

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
November 25, 2025
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Autumn Allinson, Jesse Reynolds (video conference call), Christopher Regan (video conference call), Vincent Testa, Samuel Carmody and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gerald Farrell Sr., Comptroller Timothy Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Craig Fishbein was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda

Brief recognition of Fritz & Pond Hill for their achievement – Mayor Cervoni

Mayor Cervoni mentioned that Wallingford schools have great programs for their students. He stated that two of Wallingford's elementary schools are receiving recognition from the CT State Dept. of Education as schools of distinction. The schools being recognized are Pond Hill Elementary School and Mary G. Fritz Elementary School.

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$24,172.95 (#345-#464) – Tax Dept.
- 3b. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety “FY 2025 Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement” grant and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$21,766 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3c. Acceptance of donation from Tractor Supply Company Foundation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$250 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 \$8,000 from Contingency – Misc., Acct. #10019000-58820 to Eng-PS Engineering, Acct. #10030050-56730 – Engineering Dept.
- 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$60,000 from Contingency-Misc., Acct. #10019000-58820 to Exp.- Emergency Shelter, Acct. #10040150-58230 – Mayor

- 3f. Acceptance of funding for Columbus House and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$51,000 to Rev-Misc, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Exp-Emergency Shelter, Acct. #10040150-58230 – Mayor
- 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$12,000 from Social Services-WCI Cap, Acct. #10040150-58223 to Social Services-WCI Oper., Acct. #10040150-58222 – Mayor
- 3h. Consider and approve bid waiver to contract with UBEO to scan invoices – Comptroller
- 3i. Consider and approve a bid waiver to enter into a Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing via the HGAC to purchase new Ford Mini Pumper 2025 or Newer built Ford F-550 “4x4” Crew Cab Chassis – Fire Dept.
- 3j. Consider and approve FY 2025-26 budget amendment and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$24,738 from Retained Earnings, Acct. # N/A to Employee Pension & Benefits, Acct. #43100926 – Water Div.
- 3k. Acceptance of Local Prevention Council Grant from BH Care and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,142 to Revenue, Acct. #2324002-45100 and to Expenditures, Acct. #23240150-58830 10014 – Y&SS
- 3l. Acceptance of donation for client assistance 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
- 3m. Acceptance of payment for Fire Watches Services from “Trail of Terror” and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$9,168 to Miscellaneous Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Overtime, Acct. #10020150-51400 – Fire Dept.
- 3n. Acceptance of donations on behalf of Wallingford Celebrates America 250 Committee and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$21,970 to Revenue-Donations, Acct. #2505002-47152 and to Exp-America 250, Acct. #25040150-58830-TBD - Mayor
- 3o. Consider and approve bid waiver for the renewal of Microsoft 365 licenses through GoFullCloud/ IT
- 3p. Consider and approve the appointment of Tracy Baker for a (3) three-year term as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately and expiring on January 8, 2026 – Chairman Marrone
- 3q. Consider and approve the appointment of Cheryl DiGenova for a (3) three-year term as an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission effective immediately and expiring on March 1, 2026 – Chairman Marrone
- 3r. Consideration and no action regarding the utilization of the RFP process for an Energy Savings Performance project – BOE

3s. Approve Minutes of October 28th Regular Town Council Meeting.

Vice Chair Tatta wanted to mention that on 3p there a typographical error and the name should be Tracy Becker not Tracy Baker.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent items 3a-3o, 3p as amended, 3q-3s.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.
COUNCILOR FISHBEIN WAS ABSENT.**

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD-

Bill Silado, Chief of East Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department. He wanted to thank the mayor and Town Council for all of their support over the years to the Volunteer Fire Department. He mentioned that with the vote tonight it is a great moral booster. Their support shows that they care about the Volunteer Fire Departments and what they do. Chairman Marrone stated that they appreciate all of the work these guys do and want them to keep up the good work.

Larry Kellogg asked the Town Council what their definition of urgency is. Chairman Marrone answered by stating that it needs to be on a short order. Mr. Kellogg asked if they thought that something that happened 10 weeks ago, urgent. Chairman Marrone said he would not. Mr. Kellogg stated that he appreciated Councilor Testa getting back to him and his clarification was really good. He stated that he re-visited the Town Charter and agrees with what Councilor Testa said. He mentioned that there is really nothing the Town Council can do to resolve his issue with the traffic light and how it is a safety issue in town other than taking 10 weeks to write a memo to the Police Chief. He mentioned that Vice Chair Tatta also responded to him stating that the town is working with the State. He wanted to know who in the town is working with the State. Chairman Marrone stated that the Town Engineer was writing the letter to the Police Chief who was going to forward the letter to the State. Mr. Kellogg mentioned that when he call the State today, they had no idea what he was talking about. The traffic light is dangerous and out of sync. He mentioned even the Town Engineer agrees with him about the traffic light. A couple of weeks ago there was an accident there. He wanted to know after 10 weeks if the Police Chief received the letter from the Town Engineer. Chairman Marrone has not heard anything about it. He asked Mayor Cervoni if he has an update on this and he stated that he did not but will look into this. Mr. Kellogg has talked to people in and around his neighborhood and they all talk about urgency with this matter. There was a lady who's dog got killed two years ago in the area where the traffic light is that is in question. He mentioned that Councilor Laffin at the last Town Council meeting stated that he would spend \$110,000 to save any life. He believes that the Town Council should take him up on that with the no free shelter. He stated that if they go back to the video that is what Councilor Laffin stated.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

