

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 22, 2008

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The following is a record of the minutes from the Wallingford Town Council at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall. Town Council Chairman Mike Brodinsky called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Clerk Barbara Kapi were Councilors Nick Economopoulos, Gerald E. Farrell, Jr., John LeTourneau, Rosemary Rascati, Vincent F. Testa, Jr. and Chairman Mike Brodinsky. Mike Spiteri was absent from the meeting due to vehicle problems. Bob Parisi was absent from the meeting because he was out of the country. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also present. Vincenzo DiNatale arrived at the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

A Moment of Silence began the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the Roll Call taken. Mr. Testa expressed condolences to the families of George McLean and Tyler Priore and wished for a quick recovery for David Cajas.

2. Report from the Town Council Chairman

Chairman Brodinsky reported that inspections of the American Legion building have taken place, with a third inspection scheduled for later this month.

Chairman Brodinsky thanked Town Attorney Small for her opinion regarding charter reform. Mr. Brodinsky stated that charter reform will likely be an issue for discussion at the next Town Council meeting.

On January 30, the Town Council will hold a joint meeting with the PUC. On February 11, the Ordinance Committee will meet. On March 11 at the Town Council meeting, Warren Howe, the ad hoc appointee to CRRA, and Tom Kirk, President of CRRA, are tentatively scheduled to give a report regarding CRRA. At the March 25 Town Council meeting, Comptroller Jim Bowes is scheduled to give a financial report and analysis for the town, and on April 8, the PUC will report on its conservation programs.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#375- #414) totaling \$6,848.41
Acct # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector

- 3b. Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and amend Contractual instruments in the Name of and on Behalf of the Wallingford Community Day Care Center, Inc. with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Child Day Care Program – Mayor
- 3c. Consider and Approve an Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and the Wallingford Community Day Care Center, Inc., recognizing that the Town had executed a contract with the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Social Services for Funding programs to be carried out by said Day Care Center Acting on Behalf of the Town – Mayor
- 3d. Consider and Approve a Resolution permitting the Wallingford Day Care Center, Inc. to borrow from the Town of Wallingford the amount necessary to meet the essential operation expenses of said Day Care Center prior to the time its program is approved for funding from the State of Connecticut – Mayor
- 3e. Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to make, execute and approve any and all contracts or amendments with the State Department of Public Health to acquire EMS Training for Use by the Wallingford Fire Department in the amount of \$2,999.00 – Fire Chief
- 3f. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$4,000.00 to Part Time Salaries and Wages Acct # 001-1300-101-1000 from Purchased Professional Services Negotiations Acct # 001-1300-901-9002 – Mayor
- 3g. Consider and Approve the Reappointment of Constables John LeTourneau, Chester Miller and Robert Jacques for a two-year term, per Chapter IV, Section 4 of the Wallingford Town Charter – Chairman Mike Brodinsky
- 3h. Consider and Approve the Reappointment of Matthew Coyle, Joseph DiNatale, James Fitzsimmons, Richard Rizzo, Leslie Scherer and David Golebiewski to the Wallingford Public Library Building Committee per the attached memorandum – Chairman Mike Brodinsky
- 3i. Approve minutes of Town Council meeting of October 23, 2007.
- 3j. Approve minutes of Swearing-In Ceremony of January 7, 2008.
- 3k. Approve minutes of Town Council meeting of January 8, 2008.

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, Jr., to accept the Consent Agenda items 3a to 3h, 3j and 3k.

All six (6) Councilors present voted aye. Mr. DiNatale had not yet arrived at the meeting, and Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

Mr. Testa made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda 3i. Mr. Farrell seconded.

Five (5) Councilors present, including Mr. DiNatale, voted aye. Mr. Economopoulos and Mr. LeTourneau abstained from voting as they were not Council members during that meeting, and Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Phil Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street stated that he is not personally impacted by the town's decision to stop supplying sand to residents, but thinks this decision was inconsiderate. Mr. Wright said that if the town will be cleaner because of the lack of sand, this should result in less clean up and lower taxes.

Jason Zandri, Lincoln Drive asked if Agenda item 3i was removed or voted on separately. Mr. Brodinsky stated that the Agenda item was voted on separately after Mr. DiNatale arrived at the meeting.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked if there has been a decision in the court case regarding the American Legion building. Attorney Small said that a continuance was granted. Mr. Brodinsky stated that the court was waiting for returns on the RFP and the decision of the Town Council.

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Circle asked if the Mayor has made a final determination regarding the no sand policy. Mayor Dickinson stated that there are no plans to change the policy.

