

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers  
**March 24, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 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, Craig Fishbein, Christina Tatta and Chairman Vincent F. Testa Jr. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Comptroller Tim Sena, Town Attorney Geoffrey Einhorn 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 \$242,017.72 (#872-#1032) – Tax Dept.
  - 3b. Acceptance of overtime reimbursement of Federal Taskforce Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$3,399 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
  - 3c. Acceptance of donation from Roehm America LLC and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations – Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-TBD – Police Dept.
  - 3d. Acceptance of grant funds from USPCA AKC REUNITE to purchase a new police K9 and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,500 to Revenue-Grant, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expenditure-Police Canine, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.
  - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$6,260 from Maintenance of Buildings & Grounds, Acct. #10030000-54315 to Cap Acct.-New Mini Split Unit, Acct. #10030000-57000-TBD – Public Works
  - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,930 from Maintenance of Buildings & Grounds, Acct. #10030000-54315 to Cap Acct.-Water Fountain, Acct. #10030000-57000-TBD – Public Works
  - 3g. Acceptance of State Grant funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$10,000 to State Grant, Acct. #2501002-45114 and to Street Sweepings Expenses, Acct. #25030000-58830-10233 – Public Works

- 3h. Consider and approve a bid waiver to use Ubeo for microfilming services – Inland Wetland and Watercourses
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,500 – Mayor
- |         |                                |                       |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$7,500 | From: Exp.-PS-Consulting       | Acct. #10011000-56774 |
| \$2,500 | To: Exp.-Reg. Salaries & Wages | Acct. #10011000-51000 |
| 5,000   | To: Exp.-PS-Microfilming       | Acct. #10011000-56600 |
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$20,000 from Professional Services-Labor Attorney, Acct.#10010300-56708 to Professional Services-Specialists, Acct. #10010300-56714 – Law Dept.
- 3k. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,500 to Exp.- Purchased Services-Negotiations, Acct. #10010150-56712 and to Exp.- Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10010150-51000 – Mayor
- 3l. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$44,600 – Mayor
- |          |                                 |                           |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$44,600 | From: Exp.-Reg Salaries & Wages | Acct. #10010130-51000     |
| \$37,700 | To: Exp.-Capital-Software       | Acct. #10010130-57000-TBD |
| 6,900    | Exp.-PS-Software Support        | Acct. #10010130-56718     |
- 3m. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,526 from Painting, Acct. #10040100-57000-01437 to Window Shades, Acct. #10040100-57000-TBD – Youth and Social Services
- 3n. Consideration and approval to opt-in to the Six Remnant Defendants Opioid National Settlement – Law Dept.
- 3o. Consider and approve Appointment of Karen Raddatz to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy set to expire January 8, 2030 – Chairman Testa
- 3p. Approve Minutes of March 10, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting.
- 3q. Consider and Approve Merit Review Board (1) - Human Resources

**MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent Agenda items 3a-3p.  
MADE BY: CARMODY  
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO amend motion to say approve Consent Agenda items 3a-3q.  
MADE BY: CARMODY  
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

Chair Testa talked about the passing of their former Town Clerk Secretary, Sandy Weeks. He also wanted to congratulate the Lyman Hall Boys Hockey Team and them winning the State Championship.

**4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD-**

Paul Cardullo discussed how working class families in Wallingford are financially stressed. He talked about the working class families and their median income and how even people who make a bit more than median income in Wallingford are finding it difficult to live in Wallingford. He discussed the taxes in Wallingford going up and contributing to the difficulty the residents in Wallingford have when it comes to affordability. He talked about the population in Wallingford and the grand List and how both have decreased over the years. He talked about how about 80% of the tax burden in Wallingford is falling onto the homeowners. He asked Chair Testa what his opinion was on what he just said. Chair Testa agreed that the town has a lot to do to improve the grand list and rebuild the commercial side of the grand list. There was a discussion that a task force should be created for the purpose of having people really look at the town of Wallingford and see exactly what needs to be done to improve it.

