

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES
MAY 5, 2026**

The Borough of Naugatuck held the Board of Mayor and Burgesses meeting on a hybrid basis. Everyone was welcomed to attend in person, by Zoom Webinar or by phone.

1. Mayor N. Warren “Pete” Hess called the regular meeting to order at **7:05 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

BURGESSES:

R. Vitale
M. Bronko, absent
K. Gallo
K. Kimball
C. Marenghi

R. Neth, virtual
D. Neth-Kunin
J. Rosenblatt
J. Velazquez

PRESS:

None

RESIDENTS:

Unable to determine due to format

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

E. Cornacchia, Controller
K. Hanks, Fire Chief
M. Chatfield, Deputy Fire Chief

J. Kallipolites, IT Director
C. McAllister, Chief of Police

OTHERS:

P. Munko, Munko Creative
E. Fitzpatrick, Borough Attorney
S. Samela, Board of Finance

K. Kelley, NAC Chief, virtual
E. Dalton, Fire Marshall

2. Burgess Jose Velazquez led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. **VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Deputy Mayor Vitale and seconded by Burgess Rosenblatt that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses approve regular meeting of **April 7, 2026** and the special meetings of **April 7, 2026** and **April 27, 2026**. Each member received copies for review.
4. **VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Deputy Mayor Vitale and seconded by Burgess Rosenblatt that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses approve the monthly reports of **April**. Each member received copies for review.
5. Mayor’s Opening Comments
Mayor Hess said a lot of things have been happening with the legislature over the past several weeks. The Board of Education received an additional 1.4 million dollars and the town received an additional unrestricted \$400,000. He thanked our legislative delegation and lobbyists fighting for us in Hartford.
6. Public Comment – Open Topic
A resident commented on the lack of advertisement for the recent referendum. He asked if a call could be sent to all residents since people don’t get the newspaper or are not on social media. He would be in favor of lowering the mill rate instead of the projects. Mayor Hess replied the capital projects referendum will not affect the mil rate. He agreed that it wasn’t

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highly advertised but said suggestions are needed as to how to let everyone know. Code Red calls are only for emergencies and could not be used to inform people of the upcoming referendum.

7. NAC Chief Kyle Kelley gave an update on the **Naugatuck Ambulance Corps (NAC)**. He said they have been busier than normal. NAC responded to 425 calls in April with 29 mutual aid calls. Chief Kelley applied for a grant through the Saunders Trust Fund for point of care ultrasound machines in the field and also applied for a grant from ION Bank. They've never been able to bring a brand new paramedic onto the team until now. Deputy Mayor Vitale said NAC is setting the bar for other ambulance corps. There are very well trained people on the ambulances.
8. **DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENTS** – Parking, Crests, Facades, Murals, Planters, Amenities, etc. Paul Munko, Munko Creatives, said the crests will be in place by the 250th Celebration of our country on July 4th. Kiosk boards will have detailed information regarding each crest.
Burgess Kimball and Burgess Rosenblatt reached out to downtown businesses regarding parking. Where do employees park? Employees are parking downtown. People were vocally against metered parking. Mayor Hess asked them to look into parking apps. Different type apps can be tailored to fit our needs.
The Facade Committee approved fourteen facades downtown. Two applications are being tweaked. In the next few months, they will start giving 50% of the cost up to \$50,000.
The first mural is being painted behind the Old Salem Theatre. Various groups are working behind the Loaded Goat to upgrade the alleyway. He is looking for artistic input and ideas for the planters downtown to be painted.
9. Discussion regarding a proposed **Vaping Ordinance**. Burgess Kimball said adopting a Vaping Ordinance will eliminate illegal activity targeting minors and stopping vape stores from selling cannabis. Chief McAllister said an ordinance will allow the police department to levy fines or possibly site businesses. They routinely find unauthorized THC products at these businesses. He said these shops are not locally owned and operated. LLCs are being transferred and the police department needs to know who is behind these businesses. Borough Attorney Fitzpatrick said the borough had nine vape shops, we now have sixteen. There would be a sixty day requirement to register if the ordinance is adopted. After three violations, the license would be revoked. He suggests we regulate not ban vape shops. They are in the process of drafting zoning regulations.
10. Burgess Gallo said there are more activities happening at the **Senior Center**. The Kentucky Derby Event, tiramisu and pizza making, plus crafts. There is positive reaction to more activities. Burgess Rosenblatt started the walking club. There is an increase in membership.
11. Mayor Hess said there is money in the budget to develop a **DESTINATION NAUGATUCK/BRANDING AND TOWNWIDE PROMOTION** concept. He said we need to get it going, get ideas and then expand upon it.
12. The **Artificial Intelligence Policy Committee** met and discussed drafts from around the state and detailed definitions.

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13. **VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Deputy Mayor Vitale and seconded by Burgess Rosenblatt that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses authorize Mayor Hess to execute all contracts and related documents for the proposed **purchase of 151 Elm Street** based on a report from the Planning Commission pursuant to Section 8-24 of the CT General Statutes.
14. **VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Deputy Mayor Vitale and seconded by Burgess Rosenblatt that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses authorize Mayor Hess to execute all contracts and related documents for the proposed **purchase of 889 New Haven Road** based on a report from the Planning Commission pursuant to Section 8-24 of the CT General Statutes.

