

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

1-16-26

TUESDAY

JANUARY 13, 2026

6:30 P.M.

AT 12:59 pm

AND RECEIVED BY

Leanne Gnazzo

TOWN CLERK

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, was called to order at 6:32 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were, Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Jesse Reynolds Bryan Rivard, Melanie Rossacci, Christina Tatta and Chairman Vincent F. Testa. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Comptroller Timothy Sena and Assistant Town Clerk Leanna Gnazzo were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$34,571.77 (#503-#612) – Tax Dept.
 - 3b. Acceptance of donation from Puff City and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct #25020050-58830-10135 - Police Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement of Federal Taskforce Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$9,297 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3d. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement of Federal Taskforce Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,964 to Misc. Revenue, Acct #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement of Federal Taskforce Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,061 to Misc. Revenue, Acct #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct #10020050-51400 -Police Dept.
 - 3f. Consider and approve Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200,000 to Outside Contractors, Acct. #10020050-51600 and to Charges for Current Services, Acct. #1002001-46020 – Police Dept.
 - 3g. Acceptance of donation for youth recreation program fees and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
 - 3h. Acceptance of donation from Wallingford Rotary Foundation to be used for food assistance and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,200 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 -Y&SS

- 3i. Consider and approve FY 2025-2026 Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$46,700 from Cash (Retained Earnings) to Land, Acct. #43300310 – Water Div.
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,500 from Promotional Expenses, Acct #10011050-55405 to Operating Expenses, Acct #10011050-58735 - Economic Development
- 3k. Consider and approve Merit Review Board (1) – Human Resources
- 3l. Consider and approve Appointment of Casey Camire as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Term of three (3) years set to expire January 8, 2027 – Chairman Testa
- 3m. Approve Minutes of December 9, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting and January 5, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a – 3m.
MOTION WAS AMENDED TO APPROVE 3m AS THE AMENDED MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 9, 2025 REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND
JANUARY 5, 2026 SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.**

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

Councilor Tatta commented that Minutes have been Amended - Item 3m. Chairman Testa clarified the edits to the Minutes were misspellings of names.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda - NONE

8. Discussion and possible action to appoint Marla Roscoe to the Board of Education to fill a vacancy for the remaining two (2) year term – Chairman Testa. Item moved up on Agenda to accommodate Special Board of Education Meeting immediately following vote.

**MOTION MADE TO APPOINT MARLA ROSCOE TO THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR THE REMAINING 2-YEAR TERM**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

Councilor Rivard commented he is in support of Marla Roscoe and would like to hear Public Comment.

Chairman Testa opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main St, stated he knows the new Council will set an example of putting the community and Wallingford first.

Jared Liu, Curtis Avenue, spoke regarding the importance of Boards and Commissions, the process of appointing members and working together in a non-partisan way. He hopes the nomination is accepted.

Donna Regan, Dana Boulevard, stated the last vacancy on Board of Education was 2 years ago and was filled by the next highest vote-getter, Dr. Maureen Reed. She wanted to remind the public that the situation was handled in a manner with respect to both parties.

Keith Massimino stated that Marla Roscoe was the former Chair of the Board of Education and did not get re-elected in the last election.

Rajan Doering, Sharon Drive, asked for support for Marla Roscoe. Mrs. Roscoe was in 10th place in the Election, being a little over 100 votes out of ninth place. He encouraged the Council to consider Marla Roscoe and not let the Election results prohibit her from serving.

Jen Passaretti, Lincoln Drive, stated when she thinks about who she wants on our Board of Education, she doesn't want a politician. She wants a public servant, Marla Roscoe.

Councilor Allinson spoke in support of Marla Roscoe. She stated that Dr. Roscoe was the next vote-getter and has history on both sides, of taking feedback and placing appropriate persons into positions that were recommended.

Councilor Fishbein stated he supports the motion before the Council. He feels it is the right choice and the right person to fill the spot and creates a smooth, seamless transition for the Board of Education.

