

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

June 10, 2025

6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Thomas Laffin, Craig Fishbein, Christina Tatta, Samuel Carmody (video conference call), Vincent Testa (video conference call), Autumn Allinson, Jesse Reynolds, and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Corporation Council Janis Small, Comptroller Tim Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Regan was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$1,193.36 (#1015-#1020) – Tax Dept.
 - 3b. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety Grant “2024/2025 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Program” funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,322 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$9,000 from Traffic Expenses, Acct. #10020050-56135 to Capital – Traffic Maintenance Building, Acct. #10020050-57000-TBD - Police Dept.
 - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$20,000 to Replacement Pay, Acct. #10020150-51500 and to Maintenance of Vehicles, Acct. #10020150-54320 – Fire Dept.
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$12,500 from Maintenance of Equipment, Acct. #10020050-54325 to Capital-Accident Reconstruction, Acct. #10020050-57000-TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3f. Acceptance of Operation Fuel Grant and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$400 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
 - 3g. Acceptance of donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$3,000 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
 - 3h. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,000 – Town Clerk

Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

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|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$15,000 | From: Contingency | Acct. #10019000-58820 |
| \$10,000 | To: Office Exp. & Supplies | Acct. #10010650-56100 |
| 5,000 | To: Pur. Svs-Computerized Index | Acct. #10010650-56758 |
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$958 from Election Materials & Supplies, Acct. #10010650-56105 to Pur. Svs-Computerized Index, Acct. #10010650-56758 – Town Clerk
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,348 from Election Expenses, Acct. #10010600-58705 to Postage, Acct. #10010400-58735 – Registrars
- 3k. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$129,548 from IT-Exp-Operating, Acct. #10010130-58735 to IT-Capital-Computers, Acct. #10010130-57000-TBD – IT
- 3l. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$140,450 – Water Div.
- | | | |
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| \$140,450 | From: Retained Earnings | Acct. #N/A |
| \$20,400 | To: Pumping Labor & Expense | Acct. #43100624 |
| 5,250 | To: Miscellaneous Expenses | Acct. #43100626 |
| 8,500 | To: Maintenance of Pumping Equip. | Acct. #43100633 |
| 34,900 | To: Maintenance of Water Treatment Equip. | Acct. #43100652 |
| 2,600 | To: Meter Reading Expenses | Acct. #43100902 |
| 68,800 | To: Customer Records & Collection | Acct. #43100903 |
- 3m. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$35,250 – Sewer Div.
- | | | |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| \$35,250 | From: Retained Earnings | Acct. #N/A |
| \$ 2,400 | To: Pumping & Labor Expense | Acct. #46100624 |
| 7,800 | To: Meter Expenses | Acct. #46100663 |
| 3,700 | To: Customer Installation/Inspection Expense | Acct. #46100664 |
| 5,750 | To: Maintenance of Collection System | Acct. #46100673 |
| 15,600 | To: Maintenance of Meters | Acct. #46100676 |
- 3n. Consider and approve the renaming of Yalesville Little League Complex to the Ray Gomes Little League Complex, Home of the Wallingford – Yalesville Little League – Parks & Rec.
- 3o. Approve Minutes of April 28, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting, May 6, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting, May 13, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting and May 27, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting .

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3n, 3o removing May 6 and May 27 minutes.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD-

Larry Morganstein of South Main Street asked what the Town of Wallingford is doing to for Pride month. He asked if the town would acknowledge Pride month, like the State of CT and other towns do.

Phil Uker of Curtis Avenue asked if the Town of Wallingford has had any discussions with Choate Rosemary Hall about going into a voluntary payment program in lieu of taxes. Mayor Cervoni stated that there are discussions about financial contributions.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Corporation Council Small stated that they are in the process of doing preparatory work. She mentioned that there is a title search being done. She also mentioned that they are having conversations with the engineering firm. They would not have been able to proceed if the push for having the As-Built survey maps drawn up.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Wallingford Board of Education and the Wallingford Educational Secretaries Union from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 – BOE

Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent of Wallingford Schools, Dominic Barone, Business Manager for BOE and Fran Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, was there to answer any questions.

