

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12-10-25
AT 1:36pm AND RECEIVED BY
Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
December 9, 2025
6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 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, Craig Fishbein, Jesse Reynolds, Christopher Regan, Vincent Testa, Samuel Carmody and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Corporation Counsel Janis Small and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$9,097.56 (#465-#502) – Tax Dept.
 - 3b. Acceptance of donation from Nucor Steel and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$8,914 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations – Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve adoption of the 2026 Town Council meeting dates – Town Clerk
 - 3d. Discussion and possible action to approve the Town of Wallingford's participation in the South-Central Connecticut Regional Traffic Unit – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Consider and approve revisions to the job description for Recreation Programs Specialist – Human Resources
 - 3f. Consider and approve revisions to the job description for EMS Lieutenant – Human Resources
 - 3g. Consider and approve reappointment of Gina Varano to the Personnel and Pension Appeals Board for a Term of five (5) years set to expire December 31, 2030 – Mayor
 - 3h. Approve Minutes of November 25, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent items 3a-3h.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE 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-

Larry Kellogg spoke about the light on the corner of North Turnpike Road and Parker Farms Road. He read out loud his response he received from the State. The State said that the light at that corner is working according to plan. The sidewalks are co-current to the side streets and mentioned that this is a newly rebuilt intersection and was designed that way. The traffic signal revision requests that it first be approved by the Wallingford Police Department, mainly the Police Chief. If the Police Chief agrees with the recommendations they will submit the approved request to the Connecticut DOT for further review and approval. Mr. Kellogg said that to him that means that the State approved a plan to allow people at the green light to turn into an intersection where pedestrians are already crossing because the crosswalk light is on. He wanted to know if that made sense to anyone. He showed his frustration that the State would allow for cars to go into an intersection when people are trying to cross. Mayor Cervoni stated that he has been in communication with the Police Chief and he mentioned that the Police Chief has been in contact with the Traffic Authority for the State to work on this issue. Mr. Kellogg mentioned that today he was walking his pup and almost got run over by a school bus that was turning into him on North Turnpike Road. He wants the Town Council to do something about this matter. He feels that the Town Council should be protecting the Town of Wallingford and is upset because of the response he received from the State. He said this is a safety issue. Chairman Marrone stated that they would go through the process with the State. It is State property and they set the timing of the lights. The State feels that the light is appropriate the way it is. He does not think anyone on the council would disagree that this is an issue. He said they have to follow the State process to get this issue fixed. Mr. Kellogg feels that the council cannot protect pedestrians crossing the road.

Paul Cardullo spoke about affordability for working class families in America and in Wallingford and how it is a big issue. He said inflation is higher today than it was a year ago. It is close to 3%. He mentioned how food, auto and home prices are all higher than before. He stated that everyone is about to experience a \$1.5 trillion dollar cut to healthcare for many working families that need it and it also includes \$5 hundred million dollars in cuts to Medicare mostly for seniors who need it. He mentioned Wallingford had the largest tax increase in the history of the town last year and everyone is living through it right now. He said most of that increase is due to the re-assessments that were done. The town pushed the tax burden off of the business community and on to homeowners. He mentioned that working class families are really hurting right now. He mentioned that the inflation rate over the last five years was 25% and unless people received a 25% salary increase, they are falling way behind. The medium income in Wallingford is between \$85,000 -\$90,000 for households. It is very hard to raise a family on that income today. When he saw this past year that the town ended 2025 with a \$10.5 million dollar surplus, he felt compelled to come down two meetings ago and say something. He asked and requested the mayor at that time reimburse the tax increase for 2025 to residents in town because it is only half of the town's surplus. He said the town raised taxes but did not use the money so give it back to the residents. He asked the mayor if he had a chance to rethink anything or if he still feels the same way. Mayor Cervoni stated that he is still waiting on the audit results. Mr. Cardullo's believe is that the audit report will not show anything different then what the end of year report shows. He wanted to challenge the Town Council to think deeply about this and take this issue up tonight and put it on an agenda to have an open discussion about it and then take a vote. He thinks they have a good opportunity to deliver a positive message to the working families in Wallingford. He feels if the council does not take this matter

up for discussion, he feels they are sending a negative message to the working families in Wallingford and that they are not concerned about them.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Corporation Counsel Janis Small stated that they have all of the key easements and have one easement that they are still working on. They have the Engineers engaged in the doing the final As-Builts and the property description for the road. Water and Sewer has done work on the fire hydrant, and all of this will come out of the bond money. It has to go back to Planning & Zoning before it comes to the Town Council for approval of accepting the road. She mentioned it is moving close to the end at this point in time.

7. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §1-200(6)(B) with respect to Workers' Compensation claim settlement of Timothy Binkoski - Human Resources

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the Workers' Compensation claim settlement of Timothy Binkoski - Human Resources

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

Chairman Marrone stated that there has been a request from the administration to waive Rule V.

