

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
March 11, 2025
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Samuel Carmody, Vincent Testa, Christopher Regan, Jesse Reynolds, Craig Fishbein and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell Sr., Comptroller Tim Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Autumn Allinson was absent from meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$17,390.35 (#686-716)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety Grant “FY 2025 HRRR Speed Enforcement Grant” funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$6,798 from Revenue-State Grants, Acct. #2502002-45114 to Expense-Radar Equipment, Acct. #25020050-58830-TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of donation from the Connecticut Freemason Foundation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,882 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
 - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Youth Projects, Acct. #10040100-58272 to Community Mental Health, Acct. #10040100-56709 – Y&SS
 - 3e. Consider and approve appointment of Robert Beaumont to the Public Utilities Commission for a Term of three (3) years set to expire March 1, 2028 – Mayor
 - 3f. Approve Minutes of February 25, 2025 Town Council Meeting.
 - 3g. Consider and approve Merit Review Board (1) – Human Resources

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3g.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR**

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD-

Brian Monroe spoke about the possibility of having red light cameras to prevent accidents and hold reckless drivers accountable. He also discussed the reasons auto and home owners insurance is going up and why it will go up again. Mayor Cervoni stated that the law that passed at the legislative requires an ordinance to be adopted for the implementation of red light cameras. He has had a few meetings with the Police Department and they are preparing draft ordinances to bring to the council. He mentioned that they have seen a few presentations from a few vendors. The way the programs are structured is that it insures that the fines collected do in fact exceed the cost of the equipment and the monitoring that comes along with it.

Bill Comerford of Broadview Drive spoke about the Doo Little basketball courts and how himself and other people were bringing pictures and complaints to the Town Council and the administration last fall. He talked about the bubbling of the courts. He asked since the time the basketball courts were done, has anyone gone down there to look at them to see if they held up, because there were other basketball courts that failed and had to be re done. Mayor Cervoni stated that he had a chance to visit the two courts at Doo Little and the tennis court. He said the court on Wall Street was redone and appears to be fine. He did observe a handful of bubbles on the other court at Doo Little. He mentioned that the contractor that did the work stands by his work. He said the coating has a 10 year warranty and they will continue to monitor to see if the winter had any effect on it at all. Mr. Comerford mentioned a 14' crack in the court on Wall Street. He mentioned the work that the company did failed on this court and the other courts that were done by this company. He said the problem was never fixed because the courts are still bubbling up even after the courts were fixed by the contractor. He asked about sidewalk inspections. Mayor Cervoni stated that the Engineering Department is in care of reviewing the sidewalks periodically, assigning work to be done based upon the conditions that is observed. He stated that we have 13 districts and in 30 years they have just gotten through district 13. They are reexamining that system.

Anthony Rusatte of Hidden Brook Lane expressed his concern and the snow removal. He talked about the fact that it has been over 8 years since everyone first moved into the neighborhood and yet the developer still has not finished everything that they were told would be done.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Attorney Farrell stated that Corporation Council Small requested an Executive Session to be placed on the next agenda.

(b) Update on Community Pool

Mayor Cervoni stated that the bid specifications are near final. He stated that the Bids should be published next week. He expects to be in a position to open the bids on the 10th.

(c) Update on Town Building Maintenance Assessment

Mayor Cervoni stated that the drafts have been returned to the vendor and we are just waiting to get finals back.

(d) Update of Fire Department Study

Chairman Marrone stated that he spoke to the vendor today. They have all of their documentation they need from the town so they should be getting in touch with the Fire Department to begin getting data and putting together the study.

7. 6:30 p.m. To conduct a Public Hearing and consider and Act on the following:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,400,000 FOR THE I-91 WASTEWATER PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,400,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

Neil Amwake-General Manager of the Water and Sewer Division gave a presentation and explained the need for this Wastewater pump station. Peter Hornack, Engineer Planner for the Water/Sewer Division was also there to ask any questions.

Councilor Fishbein asked when the existing appropriation was approved. Mr. Amwake stated it was FY 21-22. He mentioned that prices were increasing and the design got a little more complicated. There was a discussion if the project is at 100% of the funding. Mr. Amake stated that they always come in a little lower with funding and if needed then ask for more money later.

Councilor Testa asked if this project is going to be town bonded or is the Utilities Division paying for this through their reserve account. Mr. Sena stated that the debt will be issued to the town but the principal will be paid by the Utilities Division.

Councilor Regan wanted to know what changed in the design plan from when it was bonded in 2021 till now. Mr. Amwake stated that the design grew in scope. He said

this pump station is designed to be able to last another 40-50 years. Mr. Hornack stated that the original estimate was done a number of years ago and there have been some design changes based on the fact that it is a very tight site.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,400,000 FOR THE I-91 WASTEWATER PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,400,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: ABSENT

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

8- AYE

0- NAY

1-ABSENT

MOTION: PASSED

8. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$47,200 from regular salaries and wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 – Fire Dept.
 - (a) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,000 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 to Maintenance of Vehicles, Acct. #10020150-54320 - Fire Dept.
 - (b) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$10,000 from Regular salaries & Wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 to Maintenance of Building & Grounds, Acct. #10020150-54315 – Fire Dept.
 - (c) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$12,000 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 to Purchased Services-Ambulance Billing, Acct. #10020150-56778 – Fire Dept.
 - (d) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,500 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 to Continuing Education & Training, Acct. #10020150-55700 – Fire Dept.

- (e) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,700 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 to Telephone, Acct. #10020150-53000 – Fire Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #8, a-d.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: REGAN

Chief Buck explained what each transfer was for and where it came from and why.

There was a voice vote to approve all transfers. Everyone present was in favor.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding the Town Council Budget – Chairman Marrone

Chairman Marrone mentioned there will be changes to their budget. He asked about the archiving project. He mentioned their office expense budget and how there is no need for the \$4,500 because they have no expenses. The discussion with Mayor Cervoni for a recording secretary was discussed.

Councilor Fishbein asked where they were with the indexing as far as the council minutes are concerned.

Councilor Laffin asked if the archiving would mean that everything is digitized.

Councilor Regan mentioned how far back is the usable data. If the data isn't useable there might not be a need to digitize it. He stated the land records should go back as far as they can.

Councilor Testa wanted to make sure that all town council records will be kept even if digitized or archived.

Vice Chair Tatta asked if after the documents were digitized if they can be destroyed. The Town Clerk stated that her office has to keep all minutes forever even if digitized.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the Town Council's Request for Information from non-profit agencies – Chairman Marrone

There was a discussion on how this letter should involve more paperwork being handed in from the non-profit agencies. The council wants to make sure that the money they award to these non-profit agencies is actually being used for the reasons they ask for it. The Columbus House Emergency Shelter was discussed and the frustration about how it was not opened due to not having the funds available.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo

Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date