nor substitute for Public Hearing requirements as otherwise provided for in these rules.