MOTION WAS MADE TO waive Rule V to consider Qualifications-Based Selection procedure for the hiring of a Construction Inspector for the Toelles Road Bridge Replacement Project.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

MOTION, pursuant to Purchasing Ordinance 43-10. D (4), approving the use of the Qualifications-Based Selection process without the secondary Request for Proposal, in accordance with the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program, to hire a Construction Inspector for the Toelles Road Bridge Replacement Project.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Alison Kapushinski was present to speak about this item. She stated that they are looking to start construction on the Toelles Road Bridge this spring. They just got their authorization to advertise from the State last week and that give them permission to go out to bid for the various bids that are needed. One of those bids is the Construction Inspector. She mentioned back in 2023 the State outlined different Master Municipal Agreements (MMA) for various State projects. One of those is the Master Municipal Agreement for design projects. She confirmed with the State, and they are considering the Construction Inspector under that MMA.

That MMA does require them to use the Qualifications-Based Selection process and that does not take cost into account. She has worked with the Purchasing Department. Met in the Mayor's Office to determine the most appropriate path going forward using their ordinances and there is a section that does allow them to utilize Qualifications-Based Selection without the secondary RFP process which is typically used by the town. She is requesting approval to use that process.

Councilor Testa asked where the bridge is. Ms. Kapushinski stated that the bridge is right next to the 15 underpass over the Quinnipiac River.

Councilor Fishbein wanted to know if this is the first time the town has hired a Construction Inspector for one of these projects. Ms. Kapushinski asked for this project and Councilor Fishbein stated that the town has done other bridges in town and the one he was thinking about is the Center Street Bridge by Vinnie's Deli. He wanted to know if that bridge, the town hired a Construction Inspector. Ms. Kapushinski stated that was a State project so the town did not have a Construction Inspector. Councilor Fishbein stated that was the distinction then. He does not want to get into the same situation because the Center Street situation ended up with a meeting in the Mayor's Office. Ms. Kapushinski stated that this project is funded by the State but it a town project. Councilor Fishbein asked if the town is in control of timelines and delays and all of that.

Larry Kellogg asked what MMA stands for. Ms. Kapushinski stated that it stands for Master Municipal Agreement. Mr. Kellogg mentioned that the town uses a lot of acronyms and some residents might not know what they mean. He does because he worked in that field. He would appreciate if someone on the Town Council would ask the person speaking about an item on the agenda just explain what the acronym means.

There was a voice vote taken and all members present were in favor.

9. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the following pending tax appeal matters: – Law Dept.
 - a. *350 North Cherry Street Extension, LLC v. Town of Wallingford;*
 - b. *Dubuc v. Town of Wallingford;*
 - c. *Montano v. Town of Wallingford;*
 - d. *Yalesville Properties, LLC v. Town of Wallingford; and*
 - e. *Wallingford Group, LLC v. Town of Wallingford*

MOTION WAS MADE TO go into Executive Session at 6:53 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-225 (f) and 1-200 (6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the following tax appeal matters:

- a. **350 North Cherry Street Extension, LLC v. Town of Wallingford**
- b. **Dubuc v. Town of Wallingford**
- c. **Montano v. Town of Wallingford**
- d. **Yalesville Properties, LLC v. Town of Wallingford and**
- e. **Wallingford Group, LLC v. Town of Wallingford.**

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

Attendance for the Executive Session was Corporation Council Janis Small, Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Councilor Allinson, Councilor Fishbein, Councilor Laffin, Councilor Regan, Councilor Reynolds, Councilor Testa, Councilor Carmody, Vice Chair Tatta and Chairman Marrone.

MOTION WAS MADE TO come out of Executive Session and go back to Regular Session at 7:27 p.m.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

10. Motion to consider and approve settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *350 North Cherry Street Extension, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of 350 North Cherry Street Extension LLC v. Town of Wallingford as discussed in Executive Session.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

11. Motion to consider and approve settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *Dubuc v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of Dubuc v. Town of Wallingford as discussed in Executive Session.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

12. Motion to consider and approve settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *Montano v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of Montano v. Town of Wallingford as discussed in Executive Session.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHEBEIN

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

13. Motion to consider and approve settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *Yalesville Properties, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of Yalesville Properties, LLC v. Town of Wallingford as discussed in Executive Session.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

14. Motion to consider and approve settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *Wallingford Group, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of Wallingford Group, LLC v. Town of Wallingford as discussed in Executive Session.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

Chairman Marrone spoke about his time on the Town Council and how he will be not returning for another term. He mentioned how he was very proud of how this Town Council handled themselves. He wishes the new Chair and Vice Chair good luck in the new term.

Vice Chair Tatta spoke about Chairman Marron's time on the Town Council along with this time on the Board of Education. She spoke about him as a person and her friendship with him.

Councilor Fishbein spoke about entering into this term and how there was a weirdness per say because it took the council two weeks to elect a Chairman and Vice Chair. He shared nice remarks about Chairman Marrone and his time on Town Council. He also spoke about how Councilor Regan will not be returning for the next term and shared nice remarks about him as well. He wished them both good luck.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date