

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 2-3-2026

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers AT 4:44 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY

Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

Immediately Following Regular Town Council Meeting

MINUTES

The Special Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, was called to order at 8:26 p.m. Councilors in attendance were, Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Thomas Laffin, Jesse Reynolds, Bryan Rivard, Melanie Rossacci, Christina Tatta and Chairman Vincent F. Testa Jr. Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Craig Fishbein was absent from the meeting.

Hold a workshop meeting to discuss and/or revise the Town Council Rules of Procedure – Chairman Testa

Chairman Testa started the meeting by discussing the information he gathered on the Town Council's Rules and Procedures. He discussed a meeting in February that showed the approval of the updated Rules and Procedures. There was a discussion as to whether the Town Council should have public comments at workshops. He stated that the previous chairman, Chairman Marrone had drafted a red-lined version of the approved Rules and Procedures but never sent a clean version to anyone. The language that was voted to remove was discussed. He mentioned that the February 2024 version that was in the minutes was the one he was questioning.

Councilor Laffin stated that the version he was approved February 27, 2024, with the red lines that Chairman Testa was discussing. He stated that nothing has changed since February of 2024. He said they should have a clean copy of it and it should be on the website. There was discussion of having the language of the public comment at Town Council workshops. The last Chairman, Chairman Marrone wanted public comment at any and all meetings that the Town Council had. He supports how the Rules and Procedures are worded now.

Councilor Rivard asked if he was referring to the wording in red.

Chairman Testa wanted to know if the council had approved the red lined version they had in front of them at that February 2024 meeting or not. Councilor Laffin stated that yes, the version they have tonight is the version that was approved at the February 2024 meeting. Chairman Testa asked about the other versions he had and if those changes were added to the red lined version they had.

Councilor Allinson discussed that everyone including the Chairman should follow the approved Rules and Procedures that the Town Council approved. She thinks that the workshops should be Town Council Workshops again and that public comment should not be allowed to ask questions. She discussed the Budget workshops and how they do not function like workshops.

There was a discussion of if the Chairman should have the discretion to have public comment at any and all meetings including workshops or not. Chairman Testa agrees that the workshops should be Town Council workshops and not have public comments at them.

Councilor Rossacci discussed how the BOE would handle their workshops. They would allow for public

comment but it was a more intimate setting and the people who wanted to speak at these workshops were professionals in the field and some worked for the BOE like teachers, etc.

Councilor Rivard thinks that public comments should be at all and every meeting that the Town Council has because you do not know who will be attending or what input they can have.

Councilor Laffin is in favor of including some type of discretion from the Chairman when it comes to public comments. He mentioned that this all comes down to execution and how the Town Council wants to handle public comments and when it is appropriate.

Chairman Testa went over the language of the current Rules and Procedures.

Councilor Allinson mentioned her time on the BOE and on Town Council and how public comment was always up for discussion and what is the best way to find a happy medium with it when it came to workshops.

Councilor Reynolds discussed how adding language to the Rules and Procedures would not be necessary because they already state that it is up to the Chairman about the public comment and allowing it or not. He agrees that the workshops can be used in a different way and can be more productive. He is ok with how they are written.

Chairman Testa discussed how there is a difference with having public comment at meetings and then having public comments on every agenda item.

Councilor Laffin discussed the language of agenda items and if it states discuss and possible action then the public can comment on the item.

Chairman Testa discussed how to change the wording to include that public comment can only be made during action items on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo  
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

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Vincent F. Testa Jr., Chairman

Date

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Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date