TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY June 13, 2023 6:30 P.M. AMENDED RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2023, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Autumn Allinson, Craig Fishbein, Samuel Carmody, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri, and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W Dickinson, Jr., Janis Small, Corporation Counsel, Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk, and Controller Timothy Sena were also present.

- 1. Moment of Silence
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
- 3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$1,627.15 (#829-855) Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
 - 3b. Budget Amendment to increase expenditure and revenue accounts related to Outside Private Contractor work in the amount of \$50,000 to Outside Contractors, Acct. #10020050-51600 and to Charges for Current Servies, Acct. #1002001-46020 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Gas & Diesel, Acct. #10020050-53100 to Utilities, Acct. #10020050-53100 Police Dept.
 - 3d. Acceptance of Federal Taskforce funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$4,197 to Misc Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of STEM Academy registration fees and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$539 to Revenue, Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-5830 Y&SS
 - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,500 from Fire Operating Expenses, Acct. #10020150-58735 to Maintenance of Vehicles, Acct. #10020150-54320 – Fire Dept.
 - 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$950 from Contingency, Acct. #10019000-58820 to Telephone Line Item, Acct. #10040050-53000 Health Dept.
 - 3h. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,000 from Professional Services Labor/Grievance, Acct. #10012000-56812 to Office Expense and Supplies, Acct. #10012000-56100 – Human Resources

- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$20,000 from Attendant and Laboratory Expenses, Acct. #46100642 to Workers Compensation, Acct. #46100925 Sewer Div.
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$10,00 from Meter Expense, Acct. #586 to Customer Installations Expense, Acct. #587 Electric Div.
- 3k. Consider and approve the Appropriation of ARPA funds for businesses in the amount of \$401,525 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Business, Acct. #23940250-58830- TBD Law Dept.

i.	Plunske's Garage, LLC	\$25,000
ii.	Fancy Nails	\$23,500
iii.	Fusion Fitness & Dance, LLC	\$25,000
iv.	Joe Li Foot Reflexology, LLC	\$15,200
v.	Lenny's Café	\$24,625
vi.	M&L Terrace Properties	\$25,000
vii.	Mad Tents, LLC	\$25,000
viii.	Maselli Farm	\$25,000
ix.	New England Cider Company, LLC	\$25,000
х.	R. Pelton Tools, LLC	\$25,000
xi.	Showstopper Entertainment	\$13,200
xii.	Sirinan's Thai and Japanese Restaurant	\$25,000
xiii.	Smitty's Automatic Transmission	\$25,000
xiv.	Sorrento Fine Woodwork, LLC	\$25,000
XV.	Sun Nails and Beauty	\$25,000
xvi.	The Eatery of Wallingford	\$25,000
xvii.	Therapy for Language and Communication, LLC	\$25,000
	TOTAL	\$401,525

31. Consider and approve Appropriation of ARPA funds for non-profits in the amount of \$248, 573 to Revenue – Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Nonprofits, ACCT. #23940300-58830-TBD – Law Dept.

i.	Collaboration of Minority Women Foundation	\$ 25,000
ii.	Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven	\$ 7,500
iii.	Meriden Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc.	\$ 76,073
iv.	St. Paul's Nursery School, Inc.	\$ 23,000
v.	The Sister's Project	\$102,000
vi.	Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust	\$ 15,000
	TOTAL	\$248,573

3m. Consider and approve Appropriation of BOE additional State Education grants in the amount of \$453,059.08 (see attached list) from State Grant Revenues, Acct. #2356002-45900 to Ed Grants Program Expenditures, Acct. #23560050-58100 – BOE

i.	State Bi-Lingual	\$ 5,034
ii.	IDEA 611	\$25,133
iii.	IDEA 611 Preschool	\$ 1,851
iv.	Title III E1	\$ 2,649
٧.	Title IV	\$43,734

vi.	PEGPETIA	\$ 44,000
vii.	Workforce Alliance	\$ 20,500
viii.	Private Donation from Pond Hill to Toyota	\$ 20,000
ix.	CT-SEDS Implementation	\$ 21,000
х.	ARP-ESSER Homeless Children	\$ 19,070
xi.	Perkins Secondary Supplement of ASTE	\$ 49,950
xii.	Special Ed Activities	\$ 10,000
xiii.	Paraeducator Prof. Dev.	\$ 5,000
xiv.	Emergency Connectivity Fund	\$ 73,574.50
xv.	School Security CT DEM-Cameras/Walkies	\$111,563.58
	TOTAL	\$453,059.08

3n. Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2023

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a THROUGH 3j, 3m, and 3n.

MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: ZANDRI VOTE: ALL AYE MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3k.

MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: ZANDRI

ABSTAIN: CERVONI FOR 3k.vii. ABSTAIN: TATA VOTE: 7 AYE MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3I AS CORRECTED.

MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: ZANDRI

ABSTAIN: MARRONE 31.ii ABSTAIN: TATTA VOTE: 7 AYE MOTION: PASSED

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked for clarification on the amendment for item 31. Chairman Cervoni replied that the dollar amount for St. Paul's Nursery School was corrected to \$35,000. Mr. Gross asked

how the ARPA money was invested. Mr. Sena replied that it is part of Cash in the General Fund. Mr. Gross stated that the CARES Act allowed investment of these government funds. The Town could have made some money. He asked if Council is following the rules that Council set up for the Application Review Committee. Chairman Cervoni stated that the rules have not changed. Mr. Gross noted that a couple of the applications on the consent agenda don't qualify based on the Federal rules. He stated that businesses and non-profits did not submit applications because they knew they didn't qualify. But the town is funding some that don't meet the town's rules or the Federal guidelines. Just because the consultant passed them, doesn't mean they meet the regulations. He asked the Council to follow the rules. Mayor Dickinson replied that the Town has made every effort to follow the rules and if there is evidence that they haven't, it should be provided.

Jason Michael, 81 Meadow Street, stated that as Chair and representative of the Building Maintenance Committee, he asked if Council members received the email on 2 of the 3 properties that we walked through. Chairman Cervoni replied yes.

Riley O'Connell, Edgerton Road, asked how the Town got into a staffing crisis at the Electric Division. He stated that this is one of the three most dangerous jobs and the employees are not being treated with dignity. Their contract expired in 2020. Employees are threatening to leave. The department has 70% vacancies. The Electric Division is one of the single greatest assets of this Town. This must be on the agenda. Councilor Marrone asked how much control the Council Chair has over the Electric Division. Chairman Cervoni replied very little. Mayor Dickinson stated that there are 10 lineman positions and currently 9 linemen working. The lights will stay on. We have staffing issues like everyone else in hiring trained workers and do take it seriously.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, stated that he can point out which ARPA applications don't qualify, and noted that the consultant had indicated they don't qualify. He asked what happens if we give money to an organization that doesn't qualify. The onus is on the Town. Atty. Small replied that she wasn't aware of any approved applications that were not approved by the consultant. Mr. Gross listed the applications. Atty. Small replied that some of the applications were corrected but she will verify that those approved tonight are proper.

Hearing no further public questions, Chairman Cervoni closed the Public Question and Answer Period.

6. 6:30 p.m. to conduct a Public Hearing to Consider and Act on the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Program – Mayor

Chairman Cervoni explained that this allows certain commercial taxpayers to make contributions in lieu of tax payments. Mayor Dickinson explained that when applications are received and these organizations are put on this program, they are now eligible for donations from corporations. Those corporations get some tax relief.

\$150,000
\$150,000
\$150,000
\$150,000
\$150,000
\$150,000
\$150,000
\$ 18,000

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

Chairman Cervoni closed the public hearing.

7. Consider and approve Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit Neighborhood Assistance Applications to the Department of Revenue Services and Summary List of programs for the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Program to exercise any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto and to act as the authorizing representative of the Town of Wallingford - Mayor

> MOTION TO approve the resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit Neighborhood Assistance Applications to the Department of Revenue Services and Summary List of programs for the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Program to exercise any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto and to act as the authorizing representative of the Town of Wallingford.

MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Councilor Carmody stated that this is a no-brainer that provides an avenue of support for projects of these excellent organizations in town. He noted that the Electric Division pays taxes to the state on a portion of its revenue. He suggested looking into buying these tax credits instead.

Councilor Fishbein asked how that would work. Councilor Carmody stated that they can purchase tax credits and the money goes to these organizations.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ROLL CALL VOT	Έ:	MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	ABSTAIN
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES

8 – AYE 0 – NAY 1 – ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

 Consider and possible Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$4,350,000 from Retained Earnings, Acct. #N/A to Purchase Power Expense, Acct. #555 – Electric Division In attendance: Rick Hendershot, Director of Public Utilities, and Marianne Dill, Business Office Manager

MOTION TO approve an Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$4,350,000 from Retained Earnings to Purchase Power Expenses for the Electric Division.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Mr. Hendershot explained that this is a bookkeeping matter but they are required to come to Town Council for approval. Funds flow through Electric Account 555 to pay the wholesale power costs. His office is predicting that the account is not sufficient to pay bills through the end of June. The money to pay is in retained earnings. It is collected through our retail rates. So they need the approval of the Town Council to move the money. The PUC has already approved the transfer.

Councilor Fishbein asked if this is unusual. Mr. Hendershot explained that earlier in the fiscal year the wholesale power was quite expensive. When we budgeted for 22/23 we were not aware that we now have to pay a share of the Mystic Cost of Service Agreement that was agreed to by ISO New England. He explained the agreement. Commissioner Fishbein asked if we can anticipate that the funds will be replenished by ratepayers paying higher rates. Mr. Hendershot replied yes, there is already a power cost adjustment in the rates. He added that there should be no effect on the 23/24 budget unless the forecast of costs falls short.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, asked why they are taking out of reserves for underestimated expenses instead of increasing rates. Mr. Hendershot replied the budget needs to be balanced now. We can't wait to collect the money over the months. The money is there, it just needs to be moved. He stated that retained earnings and reserves are almost the same thing. Ms. Gross asked if there will be a deficit in retained earnings. Mr. Hendershot replied that the funds are largely already collected as payments. Ms. Gill noted that revenues that were billed for January – June have the power cost adjustment in them. Between that and July – December, it will cover the costs. Ms. Gill replied that it is a budget entry. The Purchase Power Account has to stay within its budget.

