The meeting was called to order by Councilman Nocera at 6:34 p.m. Councilman Pessina moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated June 8, 2022. Councilman McKeon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:
David Sandler asked about speed bumps on Lyceum Road. Councilman Nocera questioned if we have portable speed bumps but Director Holden stated he doesn't believe we have any. David Sandler stated why the patch job can’t just be left as is if the road needs to remain open as there are other streets in the area that need the attention and it’s a waste of money. Councilman Nocera stated that there isn’t typically a back and forth during public comment but the issue is going to be revisited after the winter. The City wants to maintain a better clearing of the culvert as they believe that could be the reason the water isn’t draining from the area.

Kristen Rzasa is in attendance regarding a potential dog park in the City. She had met with Director Holden and shared her ideas for the park. She reached out to different dog parks in the area including Cromwell and Rocky Hill. She connected with Senator Lesser who is in full support of the dog park. She stated that Director Holden has a copy of a 500 person petition for the dog park.

As there were no other members of the public present, public comment was closed.

CORRESPONDENCE:
No comment on correspondence.
NEW BUSINESS:

a) Connecticut Tree Protective Association Summer Meeting - Rick Romano- Councilman Pessina moved to approve this meeting and Councilman McKeon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Vets Park Skating Rink - Director Holden stated that the last few seasons there has been wear and tear on the skating rink. Research will need to be done to know what type of additional maintenance will need to be done so that it is safe for use during the winter time. Councilman Nocera stated the skating rink has grown in popularity particularly for parties. More people are booking the skating rink and it has taken abuse. Councilman Pessina stated the new riverfront plan calls for a public skating rink. Director Holden stated that a level survey was completed and they will be taking a deeper look into the results of the survey.

c) Bulky Waste Budget - Director Holden stated this is a proposed budget balanced between expenditures and revenues. This is what is taken in at the Transfer Station, Bulky Waste taken at the curbside and illegal dumping. The resolution dated July 11, 2022 was read for the record by Director Holden. Councilman Pessina made a motion to move the Bulky Waste budget forward to Finance & Government. Councilman McKeon seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

d) Dog Park - Councilman Nocera stated the 21st Century feasibility study done in 2014 and approved by the council in 2015 did call for looking for a location for a dog park. There are developed plans as concepts only in Marszalek Park that the commission will revisit as we are at a point now where ¾ of the Parks are done and larger projects still need to be addressed before the dog park. The dog park is certainly not forgotten but no permanent decision has been made. Councilman Pessina stated Marszalek Park would be a great choice as it is already fenced in and would save the City money. The money spent would not be astronomical to move forward.

e) Solar project virtual net metering to the Landfill- Director Holden stated roughly a year ago an RFQ was sent out for virtual net metering for the Landfill. The project would be to install solar panels to the landfill area. Eversource gave a price of .15 cents per kilowatt hour. The installation would cost .12.9 cents per kilowatt hour, which would give the City of Middletown a credit of 2.1 cent per kilowatt hour that is generated from the system. That translates to roughly $22,000 of revenue/credits to offset other electrical accounts for a 20 year period. It’s about $450,000 credits over a 20 year period. Councilman Nocera asked what the review process is like for a situation like this. Director Holden stated that a committee went through the proposals, the legal department for the agreements and the Mayor’s Office on the project. It will go to Planning & Zoning. It has been through the Clean Energy TaskForce before. Councilman McKeon asked what the placement for the panels will be. Director Holden stated a profile was completed and they will not obstruct the view from the top of the hill. It is a 750 kilowatt system. There was a vote to move this forward to Planning & Zoning for review. It passed without objection. There was a motion by Councilman Pessina to add the solar project to the agenda under new business. Councilman McKeon seconded it. It passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Lyceum Road – Director Holden stated that Lyceum Road is temporarily fixed with patching the existing potholes. Councilman Nocera stated this is the best thing to do until after the winter to see if the ice and water impact the state of the road. In addition, he would like the Highway crew to look at the culverts occasionally to make sure they are not clogged up.
b. Recreation Center Update – Director Holden stated the pool is starting to take shape, walls throughout the center are painted. Duct and HVAC work is happening. Councilman Nocera questioned which phase with controlled energy and solar we are at. Since it is a lease agreement we don’t get progress payments and can get that information for the August meeting. Director Holden stated that Clark Energy is doing the combined heat pump, generator and solar work.

c. Veterans Pool and Splash Pad Update – Director Christopher Holden reported that the first meeting with the Water Department and the contractor is 7/14/22 to ensure the contractor understands all the water and sewer work that needs to happen and on Monday the 18th there is a preconstruction meeting for the Vets Pool project. Construction will follow soon after.

d. Multiuse Trail Update – Director Holden stated that though he hasn’t made it out yet he will go out and check the Wadsworth Mansion Trail. Councilman Nocera stated that there is a trail that goes from behind Snow School that leads all the way to Wadsworth Falls that is almost impassable. It hasn’t been maintained well. He wonders if perhaps the Parks Bond could support the improvements of as there is a trail that has been finished on Long Lane and Long Hill that could connect to the one behind Wadsworth. The property is owned by the City but maintained by a different commission that are struggling to do so. The Mayor is interested in them pursuing maintaining this trail. This trail was traveled by George Washington and would be a shame to lose the historical value. Councilman McKeon stated the maintenance of this trail should not continuously come out of a park bond and should be built into the Public Works budget along with the other multiuse trail maintenance. Director Holden stated Public Works hasn’t been involved in maintaining their spaces before other than in very specific situations.

e. Fencing and Scoreboard – The PO for the fencing will be issued shortly. Director Holden doesn’t have any additional information regarding the scoreboard. He has the specs for the scoreboard. The hope is to get some games on the new field by late September or October.

Additional New Business: none

OTHER: Reported on by Christopher Holden

a. Director Holden commented on how busy the Parks Department has been maintaining all the fields for the festivals that have been ongoing. There were several major events over June and the beginning of July. The next few weeks they will be putting in long days for the Nutmeg Games. The Highway Division is gearing back up for Atkins Street drainage work. Basswood drive drainage issues are being addressed. Silver St and Westfield Terrace will be milled over the next few weeks and then paved in early August. Bartholomew Rd will be worked on next. Saybrook Road is being worked on with Cardinal for the final agreements with homeowners so that it can be submitted to the State for review. Councilman Pessina requested that the number of addresses that are not cooperating with Cardinal be listed for the next commission meeting. Councilman Nocera requested Cardinal attend the next commission meeting and provide an update.


c. June 2022 Monthly Report - Parks Division – Using overtime right now to maintain fields and get ready for the Nutmeg Games.

d. June 2022 Public Works Overtime Report- Festival showmobile, cleanup, and sanitation services.
e. June 2022 Building Permits – Permit revenue is at $915,682. Wesleyan has some large projects ongoing which contributed to this number.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

Adjourn – As there were no further questions, Councilman Pessina moved to adjourn and Councilman McKeon seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.