This agenda item was not discussed.

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

Chairman Marrone opened the Public Hearing for the following ordinance to be discussed.

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,900,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF VARIOUS SCHOOL BOILERS AND ELEVATORS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,900,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.

Larry Kellogg stated that he is looking at taxpayer money and wanted a breakdown of which boilers and elevators are being repaired and at what schools. He stated that information was not included on the agenda. Chairman Marrone stated that the information was included in the backup. Mr. Kellogg said that he doesn't get that backup. Chairman Marrone said maybe the Clerk can provide that information to him. Mayor Cervoni said that representatives from the BOE are here to answer questions.

Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent of Wallingford Public Schools, Dominic Barone, Business Manager for BOE and Mark Detulo, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds for the Public School Systems were present to answer questions.

Ms. Bellizzi stated that they are looking at 4 schools for the replacement of their boilers. The schools are Dag Hammarskjold Middle School, James Moran Middle School, Highland Elementary School and Rock Hill Elementary School. The schools that need the elevators replaced are Dag Hammarskjold Middle School where there are two and Mark T. Sheehan High School where there is one. Mr. Kellogg asked to have a breakdown of the cost. He mentioned the BOE wants to bond \$3.9 million dollars for four boilers and three elevators. Mr. Barrone stated that there are two boilers at Dag and the estimate is about \$700,000. There are two boilers at Moran, and the estimate is about \$700,000. They are thinking \$650,000 for demolition and construction and \$97,000 for design and oversight for both of the middle schools. There are two boilers at Highland and it would be \$400,000 for demolition and construction and \$60,000 for design and oversight. There are two boilers at Rock Hill, and it would be \$400,000 for demolition and construction and \$60,000 for design and oversight. There are two elevators at Dag. The first elevator at Dag is \$200,000 for the elevator and they are estimating \$300,000 for demolition and construction and then \$45,000 for design and oversight. The Mark T. Sheehan elevator is \$725,000 for demolition and construction. They are also anticipating filing a drip grant to offset some of the costs on one of the elevator projects. Mr. Kellogg wanted the BOE to define what oversight means. He wanted to know if there will be someone who is overseeing the projects. To him oversight means the inspectors being there and people who are overseeing the project to make sure the project stays on budget and within the specifications of the contract itself. Mr. Detulo stated that oversight is

handled by himself and other members of his team. It is not an outsourced item he mentioned. It is something that is lumped in with the cost. Cost over runs are almost nonexistent and are negotiated to the point where it costs the town nothing. They recently finished jobs were credits offset the extras by quite a bit he mentioned. This is the final stage of the boiler projects. Once this is complete they will have two schools and two projects there, but they still have to wait five or six years before they approach those projects. Mr. Kellogg asked if Sheehan School is going to be replaced in the next couple of years. Mr. Detulo stated not that he knew of. Mr. Kellogg said he thought there was a proposal to combine the two high schools. Ms. Bellizzi stated that the BOE has approved a proposal to combine both of the high schools, which is something they are working on, on the BOE side. It has not been brought to the Town Council for any approvals as of yet. They replaced the boilers at Sheehan, but in terms of whether there is going to be two high schools or one those next steps have not been determined yet. It has not been brought to the Town Council for an ask yet.

Chairman Marrone closed the Public Hearing.