ROLL CALL V	OTE:	MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES

9 – AYE 0 – NAY 0 – ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

 Authorize the Mayor to sign CT Department of Transportation Master Municipal Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Projects, Master Agreement No. 4.25-05(23) CORE ID No. 23DOT0167AA
Mayor

In attendance: Rick Hendershot, Director of Public Utilities, and Gerald Farrell, Sr., Town Attorney

MOTION TO authorize the Mayor to sign the CT Department of Transportation Master Municipal Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Projects, Master Agreement No. 4.25-05(23) CORE ID No. 23DOT0167AA. MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: MARRONE

Mayor Dickinson explained that we would hire a subcontractor to do the design or initial engineering. It is a very lengthy document and can be described as a Contract of Adhesion, which means we didn't write the terms. We have to follow the dictates of the agreement to qualify for state funds.

Chairman Cervoni asked if we are aware of what the adhesion would be. Mayor Dickinson replied yes, he is not happy but we have no choice.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

VOTE: ALL AYE MOTION: PASSES

10. Consider and approve the State of CT purchase of permanent access easement in the amount of \$7,000 for town-owned land adjacent to the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail – Mayor

MOTION TO approve the State of CT purchase of a permanent access easement in the amount of \$7,000 for town-owned land adjacent to the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail.

MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: MARRONE

Mayor Dickinson explained that this is a permanent easement for access to reach a Rt. 15 bridge over the Quinnipiac River. He stated that the easement crosses the Linear Trail to reach the site of the bridge construction. It extends from North Plains Highway, over private property, to Wallingford property and extends across open space to the Linear Trail and crosses it to reach the site.

Chairman Cervoni asked how much interruption there will be on the Linear Trail. Mayor Dickinson replied that the expectation is that it won't be constant. Chairman Cervoni clarified that this will be so heavy equipment can get to the construction site. He asked if they will repair the trail to its original condition. Mayor Dickinson said yes.

Councilor Fishbein asked if we were retaining any control. Mayor Dickinson replied no. Once granted, they can use it for highway construction and reconstruction. We can't obstruct the use of that easement. Councilor Fishbein asked what stops them from putting equipment on the linear trail. Mayor Dickinson explained that they will allow for continued use of the Town property. They won't be able to block the trail except temporarily. Councilor Fishbein asked to see the easement document. Atty. Small noted that they will take the easement whether we want it or not. They are offering \$7,100. It was noted that the work will not affect the tunnel. It will be on a culvert bridge over the Quinnipiac River. Councilor Fishbein asked if they have wetlands approvals. Atty. Small replied that they are not getting any because they are the State. She stated that whether we consent or not, they will take it. The only objection you can have is to the compensation.

Councilor Zandri clarified that the amount offered is \$7,100, not \$7,000. Councilor Laffin amended the motion to state \$7,100.

Councilor Zandri asked why they need the easement. Atty. Small replied that they say it is the easiest way to get there. She added that the Town Engineer knows our concerns about access to the trail and will have conversations with the State. Councilor Zandri suggested posting a notice of disruptions on the website. We need to be sure that the Town can continue to use this asset.

Councilor Tatta asked if they will use eminent domain on the portion that is private property. Atty. Small replied that they always start with an offer. She understands that they are still in negotiations. Councilor Tatta asked where the dollar amount came from. Atty. Small replied to the State and added that we can challenge the amount. Councilor Tatta asked if we can stipulate that the trail not be blocked. Atty. Small replied that it will be part of the conversation of the Engineer with the State's project managers. She didn't know if we can have stipulations but will suggest it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

Chairman Cervoni called for a vote on the amended motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE	:	MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY;	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	NO	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES
8 - AYE			
1 – NAY			
0 – ABSTAIN			
0- ABSENT			
MOTION: PASSES			

 Discussion and Possible action regarding ARPA funds for (a) Gaylord Hospital, Inc. and (b) Community Health Care Center, Inc./Law Dept. In attendance was Mike Glidden, ARPA Application Review Committee Chair

Chairman Cervoni explained that the ARPA Application Review Committee was not comfortable voting on these applications, so it is up to the Council to decide whether or not to award them funds. The process the committee uses was reviewed. He added that the committee doesn't allow applicants to present their applications but because this is a public hearing, we can.

Mr. Glidden explained the applications. The Gaylord application is for \$1 million and there is a concern that their services are not focused in Wallingford. The Community Health Center's proposal for a Mobile Health Clinic asks for \$225,000 and the issue is how to ensure that the funds are spent on activities in Wallingford, for Wallingford residents.

Councilor Tatta noted that other applicants have not been able to present. Mr. Glidden explained that the committee voted, early in the process, to not allow in-person presentations. Chairman Cervoni noted that the Committee's decision is not binding on the Council. In addition, this is a public hearing. Councilor Tatta noted that letting these applicants make their case, gives them an unfair advantage. She is not in favor of letting the applicants present to the Council.

Councilor Fishbein stated that if the Committee wants to hear from applicants, they can change their rules. Mr. Glidden replied that the nature of these requests would have been given to Council anyway due to the size of the requests.

Councilor Laffin stated that it is in our purview to interview applicants. With this level of funding, it is beneficial to hear from these applicants. He supports allowing the dialog.

