

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 8-13-25

AT 12:55pm AND RECEIVED BY

Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

August 12, 2025

6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 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, Autumn Allinson, Jesse Reynolds, Christopher Regan (video call), Vincent Testa (video call) and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gearld Farrell Sr. and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Samuel Carmody was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$11,704.94 (#6-#46) – Tax Dept.
 - 3b. Acceptance of Project Graduation Contributions and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$43,325 to Revenue, Acct. #2324002-49000 and to Expenditures, Acct. #23240150-58252 - Y&SS
 - 3c. Acceptance of Wallingford Rotary Foundation donation for youth sports scholarships and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
 - 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$25,000 from Regular Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Capital-Police Cruisers, Acct. #10020050-57000-TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of donation from Wallingford Staffordshire Commons Association, Inc. for firefighter rehabilitation equipment and supplies and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 to Revenue Account – Donations, Acct.#2502002-47152 and to Revenue Account Fire Department Program Expenditures, Acct. #25020150-58830-10160 – Fire Dept.
 - 3f. Consider and approve FY 2024-2025 Transfer in the amount of \$24,558 from Elect., Gas, and other Utility Expenses, Acct. 46100643 to Sludge Disposal, Acct. #46100645 – Sewer Div.
 - 3g. Consider and approve FY 2025-2026 Budget Amendment and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$448,400 from Retained Earnings, Acct. #N/A to Distribution-Maint. of Station Equipment, Acct. #592 – Electric Div.

- 3h. Consider and approve Bid Waiver Request to Remove the inability to charge cost escalators in a Public Bid to replace a 115kV circuit breaker – Electric Div.
- 3i. Acceptance of donation from Pavillion of Hope to be used toward park improvements and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200 from Revenue, Acct. #2505002-47152 to Donations Parks & Recreation, Acct. #25050050-58830-10174 – Parks & Recreation
- 3j. Consider and approve recommendation of the Merit Review Board (1) – Human Resources
- 3k. Consider and approve revisions to the job description for Maintainer II – Water Division/ Human Resources
- 3l. Consider and approve re-appointment of Kimberly Lode-Dellaselva to the Wallingford Historic Properties Commission for a Term of five (5) years set to expire March 27, 2030 – Chairman Marrone
- 3m. Consider and approve re-appointment of Tara Knapp to the Wallingford Historic Properties Commission for a Term of five (5) years set to expire March 27, 2030 – Chairman Marrone
- 3n. Consider and approve Bid Waiver Request for Axon Enterprises for the purchase and implementation of Axon Body Cameras and Fleet Cameras – Police Dept.
- 3o. Consider and approve POCD Consultant RFP – P&Z
- 3p. Approve Minutes of July 8, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent items 3a, 3o and 3p as amended.

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-

There was no public question and answer period.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Attorney Farrell stated that to have Hidden Brook Lane excepted as a public road there must be some easements. One property owner is coming in to meet with Corporation Council Small. One property owner has executed the agreement. The Public Works Director and the Town Engineer will be attending the meeting with Corporation Counsel Small. He mentioned it took a couple of letters before people to start coming in. As far as the \$39,400 bond funds are concerned, they are for public improvements and sedimentation control, and the town is in possession of those funds.

7. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(B) with respect to Workers' Compensation claim settlement of Alphonse Esposito – Human Resources

MOTION WAS MADE TO go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200 (6)(B) with respect to Workers' Compensation claim settlement of Alphonse Esposito at 6:38pm.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

Attendance in Executive Session was Councilor Allinson, Councilor Laffin, Vice Chair Tatta, Chairman Marrone, Councilor Fishbein, Councilor Reynolds, Councilor Regan (video call), Councilor Testa (video call), Mayor Cervoni, Joe Passaretti and Kurt Trieber-Risk Manager.

MOTION WAS MADE TO come out of Executive Session and go back to Regular Session at 6:55pm.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the Workers' Compensation claim settlement of Alphonse Esposito – Human Resources

MOTION WAS MADE TO accept the Workers' Compensation claim settlement of Alphonse Esposito as discussed in Executive Session.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

There was a voice vote taken and seven out of the eight councilors present were in favor. Councilor Testa voted no. Motion passes.

9. Consider and approve the granting of a permanent easement in favor of 261 Center Street over a portion of Town Hall parking lot – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve the granting of a permanent easement in favor of 261 Center Street over a portion of Town Hall parking lot.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Attorney Farrell stated that it is park of the town's parking lot on the north end of the parking lot. It is adjacent To where the Wallingford Post used to be going back. There are apartments in there. Part of the building is located on the town's property. It is going to be 5' x 79' and they need the easement to also. They hope to add more parking spaces to that. The Fire Department needs access through there. Corporation Council Small approached Appraiser Kathy Amadeo and asked for a full appraisal but because this is just an easement the price of \$2,500 would be fair. They are asking the town to approve this. The easement does not touch any of the trees there. There are trees adjacent to the property in the back ad no trees will be lost.

Mayor Cervoni stated that even though it is part of the town's parking lot, it is the unfinished portion that they use. The land that they are talking about granting to easement over is north of our guard rail. The requester has intentions to clean it up. He does have a modification of the use of the property that has been approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission and it is consistent with the downtown development that Planning & Zoning is working towards.

Vice Chair Tatta asked if the tenants would use the town parking lot or use their own parking.

Mayor Cervoni stated that the building has parking on the north side of the building. So, it does have its own parking.

Lawrence Coassin Jr of Meridan Road in Fairfield, CT stated that it is the parking lot for the building.

Vice Chair Tatta stated that she drove by the property to see about the trees and if they were still there. She asked how the building ended up on the town's property.

Attorney Farrell stated that he does not know the history of the building. He mentioned that the building has been there for a long time.

Vice Chair Tatta stated that she agrees with the proposed payment for this easement. She mentioned another easement that was approved with no money return except for \$10 from Choate for the air easement for the bridge. She mentioned that if the town asked Choate to pay money for the easement they would have gladly paid but now the town is asking for money for this easement.

Councilor Fishbein asked if the town received an appraisal for the air easement.

Attorney Farrell stated that he did not know of any appraisal for the air easement.

Mayor Cervoni stated that they took a similar approach by calling an appraiser to ask if there was value to conduct an appraisal. The appraiser believed it is very hard to appraise air.

There was a voice vote taken and all members present at the meeting were in favor. Motion passes.

10. Consider and approve to opt-in to the National Opioid Settlements regarding Manufacturers – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve to opt-in to the National Opioid Settlements regarding Manufacturers

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Attorney Farrell stated that this is a Law Department request and that they have already received \$300,000 in settlements through these various opioid settlements and the amount they will get depends on how many towns choose to take part in this. The use of it is limited to how the Health Department. It has to be used in helping drug rehabilitation.

Chairman Marrone asked if the town can pursue legal action on their own.

Attorney Farrell stated that his understanding is, if the town opts into this, they give up the right to a lawsuit in the future. For the town to do their own lawsuit it would be expensive, he stated.

Mayor Cervoni stated that this is part of the bankruptcy state and because they are in bankruptcy, the town's only ability to participate in this resolution is to participate in the bankruptcy process. Once they revoke the bankruptcy process, you do not have the ability to sue them outside of the bankruptcy court. He mentioned that this is consistent with how you pursue claims with them.

There was a voice vote taken and all members present at the meeting were in favor. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk