

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

June 25, 2024

6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 7-2-24  
AT 4:46pm AND RECEIVED BY  
Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 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, Corporation Counsel Janis Small, and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Consent Agenda

Presentation of Certificates of Recognition and Jackets for Boys LHHS Indoor Track Connecticut State Champions.

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$8,505.58 (#970-#977) Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and approve change of Appropriation of ARPA funds in the amount of \$12,250 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Municipal Library Equipment, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD - Mayor
- 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$113,800 from Contingency – Accrued Expenses, Acct. #10019000-58821 to Several Department Salaries and Wages Accounts (See attached) – Comptroller
- 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,000 from Insurance Deductible, Acct. #10020100-55915 to Overtime, Acct. #10020100-51400 – Animal Control.
- 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,000 from Maintenance of Building & Grounds, Acct. #10020150-54315 to Purchase of Professional Services-Ambulance Billing, Acct. #10020150-56778 – Fire Dept.
- 3f. Consider and approve Acceptance of Summer Youth Employment Grant Revenue from Workforce Alliance, Inc. in the amount of \$83,000 to Revenue, Acct. #227-TBD and to Expenditures, Acct. #227-TBD – Y&SS

- 3g. Consider and approve Budget Amendment FY 2023-2024 to increase Operation and Labor Expense in the amount of \$35,000 from Retained Earnings, Acct. # N/A to Operation Labor and Expenses, Acct. #46100642 – Sewer Div.
- 3h. Consider and approve Budget Amendment FY 2024-2025 to increase Solids Handling Complex Update in the amount of \$180,000 from WPCF Upgrades Project Design, Acct. #46300331-05820-s1825 to Solids Handling Complex Update in the amount, Acct. #46300331-05820-s2534 – Sewer Div.
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$850 from Materials and Supplies, Acct. #10030000-56140 to Flagpole for Community Park, Acct. #10030000-57000 – Public Works
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$185,000 from Unallocated CNR funds to Library HVAC Replacement, Acct. #30102024-57000-20257 – Public Works
- 3k. Consider and approve Job Description for Recreation Superintendent – Parks & Recreation/Human Resources
- 3l. Consider and approve a Bid Waiver to contract AHP for \$25,000 to conduct the Wallingford Community Health Improvement Plan – Health Dept.
- 3m. Consider and approve Bid Waiver to contract CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for approximately \$65,000 to assist implementation of payroll software enhancements – Comptroller
- 3n. Approve Amended Minutes of May 28, 2024 Town Council meeting and Minutes of June 11, 2024 Town Council Meeting.
- 3o. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$75,987 from Retained Earnings, Acct. #N/A and to Accounts per attached Memo, Acct # Various – Electric Div.
- 3p. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$46,300 – Water Div.

\$46,300	From: Retained Earnings	Acct. # N/A
\$ 150	To: Maintenance of Misc. Water Source Plant	43100617
\$ 350	To: Pumping Labor & Expense	43100624
\$ 350	To: Maintenance of Pumping Equip.	43100633
\$ 850	To: Operation Labor and Expense	43100642
\$ 850	To: Maintenance of Water Treatment Equip.	43100652
\$ 1,050	To: Miscellaneous Expense	43100665
\$30,800	To: Administrative and General Salaries	43100920

\$11,900	To: Employee Pension & Benefits	43100926
3q. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of 50,850 – Sewer Div.		
\$50,850	From: Retained Earnings	Acct. # N/A
2,500	To: Attendant & Laboratory Expenses	46100642
6,650	To: Miscellaneous Expense	46100665
2,700	To: Maint. of the Collection System	46100673
1,100	To: Customer Records & Collection Expense	46100903
24,800	To: Administrative and General Salaries	46100920
13,100	To Employee Pension & Benefits	46100926

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3c as amended, 3e-3k and 3m-3q.**

**MADE BY: TATTA**

**SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

**ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR**

#### 4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Item #12 has been removed from the agenda. 3b and 3l have been removed from Consent.

- 3b. Consider and approve change of Appropriation of ARPA funds in the amount of \$12,250 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Municipal Library Equipment, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD - Mayor

Sunnie Scarpa, Library Director talked about requesting the remaining ARPA funds of \$12,250 for a one time Collaboratory equipment purchase at the Wallingford Public Library. The purchases would be for a Bernina Q20 Longarm Quilting Machine or equivalent and a Bambu Lab 3-D Printer. The money came from paying a part time digital navigator to help people learn how to use the computer. That person since has taken a full time job and that money still needs to be spent.

Councilor Tatta wanted clarification about the \$12,250 and how it would be spent.

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve to change the use of the APRA funds.**

**MADE BY: MARRONE**

**SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

Councilor Fishbein talked about the navigator program and how it helped out a lot of people in town. He talked about how this program and the fact that the Wallingford Public Library with this request still wants to help out the community by purchasing this equipment.