Chairman Cervoni noted that there is no motion on the table. The Gaylord request is substantial. He would like to understand how it benefits Wallingford and understand if something less would be beneficial.

Councilor Fishbein suggested making the funding contingent on Wallingford residents getting the benefit.

Mayor Dickinson noted that the Youth Service Bureau and the Health Department are very supportive of the CHC application. They will have set times when the van will be available at certain locations. This can be a real asset to the community.

Councilor Testa asked if these requests were included in the summary total of applications. Councilor Zandri replied that they were included in the expanded bucket.

Chairman Cervoni invited the Gaylord Hospital representatives to come forward to explain how this funding would benefit Wallingford.

Presenting were: Tarra Knapp, Vice President for External Affairs, Kathy Reilly, Director of Healthcare Advocacy and Legislative Liaison, and Cindy Bartholomew, Grant Specialist.

Ms. Knapp explained the project. Gaylord is in the midst of a Campus Improvement Program that started in 2019. Two of their patient wings are very dated and to provide 1st class health care they needed to be updated. They have raised all but \$2.338 million of the total \$13 million to do the work. She noted that during COVID they were closed to outpatient services and they had to stop construction.

Ms. Bartholomew stated that they provide free programs to the schools. More than 200 of their employees are from Wallingford and about 700 patients last year were from Wallingford. They provide counseling and medical services to residents and house AA meetings. They serve 500 residents through virtual and community education programs. They are the only CT long-term acute care hospital with their level of accreditation. She noted that they are a small, independent non-profit hospital. Any help they get keeps costs out of patient funds.

Ms. Reilly stated that they are short of funds because they had to shut down construction during COVID and costs have gone up.

Chairman Cervoni asked how many of their patients are from other communities. Ms. Bartholomew replied that they have about 1,400 in-patients a year and about 7,000 out-patients. Ms. Knapp explained the type of care they provide and noted that the improvements will be to the hospital.

Mayor Dickinson noted that the Town is pleased with the assistance of Gaylord and others to help during COVID. They have a very positive presence in the Community.

Councilor Laffin thanked them for the community programs. He stated that the scope of this funding request is daunting. Ms. Bartholomew explained that the ARPA money they received from the State is being used to update their healthcare information/electronic records system that allows them to communicate with other healthcare facilities.

Councilor Fishbein explained the criteria for reviewing a program application which includes that the purpose and goals address a demonstrated need for Wallingford residents. He asked what percentage of their in-patients were Wallingford residents. Ms. Bartholomew replied about 6.5% but noted that there is

an impact on the families of patients as well. Ms. Knapp added that the renovations to the building won't result in more patients. Councilor Fishbein noted that this funding would benefit people that are not from Wallingford. He also noted that if we give you the money, you are still short of your goal. Ms. Knapp replied that they will complete the project, just slower and may have to pause. Ms. Knapp replied that they appreciate the consideration and opportunity to present.

10

Councilor Allinson noted that 6.7% of patients applied to the entire cost of the project comes out to \$871,000.

Councilor Testa stated that as a past patient, he has mixed feelings about the request and is trying to be objective. He is challenged by the scope. He would like to think about this some more and suggested tabling the discussion.

Councilor Marrone stated that the scope is large but we know where it will go. He is okay with the full request or a smaller amount. It is in the spirit of ARPA.

MOTION TO table the discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funds for Gaylord Hospital to be moved to a future Council meeting. MADE BY: LAFFIN

Councilor Allinson proposed a friendly Amendment: to put it on the next Council Agenda. ACCEPTED SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

ROLL CALL VOTE:		MARRONE:	NO
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	NO
CARMODY;	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES

7 – AYE 2 – NAY 0 – ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

Chairman Cervoni invited the representatives of the Community Health Center application to come forward and explain how their proposal will benefit Wallingford. He noted that a memo in support of this program was received from the Health Department. Representing CHC were Casey Harding, Director of the Center for Key Populations, and Chris Farmer, Vice President for Grants Development and Administration.

Ms. Harding described the Mobile Health Unit and how they have been working with Master's Manna for 12 years. She reported that they saw 596 patients last year at that location with 89% of them from Wallingford. They can provide metrics. COVID exposed the need for healthcare. The mobile unit can be anywhere that has a vulnerable population. She added that they have a good relationship with the Health Department. She explained the services and programs they offer. The mobile unit creates fewer barriers to care in a safe environment. They look at the needs of the community for education and testing. This proposal is to see 200 patients in Wallingford.

Chairman Cervoni shared some conditions developed by the Law Department including storing the vehicle in Wallingford, having scheduled locations, and salary reimbursements limited to the work done in Wallingford. Ms. Harding replied that storage would be an issue due to the need to restock, need for refrigeration, and security. They can commit to scheduled sessions in Wallingford. They are licensed with the Department of Public Health for the location in Wallingford. Mayor Dickinson noted that we don't have an appropriate storage location in Wallingford.