Vice Chair Tatta stated her concern with the Sheehan elevator for \$725,000. The future of Sheehan is uncertain at this time because of the BOE who voted to combine or to have one high school. It is uncertain what Sheehan will become whether it will be a new building or an existing building in the future. She is hesitant to spend the \$725,000 at Sheehan. She asked if the elevator is not functioning at all or if it just needs updates. Mr. Detulo stated that the elevator is no longer in compliance with the State Elevator Code. It is mandated that they change out the elevator or stop using it. If they stop using the elevator that would eliminate any access to the second floor for curriculum from the ADA clientele. Ms. Bellizzi stated that Sheehan only has one elevator and it frequently breaks down. It is original to the building so replacing the parts and consistently fixing it is becoming more and more troublesome. If whatever happens with the two high schools down the road which could be six or seven years from now if the town goes that way. That is a long time for the students to not have access to the elevator. Vice Chair Tatta asked about what the State is telling the BOE to do with in terms of fixing the elevator. Mr. Detulo stated that if it is not replaced they will have to tag it out and then the school will not have access to the elevator at all. Vice Chair Tatta said that then it would be on the school to give people access to places in the school where the elevator would taken them if it does not get replaced. They would only be able to have access to the first floor then she asked. Ms. Bellizzi stated that is correct. She when it breaks down because it broke down this year and every year actually, the administration would typically move classes for those students to the first level, so they have access to their classes. It could take a couple of weeks to get something to fix and then that is an inconvenience to everyone because the students cant access the second floor for their education.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve an ordinance appropriating \$3,900,000 for the replacement of various school boilers and elevators and authorizing the issuance of bonds of the town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,900,000 to finance said appropriation.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: ABSENT

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

8- AYE

0-NAY

1-ASBENT

MOTION: PASSED

8. Discussion and possible action regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement between Wallingford Board of Education and Wallingford Education Association (WEA) effective 2026-2029 – BOE

Councilor Testa stated that he needed to remove himself from this agenda item.

Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent of Wallingford Public Schools and Dominic Barone, Business Manager for BOE were present to answer questions.

Ms. Bellizzi stated that it is a three year contract with approximately 553 teachers. They have negotiated over the three years an 11.61% increase. There was a wage adjustment that was done as part of this new contract in the masters track for two years of the contract. The first year is 4.19% broken down by GWI and step increases. The second year is 3.91% broken down by GWI and step increases. The third year is a 3.51% broken down by GWI and step increases. The BOE worked successfully to negotiate all 4 of the prescription edits of the insurance meaning prior authorization, exclusive specialty, specialty drug rules and cost relief. These are in the town contracts and BOE worked to have them in their contracts. There is a grandfathering in on staff with the prior authorization edit there. The worked with the teachers on employment year. They currently work 188 school days and starting next year, it will be 186 school days they will work. Under independent studies the BOE is instituting a \$250 independent study stipend for the teachers. They worked on their reduction enforce language and made some changes in regard to seniority. They added an additional step in the beginning so that it is building seniority first if they are rifting any teachers or sections or staff members there. The Family Leave Illness part of the contract have changed from five days to seven days out of the 15 days they get every year. Under the Sick Leave Bank, which is already in their contract, going forward and starting at the beginning of this contract they will not be withdrawing the substitute pay rate out of their 45 day pay rate that is donated to them. There were language adjustments that were made along the way and also some language clean up. The Worker's Compensation Section, the BOE will pay the difference in what the teachers receive on Worker's Compensation for 12 months and if there are any absences that go beyond the 12 months there is a difference in the pay. The teachers will be able to use their sick leave from that. The extracurricular activities cocurricular activities was discussed. Every year the BOE reviews this list. They will be giving a one time \$6,000 at the start for them to add some new clubs and then there will be increases every year. Typical

to what they practice now, they meet with the committee and review all of the activities and clubs that are currently paid for and the teachers are able to then swap out clubs that are more popular for students. There are a lot of teachers that run a lot of clubs without getting a stipend. This is at least a start for the BOE to start to include some of those.

Chairman Marrone wanted to state to the public that the only effective motion the council can take on this would be a rejection. So, if the council takes no action then the contract will be in effect after the 30 days expired.

Councilor Regan asked a question about the Worker's Compensation. After the 12 month period and after all sick time is used up what happens when all their time is used up he asked. Ms. Bellizzi stated that if they are still out on Worker's Compensation after they go through all of their sick days, then they would receive what the Worker's Compensation pays but no difference in pay. She believes it is 75% of their pay. The BOE would be paying the difference. Councilor Regan asked if that is in perpetuity until the case is settled. Ms. Bellizzi stated that the Worker's Compensation piece on that end the 75% until the Worker's Compensation Commission or whomever decides closes and gets maximum medical improvement or reaches MMI and they close it.

Vice Chair Tatta wanted to give some numbers to notify the public seeing how this is such a large union. It has 553 members in this union contract. This contract for the 26-27 year is an additional \$2.28 million dollars over what it is now. In the year after that it is \$2.219 million over that. In the third year it is another \$2 million over that. The total over the three years is \$6.57 million. She wanted to put the numbers out there because without any other changes in town at all and with any other unions, the town is already looking at the next budget year of \$2.28 million above what the town is doing now for just this one union. She wanted the public aware because one budget season comes along that is what the overage will be on the BOE side. Over the three years it is a \$6.57 million dollar increase over what the town has now.