Mr. Thompson went over the changes made to the contract.

8. 6:30 p.m. To conduct a Public Hearing and Consider and Act on the following Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$10,500,000 FOR THE WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY POOL PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,500,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.

Chairman Marrone opened the Public Hearing to approve and ordinance appropriating \$10,500,000 for the Wallingford Community Pool Park Construction Project and authorizing the issuance of bonds of the town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in the amount not to exceed \$10,500,000 to finance said appropriation.

With no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve an ordinance appropriating \$10,500,000 for the Wallingford Community Pool Park Construction Project and authorizing the issuance of bonds of the town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in the amount not to exceed \$10,500,000 to finance said appropriation.

MADE BY: ALLINSON

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Vice Chair Tatta spoke about the questions she had asked at the last meeting and how those questions were answered by Kenny Michaels, Park & Rec Director. She discussed her question about the demolition cost and what that entailed. The demolition cost is included in the bid Mr. Michaels stated. She had asked if the \$9,300,000 bid waiver included the removing of the volleyball court. Mr. Michaels stated that the \$60,000 for the volleyball court has been taken out. She asked why the bond is for \$10,500,000 and the bid is for \$9,300,000. Mr. Michaels stated that there is a 12% contingency that was factored in. He stated that the contingency cannot be part of the bid waiver, it must be separate. She asked where the 12% contingency came from. Mr. Sena stated that the number came from the architect. They recommended between 10%-15% for contingency. The town decided to go with 12% contingency. The operating costs for this project were discussed. It will cost about \$118,000 for staffing and wages and about \$150,000 for certified pool maintenance. There are custodial costs of \$8,000 to \$10,000. The total estimated operating cost for the pool each year would be \$278,000.

Councilor Fishbein wanted to know the time-period of the season was for operating costs of \$278,000. Mr. Michaels stated that he was going by the hours of the last operating season, which was 2019. He stated it was the 3rd weekend in June still the 3rd weekend in August, along with every weekend until Labor Day. Councilor Fishbein asked if there was any thought to extended hours to make the season longer. Mr. Michaels stated that if there is an opportunity and there is staffing extended hours might be an option. He stated that the splash pad will be open for an extended season beyond the closing of the pool, based on the weather. Councilor Fishbein asked if they have looked at the expansion of possibly opening Memorial Day weekend through the end of August and what that would cost. Mr. Michaels stated that they had not investigated what it would cost to extend the season yet because they needed to make sure the project would be approved first. He stated opening the pool Memorial Day weekend could pose a challenge because of the staffing. Staying open later in the season could be a possibility because the staff will still be there before they go back to school.

Larry Morganstein of South Main Street asked about the off set costs of revenue that can help with the cost of operating the pool each year. Mr. Michaels stated there would be some off set costs like swimming lessons, birthday parties, swim tags or pool passes, parking tags and things like that could possibly help with the annual operating costs. There was a mention of possibly having concessions and/or food trucks available.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: NAY

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: ABSENT

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: NAY

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

6- AYE

2-NAY

1-ASBENT

MOTION: PASSED

9. 6:30 p.m. To conduct a Public Hearing to Consider and Act on the 2025 Neighborhood Assistance Program – Program Planning

Chairman Marrone opened a Public Hearing to consider and act on the 2025 Neighborhood Assistance Program.

With no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed.

11. Consider and approve Resolution authorizing the mayor to submit Neighborhood Assistance Applications to the Department of Revenue Services and the Summary list of Neighborhood Assistance Programs for 2025 – Program Planning

MOTION WAS MADE to approve a resolution authorizing the mayor to submit Neighborhood Assistance Applications to the Department of Revenue Services and the summary list of Neighborhood Assistance Programs for 2025.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Vice Chair Tatta recused herself from voting on this item.