Councilor Laffin asked what is included in the \$317,000. Mr. Farmer replied that the request is for \$216,000, which is for the vehicle and the rest of the funds are to start the program up and staff it. Councilor Laffin asked if they can provide services at no charge for the period of the funding. Ms. Harding replied that they have a sliding fee scale and the funding would cover a certain amount of sessions and patients. CHC takes on some of the costs. Councilor Laffin asked if the vehicle would go elsewhere or only for the Wallingford program. Ms. Harding replied that the vehicle could be used for other clinics or testing which would also benefit Wallingford.

Councilor Fishbein asked why they are doing a mobile clinic and if it would be based at SCOW. Ms. Harding replied that during COVID they found the benefit of going into the community. It is attractive to people, particularly in stigmatized populations. She added that it would go to several locations a day, and SCOW is one of the locations. Councilor Fishbein asked about the percentage of Wallingford residents served. Ms. Harding replied that at Master's Manna, it's 89%. The goal is 100% because they will be going into neighborhoods. She reported that they keep accurate data and can share aggregate data. Councilor Fishbein asked about the line in the application referring to language. Ms. Harding replied that about 45% of the patients they see speak other than English. They see a lot of migrants and refugees. They use a language line to get translations.

Councilor Tatta asked if using the money for salaries is allowed under ARPA. Atty. Small replied yes. Councilor Tatta asked how we would know what percentage of a salary is used in Wallingford. Atty. Small replied that we can require that documentation. Councilor Tatta noted that the financial statements show that the organization has significant funds. Atty. Small stated that they are proposing a program. They are not saying that they have a financial need.

Councilor Fishbein asked if the program will happen if they are granted a smaller amount. Mr. Farmer explained that they are required to serve patients in their current scope, at 15 sites across the state and over 200 school-based health clinics. Wallingford is not within that scope. The mobile unit will allow us to expand into Wallingford and see patients that can't pay for healthcare. They are asking for start-up funds for the project. He stated that if they don't get the full grant, they will continue to work at Master's Manna but won't be bringing a mobile unit to Wallingford.

Councilor Laffin asked about the timeline as there are time restrictions on the ARPA funds. Ms. Harding replied that they know what is involved in getting the program up and running and can do it in 120 days. They expect to sustain the program after the end of the funding.

Councilor Carmody thanked the CHC representatives for the work they have been doing in Wallingford and stated that he is in favor of the funding.

MOTION TO table the discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funds for the CHC application at the next meeting. MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: MARRONE

Councilor Tatta stated that she is not in favor of the funding and doesn't see why it has to be tabled.

12

Councilor Zandri stated that he would like to vote on this tonight. It fits the criteria for a project.

Councilor Marrone stated that they demonstrated the need and where the money will go.

MOTION WITHDRAWN MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: MARRONE

MOTION TO fund \$317,272.94 from the ARPA Revenue Account for the purposes of a mobile unit to CHCI. MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Councilor Fishbein stated that he would be more comfortable if it was not the full amount.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, stated that she respects and admires what CHC does. She asked for clarification of the budget. Mr. Farmer replied that there are administrative costs not included in the direct costs. There is a federally negotiated rate with the Dept. of Health and Human Services. Ms. Gross noted that this is a valuable program and suggested some locations. She asked if there are plans to use the mobile unit in other towns. She asked if they knew what percentage of clients seen elsewhere were from Wallingford. Ms. Harding replied that she can research that. She added that they charge based on a sliding scale and have resources for those who are uninsured. Ms. Gross asked if the charges to insurance companies are considered program income. Ms. Harding replied that that is how they will sustain the program. Ms. Gross asked where the current mobile unit is used. Ms. Harding replied that they go to migrant farms, homeless shelters, senior centers, and public housing. Mr. Farmer clarified that the expectation is that this mobile unit will spend most of its time in Wallingford, with 50% of the time to start. They have no plans to use this unit elsewhere.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, noted that the way the ARPA funding was set up if they qualify for a program application, it doesn't matter how much money they have in the bank.

ROLL CALL VO	TE:	MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	NO
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES

8 – AYE 1 – NAY 0 – ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

12. Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funds for CT State Grange Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$182,000 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Nonprofits, Acct. #23940300-58830-TBD – Law Dept.

MOTION TO approve an ARPA funds allocation for the CT State Grange Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$182,000.

MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: ALLINSON ABSTAIN: Zandri

Councilor Laffin noted that there were questions of eligibility for this application that have been put to rest. The funds are requested to repair the roof and make the building ADA-compliant. This is a meaningful and useful property in town. It is a key organization in Town. He is in support of the motion.

Councilor Fishbein stated that the Committee did not recommend funding this application, partly due to the application itself. There was a concern that the entity did not have much of a footprint in town for the last 5 years. What is preventing them from fixing up the property and selling it? There was no representation of goals and membership increase. Atty. Small stated that they would have no authority to sell without the approval of the State Grange. We can require that they hold the title for a period of time.

Councilor Allinson stated that she supports the application. She asked what caused the original hesitation to fund. Atty. Small replied that 501(c)5s and 8s are not permitted to apply, so the State Grange Foundation did the application. They have done the same for other granges. Councilor Allinson stated that it seems like a large request for an organization that was shut down by COVID. She sees the passion behind this organization and agrees that the building needs to be safe and ADA-compliant.

Councilor Carmody stated that the application meets the ARPA standards and our standards. He supports the application. This is a worthy investment in a community that builds a sense of community.

