

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 8, 2008

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The following is a record of the minutes of the Wallingford Town Council at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall. Town Council Chairman Mike Brodinsky called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Clerk Barbara Kapi were Councilors Michael Brodinsky, Vincenzo M. DiNatale, Nick Economopoulos, Gerald E. Farrell, Jr., John LeTourneau, Rosemary Rascati, Michael T. Spiteri and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Councilor Bob Parisi was out of the country. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Corporation Counsel Adam Mantzaris and Comptroller James Bowes were also present.

A Moment of Silence began the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the Roll Call was taken.

2. Report from the Town Council Chairman

Mr. Brodinsky stated that Item #9 from the Agenda was pulled because the Executive Director of S.C.O.W. was unavailable.

Mr. Brodinsky reported that the Council Members received a memo regarding the bidding of health insurance from the Town Attorney, and stated that the memo would be made available to the public.

Mr. Brodinsky asked the Town Attorney for a legal opinion regarding the revision of the Town Charter and stated that Charter revision would likely be an agenda issue during the first quarter of 2008.

Mr. Brodinsky stated that appointments to the following commissions would be made by the Council: 7 Constables, 1 Member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, 1 Justice of the Peace, 1 Planning and Zoning regular member, 1 Planning and Zoning alternate member, 1 Zoning Board of Appeals regular member, 1 Zoning Board of Appeals alternate member. If anyone has an interest in any position, please send a letter of interest to the Town Council office.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#358- #374) totaling \$2,060.92
Acct. #001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and Approve the Procedures for the *Committee
to Examine Unused Town-Owned Lands* – Chairman Mike Brodinsky.
- 3c. Consider and Approve Appointments to the Public Celebrations
Committee for a two-year term ending February 8, 2010.
- Chairman Mike Brodinsky
- 3d. Consider and Approve the appointment of Dr. Lawrence Singer to the
Wallingford Committee on Aging for a three-year term of March 2008
through March 2011 - Chairman Mike Brodinsky
- 3e. Consider and Approve a policy for the Ordinance Committee:
All Councilors appointed; Quorum would be three (3).
- Chairman Mike Brodinsky
- 3f. Consider and Establish Benefits for the Town Clerk as outlined in a letter
from Terrence Sullivan to Barbara Kapi, dated January 8, 2008. (Salary of
\$59,000 plus benefits to be the same as provided to Barbara Thompson
when she first started.) - Chairman Mike Brodinsky
- 3g. Appointment of members to the Flood and Erosion Control Board
according to Article VI, Section 8-15 of the Wallingford Town Charter
as follows:
 - Councilor Mike Brodinsky, Chairman
 - Councilor Vincenzo DiNatale
 - Councilor Vincent F. Testa, Jr.
 - Councilor Jerry Farrell, Jr.
 - Councilor Robert F. Parisi
 - Councilor Rosemary Rascati
 - Councilor Michael Spiteri
 - Councilor John LeTourneau, Alternate
 - Councilor Nick Economopoulos, Alternate
- 3h. Consider and Approve attached *Meeting Procedures* for the Wallingford
Town Council. - Chairman Mike Brodinsky
- 3i. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$348.00 to Office
Expenses Acct # 001-6010-401-4000 from Contingency-General Purpose
Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 – Registrars
- 3j. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$3,676.00 to
Payroll Acct # 001-6010-101-1000 from Contingency-General Purpose
Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 – Registrars