Councilor Rossacci expressed support for Marla Roscoe. She stated that she served with Dr. Roscoe on the Board of Education. Dr. Roscoe worked very easily across party lines, always putting the children and students first and did what was best for the schools and planning resources.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: YES	RIVARD: YES
CARMODY: YES	ROSSACCI: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	TATTA: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
REYNOLDS: YES	

9 – AYE
MOTION: PASSED

Assistant Town Clerk, Leanna Gnazzo gave Oath to Casey Camire as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Marla Roscoe to Board of Education.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

John Beecher, Seiter Hill Road, expressed concern as an election volunteer that the process is understaffed. He worries that our election will be sullied if we don't have the systems and the people in place to do the work that's necessary. He feels there is a need to find ways to get to the leadership of both parties to work together.

Keith Massimino asked Comptroller, Timothy Sena, if his office prepares the Annual Public Utility Commission budget reports. Mr. Sena stated his office does not. The reports are prepared by the Public Utility Commission.

Casey Camire, 219 South Main Street, sincerely thanked the Council for the opportunity to fulfill the remainder of Mr. Rivard's term as an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He's excited to be able to play a role in Wallingford and get back to more robust growth in the community.

Larry Kellogg, Stetson Street, stated he met with the Wallingford Police Chief and Assistant Police Chief regarding the intersection of Parker Farms Rd and North Colony Rd and was informed the traffic pattern policy is set by the State of CT. He has rectified his dilemma by walking his pup on Main St, around Choate. He expressed concern over the bridge on North Turnpike Rd not being cleared of snow. When he asked the Department of Maintenance about clearing the bridge, he was told it's a gray area because it is a state road but not on their approved list to clear. He asked the Council to review the Charter to see if this can be added.

Justin Weekes, South Whittlesey Ave, expressed concern over this year's Ramadan (February 17th – approximately March 19th) and the parking impacting the neighborhood of South Whittlesey Avenue and Ward Streets. There is limited off- street parking for handicapped individuals. He asked the Council to look at expanding parking to leave some space for the residents and businesses of South Whittlesey Ave and Ward St, to the other side of Ward St, for Ramadan and Friday services. He also asked the Wallingford Police Department to post signage for parking.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Testa

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr stated an engineering firm has completed the A2 survey and the Town Engineer has approved that survey. The issue is going back to Planning and Zoning Commission. The town has commenced to plow snow on that road. There are a couple of outstanding issues to be resolved. Attorney Small believes we're very close to accepting the road.

Chairman Testa stated he consulted with Town Planner, Kevin Pagini, about the Plan of Conservation Development and he wanted to remind the public that this process is going on and encourages everyone to visit the website: www.wallingford2036.com.

7. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$119,433 from Opioids Settlement, Acct. #25040350-58830-10180 to Fitness Court, Acct. #25040350-58830-10246 – Health Dept.

**MOTION MADE TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE TRANSFER IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$119,433 FROM OPIOIDS SETTLEMENT ACCT. #25040350-
58830-10180 TO FITNESS COURT, ACCT #25040350-58830-10246**

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

Director of Public Health, Vanessa Bautista addressed the Council regarding the transfer of the remaining opioid settlement funds for the completion of the National Fitness Campaign Fitness Corp Project. In November, Town Council approved the use of opioid settlement funds for the fitness core equipment. Since that approval, the equipment has been fully procured, the purchase order has been issued and the equipment is scheduled to be delivered this week. The request before Council is not a new project, but a continuation of the project already approved by Town Council. The remaining opioid settlement funds will be used to support the overall completion of the fitness court, including the site related and project completion costs, so the court can be fully installed, accessible, and operational for the community.

Councilor Tatta stated she remembered approving the project but asked if the funds were not appropriated at that time. Ms. Bautista stated the funds to purchase were approved in November but not the overall cost of the project. Mr. Sena stated the difference between this request and the last request was the last time the money that we appropriated was not appropriated previously. The funds being requested tonight have been appropriated by a previous Council for a different project that the Health and Youth and Social Services no longer need funds for. We are taking it from the Youth and Social Services project and adding it to the Health Department project. This is a transfer from an expenditure account to an expenditure account. Last time we were appropriating revenue.

