

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
April 16, 2026
RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026, was called to order at 8:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Samuel Carmody, Thomas Laffin, Jesse Reynolds, Melanie Rossacci, Christina Tatta and Chairman Vincent F. Testa Jr. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Comptroller Tim Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilors Craig Fishbein and Bryan Rivard were absent. Councilor Allinson came to the meeting late.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. FY 2026-2027 Budget

Public Utilities Commission

Electric

Sewer

Water

Public Works

Engineering

Cap & Non Recurring

Six Year Capital

4. Public Comment

Electric Division

Ric Hendershot, Director of Public Utilities, and Jake Arborio, General Manager of Electric Division spoke about the department does and their budget. Marianne Dill, Business Officer Manager was also present.

Councilor Tatta asked about the salary pages for this department and why they did not get added to the budget backup. Mr. Hendershot explained that he did not know why it was not part of the budget. It was summited. Those pages will be sent to the Town Council.

Water/Sewer Division

Ric Hendershot, Director of Public Utilities, Neil Amwake, General Manager of Water/Sewer Division and Don Langenauer, Business Manager were present to answer any questions.

Councilor Tatta wanted to know about the net loss that the Sewer Division is running at a \$1.4 million dollar loss. Mr. Amwake explained that the net appropriation from cash for rate stabilization is \$706,531. The \$1,457 million net income loss is before depreciation. In 2025 they did have a financial forecast and retail rate study prepared. The Public Utilities Commission did vote on this. The use of retained earnings or the use of cash for rate stabilization for this year aligns with that rate model. He mentioned that all the divisions budget for everything and have been understaffed since probably pre-COVID. The money that is not spent in the budget gets put back into retained earnings on June 30. Councilor Tatta asked if they council could receive the salary pages for the Water/Sewer Division.

Chair Tatta asked if under the Public Utilities Commission page, it had the salary for the Director and the Executive Secretary. Mr. Hendershot said that was correct. Chai Testa then asked if the individual division had their one line item salary pages and Mr. Hendershot said that was correct.

Public Works

Rob Baltramaitis, Director of Public Works and Mark Rowland, General foreman spoke about what their department does and also spoke about their budget.

Councilor Allinson asked if it was the loader or the dump truck that was cut from his budget. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that the mayor's budget cut a dump truck. He explained to the mayor that if something has to be cut to cut the loader because the dump truck is very old and needs replacing.

Mayor Cervoni explained that they did have that discussion about cutting the loader and leaving the dump truck in the budget. There will be a memo given to the council on the motions night meeting and ask that the council make that swap. He mentioned that they will also need a motion to correct the telephone budget line for the Building Department.

Councilor Rossacci asked about the paving schedule and how do they prioritize roads. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that in the past the worst roads were addressed first but that will have to change. They will be picking roads that are in half decent shape, good surface and putting an inexpensive repair on them to extend that life further, rather than dealing with a road that looks worse. They want to fix roads all over town and not just be in one section of town. You cannot get 20, 25 years out of the road anymore. The quality of the products are

not as good as they once were. He mentioned how he is always reluctant to put out a schedule for road repair because that schedule can change and a road can be removed from the list or change place in the list. For that reason, a list to put out to the public has never been done.

Councilor Tatta asked if there was a possibility that ever hire a specialist mechanic to work on the fire trucks, seeing how in their study it mentioned that Public Works does routine maintenance on them already. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that both departments would have to look into that collectively because it is equipment that needs to go to a specialized vendor for repairs. There would have to be a discussion as to which department would fund a position like that. There was a discussion about the purchase services engineering consultant line item. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that it was for the architectural consultant who came out to do the studies, assessments and designs. There was a discussion about the purchase services custodial services line item. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that those services are for the Town Hall, DPW, Historic Railroad when it was occupied, Senior Center, and Scow Steam Academy. There are different vendors that do custodial work for these buildings. There was a discussion about the money being used from the contingency to buy salt for the winter months. Mr. Baltramaitis explained how much salt they had prior to this past winter and how they used up all of the reserves they had in the salt barn. It is now empty and he wants to replenish it for next winter to make sure that they have enough salt for the roads in case the town has another bad winter. If the contingency money was not there then they would have to get the money from some where else. There was a discussion about the switch from the dump truck to the loader. There was a discussion about trading in the dump truck for another one or keeping the dump truck for spare parts seeing how the fleet of trucks are on the older side.

Councilor Allinson thanked Public Works for their presentation. She mentioned how it is helpful to know the results of the studies that were done and how it pertains to the budget and the future picture of what they can expect.

Councilor Reynolds wanted to ask about the contingency money and using that money to buy the salt. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that after storms they would always replenish and once they hit that \$350,000 of the \$500,000 line item they would go to the mayor and ask for contingency. From the storm in February, they have added more salt to the salt barn but they need about 2,500 more tons to start next year so they have a full barn of salt. There was a discussion about why the snow plows leave piles of salt behind when they plow the snow after storms.

Councilor Laffin discussed the list of roads to be paved and agreed that it would be hard to have a list of roads to be paved, post that list and then if one road falls off the list then you

would have angry residents because their road got dropped for one reason or another. Mr. Sena said they were coming to the council to ask for the contingency money but there was a salt shortage in the state and there was no salt for Mr. Baltramaitis to buy so he withdrew the ask. There was a discussion about the chip seal fix for the roads in town.

Councilor Carmody asked about his staffing and how many people do they need to fill the vacancies. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that out of 48 full time employees they are down 6 employees' total. There is one employee that gave their notice today so that will make seven. Hopefully with the new contract he will be able to fill the positions. There was a discussion about how being under staffed could affect the work load they have. There was a discussion about when paving will start for this year, and Mr. Baltramaitis said as early as next week they can start.

Engineering

Alison Kapushinski, Town Engineer discussed what her department does and her budget

There was a discussion of the decrease in the budget due to the traffic signals not being a part of the budget anymore. There was a discussion about the sidewalks in town and who does the repairs. There was a discussion about how this department will still be paying the maintenance of the traffic signals. There was a discussion about Tolles Road Bridge and how part of that section is actually in North Haven.

Cap & Non Recurring & Six Year Capital

There was a discussion about the Electric Division Pilot. There was a discussion about the Cap & Non fund. The six year capital plan was discussed and how it gets broken down into years and payments. There was a discussion about how this fund was created and what it does. The use of the audited fund balance was discussed. The projects on the Cap & Non list were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date

