

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
Town Council Chambers  
November 22, 2016**

**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 was called to order at 6:44 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, John J. Sullivan, Thomas Laffin, Christopher K. Shortell, Vincent F. Testa, Jr. and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney, Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller, James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Cervoni welcomed the Town Clerk's student, Derick Arnold, a freshman from Sheehan High School, who is shadowing her.

2. Roll Call

3. Consent Agenda

3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$15,408.23 (#462-504)  
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector

3b. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,689 from Maintenance of Equipment, Acct. #10020150-54325 to New Capital Account, Acct. #TBD – Fire Dept.

3c. Acceptance of Donation and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$4,974 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS

3d. Acceptance of Grant from Workforce Alliance, Inc. and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,902 to Revenue, Acct. #2274002-47010 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22702017-51000 – Y&SS

3e. Acceptance of Donations and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$669 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS

3f. Acceptance of Donations for the Soldier Program and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$92 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS

3g. Acceptance of Donation from Wallingford Elks Lodge #1365 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$250 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations – Police, Acct. #25020050-58830 - TBD – Police Dept.

- 3h. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1740 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Custodial Services, Acct. #10020050-56736 – Police Dept.
- 3i. Approve Town Council Minutes of November 8, 2016.
- 3j. Consider and Approve Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2017.

**ADDENDUM TO CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3k. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$19,000 from Contingency-Gen., Acct. #10019000-58820 to Regular Wages – Bldg. Dept., Acct. #10010550 –51000 - Building Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3k.**

**MADE BY:               LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY:       FISHBEIN**  
**VOTE:                   9-AYE**  
**MOTION:               PASSED**

- 4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda - *None***

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked how much money we put into the transfer station and Mayor Dickinson responded that he does not recall.

Mr. Gross then asked if there was any thought of town wide pick-up of trash and Mayor Dickinson stated that will only become an issue with the flow control. Mr. Gross asked if the Town is willing to look at the cost of this and Mayor Dickinson replied that we could look at it but noted that it is a complicated issue.

- 6. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Tentative Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and AFSCME Co. 4, Local 1570 covering Police Officers effective July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018 – Personnel - *Withdrawn*
- 7. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Tentative Agreement between the Wallingford Board of Education and the Wallingford Education Association (teachers) Contract effective July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020 - BOE

*In Attendance: Salvatore F. Menzo, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Cindy Lavalette, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel  
Roxanne McKay, Board Chairman*

Councilor Sullivan and Councilor Testa recused themselves from this item.

Cindy Lavalette highlighted the three year contract increases:

Increase	Step Increase
Year 1: 1.5%	2.95%
Year 2: 1.6%	2.98%
Year 3: 1.62%	2.82%
Total:	8.75% over three years

Cindy Lavalette then stated the insurance offered is still a PPO.

Councilor Shortell stated that the life of the contract totals 8.75% but when doing the stats, he gets larger increases.

Cindy Lavalette indicated that most of the teachers are at the top of the pay scale. She then went on to state that top end teachers are getting less, never more.

Councilor Shortell questioned where our teacher salaries are compared to other towns.

Cindy Lavalette responded that they are competitive, slightly above the middle of the pack.

Councilor Shortell asked how many teachers are participating in PPA vs. HSA.

Cindy Lavalette responded that she is not sure but 380 teachers are currently taking advantage of the HSA.

Councilor Shortell inquired about the dress code.

Cindy Lavalette stated that we have a parent group coming up with a dress code for students and noted that we should have a dress code for teachers.

Dr. Menzo wants to compliment the Teacher's Union for a professional presentation and negotiation process.

Councilor Marrone questioned how many years HSA Insurance has been available.

Cindy Lavalette indicated that we are in our third year.

Councilor Fishbein expressed to Dr. Menzo that he was surprised that the first thing on his list was dress code.

Councilor Fishbein asked why five days of absence for a medical condition for siblings and domestic partners has been added and why this is in the contract. He then asks if there is a clause to opt out of the Union.

Cindy Lavalette replied that we have one member who is not part of the Union.

Mayor Dickinson stated that this contract was responsibly negotiated, but at a 2.9% increase, we are at an unsustainable arena for us. He then went on to state that collective bargaining is broken.

Councilor LeTourneau stated that over three years, this is a 1 mill increase and indicated that this is very troubling.

Councilor Zandri questioned if a full mill for a medium home is \$200 per homeowner?

Mr. Bowes responded about \$270 on average for a homeowner.

8. **MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE GIFTS TO THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2015-2016 TOTALING \$245,585**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: NO</b>	<b>SULLIVAN: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>LETOURNEAU: NO</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>7-AYE: YES</b>	
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>	

9. Discussion regarding Security at the Center Street Cemetery – Councilor John Sullivan

*In Attendance: Peter Gouveia, Bob DeVaney*

Councilor Sullivan indicated that he wanted to find out from Mr. Gouveia and Mr. DeVaney where we are at for security at the cemetery.

Mr. Gouveia stated that they have accomplished a lot and want to have motion detectors and cameras in the cemetery. He then pointed out that this last piece of vandalism is so much smaller than we have had before and noted that he doesn't know why it got so much publicity. He then stated that they have tried to have Public Works install the cameras but they are waiting on the Electric Division to run the wires. He then explained that they have not dropped the ball, they need the electricity.

Mayor Dickinson stated that the Electric Division is not licensed to do the work. An electrician must be hired.

Councilor Sullivan indicated that a private contractor is going to need to be hired to do the work. He then stated that he believes that the gates should be closed and asked if the gates close.

Mr. Gouveia replied that the gates do not close and that the police patrol in there at night. He then went on to say that the motion detector lights will go on and hopefully deter people from hanging around.

Mr. DeVaney stated that the \$35,000 cost of repairs came from the past few years of fixing headstones.

Mr. DeVaney stated that they are getting prices on having electricity run. He then went on to state that he thought the Electric Department would do this but they will only energize the polls outside and then a trench would be needed to run the wire. He explained that public works would do the trench but a contractor would run the wire.

Councilor Sullivan indicated that we have an obligation to preserve this cemetery and secure it. Mr. Gouveia agreed that we should protect it and noted that the first person was buried there in 1683.

Councilor Sullivan stated that he is not sure if we have the \$15,000 for the wiring in this budget.

Councilor Fishbein agreed that the gates to the cemetery should be closed. He then asked Mr. DeVaney if they plan to motion activate the whole cemetery. Mr. DeVaney responded no, only certain areas.

Councilor LeTourneau suggested having an engineer come in and draw a plan and maybe look into an automatic gate closer.

Councilor Zazdri commends Mr. DeVaney on how much knowledge he has about the cemetery.

Councilor Sullivan thanks Mr. DeVaney and Mr. Gouveia for coming and states “We support you, let’s get it done”.

10. **MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to CGS Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending litigation matter of the *Town of Wallingford v. RMG Enterprises, Inc.* – Law Dept.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED: FISHBEIN  
VOTE: ALL-AYE  
MOTION PASSED**

11. **MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE A SETTLEMENT pursuant to the pending litigation matter of the *Town of Wallingford v. RMG Enterprises, Inc.***

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED: LETOURNEAU  
VOTE: 8 –AYE  
1 - No  
MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:50 P.M.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED: FISHBEIN**  
**VOTE: ALL-AYE**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Time of Executive Session 8:42 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.**

12. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor - *Withdrawn*

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**  
**MADE BY: FISHBEIN**  
**SECONDED BY: MARRONE**  
**VOTE: ALL-AYE**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:52 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded

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Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

Date

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Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date