Bill Comerford wanted to know if the mayor had gotten an answer about the post concrete tension and if the diagram that he showed to the Town Council two weeks ago was the diagram that was actually followed during the construction of the basketball court. Mayor Cervoni asked Mr. Comerford is the drawing he was looking at was from April 29, 2025. Mr. Comerford stated yes. Mayor Cervoni said that is not the right drawing to rely upon. The correct drawing is the May 22, 2025, drawing. He mentioned an email that was sent to Mr. Comerford on February 3, 2026, from the Town Engineer answered his question as to whether the drawing he had was the correct one used or not. There was a discussion about the April 29, 2025, drawing and how Mr. Comerford was told that it was the correct drawing and the Town Engineer did not have any other drawings. He was advised that there was a later version of the drawing in question but was never sent the updated drawing for his records. There was a discussion about the contract and if it was followed. There was a discussion about the design of the court and whether the design was actually followed and built according to the design or not. There was a discussion as to whether the job for the post tension concrete basketball courts were installed correctly or not. Because of everything that has happened with the basketball courts, Mr. Comerford suggested again to have the town hire a Sidewalk Inspector so that way when any construction in town is taking place the administration and the Town Council can have reports as to how the construction is going and being handled.

Keith Massamino spoke about being at that interview with the mayor when speaking to him about the concrete basketball courts. He said that the mayor at that time said the Park and Rec Director and the Public Works Director inspected the basketball courts, when in turn they did not inspect any of the basketball courts. The mayor was asked at a September Town Council meeting if the Town Engineer inspected the basketball courts and it was stated that she did not inspect the basketball courts. He discussed and thanked the council for

reinstating the 20 minutes of public comment. He thanked Councilor Christina Tatta for her comments about the public comment. He publicly apologized to her for being critical of her and said that her stance on not removing public comment made up for that. He discussed that when the nine councilors became part of the Town Council they were no longer private citizens and that they make public decisions for the public now. There was a discussion about what a healthy government looks like. Chair Testa agrees that the public should hold the Town Council accountable and be able to share their opinions with them.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve a bid waiver to purchase a CCTV Truck via State Contract Consortium - Sewer Division

**MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a bid waiver to purchase a CCTV Truck via State Contract Consortium as requested by the Sewer Division.**  
**MADE BY: CARMODY**  
**SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

Neil Amwake, General Manager of the Water/Sewer Division spoke about the bid waiver and how it came about. He said the Sewer Division is requesting a bid waiver to purchase a Closed Caption Television Inspection Truck through Sourcewell pricing, which is a consortium. The truck is used for their preventative maintenance program, identifying and correcting inflow and infiltration issues that leads to future pipelining projects. It is also used for clearing root intrusions and flushing to clear debris or other objects. The CCTV truck can proactively address potential pipe failures, by putting the rover or tractor through the sanitary sewer pipes. They can see cracks, particularly if it is a clay tile pipe. That can turn into future capital projects such as pipe repairs or sanitary sewer replacement. They also use the CCTV truck to respond to emergencies such as blockages, root intrusions or other objects like wipes, towels, rags. This truck provides the Sewer Division with the ability to monitor the sanitary sewer collection system and identify precise locations or issues or problems. It works towards the preventative maintenance program as well as future capital projects. The current CCTV truck has issues with the camera and the tractor. They have become obsolete. They are having difficulty being able to source replacement parts and when they do find a replacement part, it is time consuming with the camera and rover down for extended periods of time. The Sewer Division has the inability to perform CCTV functions of the sanitary sewer, but also to respond to emergencies if the camera is down and not functioning. He talked about Sourcewell pricing through the consortium and how competitively solicited and awarded cooperative contracts and purchasing agreements. Sourcewell pricing is available to government, education and nonprofit entities. He stated that Sourcewell develops the RFP's, does the public notice and advertisement, opens the RFP's and then evaluates the RFP's and the contract award. The CCTV truck is approximately \$298,000. There is a \$20,000 trade in for the existing CCTV truck leaving a net of \$278,000. Sourcewell is offering 4% of the list price for savings of approximately \$11,968. He mentioned that the Water, Sewer and Electric Division are fully rate payer supported and that means that no tax dollars are used in this purchase. It is Sewer Division rate money. He discussed the photos that were part of the backup that the Town Council received.

