

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
February 10, 2026
6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Thomas Laffin, Jesse Reynolds, Bryan Rivard, Melanie Rossacci, Christina Tatta and Chairman Vincent F. Testa Jr. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Deputy Comptroller Brian Naples, Town Attorney Geoffrey Einhorn and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Craig Fishbein was absent.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$50,075.57 (#628-#814) – Tax Dept.
 - 3b. Consider and approve a correction to the tax refunds amount from January 27, 2026 Town Council meeting the amount of \$3,535.27 – Tax Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of donation to the Office of the Fire Marshall and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200 to Revenue Account – Donations, Acct. #250-TBD and to Expense Account-Fire Dept. Program Expenditures, Acct. #25020150-58830-10160 - Fire Dept.
 - 3d. Acceptance of donation from Gregory Panico and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500 to Revenue Account – Donations, Acct. #250-TBD and to Expense Account-Fire Department Program Expenditures, Acct. #25020150-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of registration fee for the WECARE Playful Cruisers program and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$640 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
 - 3f. Acceptance of State of Connecticut Early Voting Grant and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$17,737 to Revenue-Election Grant, Acct. #1001002-45132 and to Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10010600-51000 – Registrar of Voters
 - 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$9,857 from Contingency-Misc. Exp., Acct. #10019000-58820 to Exp.-P&Z - PS-POCD Consultant, Acct. #10010700-56822; and Appropriation of funds in the amount \$106,573 from Surplus, Acct. #N/A to Transfer Out-General Fund, Acct. #20080350-59220; and

Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$106,573 to Revenue-Transfer In, Acct. #1009053-49015 and to Exp.-P&Z-PS-POCD Consultant, Acct. #10010700-56822 / P&Z

3h. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,000 – Health Dept.

\$4,000	From: PS-Software SU	Acct. #10040050-56718
1,000	From: PS-Software SU	Acct. #10040050-56718
1,600	From: PS-Software SU	Acct. #10040050-56718
400	From: PS-Software SU	Acct. #10040050-56718
\$4,000	To: Regular Salaries and Wages	Acct. #10040050-51000
1,000	To: Overtime	Acct. #10040050-51400
1,600	To: Continuing Education/Training Exp.	Acct. #10040050-55700
400	To: Telephone	Acct. #10040050-53000

3i. Acceptance of donations and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$10,460 to Rev-Donations-America 250, Acct. #2505002-47152 and to Exp-America 250, Acct. #25040150-58830-10245 – Mayor

3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$10,286 from Exp-Govt TV-Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10010250-51000 to Exp-Govt TV-Capital – Broadcasting Equipment, Acct. #10010250-57000-01402 – GOV TV

3k. Consider and approve reappointment of Joel Rinebold to Public Utilities Commission for a term of three (3) years set to expire March 1, 2029 – Mayor

3l. Approve Minutes of January 27, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting and Minutes of January 27, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent items 3a-3f, 3h-3l.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda Item 3g. was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$9,857 from Contingency-Misc. Exp., Acct. #10019000-58820 to Exp.-P&Z - PS-POCD Consultant, Acct. #10010700-56822; and

Appropriation of funds in the amount \$106,573 from Surplus, Acct. #N/A to Transfer Out-General Fund, Acct. #20080350-59220; and

Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$106,573 to Revenue-Transfer In, Acct. #1009053-49015 and to Exp.-P&Z-PS-POCD Consultant, Acct. #10010700-56822 / P&Z

Councilor Tatta was the one that removed this item from the Consent Agenda. She stated that this item was about the Plan of Conservation Development. She wanted to make sure that everyone is on the same page as far as the cost of this project. She mentioned that there were bills for a consultant from the POCD that should have been included in the budget but were not. The transfers are a fix to that situation so that the bills can be paid. She talked about the first transfer of \$9,857 from contingency. She discussed how the contingency line has been cut during the last budget workshop due to the Town Council trying to cut costs to save taxpayers some money because of the huge increase that everyone received for the re-evaluation for the residential homes in CT. She is concerned that they would be using the contingency line for the first transfer. The second transfer of \$106,573 would come from surplus of leftover CRA funds. She asked if either the Mayor's Office or the Comptroller's Office could explain why the money was coming from those two accounts. Mayor Cervoni explained that the contingency amount is small due to the fact that the contingency is slim and they are in the middle of winter. There were leftover CRA funds, and they thought that this would be a good reason to use those funds. Councilor Tatta asked if there were any remaining CRA funds left after having the money used for the POCD. Mayor Cervoni was not sure of the left-over amount. He would need to check with the Comptroller. There was a question as to whether a consultant needed to be hired for this project or not. Mayor Cervoni stated that if they wanted to be successful with this project then a consultant would need to be hired. There was an RFP that went out for the consultant Mr. Pagini stated. Councilor Tatta asked what the \$116,000 was for. Mr. Pagini stated that is the total price for the entire project. He said there is a need for a consultant with all the changes and demographics to update. There is a lot that goes into a project like this, so a consultant is needed to gather all of the information needed. He mentioned that the more funding that gets put into the POCD, the more funding the town can get. The consultants will continue to work with the town until the end of July Mr. Pagini stated. The \$116,000 also covers the focus groups for the project that has not happened yet.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve item 3g, a transfer in the amount of \$9,857 from Contingency Misc. Exp. Acct. to Exp. P&Z PS-POCD Consultant Acct. and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$106,573 from Surplus Acct. to Transfer Out General Fund Acct. and appropriation of funds in the amount of \$106,573 to Revenue Transfer In Acct. and to Exp. P&Z PS POCD Consultant Acct.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