**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**

31. Consider and approve a Bid Waiver to contract AHP for \$25,000 to conduct the Wallingford Community Health Improvement Plan – Health Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve to item 31.**

**MADE BY: TATTA**

**SECONDED BY: FISHEBEIN**

Vanessa Bautista, Health Director explained the purpose of the bid waiver, asked by Councilor Tatta. The bid waiver is for Community Health Improvement Plan that needs to be done based on the Community Health Assessment Plan. There is a time constraint on this. She wants to make sure that the CHA is based on a current CHIP plan and not an outdated one. The CHIP was done December of 2023.

There was a voice vote and everyone was in favor of this item.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Mr. Jackson talked about the issue of getting on the Town Council agenda for the cable bill reimbursement of \$285,000.

Susan of Surry Drive talked about the fee on a cable bill that is owed to the residents. She said The State of Connecticut did a study in 2023 and the total amount she is asking the Town of Wallingford to reimburse is \$285,000.

Bill Comerford of Broadview Drive stated that he sent a video to the Town Council about him asking about the trash pickup in town. He is asking again if he can have the cost for two guys to drive around each day and pick up the trash. He wants to know how much it costs the tax payers per year for this. He asked about getting a grant for a splash pad. He mentioned that Cheshire was awarded a grant and used that money to install a splash pad.

Jason Michael of Meadow Street talked about the basketball courts and how a lot of money was spent on them and they do not look good for the money that the town spent. He asked the Engineering department if he can go to the meeting to talk about this and he was basically brushed off and he is upset about it.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Technology

Andrew Winters, Director of IT spoke about looking at the security bases lines for the town. He did an assessment of the anti-virus, firewalls, backups and some of the other critical systems that the town runs on. From the assessment they started working on updating backup systems. A bid will be going out on Thursday for anti-virus software and mail ware protection for all computers, servers and desk top computers. He mentioned that they have talked to vendors about next generation firewalls. There were discussions with vendors about improving the backups. He has also been developing specs for upgrades to the hardware.

(b) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Corporation Counsel Small has heard nothing back from the developer's attorney. She said that she has two possible solutions for this issue.

7. Conduct a Public Hearing and consider and act on the following: Revision to Food Establishment Ordinance Chapter 122 – Health Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve to item #7 and approves the amended revision of the not red lined version for the fee schedule recommended by the Health Director and approved by Town Council.**

**MADE BY: ALLINSON**

**SECONDED BY: TATTA**

Vanessa Bautista, Health Director took questions from the council.

Councilor Allinson asked if the change in the fee schedule is mandated by the State and it is. The new fee schedule will take effect 30 days after it is posted.

Councilor Fishbein asked about the amendment to the motion. He also asked about the fee schedule. Mrs. Bautista said that in the future the fee schedule will be its own document and can be approved instead of having to update the whole ordinance.

**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**

8. Discussion and possible action regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Wallingford and WEPCU, Nutmeg Independent Labor Unions effective from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2025 – Human Resources

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve to item #8.**  
**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: TATTA**

Jim Hut, Human Resources Director is seeking approval for the above Collective Bargaining Agreement. He went over the agreement and updates if any.

Councilor Testa wanted to make sure that the past due funds will be coming from the Electric Division and it will be Mr. Hutt stated. He asked if this new contract will be able to keep the valuable employees Wallingford has or will they be looking elsewhere. He wants to make sure that this contract is competitive enough for people to stay in Wallingford and work.

Councilor Fishbein went over the contract pointing out things he thought were a concern.

Councilor Tatta asked Mr. Hutt what the vote was, meaning how the union voted for this contract.

Bill Comerford of Broadview Drive asked if the town does exit interviews when some one leaves the Town of Wallingford to pursue another job elsewhere.

**ROLL CALL**  
**ALLINSON: AYE**  
**CARMODY: AYE**  
**FISHBEIN: NAY**  
**LAFFIN: AYE**  
**REGAN: AYE**  
**REYNOLDS: AYE**  
**TATTA: AYE**  
**TESTA: AYE**  
**MARRONE: AYE**  
**8- AYE**  
**1- NAY**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

9. Discussion and possible action to approve a Bid Waiver for SmartGov Online Permitting System – P&Z

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve to item #9.**

**MADE BY: TATTA**

**SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

Kevin Pagini, Town Planner, Andrew Winters, Director of IT and Don Crouch, Economic Development Specialist presented this item. Mr. Crouch explained that in November they had their monthly staff meeting where they were discussing projects and realized the town departments needed a better system to communicate with each other when it came to projects, permits and what not.

Mr. Pagini explained the process of getting a permit from his office now compared to what the process would be if they have the online permitting system. The online system is faster and more efficient for all departments dealing with the permits. The departments can access the information for each permit quickly instead of waiting for paper copies. With the new online system the public will be able to see real time updates to their permits and can file complaints if needed.

Councilor Regan cautioned the need for many departments to be on this online permitting system and have access to it. He did ask if Planning and Zoning was the only department that would be using this online permitting system. Mr. Crouch said most departments will be using the online system for data online to see what is going on with the permits and what stage they are at. Regan wanted to know who would be maintaining the system and who is responsible for it.