There was a voice vote taken. 7 councilors voted yes, Vice Chair Tatta abstained, and Councilor Regan was absent.

10. 6:30 p.m. To conduct a Public Hearing to Consider and Act on the following Ordinance entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING IN SUBSTITUTION THEREOF
CHAPTER 167, RENTAL HOUSING CODE.**

Chairman Marrone opened the Public Hearing to consider and act on an ordinance repealing and replacing in substitution thereof Chapter 167, Rental Housing Code.

With no comment from the public the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice Chair Tatta asked where this change came from. She mentioned that there was not a red line version as to what the changes were. Councilor Allinson stated that the council received a series of change requests during the ordinance meetings and while a red line version was not given, the ordinance committee which is made up of the town council voted to move forward with the changes to this ordinance. Vice Chair Tatta stated that she did not feel comfortable voting for a change to the ordinance if she was not aware of what the actual change was.

Councilor Allinson stated that the red line version was provided in the ordinance packet sent on March 27. That was the same day that they reviewed revisions to volunteer fire department abatement ordinance. There was also a code of ethics review that was done at this ordinance meeting.

Vice Chair Tatta asked if they had voted on the red lined version of this ordinance at the ordinance meeting. The vote was to move it to the council agenda for discussion and possible action.

Chairman Marrone stated that this was discussed and voted on at the ordinance meeting the council had.

**MOTION WAS MADE to table item #10.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

ROLL CALL TO TABLE THIS ITEM

ALLINSON: NAY

CARMODY: NAY

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: NAY

REGAN: ABSENT

REYNOLDS: NAY

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: NAY

MARRONE: NAY

2- AYE

6-NAY

1-ASBENT

MOTION: FAILED

Councilor Fishbein referred to the red line version and asked why the word "family" was removed from the ordinance. Corporation Council Small stated you cannot legally tell a person who can live in their house. Councilor Fishbein then asked if the references to family in the ordinance were also removed. Corporation Council Small stated that any reference made to family was removed. Councilor Fishbein then asked about the word "let" and it was existing language, but there was not a definition of that previously. He asked if it was an undefined term in the definition part of the ordinance. Corporation Council Small stated that the red line versions had changes made to them but does not have every variation of the red lined versions with her at the meeting. He asked if anything was replacing the word let in the ordinance because the other red lined words had something replacing the stricken wording. Corporation Council Small stated that they had difficulty with the ordinance because it was given to them by another source. Councilor Fishbein asked why the word "refuse" was being removed. Corporation Council Small stated that there are many words to relate to what garbage is. They combined trash with rubbish. They consolidated the definition. Councilor Fishbein stated that the word refuse was completely removed and so was the definition for it.

Councilor Allinson stated the only thing missing from the trash and rubbish section of the ordinance in the itemized definitions section was ashes and dead animals. She stated all the other definitions remain the same as trash and rubbish.

Councilor Fishbein stated that refuse is a broader term than trash or rubbish. Corporation Council Small stated that all the definition is missing is dead animals.

Councilor Testa wanted to know what the Corporation Council Small had to research. Chairman Marrone stated that she would be researching the definitions from the ordinance that was discussed during the ordinance meetings. Councilor Testa does not understand what the objection is.

Councilor Fishbein asked why protrusible solids are removed from the definition.

Councilor Allinson stated that the areas D and F of the definitions part of the ordinance stated that the occupant should keep a clean and sanitary dwelling. The occupant should dispose of their trash in a clean and save manner and use trash receptacles.

Councilor Fishbein asked if Corporation Council Small agreed with the definitions that Councilor Allinson stated. Corporation Council Small stated the conversation was about condensing the words of the definitions. The words were refuses, trash, garbage and rubbish in the original ordinance and they wanted to condense them. She does not think anything is missing by removing one of those words. Councilor Fishbein said there was no change to the trash and rubbish.