Bill Comerford stated he had a couple of concerns after reading the Town Charter. He thinks there are some charter violations involved. He asked Town Attorney Einhorn if he had a to look into this to see I there were and charter violations that happened or not. Town Attorney Einhorn stated that they have not had the opportunity to look into this yet. Mr. Comerford said that before the Town Council votes on the motion to have the town look into this to see if any charter violations happened or not first. Chairman Testa asked which charter violation took place. Mr. Comerford said that on page 29 or 30 of the Town Charter it said that there is no officer employee of the town that can authorize any expenditure until that money is approved. And if so then it calls for potentially their removal. Chairman Testa stated that no money has been approved without their approval or authorization which is why these items are on the agenda for tonight. Mr. Comerford said he was under the impression that Councilor Tatta asked if the job was started and if the job was billed yet or not. He said someone approved the job without the money being in place, which is a charter violation in his opinion. He

said that Mr. Pagini is on the hook for the \$116,000 now, by the way the charter is written if the Town Council does not approve the money at tonight's meeting in his opinion. He mentioned that State Statute says that the Planning and Zoning Commission was supposed to pick the consultant. Chairman Testa said that the Town Council approved the use of an RFP to select this consultant. Mayor Cervoni said that it is not uncommon to award a contract for a project and then put the funding in place once they start the project. There was a discussion that this \$116,000 was not put into the budget because at the time they did not know how much the total amount of this project would be. There was a discussion about the motions made and what they were for. The motions would allow for the bills submitted to be paid through the various accounts approved. The first motion is to pay the bill, and the other two motions is to set up the money to have for future bills coming in. Mr. Comerford said that Mr. Sena, the Comptroller was the one who caught this and talked to Purchasing about it. He thinks this is how this whole thing came about. The total amount owed is so far \$9,857 not the \$116,000, Chairman Testa said. The \$116,000 that keeps coming up is for the total project. Mr. Comerford asked Mr. Pagini what the total amount was that was billed and Mr. Pagini stated it was \$27,000. Mr. Comerford thinks that the \$27,000 that is owed is a violation of the charter. There was a discussion that the Town Planner does not have the authority to approve the money and that the Planning and Zoning Commission has authority. Mr. Pagini said he informed the Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission, and he was fine with it. Mr. Pagini is not sure about having the Planning and Zoning Commission being the one who picks the consultant. They approve the plan for the POCD. There was a discussion as to who picks the consultant, whether it is the Town Planner or the Planning and Zoning Commission. The request for the RFP came from the Town Planner's Office. The Planning and Zoning Commission was aware that the POCD needed to be done. There was a discussion whether the Town Council had a copy of the RFP in their possession at this meeting tonight. Chairman Testa said that they did not have a copy of the RFP for this meeting. There was a discussion about Collier's being the consultant and how they did not do a good job with the schools when they were hired for that job. There was a discussion as to what happens after the July date with the project. Mr. Pagini stated that the POCD plan is getting adopted. The RFP language and what was in the RFP was discussed. Chairman Testa asked if there is any reason this agenda item can't get pulled tonight so that it can get looked into further before voting on this item.

Councilor Allinson said she did not think that there were any mis doing on anyone's part. Maybe Mr. Comerford flagged a mistake that happened at best and maybe a mistake that has happened before. She does not think this will change the outcome of the vote.

Councilor Rossacci stated that the authority of the Planning and Zoning Commission it that they have to prepare and adopt the plan of conservation development. They do not have to formally approve the consultant according to the State Statute. She thinks the Town Attorney can take a look at this just to make sure. Mr. Comerford had hoped that someone from the Planning and Zoning Commission would have been present at the meeting to at least comment on this item.

Vice Chairman Carmody withdrew his original motion.