Ben Martin, Ward Street asked if the Council considered any traffic calming measures to help reduce the number of traffic accidents. Mr. Brodinsky stated that any such measures would be directed to the Council through the Mayor's office or the police. Mayor Dickinson said that he is not aware of any highway deficiencies or defects and has not received reports regarding the causes of the recent accidents. Mr. Martin said that the corner of Ward Street is problematic. Mr. Brodinsky suggested that the Mayor take the statement under advisement. Mayor Dickinson said

that additional policing would require additional officers, which becomes a budgetary and tax-increase issue.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Drive asked if the town has a maintenance plan for the American Legion building. Mayor Dickinson responded no. Mr. Gross stated that the ceiling is falling down in a section of the building, and suggested that the town should maintain the building. Mayor Dickinson said there are no plans to spend the money to fix a building that the town does not plan on utilizing.

Lucille Trzcinski, 25 Turnberry Road suggested that it is in the town's best interest to maintain the American Legion building to some minimal standard.

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail asked Mayor Dickinson several questions about real estate values.

Phil Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street said that it is a dereliction of duty to fail to maintain the building.

Jason Zandri, Lincoln Drive suggested installing speed humps on busy roads as a traffic calming measure.

6. Consider and Approve a Revised Job Description for Attendant III, Sewer Division – Personnel

In attendance:
Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director
Roger Dann, Director, Water & Sewer Division

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Town has had significant difficulties in recruiting qualified candidates for the position due to licensing and certification requirements. The revised job description changed the qualification section and the special requirement section in order to match the state DEP qualification standards and to allow the successful candidate 18 months, as compared to 6 months, to receive certification. The 6-month cycle was not successful based on testing schedules.

Mr. Testa asked if this would necessitate hiring new personnel. Mr. Sullivan stated that this is an existing, vacant position.

Mr. Brodinsky asked if the unions have agreed to the change. Mr. Sullivan said yes. Mr. Brodinsky asked if there would be an increased cost to the towns. Mr. Sullivan said no.

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to approve the revised job description.

Seven (7) Councilors present voted aye. Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

7. Acceptance and Appropriation of \$90,232 for the Hispanic Human Resources Development Grant – State and Federal Program Administrator

In attendance:

Don Roe, Program Planning

Maria Harlow, President of Board of Directors of SCOW

Blanca Santana, Executive Director of SCOW

Mr. Testa read a letter from Don Roe regarding the need to create a special fund in order to accept the grant.

Mr. Roe stated that the town received 2 grants from the state, one of them being the Hispanic Human Resources Development Program. This grant is used to subcontract with SCOW to provide services. The grant increased over the past year, and Program Planning solicited proposals from agencies regarding the utilization of the funds. SCOW proposed an additional part-time Assistant Director.

Ms. Harlow outlined the new programs instituted by SCOW, including a community-based educational program.

Ms. Santana said that the increased number of programs, such as financial literacy, requires additional staff.

Mr. Roe commended the Board of Directors for their work.

Mr. Testa asked if the Town Council's action was simply a formality to establish a budgetary line item. Mr. Roe said yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street encouraged greater political involvement from the Latino community. Ms. Harlow said that greater community involvement is the purpose of the leadership program.

Steve Knight, 289 Ivy Street stated that it is a delight to work on a Board that has such energy and ambition, and a debt of gratitude is owed to Blanca Santa.

Mr. Testa made a motion to accept and appropriate the Hispanic Human Resources Development Grant. Mr. Farrell seconded.

All seven (7) Councilors present voted aye. Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

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

Mr. Testa made a motion to go into Executive Session in regards to Agenda items 8 and 9. Mr. Farrell seconded.

All Councilors present (7) voted aye. Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

The Council went into Executive Session in the Auditorium at 7:27 P.M.

Mr. Testa made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Farrell, Jr. seconded.

All Councilors present (7) voted aye. Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

The Council exited Executive Session at 7:56 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ATTENDANCE FOR AGENDA ITEM 8:

All Councilors present (7), Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting; Town Attorney Janis Small; Mayor William Dickinson.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ATTENDANCE FOR AGENDA ITEM 9:

All Councilors present (7), Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting; Town Attorney Janis Small; Mayor William Dickinson; Comptroller Jim Bowes.

9. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200(6)(B) of the Conn. General Statutes regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending tax appeal matter of Donald Lunt, et al v. Town of Wallingford – Town Attorney

10. Motion to Consider and Approve the settlement of Donald Lunt, et al v. Town of Wallingford tax appeal matter as discussed in Executive Session – Town Attorney

Mr. Testa made a motion to approve the settlement of Donald Lunt, et al v. Town of Wallingford tax appeal matter as discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Farrell seconded.

All Councilors present (7) voted aye. Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

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

All seven (7) Councilors present voted aye. Mr. Parisi and Mr. Spiteri were absent from the meeting.

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin R Occhiogrosso

Erin R. Occhiogrosso
Temporary Town Council Secretary

Meeting recorded by Erin Occhiogrosso.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1/24/08
AT 2:10 PM AND RECORDED BY
Barbara Kapi TOWN CLERK

Mike Brodinsky

Mike Brodinsky, Chairman

Barbara a Kapi
2/6/08

Date

Barbara Kapi 2/6/08

Barbara Kapi, Town Clerk

Date