Vice Chair Tatta talked about any changes made at the ordinance meeting that would not be reflected in the red lined version the council had at tonight's meeting. She discussed the violation and penalty of \$50 if an occupant is in violation of said ordinance. The Housing Code Enforcer now can fine occupants. Corporation Council Small stated that this is a new section. The \$50 fine is per day. Vice Chair Tatta stated that now the Housing Code Enforcer can enforce fines if deemed fit. The Housing Code Board of Appeals will be replaced with a Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer will be mayor appointed. She has concerns about this new procedure.

Councilor Fishbein discussed a new section to the ordinance pertaining to have occupants overseeing letting their landlords know if the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors need to be replaced. Corporation Council Small stated that the landlords aren't there every day, so it is now the responsibility of the occupant to notify the landlord if the smoke or CO2 detectors need to be replaced. Councilor Fishbein said it can become an issue because the ordinance is stating it is the occupant's responsibility now.

Justin Rossetti Building Official and Housing Code Enforcement Administrator stated that if a tenant takes a smoke detector down and the calling the Building Department states they have an unsafe condition. Once that statement is said, it is the Building Department's responsibility to relocate the tenants until it is safe to return to the property. The Building Department is trying to put some responsibility on the tenant as well as the landlord to make sure that the tenant is sharing some of this responsibility. They are trying not to relocate people if it is not necessary. Relocating families is a cost to the town. He stated there will be a time when an illegal apartment tenant will have to be relocated for something and at that time it will be the town who must pay those costs not the landlord. He also stated that this document has not been changed since the 1970's.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: NAY

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: ABSENT

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: NAY

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

6- AYE

2-NAY

1-ASBENT

MOTION: PASSED

12. a) Discussion and possible action to approve a bid waiver to purchase Brinc Lemur 2 – Police Dept.

b) Discussion and possible action to approve a Transfer in the amount of \$35,000 from Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 to Capital-Drone, Acct. #10020050-57000-TBD

MOTION WAS MADE to approve a bid wavier to purchase Brince Lemur 2 presented by the Police Department.

MADE BY: FISHBEIN

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Chief John Ventura spoke about the bid waiver. He discussed a grant that would allow the Police Department to purchase specific equipment. He sat down with their drone operators to discuss their options to purchase equipment. He discussed how Brinc Lemue 2 is a much better piece of equipment than what they currently have for a drone. It has more technical features that can help their department out. He discussed why he is doing a bid waiver for this item. Brinc is a sole proprietor and only carries this type of equipment. He stated it is a one

stop shop with them where everything for the drone is covered through Brinc. The cost is 100% covered by the Violent Crimes Grant.

Councilor Fishbein wanted to know the cost of the Star Chase equipment for finding stolen vehicles. Chief Ventura stated you must pay for more than just the product itself. There are two methods he stated. There is a launcher that resembles an M4 platform and then there is an in the grill deployment that is either activated from the inner console of the police vehicle or through a remote that the police office handles. To have a few police vehicles equipped with this it would have been about \$20,000 and they would have to buy a service contract for each vehicle. He said it was something they could not do, and it would have been a reoccurring cost each year.

Vice Chair Tatta asked if the drone would be used for monitoring large major events like Celebrate Wallingford. Chief Ventura stated that the drone would be great for large events in town to help monitor the crowd instead of having a certain number of police officers there. He discussed Milford's Police Department testing out a drone that dispatches calls when someone calls 911. Vice Chair Tatta discussed her concern for privacy with the drone. She asked how this drone would work in an incident at someone's house when the police are called. Chief Ventura stated that the South-Central Regional Team knows how to use the drone properly and in a safe manner. He also stated that there would be a specific reason to use the drone.

There was a voice vote for 12a. All members that were present were in favor.

12. b) Discussion and possible action to approve a Transfer in the amount of \$35,000 from Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 to Capital-Drone, Acct. #10020050-57000-TBD

MOTION WAS MADE to approve a transfer in the amount of \$35,000 from Overtime Acct. to Capital-Drone Acct.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

There was a voice vote for 12b. All members that were present were in favor.

Wallingford, Connecticut
June 10, 2025
Town Council Meeting

10

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date