Councilor Fishbein asked if the CCTV truck is a new or used truck. Mr. Amwake stated that it is a new purchase. It is brand new equipment. Councilor Fishbein asked about the third party evaluating the pricing award. He wanted to know what that is for and if they are comparing pricing to others in the evaluation. Mr. Amwake said that Sourcewell puts out a general call for sewer inspection equipment and then various sewer inspection manufacturers submit their proposal and then their price discount for that. There is an evaluation that meets the specification that Sourcewell pricing is put as part of the RFP. He mentioned that this is the first time the Sewer Division is using this type of Consortium. They were more concerned with the specifications of

the equipment and then the discount was a value proposition. He mentioned that it is up to the customer whether this is a good deal or not, Sourcewell does not determine this. Councilor Fishbein asked if the Sewer Division was already going to purchase the CCTV truck or if this was just something that came up and they thought it would be a good deal. Mr. Amwake said it was the plan of the Sewer Division to purchase the CCTV truck. He said this has been in the previous fiscal budgets to buy the CCTV truck. In fiscal year 2024-2025, the Sewer Division was approved \$200,000 for this. In fiscal year 2025-2026, the Sewer Division was approved another \$75,000 that was appropriated for this purchase. In fiscal year 2026-2027 they will need about \$7,500 more.

Councilor Rivard asked if the vehicle can be made modular for upgrades to the equipment. Mr. Amwake said he would have to ask the Sewer Division Leadership that question. He said the current CCTV truck does not have that capability. He mentioned the truck they have now has always given them problems now and in the past since they bought it about 6 years ago. When the truck was purchased in the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget, it actually came from Georgia even though the camera manufacturer was local in CT. When the truck was under warranty they had to send it back to Georgia for repairs. Out of the first 3,000 miles, 2,000 of those miles was back and forth to Georgia for repairs. Councilor Rivard is in favor of the new vehicle. There was a discussion that if the new CCTV truck had the technology capability it can turn over problems faster, so they do not become emergencies. The components of the CCTV truck were discussed.

Councilor Tatta asked what type of truck it is. Mr. Amwake said the current CCTV truck is a box truck. It is a 2019 Ford Transit. The proposed CCTV truck is a 2026 E450, 16' box truck. There was a discussion about what the CCTV truck will be used for and also that the vehicle is only 9 years old. Mr. Amwake said the current CCTV truck has not been a reliable vehicle since they purchased it. The new CCTV truck and all of the equipment will be serviced in North Haven, CT. There was a discussion about the bid process and why this did not go out to bid. There was a discussion about how the budget cycle was created to be able to purchase the new CCTV truck.

Bill Comerford talked about the town buying two VAC trucks, one for the Sewer Division and one for Public Works. He wanted to know where on the bid scale did Sourcewell score. Mr. Amwake said it is a bid waiver so there is no scale ranking of the company. He said that Sourcewell pricing provides various sewer inspection equipment with an associated discount price. It depends on what the needs of the Sewer Division are. Then you look at the various responses to the solicitation, see which one meets your technical and quality standards and then you can see what the pricing discount is. Sourcewell does not rank their bids because they are not competing with each other. They are not all bidding on the same strict specifications. There was a discussion on why this did not go out to bid.

Chair Testa said that they are here tonight to approve a bid waiver not a purchase. They are not being asked to approve a contract. They do not approve ongoing expenses for the Utilities Department. Attorney Einhorn said on most things the Town Council does not approve their expenses. Mr. Sena said when the Town Council passed the two previous budgets, they appropriated the funding for this. There was a discussion about the CCTV truck costing \$300,000.

Keith Massamino asked how many miles are on the CCTV truck that is being used now. Mr. Amwake said he would have to look into that to find the answer. Mr. Massamino asked if the CCTV truck was purchased in 2019. Mr. Amwake said that it was purchased in 2018 and got delivered in 2019. It was brand new when it was purchased in 2018. It is a 6 year old vehicle. Mr. Massamino asked if they had looked into what it cost to retrofit the truck with the new camera. Mr. Amwake said that they have concerns with putting a new camera and

tractor equipment in a truck that has already given them trouble in the past. Mr. Massamino would like to know what it would cost to retro fit the truck. He would rather see the town use that money for a new truck on fixing the old truck and not have to spend money for a new CCTV truck every 6 years.

Councilor Fishbein is in support of this item. There was a discussion whether this is the right truck for the department.

Councilor Rivard said his discussion about the modular configuration was in part as to what the public is concerned about with spending money every 6 plus years for a new vehicle. The optical technology of this was discussed.

**ROLL CALL:**

**ALLINSON: AYE**

**CARMODY: AYE**

**FISHBEIN: AYE**

**LAFFIN: AYE**

**REYNOLDS: AYE**

**RIVARD: AYE**

**ROSSACCI: AYE**

**TATTA: AYE**

**TESTA: AYE**

**9- AYE**

**0-NAY**

**0-ASBENT**

**MOTION: PASSED**

7. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(D) and §1-225(f) for discussion with respect to the purchase of property (Executive Session to be held jointly with the Board of Education) – Law Dept.

