

SWEARING – IN CEREMONY
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2002

8:00 P.M.

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:04 P.M. and requested that the Color Guards from American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post 73, American Legion Siedlicki Post #187, VFW Major Raoul Lufbery Post #591 and VFW Stanley Budleski Post #9965 come forward.

The Color Guards took their position.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was performed by Rev. Eric Fjeldal of the Yalesville United Methodist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patricia C. Lizotte, VFW Post No. 591 Auxiliary President.

The Sheehan High School Brass Ensemble, led by Fred E. Rossomando, performed The National Anthem.

SWEARING IN OF MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.

Judge of Probate, Philip W. Wright, Jr. administered the Oath of Office to William W. Dickinson, Jr. as Mayor of the Town of Wallingford, Connecticut (Applause)

Judge Wright – “ Do you, William W. Dickinson, Jr., solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as Mayor of the Town of Wallingford to the best of your abilities so help you God?

Mayor Dickinson: “I do.”

Mayor Dickinson was sworn in at 8:13 P.M.

(Applause)

Judge Wright: Congratulations, Mr. Mayor

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. – “The agenda calls for me to make a few remarks so I guess I will take advantage of the moment to do so. It is a delight to see all of you here and certainly we appreciate your presence and interest. I congratulate all of the other elected officials who are here. We undertake serious responsibilities for the next two years. This ceremony is one that follows an election. During the election much is discussed about our community; its needs; and our plans for this new term of office. We have discussed budgets and revaluations, school projects, housing for the elderly, open space, electric rates and recreation. I could talk further about these but it reminds me of a little story. A woman writes that the morning following the birth of their first child the husband was mistakenly directed to the room of another new mother on the maternity floor. He walked into the room, bent over the napping mother whose back was turned to him and gave her a big kiss. The woman turned and was startled to see a stranger. Before she could say anything, the husband smiled and said, “I didn’t know having a baby would change you so much.” The new year is yet a baby but our priorities have not changed. We live in a great town with a thriving civic spirit and active patriotism. There are challenges which need attention; some have been mentioned; others include caring for one another and understanding our differences. Our great attribute is our willingness to work together for goals which enhance the total community. I want to mention two things in relation to our work for the next two years; one concerns the great gift of time. It is important that we allow enough time for our plans to develop. There is a true story that comes out of Louisville, Kentucky. It involved a woman strolling through a park with a Polaroid camera on her shoulder. She was headed for a picnic. It was a beautiful day. Suddenly she heard steps running up behind her. Someone jerked at her arm, grabbed the camera and took off through the woods. A patrol officer heard her scream and set out to render her assistance. Shortly thereafter, about a quarter-mile away, the perpetrators were in a grove of woods checking out this camera. They each took the other’s picture but what came out of the camera was just black; the camera wasn’t working. They tossed these pictures on the ground and decided they would go off to a pawn shop to see what they could get for the camera. Along the way they took pictures of a variety of other things. Each time, the pictures came out black so they tossed it on the ground and headed on their way. The police, who were in hot pursuit, found this trail of breadcrumbs, the developing pictures. As we know, Polaroids don’t instantly develop, it takes a little time. They had no time! They couldn’t wait. The police ended up with pictures of them and everything that they had taken a picture of and were apprehended. This is what we need to keep in mind; we need to give our plans time to develop. Remember this; Stephen Wright, comedian states, “Everywhere is within walking distance, if you have the time.” Hodding Carter, United States politician and journalist states, “There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children; one of these is roots; the other is wings.” Roots and wings! Sounds like a contradiction, but only in the physical sense. Personalities, goals and dreams have the best

chance of becoming a beautiful reality when each person has a strong sense of caring and belonging. Behind our plans should be the encouragement of roots and wings for everyone. Robert Fulghum and his book, "It was on fire when I lay down on it", I have mentioned it before; I love that title; "It was on fire when I lay down on it" makes you want to ask all kinds of questions about the circumstances. In his book he provides his list of nine recommendations. Then he mentions that we know about the ten commandments and we know about Murphy's Law and, of course, Murphy's Law states that, no matter what you do, it probably won't work out right. Robert Fulghum has his own recommendations; "1) buy lemonade from any kid who is selling it; 2) any time you can vote on anything, vote; 3) attend the twenty-fifth reunion of your high school class; 4) choose having time over having money; 5) always take the scenic route; 6) give at least something to any needy person; 7) give money to all street musicians; 8) always be someone's valentine; and 9) when the circus comes to town, be there." I guess I would add, the world needs smiles and a little fun, at times. Let's be part of it. And if you happen to be worried about the value of things, remember James Brewers comment when he said, "A smile increases your face value." Thank you very much.

At this time Mayor Dickinson asked Probate Judge Philip A. Wright, Jr. to come forward to administer the Oath of Office to the Town Council.

SWEARING-IN OF TOWN COUNCIL

Judge of Probate Philip A. Wright, Jr. asked that the following individuals step forward collectively so that he may perform the Swearing-In Ceremony for the Wallingford Town Council:

Michael Brodinsky
Lois Doherty
Gerald E. Farrell, Jr.
Stephen W. Knight
Iris F. Papale
Robert F. Parisi
Raymond J. Rys, Sr.
Hank Toman
James Vumbaco

Judge Wright – instructed all Councilors to raise their right hand and asked, "Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge according to law your duties as members of the Town Council of Wallingford to the best of your ability so help you God?"

Town Council (collectively) "I do."

The Town Councilors were sworn in at 8:21 P.M.

Judge Wright congratulated the newly sworn-in Councilors.

(Applause)

Mayor Dickinson congratulated the new Councilors, called the meeting in session at 8:22 p.m. and asked for a Roll Call of the Town Council members at this time.

ROLL CALL OF TOWN COUNCIL

All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Council Secretary, Kathryn F. Zandri.

ELECTION AND SWEARING-IN OF TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Mayor Dickinson stated, the floor is open for nominations for the position of Town Council Chairman.

Councilor Gerald E. Farrell, Jr. stated, "Mr. Mayor, members of the Town Council, distinguished citizens and guests, I would like to put into nomination for the position of Town Council Chairman, the name of a man who has served this town in many ways for many years. We all know this person for his variety of different talents. One of his more unknown talents came to light during the recent election. During the campaign, all of the Republican candidates for Town Council were given bright blue shirts with their names and the words, "R-Team" plastered all over them. A friend of mine, sensing that perhaps these shirts were not necessarily what I would choose to wear, needled me. He asked me where I had gotten these shirts. I explained to my friend, "a famous Italian-American designer made these for us. Not a Versace, not an Armani; Roberto; Roberto Parisi." Little did we all know that among Bob's many talents was that of fashion designer. While we all laugh at that little anecdote, as silly as it is, perhaps does reveal the quality that has made Bob a great Town Council Chairman. He has an ability to get people to work together, and the shirts are a case in point. As my friend knew, and perhaps my family can tell you in even more explicit detail, I never liked those shirts; I hated wearing them, but I did wear them because Bob asked me to; because Bob said that it was for the good of the team. Because he tried to work with me and I, in turn, tried to work with him and that has been very true of Bob during the six years that I have served with him on the Council and the many years before that I knew him. No matter what individual was involved, democrat, republican, member of the public, Mayor, department head, whomever, Bob sought to get them to work together for the good of this town. That has been his hallmark and that is why he merits another term as Council Chairman. Mr. Mayor, put my vote down for being for my favorite Italian American fashion designer; Roberto; Roberto Parisi.

Mayor Dickinson called for a second to the nomination.

Mr. Rys seconded the nomination.

Mayor Dickinson: hearing no other nominations, is there a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the unanimous election of Robert Parisi as Chairman?

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Toman.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Mayor Dickinson congratulated Mr. Parisi on being elected Chairman.