For the record:

Mayor Hess: “I’ll just note for the record it’s been discussed at about eight previous meetings but if there are any questions or comments, now’s the time.”

15. **VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Deputy Mayor Vitale and seconded by Burgess Rosenblatt that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses authorize Controller Eileen A. Cornacchia to refund the following tax refunds approved by Tax Collector James Goggin; as if read:

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Over Paid
2021-01-0009742	SOUTHWOOD GARDENS LLC	34 PROSPECT STREET	WATERBURY, CT 06702	-11,668.72
2022-01-0009760	SOUTHWOOD GARDENS LLC	34 PROSPECT STREET	WATERBURY, CT 06702	-53,128.46
2023-01-0009782	SOUTHWOOD GARDENS LLC	34 PROSPECT STREET	WATERBURY, CT 06702	-93,026.76
2024-01-0002376	CREAN SUZANNE D. TRUSTEE	26 STONEYBROOK ROAD	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-95.76
2024-01-0003556	FINK, ROBERT L., JR.	36 WYANT ROAD	OXFORD, CT 06478	-93.07
2024-01-0009778	SOUTHWOOD GARDENS LLC	34 PROSPECT STREET	WATERBURY, CT 06702	-64,061.90
2024-02-0040467	J H BARLOW PUMP & SUPPLY CO., INC.	1615 WOLCOTT ROAD	WOLCOTT, CT 06716	-714.30
2024-03-0050118	ACAR LEASING LTD	P.O. BOX 1990	FORT WORTH, TX 76101	-158.40
2024-03-0052239	BLACK, JOHN L.	89 KINGSWOOD DRIVE	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-52.10
2024-03-0052240	BLACK, JOHN L.	89 KINGSWOOD DRIVE	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-90.24
2024-03-0057126	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, SUITE 1905	HARTFORD, CT 06103	-249.30
2024-03-0057134	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, SUITE 1905	HARTFORD, CT 06103	-365.40
2024-03-0057135	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, SUITE 1905	HARTFORD, CT 06103	-365.40
2024-03-0057136	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, SUITE 1905	HARTFORD, CT 06103	-186.50
2024-03-0057338	ELDERKIN, ROBERT E.	87 PLATTS MILL ROAD	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-95.17
2024-03-0058650	GALVAO, JOSE M.	282 SPRING STREET	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-298.60
2024-03-0060638	HOCHON, BARBARA M.	35 GORMAN STREET	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-105.82
2024-03-0063593	LONGO, MICHELLE L.	500 SPRING STREET	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-50.64
2024-03-0066678	NEWMARK, CATHLEEN F.	14 TIDMOUTH COURT	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-278.03
2024-03-0071665	SHEMANSKI, SHIRLEY Z.	33 PIERCE LANE	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-133.58
2024-03-0074226	VAULT TRUST	500 WOODWARD AVENUE	DETROIT, MI 48226	-393.85
2024-03-0075121	WILSON, JOHN K.	23651 VIA CARINO LANE	BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135	-247.84
2024-04-0082366	ESMERIO-DAPAZ, GLEBERSON	961 NEW HAVEN ROAD	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-72.95
2024-04-0082828	CHEVER, KATINA E.	33 SWEENEY STREET	NAUGATUCK, CT 06770	-28.44

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			TOTAL	225,961.23
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16. Public Comment – Agenda Items – None

17. Mayor and Burgess Comments/Sub-Committee Reports

Burgess Kimball asked why the lights downtown are not on at night. Mayor Hess replied they are not working properly, there are electrical defects.

Burgess Neth-Kunin reported bands for the summer concert have been selected and the concerts will be held in the same location as last year. On August 8th there will be the music crawl with band stations and food trucks.

Deputy Mayor Vitale said on April 7th will be a rabies clinic. The fire department will hold a flower sale on Saturday. The first festival of the year will be on May 9th. There will be helicopter deliveries to the Amazon site on May 30th.

Burgess Rosenblatt asked everyone to respond to the invitation for the Adult Education Graduation being held on May 28th.

Burgess Marengi reminded everyone of the early morning ceremonies which are held prior to the Memorial Day Parade honoring those that gave their lives. He said to think of all the freedom paid by a heavy price. He asked if there was any way we could hold future referendums at a centralized location like Salem School.

Deputy Mayor Vitale asked if there was another program like Code Red to let everyone know. He was told there is but it is costly.

Burgess Gallo said the mayor's comments about the town and Board of Education being a 50/50 relationship means a lot to her. She is grateful to his awesome leadership. She spoke to a younger person raising a family in town who couldn't understand why anyone would vote against the referendum. They like the progress happening in town.

18. **VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Deputy Mayor Vitale and seconded by Burgess Rosenblatt that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses recess to Executive Session at **8:16 p.m.** for discussion on the following: **Real Estate** (Parcels A, B, C, Y & Z, Naugatuck Industrial Park Section III, Freight Rail Discussion, Energy Park/Data Center, Hershey Property), **Personnel** (Parks Superintendent) and **Pending Litigation**. No one was invited into executive session.

Mayor Hess reconvened the meeting at **8:46 p.m.**

19. There were no motions emanating from Executive Session.

20. **VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Deputy Mayor Vitale and seconded by Burgess Rosenblatt that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses adjourn the regular meeting at **8:46 p.m.**

A digital recording of this meeting is available in the office of the Borough Clerk for further review.

Attest:

Nancy K. DiMeo, Borough Clerk