

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

April 22, 2025

6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Christopher Regan, Craig Fishbein, Autumn Allinson, Jesse Reynolds, Samuel Carmody and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Comptroller Tim Sena, Town Attorney Gerald Farrell Sr. and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Vincent Testa was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$8,983.98 (#757-#780)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of overtime reimbursement funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$9,331 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of donation from Choate and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$10,000 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Traffic Safety Equipment, Acct. #25020050-58830-TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3d. Acceptance of donation from 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 K-9, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Consider and approve a bid waiver to purchase CrowdStrike Complete – Police Dept.
 - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$22,000 from Dist. Operation-Supervision & Engineering, Acct. #580 to Dist. Maintenance-Misc. Dist. Environmental, Acct. #598 – Electric Div.
 - 3g. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$70,000 from Retained Earnings, Acct. # N/A to Distribution-Maint. of Station Equipment, Acct. #592 – Electric Div.

- 3h. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$70,000 from Distribution Plant-Station Equipment, Acct. #362 to Retained Earnings, Acct. # N/A – Electric Div.
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$21,000 from Distribution Plant-Street Lighting/Signals, Acct. #373 to Dist. Plant-Leased Property On Customer Premises, Acct. #372 – Electric Div.
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$37,000 from Dist. Operation-Underground Lines, Acct. #584 to Dist. Maintenance-Underground Lines, Acct. #594 – Electric Div.
- 3k. Consider and approve Merit Review Board (1) – Human Resources
- 3l. Consider and approve re-appointment of Thomas Vitali to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a Term of Three (3) years set to expire January 1, 2028 – Chairman Marrone
- 3m. Consider and approve a re-appointment of Michael Caruso to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission for a Term of five (5) years set to expire March 1, 2030 – Chairman Marrone
- 3n. Approve Minutes of April 8, 2025 and April 10, 2025 Town Council Meeting.
- 3o. Consider and approve Farmland Lease Properties Program bid award for field 5B for five-year term – Conservation Commission

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

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Bill Comerford of Broadview Drive asked Mayor Cervoni where the town is with the sidewalk inspection policy. Mayor Cervoni stated that they are still examining it. Mr. Comerford asked if there are any updates to the basketball courts. Mayor Cervoni stated that there has been contact with the vendor. There have been no issues with those courts he said. It is the basketball court on Wall Street that is in question. Mr. Comerford asked for an updated MS-4 form for the next budget meeting. Mayor Cervoni stated that there is no mechanism for them to update that form with DEEP. Mr. Comerford wanted to know if the public would be able to ask questions to the non-profit organizations at the public hearing. He was told to submit questions, which he did to the Town Council Chairman, and he is looking for a response. Chairman Marrone stated that he did not get any answers to his questions. Mr. Comerford asked the mayor about the statement at the bottom of his letter head, stating best managed towns in CT. He asked what that is all about. Mayor Cervoni explained that there was a badge given to the town by Business View Magazine. He participated in an interview with them, then published an article and then sent the town the badge.

Debbie Gross of Long Hill Road asked if there was a way to set a different mile rate for each category to lessen the tax blow this year. Mayor Cervoni stated that the ability to tax is dictated by Connecticut Statutes. He is not aware of any authority in the statute that allows the town to create different mile rates on that basis. Chairman Marrone stated that he will speak to the Law Department tomorrow and investigate it.

Sean Doherty, YMCA Director discussed the Great Give and how it is in its fourth year. The Great Give is an online 36- hour fundraising event. It consists of 12 local charities and can be up to 17 organizations.

Riley O'Connor stated he was there on behalf of the Executive Director of Soul Friends. He said it is a fun giving day and people can contribute as low as \$5. This is an opportunity to help your non-profit organizations.

Susan Hiuzenga of Surrey Drive said that this will be a fun event, and it begins in their space. She said people can come as audience members. People can contribute as little as \$5, or they can give back. The more money they get the more the giving back is amplified. She said they have reached the \$100,000 goal for the past few years, but they want to reach \$300,000 this year.

Terry Grady, Capital for Change, wanted to let the council know that everyone who is involved with this fundraiser has really done some good work in the community.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

- a. Update on Community Pool- Mayor Cervoni stated that the bids have been open and he believes those bids were distributed to the Town Council via email today. They do have a low bidder, whose bid is about \$9.3 million. They will be presenting the bid to the council soon.
- b. Update on Town Building Maintenance Assessment- Mayor Cervoni stated that they are reviewing the assessment to come up with a long-range plan to address what has been revealed by the assessment.
- c. Update on Hidden Brook Lane- Attorney Farrell stated that Attorney Small met with Planning and Zoning last week. They decided that they are going to seek to call the bond on the developer.

7. 6:30 p.m. To Conduct a Public Hearing on the repeal and replacement of Article VI, Chapter 203, Abatement for Members of Volunteer Fire Department.

There were no comments or questions. Vice Chair Tatta stated that she will be recusing herself from items #7 and #8.

8. Discussion and possible action on the repeal and replacement of Article VI, Chapter 203, Abatement for Members of Volunteer Fire Department – Fire Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to repeal and replace Article VI, Chapter 203, Abatement for Members of Volunteer Fire Department as discussed in previous meetings.

MADE BY: ALLINSON

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: ABSTAINED

TESTA: ABSENT

MARRONE: AYE

7- AYE

0- NAY

1-ABSENT

1-ABSTAIN

MOTION: PASSED

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date

