



**Special Town Board Meeting
Thursday June 24, 2020, 7 p.m.
Via Teleconference**

Present: Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilwoman Alexandra Baer, Councilman David Brownstein, Councilman Daniel Torres, and Councilwoman Julie Seyfert-Lillis

Also Present: Chief Robert Lucchesi, William Wallens, and Matthew Ryan.

At 7:04 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the Special Town Board Meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input:

The following email was sent to the Town Clerk to be added to the minutes as part of public input:

Matteo Undici-

1. All meetings and matters pertaining to NYS Gov. Cuomo's Executive Order 203: NEW YORK STATE POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE should be posted visibly and consistently on the front page of the Town of New Paltz Dot Org webpage to ensure community engagement and participation.

2. The Town of New Paltz should immediately issue a formal statement of whistleblower protection for all policing concerns and other municipal matters to be reported by any municipal employee and community member and reviewed independently; as well as a direct order explicitly prohibiting any form of intimidation or retaliation by municipal employees on or off duty. This safeguard is essential for community wellness and dialogue to proceed in accordance with NYS Gov. Cuomo's Executive Order 203.

3. The Town of New Paltz Police Commission must immediately be reopened to community member representation for full transparency and fairness.

4. A community interagency task force should be created with the 4 overlapping policing entities of New Paltz Police Dept., Ulster County Sheriff, NYS Police, and NYS University Police to address numerous concerns. Community members must be directly involved as stakeholders.

5. A comprehensive review of training and ongoing supervision for all municipal employees to ensure that all community members are provided with welcoming respectful unbiased services and support. This includes addressing implicit biases, structural and interpersonal racism, sexism and misogyny, homophobia and transphobia, islamophobia and antisemitism, xenophobia, autism awareness, trauma informed care, mental health first aid, and other identified needs.

I look forward to your hearing and seeing your support of these imperative efforts.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Executive Session:

At 7:07 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:34 Supervisor Bettez made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried. Supervisor Bettez announced that the Town Board will continue reviewing the records and will see what options they have moving forward, while following advice from the Town's attorneys.

A motion by Supervisor Bettez to schedule an emergency meeting on Monday June 29th at 7:00 pm. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Justice Court Project:

Councilman Torres made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to approve expenses on the justice court project above the limits on the spending freeze as long as the expenses are part of the budget for that project which is separate from regular town budget. Seconded by Supervisor Bettez, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Councilman Brownstein gave an update on the status of the questions asked at the last Town Hall-Policing Meeting. He stated that a transcript will be prepared for next week's Town Board meeting. He also announced that a proposed plan for police transformation and reformation will also be discussed at that time.

At 9:41 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Mazzaccari
Deputy Town Clerk