**This agenda item was withdrawn.**

8. Discussion and review of the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR or audit) – Councilor Tatta

Councilor Tatta discussed the budget audit. She wanted to state that this budget that is being discussed is not the current budget. It is the budget that closed already. There was a discussion about the grand list. She feels that the grand list should be looked at when it comes to businesses and how can the town support new businesses in Wallingford. There was a discussion about 932 Northrop Road, which is the Proton Therapy Center and if it was going to be a taxable project for the town. Mayor Cervoni said that they have been approached by the developer to discuss some type of agreement regarding taxation. There was a discussion about the CRRA Account part of the closed budget. There was a question as to how much money is left. Mr. Sena said that there was nothing left in that account. Councilor Tatta discussed the financial highlight of the audit report. The town's revenue was discussed. The general fund was discussed. There was a discussion about the town's surplus amount. The surplus amount was \$1.9 million. Mr. Sena confirmed that the \$1.9 million in surplus is correct. The BOE spending budget was discussed. The rainy fund account per say was discussed and why the \$9

million is always there as a just in case emergency for the town. Mr. Sena said that money is there so that the town does not raise taxes because they have allocated extra money just in case. The ARPA funds was discussed. The contingency budget amount was discussed. The general fund balance was discussed. The mill rate was discussed. The Wallingford Electric rate were discussed. The deficit fund equity was discussed. The deposit Custodial Credit Risk was discussed. There was a discussion about the bonding and how it works. Tax Abatements was discussed. The legal debt margin information was discussed.

Councilor Rossacci had a discussion about the fixed tax rate and tax abatements. The audit budget reflected tax abatements, not fixed tax rates.

Councilor Reynolds discussed the report and how it would allow the town to have some flexibility. The town does not have a large debt scale. Even if the population declines the town still has to maintain the buildings in town.

Councilor Rivard thought that it was a great document and very helpful. There was a discussion about the tables in the back of the report and how they show trends going on. Preventative maintenance programs were discussed. Bonding projects was discussed.

Councilor Tatta discussed the award the town go for the financial audit report.

Paul Cardullo discussed the 10% in reserves. The budget in general was discussed along with the surplus amount. The Cap N' Non recurring fund was discussed. Mr. sena discussed the \$9 million and what it is for.

Councilor Fishbein discussed the tax rebate.

9. Discussion of "Facilities Condition Assessments Report" with Department of Public Works Director Robert Baltramaitis – Councilor Rivard

Councilor Rivard discussed why he wanted to put this item on the agenda. He felt it was important to have this report.

Rob Baltramitis, Director of Public Works spoke about the report and the 7 buildings his department is in charge of.

There was a brief discussion by the councilors as to the cost of some of the issues discussed on the reports. The Historic Train Station issues and the building itself was discussed. The age of each of the buildings was discussed. The 7 buildings are the Animal Control, Armory Building, Park & Rec, Historic Railroad Station, SCOW/Stem, Senior Center and Town Hall. There was a general discussion how the information was helpful and how this type of information should be done to provide information about the parks around town.

10. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) to discuss the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Mary P. Fabini, et al* – Law Dept.

**This agenda item was withdrawn.**

11. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6), §1-200(9)(C) and §1-225(f) to discuss PFAS Litigation – Law Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200 (6), 1-200 (9)(C) and 1-225 (f) to discuss PFAS Litigation at 8:48pm.  
MADE BY: CARMODY  
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

In attendance was Councilor Allinson, Councilor Fishbein, Councilor Laffin, Councilor Reynolds, Councilor Rivard, Councilor Rossacci, Councilor Tatta, Vice Chair Carmody and Chair Testa along with Corporation Counsel Janis Small, Town Attorney Geoffrey Einhorn and Mayor Vincent Cervoni.

12. Discussion and possible action with respect to the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Mary P. Fabini, et al* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

**This agenda item was withdrawn.**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO come out of Executive Session and go back into Regular Session at 9:17pm.  
MADE BY: ALLINSON  
SECONDED BY: CARMODY**

13. Consideration and possible action on waiving the bid to hire the law firm of Grossman and Kelly to handle the PFAS litigation – Law Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a bid waiver to hire the law firm of Grossman and Kelly to handle the PFAS Litigation.  
MADE BY: CARMODY  
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

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