- 3k. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$7,550 to Youth Projects Acct # 001-3020-607-6600 and to Revenue Acct # 1040-050-5000 – Craig Turner
- 3l. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$6,000 to Replace Engine #7 North Farms Year 3 of 3 Acct # 001-2030-999-9011 from Replace Engine #2 Year 2 of 3 – CHFO Acct # 001-2030-999-9022 – Fire Chief
- 3m. Acceptance of Equipment to Fire Department in the Amount of \$30,000 in accordance with the FEMA Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program Grant - Fire Chief
- 3n. Acceptance and Appropriation of \$2,999 State of Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Equipment Grant to Miscellaneous State Grant Revenues Acct # 001-1040-050-5520 and to Continuing Education and Training Acct # 001-2030-501-5700 - Fire Chief
- 3o. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$9,000 to Maintenance of Hydrants Acct # 431-8660-677 from Administrative and General Salaries Acct # 431-8920-920 – Water Division
- 3p. Approve corrected minutes of Town Council meeting of November 13, 2007
- 3q. Approve minutes of Special Town Council meeting of October 22, 2007
- 3r. Approve minutes of Town Council meeting of December 19, 2007

Mr. Testa made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, Items 3a – 3o. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion.

All Councilors present (8) voted aye.

The motion passed.

Mr. Testa made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, Items 3p – 3r. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion.

Councilors Economopoulos, LeTourneau and Spiteri recused themselves from this vote as they were not Council Members during the 2006 – 2008 term.

Councilors Brodinsky, DiNatale, Farrell, Rascati and Testa (5) voted to accept the Consent Agenda, Items 3p – 3r.

The motion passed.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Jason Zandri, Lincoln Drive, asked Chairman Mike Brodinsky whether those Council Members not on the 2006 – 2008 were able to approve minutes from this term. Mr. Brodinsky stated that the three Council Members, Mr. Economopoulos, Mr. LeTourneau, and Mr. Spiteri had recused themselves from this vote.

Ben Martin, Ward Street, stated that he would like the town to approve a tax credit for hybrid vehicles. He further stated that he is not in support of nuclear or coal power and would like the town to investigate cleaner sources of renewable energy.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Drive, asked whether the appointments to the various boards depended on political affiliation. Mr. Brodinsky stated that if the appointment depends on political recommendation, an interested person should go to that party, and Independents are able to go to either party for a recommendation.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue, requested a roll call vote. Mr. Brodinsky confirmed with Town Clerk Kapi that a roll call began the meeting.

6. Report out from Director of Public Works regarding sand for Town Residents – Councilor Jerry Farrell, Jr.

In attendance: Henry McCully, Director of Public Works

Mr. Farrell asked Mr. McCully why residents are no longer able to obtain sand for sidewalks from the Town Farm. Mr. McCully stated that the town elected to implement a “no-sand” policy in favor of an ice-melting compound.

Mr. Farrell stated that residents are required by ordinance to maintain sidewalks, and residents do not have access to the ice-melting compound. Mr. McCully responded that residents are directed to buy sand or salt. Mr. McCully stated that the no-sand policy helps to keep the town clean.

Mr. Farrell said that residents pay taxes and should be provided with sand to keep sidewalks passable. He encouraged Public Works to provide sand to residents. Mr. McCully stated that cost is not the only issue. In the past, contractors pilfered sand from the public sand, and people on Town

Farm Road faced an increase in traffic. Mr. McCully said that Public Works received compliments on the cleanliness of the town.

Mr. Spiteri said that the Board of Education is still using sand, and it seems reasonable to use sand to keep sidewalks safe and passable. If the sidewalk ordinance is to be enforced, residents should be supplied with sand. Mr. McCully stated that Public Works wants to keep the town clean, and the sand supplied in the past is dirty sand. Further, the cost to residents is minimal. Mr. Spiteri asked why Public Works is unable to buy a small quantity of clean sand for the residents.

Mr. Testa stated that Public Works should not use cleanliness as a primary argument if residents are directed to purchase sand for the sidewalks. Mr. McCully responded that residents are encouraged to buy either clean sand or de-icer.

Ms. Rascati complimented Mr. McCully on the cleanliness of the town, but stated that people are unhappy about the lack of sand available to residents. Ms. Rascati asked what the cost is to provide sand to residents. Mr. McCully stated that the cost is minimal, perhaps \$40 or \$50. Ms. Rascati responded that the cost is minimal and sand should be provided to residents.