(Applause)

Chairman Parisi: It is going to be a rough two years. I have heard that rendition of my designing ability too many times but Gerry really likes it so I said, fine, go ahead. Good evening Mayor Dickinson, fellow Councilors, members of the Board of Ed, Veterans Organizations, Mr. Rossomondo and the Sheehan High School ensemble, Rev. Fejeldal, Father McDonald, Commander James Dunn, Judge Wright, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for sharing this night with us. I thank my colleagues for their vote of confidence and I look forward to another two years of hard work. I will, at this time, acknowledge the work of my good friend, Vice Chairman Ray Rys, Sr., who has served this Council and our town faithfully and look forward to working with Councilor Stephen Knight. I officially welcome our two new Councilors and will enjoy the opportunity to work with them also. There are many challenges ahead of us and I am confident that this Council is up to the task. Re-evaluation, school building project, future discussions and actions to secure electrical power contracts for the Town, to name a few. The next two years will be exciting and challenging. Our focus will be to stay the course and to maintain a calm and steady path to a future that will be as bright as the present and the past. With the philosophy of teamwork, we can do that. Thank you.

(Applause)

ELECTION AND SWEARING-IN OF TOWN COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN

At this time Chairman Parisi called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Councilor Rys: Mr. Chairman, tonight I would like to place into nomination for the position of Vice Chairman a good friend of mine who I know will do an excellent job. Once this friend, in defending me said that if he was in the war zone, he would have no second thoughts of sharing

a fox hole with me. I guess he really trusted me to make the right decisions and now I feel the same way about him. He is a good father and a husband; he runs his own successful business in town; is a good Town Councilor who I have had the opportunity of serving for the past eight years. Last but not least, he is a great friend. I place into nomination the name of Steve Knight for the next Town Council Vice Chairman.

Seconded by Ms. Doherty.

Chairman Parisi moved that the secretary to cast one unanimous ballot for the election of Stephen Knight as Vice Chairman of the Wallingford Town Council. Seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

(Applause)

Mr. Knight: Thank you Mayor Dickinson, Town Councilors; members of the public. I will, uncharacteristically, be a man of few words. I will thank you all for your confidence. My intention is to serve not just the Chairman but also this body. This is the legislative body of Wallingford and a very hallowed place and my intention is to serve the entire Town Council in whatever capacity I can. Thank you.

(Applause)

SWEARING IN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

At this time Chairman Parisi asked that the following individuals step forward to be sworn in by Judge Wright as members of the Board of Education:

Carmen J. Arisco, Jr.
Joan Barbuto
Andrew Bravo
Brian Doonan
Carol Hayden

Thomas Hennessey
Linda Langan
Michael T. Spiteri
Vincent Testa

Judge Wright administered the Oath of Office: "Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as members of the Wallingford Board of Education to the best of your ability, so help you God?"

A collective "I do" was the response given.

(Applause)

The Board of Education was sworn in at 8:31 P.M.

APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING-IN OF TOWN CLERK

Mr. Knight: I would be honored to place into nomination the name of Rosemary Rascati to continue the excellent work she does as Town Clerk for the Town of Wallingford, seconded by Ms. Doherty.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Judge Wright administered the Oath of Office: "Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge according to law your duties as the Town Clerk of Wallingford to the best of your ability, so help your God?"

Mrs. Rascati: "I do."

(Applause)

The Town Clerk was sworn in at 8:32 P.M.

BENEDICTION

The Benediction was performed by Rev. Charles McDonald.

Commander James Dunn, American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post #73, performed God Bless America at this time.

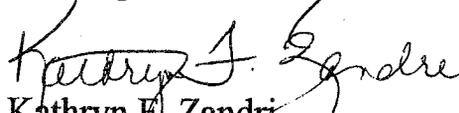
(Applause)

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Rys.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:


Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by: Robert F. Parisi (by RR) 1-22-02
 Robert F. Parisi, Chairman Date

Rosemary A. Rascati 1-22-02
 Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1-14-02
 3 45 P M AND RECORDED BY
Rosemary Rascati TOWN CLERK