

3W

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

July 23, 2024

6:30 P.M.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 7-30-24

4:30 pm

AND RECEIVED BY

Kristen Panzo

TOWN CLERK

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson via telephone, 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, Comptroller Timothy Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$14,963.50 (#1-#13)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$75 from Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 to Operating Expenses, Acct. #10020100-58735 – Animal Control
 - 3c. Acceptance of donations from SCOW for client assistance and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$800 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
 - 3d. Acceptance of donation from the Wallingford Rotary Foundation for youth sports scholarships and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 to Revenue, Acct.#2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,301 from Fire Operating Expenses, Acct. #10020150-58735 to Purchased Services-Ambulance Billing, Acct. #10020150-56778 – Fire Dept.
 - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,400 from Fire Operating Expenses, Acct. #10020150-58735 to Continuing Education & Training, Acct. #10020150-55700 – Fire Dept.
 - 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,100 to pay final electric bill for the town-owned traffic signals for FY 2023-2024 – Police Dept.

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| \$300 | From: Continuing Education & Training | Acct. #10030050-55700 |
| \$800 | From: Professional Services | Acct. #10030050-56730 |
| \$1,100 | To: Utilities – Traffic Signals | Acct. #100300050-53010 |
- 3h. Acceptance of donation from Faith Bible Church of Central CT and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3i. Acceptance of donation form James and Patricia Chieppo and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations – Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.
- 3j. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$27,310 – Police Dept.
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| \$15,000 | From: Rev-Recovery-Law | Acct. #1009052-46300 |
| \$12,310 | From: Rev-Recovery-Ins. | Acct. #1009052-46240 |
| \$27,310 | To: Exp.-Police Cruisers | Acct. #10020050-57000-01304 |
- 3k. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,070 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10050050-51000 to PS-Software Support, Acct. #10050050-56718 - Recreation
- 3l. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$60,000 – IT
- | | | |
|----------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$60,000 | From: Exp. – Operating Exp. | Acct. #10010130-58735 |
| \$ 6,000 | To: Exp.-Transportation | Acct. #10010130-55110 |
| \$10,000 | To: Exp.-Cont. Education | Acct. #10010130-55700 |
| \$ 5,000 | To: Exp.-Office Supplies | Acct. #10010130-56100 |
| \$36,000 | To: Exp.-PS-Software Support | Acct. #10010130-56718 |
| \$ 3,000 | To: Exp.-Dues & Fees | Acct. #10010130-58810 |
- 3m. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$800 from Retained Earnings, Acct. #N/A to Office Furniture and Equipment, Acct. #43300391 – Water Div.
- 3n. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$800 from Retained Earnings, Acct. #N/A to Office Furniture and Equipment, Acct. #46300391 – Sewer Div.

- 3o. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$150,500 from Cash (Retained Earnings) to New Water Services, Acct. #43300345 – Water Div.
- 3p. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$68,200 from Maintenance of Services, Acct. #43100675 to Cash (Retained Earnings) – Water Div.
- 3q. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$68,200 from Cash (Retained Earnings) to New Water Services, Acct. #43300345- Water Div.
- 3r. Consider and approve donation of six utility poles to the NEPPA Training Yard – Electric Div.
- 3s. Approve Town Council Minutes of June 25, 2024

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3s.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda- NONE

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Bill Comerford of Broadview Drive asked the question about the Public Works guys who collect trash on the weekend and how much it cost the town to have two guys do that on the weekends. He also wanted an update on the basketball courts.

Bruce Conroy of Burke Heights Drive talked about the basketball courts.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Corporation Counsel Small gave an update as to what is going on. She stated that she solution for this issue did not work and she will move on to her next idea to see if that will work and she will update the council.

7. Consider and approve Agreement to Purchase 4 Fairfield Boulevard for \$4,100,000 – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3s.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Mayor Cervoni stated that the Board of Education is interested in building this building so that The Adult Education, Central Offices and the Transition Program can move into this building. The building is large and can house everyone. Also, the Adult Education needs to vacate the Train Station because of the condition of the building and they have just outgrown the space.

Chairman Marrone explained to the public how this item came to be on the agenda and the process it took to get the item on the agenda.

Danielle Bellizi, Superintendent of schools and Dominic Barrone, Business Manager spoke about the building and the benefits of purchasing this building. The lease they currently have and the possible rental fee was discussed.

Chairman Marrone asked if the new space would be larger than the space the BOE currently has. He also asked if the BOE has plans for the remainder of the space at 4 Fairfield Blvd. It was discussed that a build out would need to happen, adding classrooms and offices.

Councilor Fishbein spoke about the Transition Program and how it has moved quite often in the past 5 years. He questioned the typo in the agenda saying to "Schedule a Public Hearing".