Mr. LeTourneau acknowledged that the streets are cleaner, and the cost to town residents to purchase sand directly is minimal, but stated that the low cost is not the point. Mr. LeTourneau asked Mr. McCully to supply sand for town residents. Mr. McCully stated that there is no reason to supply sand and no hardship is created for residents. Mr. LeTourneau responded that the lack of sand could create a hardship for even one citizen.

Mr. Economopoulos said that the no-sand policy makes sense from a cleanliness standpoint and supports Mr. McCully's decision, as Mr. McCully best knows the goals of his department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge, asked Mr. McCully why the department doesn't supply salt to residents.

Ray Rojas, 88 Franklin Street, stated that residents are able to use any chemical they desire on the sidewalks, and this does not help to keep the town clean.

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, asked why the town does not provide clean play sand for residents to use on sidewalks.

Jason Zandri, Lincoln Drive, stated that the town should provide something to residents to keep sidewalks clear, but acknowledged that the

roads are cleaner without sand, and that salt is more effective at treating the roads. Mr. Zandri asked about the enforcement and liability of the sidewalk ordinance. Mayor Dickinson responded that many departments work together to enforce the ordinance and the police department issues citations. Liability lies with the homeowner, not the town.

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail asked who made the decision to switch from sand to salt and what is the environmental impact of the salt. Mr. McCully stated that the Public Works department made the decision and the environmental impact is no greater than the impact of the sand-salt mixture used in previous years.

John Long, 1 Hunt Circle, asked what is used on sub-zero nights. Mr. McCully stated that sub-zero nights are very rare. Mr. Long said that the state uses both sand and salt, and perhaps the town could provide sand at the landfill to prevent contractors from taking large quantities of sand.

Diane Saunders, 72 Northford Road, suggested providing sand at the landfill.

Mr. Spiteri stated that everyone seems to be interested in compromising, but the Council does not have the authority to order Public Works to provide sand. Mr. McCully confirmed that the Mayor is his direct supervisor.

7. Conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. to amend Chapter 8
"Boards and Commissions" Article II, Conservation Commission,
of the Code of the Town of Wallingford.

§ 8-2 Establishment; Members; Terms of Office

§ 8-3 Powers and Duties

In Attendance:

Jeff Borne, Chairman of the Conservation Commission

Mary Heffernan, Vice-Chair of the Conservation Commission

The Amendment to the Town Code would change the composition of the Commission from 7 members to 9 members. Ms. Heffernan stated that the work of the Commission has changed and the Commission needs additional members in order to accomplish all necessary tasks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ben Martin, Ward Street, asked whether the members are voluntary or paid positions and what lands the Commission manages. Ms. Heffernan

said that the positions are voluntary, and the Commission manages town-owned permanent open spaces for conservation and recreation purposes.

Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Spiteri seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

DiNatale – aye; Economopoulos – aye; Farrell – aye; LeTourneau – aye;
Rascati – aye; Spiteri – aye; Testa – aye; Brodinsky – aye

All members present (8) voted aye. Mr. Parisi was absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

8. Consider and Approve the appointment of Warren C. Howe, Jr. to the CRRA Board as an ad hoc member, in accordance with Section 22a-261(g) of the General Statutes – Chairman Mike Brodinsky

Mr. Testa read a letter from Mr. Howe to the Council regarding his appointment to the CRRA Board.

Mr. Farrell stated that Mr. Howe is a solid representative on the CRRA Board and nominated Mr. Howe as an ad hoc member to the CRRA Board. Ms. Rascati seconded the nomination.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Drive, asked how many applications the Town Council received for the position. Mr. Brodinsky responded that the Council received 2 applications. Mr. Gross asked about the second position on the CRRA Board.