Councilor Rivard asked Ms. Bautista to describe the connectivity of the fitness center at Community Lake and how that ties back to the objectives of the opioid money. He also asked if there are any further expenditures anticipated or any more money still coming from the settlement for the future.

Ms. Bautista stated that approximately \$300,000 should cover the whole cost of the project and that more Opioid settlement funds will be received in the future, but she does not know when. The fitness court supports opioid prevention by addressing upstream protective factors such as physical health, mental health, social connection, and access to free wellness infrastructure. This is a long-term prevention strategy that aligns with the intent of the opioid settlement and creates a permanent public health asset for residents of all ages.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: YES	RIVARD: YES
CARMODY: YES	ROSSACCI: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	TATTA: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
REYNOLDS: YES	

9 – AYE
MOTION: PASSED

9. Establish a workshop meeting to discuss and/or revise the Town Council Rules of Procedure – Chairman Testa

Councilor Testa stated the current Rules and Procedures on the Wallingford website are dated 2020. He would like to schedule a workshop or schedule time following a regular Town Council meeting, that has a lighter agenda, to discuss and update the Rules and Procedures.

Councilor Fishbein requested that once the Rules and Procedures are updated, they are filed in the Town Clerk's office. He also requested the Wi-Fi password be displayed in Town Council Chambers.

Councilor Tatta stated that all Councilors should be working off the same copy of the Rules and Procedures as there are different versions available.

Councilor Rivard stated he would like to discuss how we manage time frames on public input. He would like to open a discussion for quarterly special public input meetings for subjects that don't come before the Council.

Councilor Laffin would like to piggyback the workshop after the next Town Council meeting or following the Ordinance Committee meeting on the 1st Tuesday of February.

10. Discussion on ideas and objectives of the Town Council – Chairman Testa

Councilor Rivard would like to focus on working with the administration on medium and long-term planning, especially with several items coming ahead in capital planning. He would like to use the POCD and create a forward-looking plan for the upcoming Budget season. He would like to continue the collaborative discussion to lay out a 1-3-5-year plan, as well as working with the Board of Education to come to a resolution about the schools.

Councilor Rossacci stated her focus will be on listening, learning and being a part of planning responsibly for Wallingford's future. She values transparency and community involvement. She has three priorities she'd like to concentrate on. 1. Going through the Plan of Conservation and Development process, taking a thoughtful look at our Town Charter to ensure governance structure supports transparency in the long-term planning. It's been about 10 years since it's been reviewed and updated. Government structures, like all operating systems, are shaped by the era in which they were written. Times have changed over the past 10 years. The need to review the context in which our town operates, even when the fundamentals remain sound. 2. Education is one of our largest investments at over 60% of our town budget. We need to continue to plan carefully by aligning enrollment, facility needs, and funding so we can adequately support our schools and properly plan for schools aligned with the needs of the future while being mindful of the taxpayers. 3. With the new state housing requirements taking effect this year, we have an opportunity to plan for balanced, thoughtful housing growth, on our terms, rather than reacting later. Her goal is to approach this collaboratively and deliberately, with a focus on what's best for the community as a whole.

Councilor Reynolds stated he feels in his 1st term, important strides were made in building maintenance and development. In the coming term he would like to continue the study of buildings and invigorate the conversation with Kenny Michaels, Director of Parks and Recreation regarding possible placement of a skate park.

Councilor Carmody stated he would like to move the renovation or rebuilding of our schools forward. We must submit plans and an application for the combined high schools, to the state by June. He is concerned if we miss the deadline the project will be lost entirely. He also expressed concern over the facility issues in the elementary and middle schools. He would also like to focus on downtown revitalization, specifically in the town center.

Councilor Laffin feels the combined high school issue is a priority. Council should be working with the Board of Education and the community and make the high school issue a referendum item. This issue is finely woven into the fabric of our community and the community should have a say on it.