Councilor Tatta asked if there would be a penalty for breaking the existing lease by ending it early. She asked about the appraisal amount.

Bruce Conroy of Burke Heights Drive asked about the square footage. He asked about renovations and if there is a detailed inspection report of the building.

Councilor Tatta mentioned that she likes the idea that Municipality buildings are being developed and use on Fairfield Blvd. She thinks it is a positive move.

Councilor Regan asked about public transportation as far as the bus routes.

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. Schedule a public hearing to be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 23, 2024 in connection with an ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$5,100,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF 4 FAIRFIELD BOULEVARD AND CERTAIN BUILDING RENOVATIONS THEREON AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,100,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Item #8.

MADE BY: MARRONE

SECONDED BY: REGAN

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

9. Consider and approve an Appropriation in the amount of \$206,392 from Surplus, Acct. #N/A to Exp.- Police - Tasers – Acct. #200-TBD – Police Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Item #9.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: REGAN

John Ventura, Police Chief discussed the use for new Tasers and the improvement it would make to the Police Department to have new and improved ones.

Councilor Tatta questioned the funding and wanted an explanation as to where the money is coming from.

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. Consider and approve Revised Food Establishment Fee Schedule – Health Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Item #10.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Eloise Hazelwood, Acting Health Director, Mike Hughes, Chief Sanitarian and Chris, Senior Clerk talked about the updated fee schedule for the Revised Food Establishment and why it is happening.

Councilor Tatta asked for a comparison to what the current rates are. She asked how much extra revenue the Health Department would bring in if the fees were increased.

Councilor Fishbein asked why increase the fees now. He suggested putting penalty fees in so businesses are compliant.

Councilor Reynolds asked if they knew how much more it would cost to do the inspections and things like that and if they had taken that into consideration. He asked about some of the flat rate fees.

Councilor Regan asked for definition of all the classes that a business can fall into. He asked if more staff would be needed to for the permitting process.

Councilor Testa talked about the increase in the fees. He asked if the increases were enough to keep businesses from getting in trouble and not complying with the fees.

Councilor Laffin asked how long on average do the inspections take before versus now. There was a discussion on a class employees would have to take, how long the class it and how much the Health Department is charging. The re inspection fee was discussed.

Councilor Fishbein asked how long the permits are good for. He asked if the renewal fee is the same every year.

Chairman Marrone talked about his concern with raising the fees.

Bruce Conroy of Burke Heights Drive asked if the proposal doesn't pass who has to pay the fees. He stated it would be the public who has to pay the fees.

Councilor Tatta explained that businesses are tax payers too. He talked about what could happen if the fees are not raised.

Councilor Fishbein believes anything the town can do to incentive people to come to town and open businesses would be a good thing.

Councilor Reynolds wants clarification if business owners do not own the property, then how do they pay taxes in town.

Councilor Regan talked about the incentive of law balling costs to get businesses to come to Wallingford is not a good move for the Town of Wallingford Health Department.

Councilor Laffin asked about the certification class employees are supposed to take. He asked how this class is held, meaning if they can take it online or in person. There was a discussion s to how is being sent to take this class.

Councilor Tatta talked about why she does not want to increase the fees for businesses.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: ABSENT

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: NAY

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: NAY

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: NAY

5- AYE

3- NAY

1- ABSENT

MOTION: PASSED

11. Discussion and possible action for Choate Presentation and Request for an Air Easement for a Pedestrian Bridge over Christian Street – Mayor

Mayor Cervoni states that representatives of Choate had approached the administration with this idea and issue. They want to propose a pedestrian bridge at the top highest point on Christian Street between North Elm Street and East Main Street.

Alison Cady, Chief of Communications Officer, Bill Wright, Director of Operations, Discussed with the council the need for this pedestrian bridge and the Air Rights Easement that is needed for this project.

The councilors and members of the public discussed their concerns about this project and how it would affect the traffic flow and so forth. Also discussed was the thought of maybe putting

this bridge in a different location that is more centrally located to the school buildings. There was a discussion as to who will be maintaining this bridge during the winter months. There was a discussion about the cross walks and the lights that were put there to help the kids cross the street in a safe manner.

12. Discussion and possible action on Fire Department RFP Study - Chairman Marrone

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Item #12 and move forward with the RFP as discussed.

MADE BY: MARRONE

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Chairman Marrone discussed why he put this item on the agenda. It was to go over the RFP process for the Fire Department Study that needs to be done.

There was a discussion as to the RFP Study. There was a discussion about making a sub Committee for this item.

13. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §225(f), §1-200(6)(B), *Pattison v. Town of Wallingford* – Law Dept.

This item was withdrawn.

14. Motion to consider and approve action on *Pattison v. Town of Wallingford* – Law Dept.

This item was withdrawn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date