Mr. Spiteri asked whether there is a process to inform citizens of future upcoming appointments. Mr. Brodinsky responded that everyone must watch for potential upcoming appointments in order to keep the public informed.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

DiNatale – aye; Economopoulos – aye; Farrell – aye; LeTourneau – aye;
Rascati – aye; Spiteri – aye; Testa – aye; Brodinsky – aye

All Councilors present (8) voted aye. Mr. Parisi was absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

9. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$89,489 regarding the S.C.O.W. HHD Grant to Revenue Fund # 208 and to Expenditures Fund # 208 - Program Planner

Removed

10. Report on the future of the Wooding Caplan Development area, including but not limited to

- a) Report on the Status of the Police Study Contract
(Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.)

Mayor Dickinson reported that the town interviewed 2 firms and selected 1 firm. The cost of the study is \$67,000, and the Mayor stated his hesitance to move forward with funding the study until the severity of the winter becomes known. The money to fund the study would be taken from the General Purpose Contingency fund.

Mr. Testa asked the timeframe for proceeding with the study. Mayor Dickinson responded that the price of the study will be held until the end of April. Mr. Testa suggested that if the study is not funded this year, perhaps the funding could be written into the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Spiteri asked what this study would examine. Mayor Dickinson said that this study would determine the feasibility of using the Wooding Caplan property for the police department. Mr. Spiteri stated that he thinks the town should proceed as soon as possible with the study.

- b) Report on the new fence installed behind the Police Station
(Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.)
- Chairman Mike Brodinsky

Mayor Dickinson said that the fence was installed to prevent vandalism to police and employee-owned vehicles. In order to prosecute for the vandalism, the town needed to create a secure area, which is why the fence was constructed and why "No Trespassing" signs were posted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Drive, asked if funds will be budgeted for the feasibility study. Mayor Dickinson stated that the money is needed first to clear town roads, but he assumes there will be sufficient funds to complete the study. Mr. Gross also asked the cost of the chain link fence. Mayor Dickinson responded that the fence cost \$4,000 and was in the Public

Works budget. Further, the town had already received bids for chain-link fences.

Ben Martin, Ward Street, asked about the cost of the study. Mayor Dickinson stated that the \$67,000 would cover only the cost of the study.

Mr. Testa asked about the absence of a gate on the fence, and whether this hole in the fence met the criteria for prosecuting vandals. Mayor Dickinson responded that the fence was located in a certain position to provide an adequate turning radius for trucks, and no gate was installed because of problems with opening and closing the gate.

Mr. DiNatale asked about the 1991 application to Planning and Zoning, which was denied. Mayor Dickinson stated that the application to P&Z concerned improvements to the property, such as paving. Mayor Dickinson said that there was no use issue because the town owns the property and P&Z was involved only for improvements. The town does not need approval for use, and no application has been made for use, to the best of the Mayor's knowledge. Mr. DiNatale asked if a copy of the P&Z decision or minutes from the P&Z meeting would be available. Mr. Brodinsky stated that he would put in a request to Linda Bush regarding these minutes.

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

Withdrawn

Mr. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeTourneau, to adjourn.

All Councilors present (8) voted aye. Mr. Parisi was absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

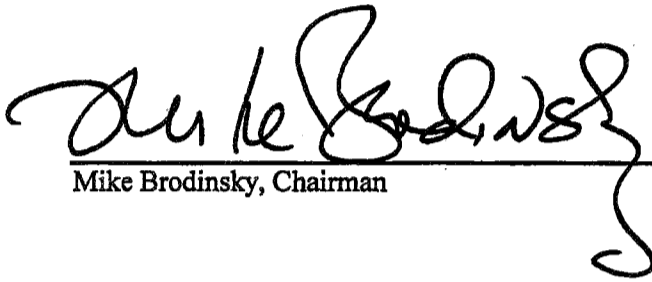
The meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erin R. Occhiogrosso
Temporary Town Council Secretary

Meeting recorded by Erin Occhiogrosso


Mike Brodinsky, Chairman

2-6-08

Date


Barbara Kapi, Town Clerk

2/6/08

Date