Councilor Allinson wants to focus on the next generation and the perseverance of our youth to continue to grow families in our community. She supports education 100% and feels education is the most important foundation we can give.

Councilor Fishbein feels we need to figure out the situation with the high schools as the Council has not been a part of the discussion since May 2022. He is frustrated that they still don't know which site is being proposed. There is a cost and procedure to having a referendum and doubts we will have a referendum by June 2026. He spoke on the Plan for Conservation and Development and added that he was on that committee 10 years ago. \$75,000 was spent on a plan and a committee was appointed. He does not feel the committee met often enough and that the plan is not being implemented. He feels we should rebind the book from 10 years ago and save the tax payers \$75,000.

Councilor Tatta's goals are to continue to listen to the constituents and address people's problems.

Councilor Laffin added that he was on the Plan for Conservation and Development Committee and the committee met several times. The State has been participating in the new development towards implementation. Wallingford has been doing a great job in the amount of items that have been successful.

Chairman Testa stated his goals are to facilitate interactions and work to achieve our goals as a group.

11. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-225(f) and §1-200 (6)(B) to discuss the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Stephanie Menard, et al* – Law Dept.
12. Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §1-200 (6)(B) and §1-225(f) regarding discussion of action to enforce a legal right with respect to a pending matter of the Town of Wallingford and Estate of David Kleist – Law Dept.

MOTION MADE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-225(f) AND §1-200 (6)(B) TO DISCUSS THE PENDING FORECLOSURE MATTER OF THE *TOWN OF WALLINGFORD V. STEPHANIE MENARD, ET AL* AND ALSO REGARDING DISCUSSION OF ACTION TO ENFORCE A LEGAL RIGHT WITH RESPECT TO A PENDING MATTER OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD AND ESTATE OF DAVID KLEIST. MOTION MADE AT 7:46 PM.

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

**ALL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: AYE
MOTION PASSED**

Councilor Fishbein asked to recuse himself from the Stephanie Menard matter due to representations in a previous legal matter but would like to participate in the David Kleist discussion. Chairman Testa advised that Councilor Fishbein step out of the meeting for that portion.

MOTION MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:01 PM

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

**ALL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: AYE
MOTION PASSED**

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION:
ALLINSON MAYOR VINCENT CERVONI
CARMODY TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
FISHBEIN
LAFFIN
REYNOLDS
RIVARD
ROSSACCI
TATTA
TESTA

13. Discussion and possible action with respect to the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Stephanie Menard*, et al as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION MADE TO APPROVE ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE PENDING FORECLOSURE MATTER OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD V. STEPHANIE MENARD AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

VOICE VOTE

8-AYE

ABSTENTION: 1

MOTION PASSED

14. Discussion and possible action regarding the pending matter of Town of Wallingford and Estate of David Kleist as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION MADE TO APPROVE A SETTLEMENT REGARDING THE PENDING MATTER OF TOWN OF WALLINGFORD AND ESTATE OF DAVID KLEIST AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

VOICE VOTE

8-AYE

1-NAY

MOTION PASSED

15. Discussion regarding Town Council committee assignments – Chairman Testa

Chairman Testa made assignments to the following committees:

Merit Review Committee: Councilor Rivard, Councilor Rossacci, Councilor Allinson

Ordinance Committee: Councilor Reynolds, Chair, Councilor Allinson, Vice Chair

Fire Study Committee: Councilor Reynolds, Councilor Laffin and Joseph Marrone as a citizen's liaison

Chairman Testa stated he will be appointing an ad hoc Skateboard Study Committee to be headed by Councilor Reynolds and himself.

Chairman Testa gave Town Attorney, Gerald Farrell, Sr an opportunity to address the Council. Attorney Farrell announced his retirement on January 17, 2026, his 84th birthday. He intends to continue practicing law with his children at Farrell and Grochowski. He thanked former Mayor William Dickinson and Mayor Vincent Cervoni for his appointments and allowing him to be a part of Wallingford's Law Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanna Gnazzo
Assistant Town Clerk
Meeting digitally recorded

Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date