Councilor Tatta wanted to know if help would be provided to people who are going to be using the online system that need it. She asked how the only payment portion of this would work.

Councilor Reynolds asked about certain annual fee associations and the cost of them and whether they would be included in the price given in the backup. He asked about filing complaints and if the public would be able to file complaints for a specific department handling a permit. He wanted to make sure that the online permitting system would not be replacing people in the offices answering phones and such.

Councilor Fishbein is pleased with the start of the online permitting system. He asked about the GIS system and if it will now include residential property. He asked if any other towns are using the online permitting system that Wallingford is trying to implement so he can see how it works. He said that this should be cost effective for the customer. He wanted to know if complaints will be addressed and if the person complaining will be able to see the updates in regular time.

**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 authorize Appropriation in Force \$600,000 for Vacuum Truck – Public Works

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve to item #10.**

**MADE BY: TATTA**

**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

Rob Baltramaitis, Director of Public Works talked about needing a new vacuum truck to properly clean out the catch basins and storm drains around town. The one they have now is 24 years old and trying to find replacement parts and keep the equipment operational has become difficult. To be able to properly clean the catch basins around town they need reliable equipment. He mentioned in the next (5) years about 5,000 out of the 9,000 catch basins will have to be cleaned out. Public Works cannot do that with the old vacuum truck they have now. Councilor Fishbein asked how many vacuum trucks were in town. Mr. Baltramaitis said that Public Works has one that is functioning ok. Water/Sewer has two trucks. He asked if the two departments can work together. The trucks have different mechanics and are for two different purposes.

Councilor Reynolds asked if the proposed cleaning schedule for the catch basins would require extra staff to be hired. He asked when the council originally approved this amount, where did the money come from.

Councilor Regan asked about the trade in value for the 24 year old truck. He also asked the number of hours on this existing truck. He asked what the availability is for a vacuum truck on the market.

Councilor Carmody asked if contracting this type of work for cleaning the catch basins was ever considered.

Councilor Testa discussed and asked about street sweeping and if this cleaning project is a one-time project. He asked if leasing the equipment instead of purchasing new equipment is an option.



Councilor Fishbein asked about additional staff needed for this project.

Councilor Laffin asked if two crew members having to work two to three days a week cleaning catch basins and storm drains would pull away from other work that their department should be handling. He is concerned about the trade in value of the truck.

Bill Comerford of Broadview Drive asked about the vacuum truck that Water/Sewer Division has and if it can do the job that Public Works needs it to do. Neil Amwake, Water/Sewer General Manager explained in detail what it would take and the cost it would be to convert their 1993 vacuum truck into a truck that Public Works can use. Mr. Comerford gave a hand out to each council member. The MS4 permit was mentioned. He discussed the paperwork he handed out to the council. The paperwork talked about how many catch basins were inspected and cleaned each year.

**ROLL CALL**

**ALLINSON: AYE**

**CARMODY: AYE**

**FISHBEIN: NAY**

**LAFFIN: AYE**

**REGAN: AYE**

**REYNOLDS: NAY**

**TATTA: AYE**

**TESTA: AYE**

**MARRONE: AYE**

**7- AYE**

**2- NAY**

**MOTION: PASSED**

11. Discussion and possible action regarding a Fire Department study – Chairman Marrorne

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve to item #10.**

**MADE BY: MARRONE**

**SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

Sam Wilson, Acting Fire Chief and Mike Shaw, Deputy Fire Chief where present to speak about the Fire Department study.

Chairman Marrone went into detail about why this study is coming up and the purpose of it.

The councilors talked in depth about why they thought this study was a good idea.

**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**

12. Discussion for solutions to adding benches to town parks – Councilor Allinson

This item was removed from the agenda.

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

**MOTION WAS MADE to go into Executive Session at 11:03pm.**  
**MADE BY: TATTA**  
**SECONDED BY: FISHEBIEN**

In attendance were all council members, Mayor Cervoni and Corporation Counsel Janis Small.

**MOTION WAS MADE to come out of Executive Session at 11:22pm.**  
**MADE BY: ALLINSON**  
**SECONDED BY: TATTA**

14. Update and Discussion regarding status of the Community Pool project – Councilor Testa

There was a discussion about what to do with the community pool and the steps that the Council should take to move this project forward.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on the leasing of parking spaces in Simpson Court for the use of outdoor dining – Councilor Carmody

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #15.**  
**MADE BY: CARMODY**  
**SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

Councilor Carmody started off the discussion by saying that this would be good for the community and help bring more people out to the center of town.

Councilor Fishbein was not in favor of having one restaurant pay for parking spots to increase their outside dining space.

Reynolds agreed with Fishbein.

**ROLL CALL**

**ALLINSON: NAY**

**CARMODY: AYE**

**FISHBEIN: NAY**

**LAFFIN: AYE**

**REGAN: NAY**

**REYNOLDS: AYE**

**TATTA: NAY**

**TESTA: AYE**

**MARRONE: NAY**

**5- AYE**

**4- NAY**

**MOTION: FAILED**

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo  
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

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Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

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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.*