Councilor Allinson wanted to first compliment everyone. She was in one of the negotiations and everyone was great and extremely professional. She said it was a wonderful experience for her. She mentioned a really great job to the teachers' union representative and the administration. She wanted to know where they came from with the cost share for the insurance. Ms. Bellizzi stated that the cost share she believes they left it where it was It was the same for all three years and did not increase. Councilor Allinson asked if it has been 21.5% and Ms. Bellizzi stated that is correct and it will stay at the 21.5% for the three years. She mentioned if you compare it to some of the other BOE contracts it is higher. Councilor Allinson recognizes that this is a very large union and it erodes the benefit of negotiating pay if you get less on your cost shares. She looks forward to supporting everyone during the budget season. She understands that teaching has changed. She thinks this is well deserved and puts Wallingford Schools in a position to retain and attract great candidates.

Councilor Carmody asked where the salaries compare to surrounding towns or comparable towns in size to Wallingford. Ms. Bellizzi stated that when you take a look at the 6th year top step, Wallingford is one of the highest around. They compare it to New Haven County in general which is sometimes how they get the break down. She mentioned why they did the wage adjustment for masters lane or track and is the second contract where they have done that, is because that top step for the master's is very low. They are very low in comparison to the school districts around Wallingford. They felt it was really important that they review that and as best they can try to increase that each year.

9. (a) Discussion and possible action regarding resolution authorizing participation in the national fitness campaign and acknowledgement of \$35,000 grant award – Health Dept.
- (b) Discussion and possible action regarding bid waiver for the purchase of Fitness Court system from sole source provider National Fitness Campaign – Health Dept.
- (c) Acceptance of National Opioid Settlement Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$185,236 to Revenue, Acct. #2504002-45200 and to Exp.-Fitness Court, Acct. #25040050-58830-TBD - Health Dept.

Vice Chair Tatta made a motion for 9 (a)

MOTION WAS MADE TO accept a resolution authorizing participation in the national fitness campaign and acknowledge a \$35,000 grant award.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Vanessa Batista, Health Director stated that she is here tonight to request approval for three items related to the National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court Project. The items are the National Fitness Campaign Resolution, the Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds for the project and a bid waiver for the Fitness Court equipment purchase. The project supports prevention, physical activity, mental wellbeing and access to free outdoor fitness for residents of all ages. The proposed location is at Quinnipiac Linear Trail at the Community Lake. It was chosen in collaboration with the Parks & Recreation and Public Works. It meets all of the siting requirements set by the National Fitness Campaign. The Fitness Court will offer free outdoor exercise, more use of an underused park area, support for opioid misuse prevention through healthy activity, a safe and visible wellness resource for the community, opportunities for community programs. To cover the local match the Health Department and YSS are proposing the use of Opioid Settlement Funds that the town has already received. The National Fitness Campaign is awarding Wallingford with \$35,000 through their Statewide grant program. She request approval for these three items so they can move with the procurement and begin working with Engineering, Public Works and Park & Recreation as the next steps.

Vice Chair Tatta asked if for all three items, if there was taxpayer money being spent for them. Ms. Batista stated that she will cover the complete cost of the project.

There was a voice vote taken and all members that were present were in favor. Councilor Fishbein was absent.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a bid waiver for the purchase of the Fitness Court system from the sole source provider National Fitness Campaign.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

There was a voice vote taken and all members that were present were in favor. Councilor Fishbein was absent.

MOTION WAS MADE TO accept the National Opioid Settlement Funds and approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$185,236 to Revenue Acct. #2504002-45200 and to Exp.-Fitness Court, Acct. #25040050-58830-TBD for the Health Department.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

There was a voice vote taken and all members that were present were in favor. Councilor Fishbein was absent.

10. Report on progress and status of the new Town Plan of Conservation and Development, including a list of all participants, meeting history, review of current structure, and plans for completion according to state deadlines – Councilor Testa

Councilor Testa mentioned he had a discussion with some colleagues and it reminded him that the Plan of Conservation and Development needs to be revised and accepted some time next summer. He hadn't heard much about it and the town has representatives from Town Council on it. He wanted to get a handle as to what is going on and where it currently stands and what are the expectations for when it is completed and will the town meet the deadline. Chairman Marrone stated that the council received an update today from Keven Pagini, the Town Planner. He was unable to be at the meeting tonight to discuss. He asked Mayor Cervoni if he had anything to add. Mayor Cervoni stated that Mr. Pagini indeed circulated an update to the Town Council. He began working with the Department Head meeting in July of 2025 and the update provided gives you a timeline of what has occurred since then. There was a flyer provided to council that on Thursday, December 11 there will be a public meeting kickoff at the Wallingford Public Library Community Room. The plan is progress towards and the goal is well underway. Councilor Testa stated that he did not receive the backup information for this meeting due to ongoing email problems and if someone can send him the backup that would be great. Mayor Cervoni stated that Mr. Pagini is available to the Town Council by email and give more information if enough was not provided this evening.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date