Councilor Fishbein agreed and asked who owns the building. Atty. Small replied that the local grange owns the building but there is an affidavit on the land records that they have to get permission from the State Grange to do so. Councilor Fishbein stated concern that the funds go to the State Grange Foundation and the Foundation will do the project. Atty. Small confirmed that the Foundation will be in charge of the project. She stated that the Foundation is the fiscal sponsor that applies for grants to benefit the local groups. Councilor Fishbein stated that he would be more comfortable saying that the local grange would retain the property for 10 years. Atty. Small suggested that we include a requirement that the property is legally devoted to the local grange purposes for a period of 10 years.

Chairman Cervoni asked if we would get some of the money back if it's sold before then. Atty. Small replied yes.

Councilor Tatta asked if the organization was in existence before COVID.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Miley Mckeen, Burke Heights Drive, stated that she is the Wallingford Grange Steward. The Grange has been in Wallingford since 1885. The building was built in 1932 for the grange. She added that they have 44 members and all the officers are now Wallingford residents. When they were shut down by the state for COVID they could not do events so had no funding. They had storm damage to the roof. A portion of the grant would get the building up to ADA compliance. The State wants to make sure that this building stays a grange and thrives. The previous incarnation of the Grange turned in its Charter and the State recruited new members to revitalize this Grange. They earned back their Charter.

Kathy Aubrey Bergonzi, of 22 Vale Avenue, Yallesville, is the Lectioner and Director of the Fair. They have been having programs. They will hold their 86th Fair this year.

Robin Hedrick, Williams Road, Grange President, added that they reorganized in 2022. They never actually ceased operations. They are gaining members every year. They will continue to be a going concern.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, stated that other applications failed for the same reason. Will those other groups be invited to apply? He added that other applicants could have applied with a little assistance. He stated that he is just sticking up for the ones that did not pass the criteria.

Robin Hedrick, Williams Road, spoke on behalf of the Elks, which is a 501(c)8. They applied as a business because they don't have a 501(c)3 organization like the Grange.

Councilor Fishbein noted that the list of officers on the Secretary of State site needs to be updated.

Atty. Small suggested an agreement between the local and state Grange that they commit the property to the local grange use for at least 10 years.

MOTION TO require the Local and State Grange to commit the property to the local grange for use for at least 10 years. MADE BY: FISHBEIN SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

It was agreed that this is a separate motion.

Councilor Tatta stated that this application passed using the Standard Deviation rule. She only supports those that meet the original rules.

Councilor Testa stated that adding the 10-year thing is effectively putting a lien on the property. We didn't put restrictions like that on anyone else. Atty. Small replied that in business applications where a tenant makes improvements to the landlord's property, this is done to make sure they have the legal right to be there for a certain amount of time. Councilor Testa stated that he is in favor.

Chairman Cervoni called for a vote on the amendment.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	1	MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	NO	TATTA:	NO
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	NO
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	ABSTAIN
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES
5 – AYE 3 – NAY 1– ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT			
MOTION: PASSES			

Chairman Cervoni called for a vote on the motion as amended.

ROLL CALL VO	ГE:	MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	NO
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	ABSTAIN

LAFFIN:

YES

CERVONI: YES

7 – AYE 1 – NAY 1– ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

13. Discussion and Possible Action regarding ARPA Municipal Projects:

- A. Proposal by Councilor Tatta
- B. Proposal by Mayor Dickinson

Chairman Cervoni asked if the only difference is the two ATVs that were removed from the Mayor's proposal.

Councilor Tatta noted the items that were not on the Mayor's list but were on her proposed list, the Fire Dept. Gear Extractor Washer with Base, \$9,300; the Fire Dept. Gear Set Dryer, two sets, \$9,300; the Fire Dept. UTV with Commercial Insert, \$33,000; and Fire Dept. Fire Accelerant and Hydrocarbon Detector, \$1800. The total cost is \$46,028.

Controller Sena noted that the second-year funding for the Fire Pumper was added to the Mayor's budget this year.

Mayor Dickinson responded to the question of why these were taken out of his budget. Two of the items are low-cost and can be funded in another manner. He wanted to see if there was money left at year-end. He wasn't convinced that we need two ATVs and the cost is high. These can be looked at for the future. He understood that the Fire Department wasn't sure they needed the hydrocarbon detector.

Councilor Laffin noted that the Town was going to get these items, as they were in the budget. It's just the source of revenue is to be determined. Mayor Dickinson replied yes.

Councilor Tatta stated that the list of remaining items was not in the Mayor's original budget. They were in the budget package she presented to be paid for out of ARPA funds. She explained that the Mayor removed five capital items from the budget for Police and Fire to be funded by ARPA. She had proposed additional ARPA funds to fully fund these items for the Fire Dept. Council amended and approved the proposal. Council has been informed that they need to get administration approval for ARPA-funded items. The items not on the Mayor's approved list, Item 2 of the budget proposal, which was approved twice by Council, total \$46,028. The Fire Department Gear Extractor and Gear Set Dryer are for the Volunteer Company 8. It is best practice to wash the gear after a scene, as there are carcinogens on the gear. Volunteers have only one set of gear. Company 8 needs to use the gear washer at North Farms or Headquarters and cleaning the gear takes several hours. She noted that this item is already partially funded. The Fire Accelerant Hydrocarbon Detector is used for fire investigations and only costs \$1,800. The UTV is something that has been talked about for years. It is outfitted with equipment for the Fire and Rescue. Council has approved a lot of ARPA expenditures tonight. The First Responders were most affected by COVID. These tools help them do their job.

Councilor Testa stated that he supports these expenditures. He asked for clarification that nothing proposed is an alteration of the budget. Councilor Tatta stated that these items were denied in the Mayor's budget and were moved to be funded by ARPA funds. The four items not approved are in the Council's

budget proposal but not in the Mayor's budget as approved items. Councilor Testa asked if we have already used up the \$13.1 million in ARPA funds.

Councilor Zandri stated that a total of \$7.384 million has been used for grants and the Mayor used \$2.8 million. That should have left \$2.8 million. The adjustment passed by Council was approximately \$1.1 million leaving about \$1.6 million.

Councilor Testa noted that the money set aside for the pool has already been used. He asked when we voted to rescind the decision to set money aside for the pool. He stated that we have a list of municipal projects that we wanted to do and that list has never been addressed. He doesn't disagree with anything funded except that they should be part of the municipal budget. ARPA money shouldn't be used for public safety equipment. He asked when we can look at the municipal projects list.

Mr. Sena stated that there is \$3 million left if the proposals tonight pass, counting unfunded applications. So far, we have spent \$1,335,736 on business applications, \$3,697,792 on non-profit applications, plus \$4,447,996 from tonight's proposal. The only municipal project that's been allocated is the \$67,000 for Doolittle Park and half a million for administration.

Councilor Laffin noted that there is \$2.4 million that has been eroded out of its bucket. Administratively, to vote on this tonight, is it necessary to line up the accounts or is it just going to happen in the budget? Mr. Sena replied that it was recommended that neither the Mayor nor the Council could do something with ARPA money without the other's approval. We are asking Council to approve these projects so we can start doing them. Councilor Laffin clarified that if we support all the money tonight that leaves about \$3 million.

Mayor Dickinson stated that the critical items now include the \$1.8 million ladder truck and the \$850,000 pumper truck. We need to get these orders in, so they are time-sensitive.

Councilor Laffin stated that it sounds like we spent outside the original buckets. He wants to be sure that we have money to spend. We have \$3 million to finish out the applications and municipal projects.

Councilor Marrone noted that we keep changing direction. There is no real plan. He likes Councilor Tatta's ideas, most of which should have been funded in the municipal budget. We need to talk about projects. Councilor Tatta's list is all good expenses. We should move forward with them.

Councilor Tatta stated that Council already voted for these items twice. It was added back to the agenda because we were told that the administration needs to agree on ARPA expenditures. These are not new. All these items are on the Mayor's list. The administration has not agreed on these items. She asked if we need a motion if we have already voted on this twice.

Mayor Dickinson stated that he had questions about the ATVs though he is not opposed. Some items may be able to be funded this year. He is not opposed to them. If Council is committed to the ATVs he will keep an open mind. Councilor Tatta clarified that there is just one ATV for the Fire Department. Mayor Dickinson replied that the Police Department submitted a request for one as well.

Councilor Tatta asked where we are going from here. We can't use the ARPA money without the Mayor's support. She listed some of the organizations that received funding approvals night. She asked if there was funding for an unfilled Council staff position. Chairman Cervoni replied that much of that money was used for the archiving project. Mr. Sena noted that if Council appropriates money at the June 20th meeting, things have to be ordered by the 30th and it can only get done tonight if the Mayor approves.

The only thing that can be voted on tonight is what the Mayor proposed unless he is willing to make an adjustment to it.

MOTION TO approve expenditures from the ARPA Revenue Federal Grant Account of \$4,447,996 to the respective expenditure accounts as submitted by the Mayor. MADE BY: LAFFIN SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Councilor Zandri stated that we can't compel the Mayor to do anything. This comes down to the will of the Mayor. He supports this. He asked, between the ARPA funding and the remaining funds from unfilled positions, can we find \$46,000. Mayor Dickenson stated that he would look at what he can find and will get more information from the departments on the ATVs. Councilor Zandri pointed out the importance of the ATV for the Fire Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Salotta, Sorrento Road and Chief of Company 8, explained the need for the Gear Extractor and Dryer. The total cost is about \$22,000. He noted that they have money left in the budget that can go toward this purchase.

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road stated that she is disgusted by the conversation and how Council has overspent the ARPA buckets. You vote for safety equipment and the mayor did not support it. The pool money is gone.

MOTION TO amend the motion to include the \$46,000 to fund the four Fire Department items. MADE BY: TATTA SECONDED BY: MARRONE

Chairman Cervoni asked for a vote on the amendment.

ROLL CALL VOTE:		MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES

9 – AYE 0– NAY 0 – ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

Chairman Cervoni called for a vote on the motion as amended.