Joel Rinebold was reappointed to the Public Utilities Commission and was sworn in.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD-

Larry Kellogg mentioned that he did not hear a vote for the consent agenda items. Chairman Testa stated that he called for a vote on the consent agenda items along with removing item 3g and it was voted on and approved.

Mr. Kellogg talked about receiving an email from Chairman Testa talking about process and the Town Charter. There was a discussion about whether the Town Council and the State of CT are above the law. There was a discussion about an ordinance for snow removal. He stated under the Town Charter there is a section that states snow removal should be done 18 hours after the end of a storm. Chairman Testa clarified that, that is not in the town charter and that it is an ordinance. Mr. Kellogg read part of the email from Chairman Testa. The bridge on North Turnpike was discussed and how the snow has not been removed from it. It is the only sidewalk that allows you to get to North Turnpike Road and Parker Farms Road Intersection. He brought this up to the town who told him that it is not on their approved list of clearing sidewalks. This particular sidewalk then belongs to the State of CT. He discussed the intersection and the traffic light along with the fact that the sidewalk over there has not been cleared yet. He wants to know how that sidewalk can be cleared because it is dangerous. There was a discussion about whether someone is supposed to allow a person to cross in an intersection or not in that area. He wanted a status update about the traffic light in that area. Chairman Testa stated that everyone is frustrated with the State of CT, but the Town of Wallingford cannot do anything else besides what they did by sending the letter.

Bill Comerford asked Chairman Testa if he had an update on the Center Street Cemetery Building. Chairman Testa said that no one asked him to give an update on anything. Mr. Comerford said that a year ago the Cemetery Association came before the Planning and Zoning Commission and asked for astro turf to be put down in front of the building. He said they were told no but put it down anyways. The Town Planner sent them a cease and assist letter stating that there were in violation. He mentioned that the Public Works Director also sent them the same letter. He says they are in violation because the town owns the building that the lease and they are in violation or their own lease. He asked who has authority of town owned buildings. Town Attorney Einhorn said that a lease with the town, the executive branch of the town would have authority. There was a discussion on who has authority and it was said that Public Works and the administration would have authority. Mr. Comerford discussed how his tax money gets wasted every year because of situations like this. Mayor Cervoni explained the situation in question. There are two batches in front of the cemetery building that do not grow grass at all. It has been over a decade of them trying to grow grass in this area with no luck. The cemetery tried to get a site plan modification, and the Planning and Zoning Commission did not approve it. He asked for an update from the cemetery in light of what happened in front of Planning and Zoning last fall and he has yet to hear anything about it. They will at some point revisit after the winter and see what a compromise can be. Mr. Comerford asked about the basketball courts. Chairman Testa said that they will be talking about this again soon and they will get back to him.

Chairman Testa discussed a letter written by a resident of the town and sent it to Councilor Tatta and Councilor Fishbein.

6. Discussion of Old Business/New Business – Chairman Testa

Chairman Testa explained that his intent was to have a place holder for anything old or new to come up but that he could not do that.

7. Consider and approve a bid waiver for the installation of the National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court by an NFC Approved Installer – Health Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a bid waiver for the installation of the National Fitness Campaign Court by an NFC Approved Installer.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

Vanessa Batista, Director of Health was present to discuss this agenda item. The Fitness Court is a specialized system designed and supplied exclusively by the National Fitness Campaign. They require installation by trained approved installers to ensure proper assembly, safety and warranty compliance. The concrete slab portion of the project will still go out to competitive bid in accordance with the town's standard procurement process. The request is strictly limited to the installation of the fitness court components including the flooring, equipment assembly and graphics. All equipment, tile, installation materials were delivered as part of the original purchase. The Purchasing Department has also confirmed that prevailing wage does not apply to this project based on the Connecticut thresholds. The approval of this waiver will allow the Health Department to move forward with an improved installer to ensure the fitness courts is installed safely and in accordance with the program's specifications. There are two other fitness cores in the State of CT, one in Bridgeport and one in Plainfield. Both fitness courts were installed by the approved installers by NFC.

Mayor Cervoni wants to emphasize that they want this equipment to be installed correctly and in such a way that they preserve the warranty.

Councilor Laffin asked where the fitness court is going. Mrs. Batista stated that it will be at the Community Lake Park Quinipiac Trail.

Councilor Tatta asked if the installation cost is covered by the Opioid Fund Settlement. Mrs. Batista said that is correct. Councilor Tatta wanted to mention that this is not taxpayer money being used.

Councilor Rivard thinks this is a really good innovative and a great use of money by connecting people and helping them.

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: ABSENT

LAFFIN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

RIVARD: AYE

ROSSACCI: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

8- AYE

0-NAY

1-ASBENT

MOTION: PASSED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date