

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
October 8, 2024
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Samuel Carmody, Vincent Testa, Christopher Regan, Jesse Reynolds and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone III. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gerald Farrell Sr., Comptroller Tim Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$164,118.23 (#127-237)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and approve a Correction to Tax Refunds from September 24, 2024
Town Council meeting totaling \$12,632.22 – Tax Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve new Police Accreditation Manger Job Description – Human Resources
 - 3d. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement Funds and consider and approve
Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$3,080 to Misc. Revenue,
Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of Donation from Ashlar Village and consider and approve
Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,500 from Revenue Account-
Donations, Acct. #2502002-47152 to Revenue Account Fire Dept. Program
Expenditures, Acct. #25020150-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.
 - 3f. Acceptance of Donation from Toyota Oakdale Theater in the amount of \$13,400 –
Parks and Recreation
 - 3g. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$15,000 to
Quinnipiac Linear Trail Capital Fund, Acct. #302 and to Phase 3B Design
Services, Acct. #30280350-57000-20235 – Engineering Dept.

- 3h. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$20,000 to Rev.-Town Recovery Demo/Enforcement, Acct. #1009052-46310 and to Exp.-Building PS-Demolition, Acct. #10010550-56770 – Building Dept.
- 3i. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$569,000 from Retained earnings, Acct. # N/A to Distribution-Maint of Station Equipment, Acct. #592 – Electric Div.
- 3j. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50,210 from Retained Earnings, Acct. # N/A to Transportation Equipment, Acct. #46300392 – Sewer Div.
- 3k. Acceptance of Donation to improve baseball fields at Parker Farms worth \$183,656 – Recreation
- 3l. Consider and approve a Bid Waiver for Power Mechanical – BOE
- 3m. Approve Minutes of September 24, 2024 Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3k, 3l removed and 3m withdrawn.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 3l. Consider and approve a Bid Waiver for Power Mechanical – BOE

Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent of Wallingford Schools, Dominic Barrone talked about the boilers that needed to be rented for Lyman Hall High School. Due to circumstances beyond the BOE control the boilers purchased will not be available for the winter and they need a bid waiver to rent boilers so the school can stay warm during the winter months.

Councilor Regan asked questions pertaining to the renting of the boilers.

Councilor Tatta asked why they were doing a bid waiver and the time frame for the boilers.

Councilor Laffin said he was in favor of renting the boilers for the school.

Councilor Fishbein asked questions pertaining to the boilers and how long it would take for them to come in.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

9- AYE

0- NAY

MOTION: PASSED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Attorney Farrell gave an update about the developer.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Wallingford and AFSCME, Council 4, Local 1570 (Police Unit) - Human Resources

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #7.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

There was a voice vote and everyone present was in favor.

Jim Hutt, Human Resources Director, John Ventura, Chief of Police and Anthony DeMaio, Chief of Police were there to answer questions about the contract. Mr. Hutt went over the changes to the contract in detail.

Councilor Tatta was pleased that this negotiation went so well.

Councilor Fishbein asked questions about the contract.

Councilor Laffin stated that he was pleased with the contract and that the council should vote in favor of this just like they did for the Fire Department Contract.

Councilor Testa was also in favor of this contract.

Councilor Carmody was pleased with the contract.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding a Bid Waiver for Axon Enterprises – Police Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #8.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

There was a voice vote and everyone present was in favor.

John Ventrua, Chief of Police and Anthony DeMaio, Chief of Police explained the need for this Bid Waiver. He explained that Axon Enterprises is the only company that can handle the equipment needs of the Police Department.

Councilor Regan asked about the company, Axon Enterprises.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve Appropriation in the amount of \$15,000 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Municipal Radar Signs, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD – Police Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #9.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Councilor Testa talked about the Radar Signs and that he thought ARPA money should not be used for this item.

Councilor Fishbein asked questions about the signs, where they would be placed, how long they would be placed in certain areas and how many would need to be purchased.

Councilor Allinson was in favor of this and thought this is a good idea to have for speeding purposes.

Chairman Marrone was in favor of this item.

Chairman Reynolds thought this was a good idea and has been talking about the speeding of cars around town and one his street especially.

Councilor Fishbein was in favor of this item and thinks it is a good idea to have these signs around town.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE
9- AYE
0- NAY
MOTION: PASSED

10. Discussion and possible action to approve Appropriation in the amount of \$149,444 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Municipal Tyler Upgrade, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD – Finance

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #10.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: REGAN

Tim Sena, Comptroller spoke about this item and explained what was going to be done with the updating of the technology in town.

Councilor Regan agreed with the updates being done in town and asked questions. Councilor Reynolds asked for clarification as to the numbers and what exactly was being done so far with the technology.

Councilor Fishbein asked about the updates being done and wanted an explanation of where the town is so far with the technology updates.

Councilor Tatta asked questions about the updates. Councilor Allinson asked questions about the updates pertaining to the department heads getting laptops to be able to work from home in the future.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: AYE
LAFFIN: AYE
REGAN: AYE
REYNOLDS: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: NAY
MARRONE: AYE
9- AYE
0- NAY
MOTION: PASSED

11. Discussion and possible action to approve Appropriation in the amount of \$61,000 from Revenue Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 to ARPA-Municipal Pragemann Park, Acct. #23940320-58830-AM032 – Recreation

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #11.
MADE BY: MARRONE
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

Mayor Cervoni explained the need for the Recreation Department to have the \$61,000 from ARPA to fix the basketball court.

Tim Sena, Comptroller explained the breakdown of how this item came to be on the agenda and explained the need for the \$61,000.

Councilor Tatta asked about the previous basketball court and how much was spent fixing that one. She also asked if the same company who did the work the first time was going to do the work this time.

Councilor Allinson was concerned about spending the money again to fix the basketball court again.

Councilor Laffin asked questions as to why the town is spending an extra \$61,000 if the bid came in to low.

Chairman Marrone asked questions pertaining to the extra cost of the \$61,000. Councilor Fishbein asked why the bid came in so low and why did the Recreation Department accept it if they needed to pay more money that was the final bid was.

Mayor Cervoni tried to clear up an confusion as to why there is an extra \$61,000 that is owed.

Councilor Laffin talked about motioning to table this item till next meeting so that there can be someone from the Recreation Department to speak about this item.

**MOTION WAS MADE to table this item till next meeting on 10/22/24.
MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act- Individuals in need of auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Wallingford are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator at 203-294-2070 five days prior to meeting date..