ROLL CALL VOTE:		MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES
9 – AYE			
0-NAY			

0 – ABSTAIN 0- ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

14. Discussion and Possible action on ARPA Grant Program remaining issues and determinations – Law Dept.

Atty. Small stated that as of tonight, Council has heard all the non-profit recommendations. Her memo has a list of those that the committee has not approved as well as the ineligible applications. There are two businesses to be reviewed by the committee. She stated that she is in a position to notify those that are ineligible that their applications have been closed. She asked if Council wants to do anything with the applications deemed incomplete.

Chairman Cervoni referred to her memo, items 4 & 5, and asked if we need to tell them that they were not addressed because they were ineligible. Atty. Small replied that we just need to tell them. She referred to number 3 with four applications with questions. She looked into them and expects that at least one is ineligible.

Chairman Cervoni suggested skipping item 3 for now. Atty. Small explained that they were incomplete due to a lack of sufficient detail. She noted that the incomplete list is in the May 5th memo. Chairman Cervoni referred to the May 5th memo and asked about item B. Atty. Small replied that those under B provided no documentation and that she will tell them they were denied. For item C, they provided some documentation but were incomplete. There are no issues with the non-profits.

Chairman Cervoni referred to the June 8 memo, item 4. Six applications were not recommended by the committee. Atty. Small replied that she doesn't know if the standard deviation was applied to them, so suggested holding on to item 4 until the next meeting. She proposed a motion.

MOTION TO take final action to take no action on the business applications deemed ineligible on the June 8th and May 5th memos, specifically Front Porch Brewing Co., items A. Margillo Knuckleheads through G. Wally Wine and Spirits.

MADE BY; FISHBEIN SECONDED BY: MARRONE

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

9 – AYE 0 – NAY 0 – ABSTAIN 0 - ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

Atty. Small explained why the two applications in the June 8th memo, item 6, are ineligible.

MOTION TO take final action to take no action on business applications ineligible per Law Dept in the June 8th memo item 6, specifically, Isakara Restaurant and Porto Citgo Service Station.

MADE BY: MARRONE SECONDED BY: ZANDRI

FISHBEIN: RECUSE

Councilor Carmody asked if these businesses had the opportunity to rectify the problem. Chairman Cervoni replied yes.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, stated Council is excluding ones that failed to provide information, other applications didn't declare they received grants. Everything should be fair.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

9 – AYE 0 – NAY 0 – ABSTAIN 0 - ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

Chairman Cervoni noted that we are not in a position to act on item 7 in the June 8th memo. Atty. Small agreed.

Chairman Cervoni stated that Baran's Kempo failed to disclose delinquent tax debt, but it was determined to be a good faith error. The Committee approved the application.

MOTION TO approve funding for Baran's Kempo Karate. MADE BY: FISHBEIN SECONDED BY: ZANDRI

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

9 – AYE 0 – NAY 1 – ABSTAIN 0 - ABSENT MOTION: PASSES

Atty. Small noted that there is a Salon which is not in the memo, The applicant stated only half of their PPP money. They confirmed that that is correct. Councilor Fishbein suggested sending it back to the committee.

MOTION TO send this application back to the committee. MADE BY: FISHBEIN SECONDED BY: ZANDRI

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

9 – AYE 0 – NAY 0 – ABSTAIN 0 - ABSENT MOTION: PASSES Atty. Small stated that leaves the incomplete applications. She referred to her May 5th memo, under nonprofit applications incomplete, under B. She asked if Council wants to give them another opportunity to provide the missing information.

Councilor Fishbein asked if we know that someone reached out to all of these to tell them what they need to do. Atty. Small replied that the consultant did. They are incomplete due to missing documentation or insufficient information to prove eligibility. She said we could reach out to one or both groups.

Councilor Laffin referred to the business applications. Atty. Small stated that those under B sent no financials at all. Councilor Laffin stated that he would rather the C group get one more letter. Atty. Small will talk to the consultant and tell them what the insufficiency is. She will give them a specific time frame. Councilor Laffin proposed two weeks and tell Group B they are done. Atty. Small agreed and no follow-up is necessary.

Councilor Testa noted #14 who reached out to Council. The Consultant spoke to the applicant and nothing was filed with IRS so no financials are available. Chairman Cervoni noted that it was decided that applicants had to be compliant with their tax obligations. It was agreed to send them the reminder letter.

Councilor Allinson stated that hundreds of applications submitted complete applications. We can't just pick and choose who gets invited to apply. We either invite all of B & C or just invite list C.

MOTION TO send a letter to all in group C and give them 14 days to submit missing documentation. MADE BY: ALLINSON SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Zandri recused himself from item C10 Tatta recused herself from item C7

Atty. Small asked to Amend the Motion to add to C those listed in 3 on the June 8th memo. Amendment accepted by Allinson and Fishbein

Chairman Cervoni called for a vote on the amended motion

ROLL CALL VOTE:		MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY;	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	ABSTAIN
8 – AYE 0 – NAY 1 – ABSTAIN 0 - ABSENT MOTION: PASSES			

Atty. Small stated that she will go through the list again to make sure the applications are complete.

ADJOURNMENT

20

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 11:30 PM.

MADE BY: ALLINSON SECONDED BY: CERVONI VOTE: ALL AYE MOTION: PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl-Ann Tubby Recording Secretary

Vincent Cervoni, Chair

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date

Date

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