

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MOTIONS MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

April 30, 2026

6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Thursday, April 30, 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, Comptroller Tim Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Councilor Fishbein was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Review of Budget
4. Discussion and possible action on amendments to the Town of Wallingford Budget for FY 2026-2027

WORKSHOP

Chair Testa explained why he wanted to have a workshop before the motions meeting. He discussed possibly bonding capital items. There was a discussion about removing capital items and try to bond them. There was a discussion about how the motions meeting would be run and how the motions would work for tonight's meeting. There was a discussion amongst the councilors about what motions they would like to vote on. There was a discussion about the revenue that comes in to departments. There was a discussion about capital funds being removed to fund operational expenses. There was a discussion about cutting the contingency line of the budget. There was a discussion about each department maybe having to cut 1% of their budget if the motion passes. There was a discussion about the Fire Marshal positions and the Fire Marshal vehicles. There was a discussion about the administration's amended proposal. There was a discussion about bonding. There was a discussion about the median increase for taxes per year. There was a discussion about reducing the general fund. There was a discussion about the Fire Department hires. There was a discussion about bonding vehicles.

MOTIONS MEETING

There was a discussion about the Fire Department items that were going to be voted on. Their ambulance revenue projection was discussed. The 1% savings decrease for each department was discussed. There was a discussion about the order of which position in the Fire Department is most important. There was a discussion about how old the Fire Marshal vehicles are. There was a discussion about hiring two (2) Fire Inspectors. There was a discussion on hiring the two (2) MSO's. There was a discussion about outside contracting like AMR for the Fire Department. There was a discussion about the Fire Department revenue. There was a discussion about the Fire Marshals. There was a discussion about revenue increase. There was a discussion about the ambulance remount. There was a discussion about the hiring of more fire fighters.

MOTION WAS MADE TO increase line item 46010, Ambulance Revenue Projection by \$250,000.

**MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY:
THERE WAS NO SECOND**

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend the increase line item 46010, Ambulance Revenue Projection by \$100,000.

**MADE BY: RIVARD
SECONDED BY: CARMODY**

ROLL CALL ON THE AMENDMENT:

**ALLINSON: AYE
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: AYE
ROSSACCI: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: AYE
7- AYE
1-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: PASSED**

MOTION WAS MADE TO add 2 MSO positions, 1 Fire Inspector and remove ambulance remount and 3 fire marshal vehicles.

**MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY:
THERE WAS NO SECOND**

MOTION WAS MADE TO add 2 MSO positions, 2 Fire Inspector positions, 1 Fire Fighter position and reduce the fire marshal vehicles from 3 to 1.

**MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: CARMODY**

There was a discussion about amending the motion to increase the fire marshal vehicles from 1 to 2.

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend previous motion of 2 MSO positions, 2 Fire Inspector positions, 1 Fire Fighter position and reduce the fire marshal vehicles from 3 to 1 to say reduce fire marshal vehicles from 3 to 2.

**MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: CARMODY**

There was a discussion about the amount per position not including benefits and that should be added.

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend previous motion to say the 5 positions total would be \$469,020 with approximate increase of \$150,000 for benefits and \$75,000 reduction of the 1 fire marshal vehicle.

**MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: CARMODY**

There was a discussion about Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors. There was a discussion of how the office is running in the Fire Inspector's Office. There was a discussion about onboarding staff. There was a discussion about the Fire Marshal vehicles. There was a discussion as to where this money is coming from. Fire Marshal Page discussed the need for another Fire Inspector and the need for the vehicles.

ROLL CALL ON THE THIRD AMENDMENT:

**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**

MOTION WAS MADE TO increase line item 40285, building revenue projection by \$235,000 + \$75,000.

**MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY:
THERE WAS NO SECOND**

MOTION WAS MADE TO motion to increase line item 40285, building revenue projection by \$75,000.

**MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: RIVARD**

There was a discussion about a \$2 increase per permit fee. There was a discussion about increasing the motion to \$150,000 increase.

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend motion to increase line item 40285, building revenue projection by \$150,000.

**MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI**

There was a discussion about putting this item on the ordinance agenda.

ROLL CALL ON THE AMENDMENT:

**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**

MOTION WAS MADE TO increase line item 46020, PD revenue projection by \$275,000 to match the prior fiscal year.

**MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: RIVARD**

There was a discussion about how this motion was not recommended. Revenue generated by the Police Department is much different then revenue generated by other departments. There was a discussion in the discrepancy amounts from last year to this year for the Police Department. The officers get paid upfront. There was a discussion about the Police Department overtime. The idea to reduce tax revenue and increase the Police Department revenue will not work for that department. It does work for other departments.

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: NAY
CARMODY: NAY
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: NAY
RIVARD: NAY
ROSSACCI: NAY
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: NAY
1- AYE
7-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: FAILED

MOTION WAS MADE TO increase line 44010 interest on investments by \$60,000.

MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI

There was a discussion about where the amount of \$60,000 came from. Interest rates are lowering so increasing the interest on investments does not make sense at this point. Interest rates 18 months ago were higher than they are now. All revenue numbers are estimates.

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: NAY
CARMODY: NAY
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: NAY
ROSSACCI: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: NAY
3- AYE
5-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: FAILED

MOTION WAS MADE TO fund \$5,000 to Wallingford Yalesville Little League, fund \$5,000 to Golden Fox Theater and decrease line 58201 (Community Grants) by \$10,000.

**MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI**

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend motion to fund \$5,000 to Wallingford Yalesville Little League.

**MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: RIVARD**

There was a discussion about why Wallingford Center Inc. was not on the Social Services Contribution page of the budget. There was a discussion about where else to take the \$10,000 and not have to take it from the Community Grants.

ROLL CALL ON AMENDMENT:

**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**

MOTION WAS MADE TO fund \$5,000 to Golden Fox Theater and reduce WCI from \$160,000 to \$155,000, a decrease by \$5,000.

**MADE BY: ROSSACCI
SECONDED BY: TATTA**

There was a discussion about Golden Fox Theater's proposal to the mayor. There was a discussion about how much WCI does for the community. There was a discussion about funding non-profits. There was a discussion about the WCI budget and how most of the money goes towards their operating budget.

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: NAY
CARMODY: NAY
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: NAY
ROSSACCI: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: NAY
3- AYE
5-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: FAILED

MOTION WAS MADE TO fund \$5,000 to Golden Fox Theater

MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: TATTA

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: NAY
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: NAY
ROSSACCI: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: AYE
5- AYE
3-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: PASSED

**MOTION WAS MADE TO include the mayor's proposal to change the plow
dump truck to the loader and correct the building department typo as
written a proposed by the mayor.**

MADE BY: RIVARD
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI

There was a discussion about the amount in savings. There was a discussion about either keeping the truck or selling it and not trading it in.

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

MOTION WAS MADE TO eliminate the work study position of \$7,000.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY:

THERE WAS NO SECOND

MOTION WAS MADE TO eliminate the new assistant risk manager position of \$119,189 plus benefits.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY:

THERE WAS NO SECOND

MOTION WAS MADE TO increase the amount in reserves used to \$11.9 million.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI

TATTA WITHDREW HER MOTION.

MOTION WAS MADE TO increase the amount in reserves used to \$1.5 million.

**MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY:
THERE WAS NO SECOND**

There was a discussion about the amount of the increase in reserves.

MOTION WAS MADE TO add back the \$600, 632 to the BOE budget.

**MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI**

There was a discussion as to why the increase. There was a discussion in the teacher's lead positions and the positions that were cut last year.

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend the motion to say add back the \$601,632 to the BOE budget.

**MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI**

There was a discussion how the council can actually fully fund the BOE for this fiscal year. There was a discussion about how adding the maintenance personnel will be very beneficial. There was a discussion about the BOE budget being whole and how great that is.

ROLL CALL ON THE AMENDMENT:

**ALLINSON: AYE
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: AYE
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: AYE
ROSSACCI: AYE
TATTA: NAY
TESTA: AYE
7- AYE
1-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: PASSED**

MOTION WAS MADE TO add the senior clerk position of about \$75,000 to the building department.

**MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

There was a discussion about how this job would be beneficial to the building department.

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: AYE
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: AYE
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: AYE
ROSSACCI: AYE
TATTA: NAY
TESTA: AYE
7- AYE
1-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO correct the motion to say add the senior clerk position of \$72,155, \$54,655 in wages and \$17,500 in benefits to the building department.

MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI

MOTION WAS MADE TO add back the sanitarian to the health department for \$81,709, with a rough estimate including benefits of \$107,855 total.

MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

There was a discussion on how there was not enough conversation about this position. There was a discussion about the increase in the health department budget over the past year.

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: AYE
CARMODY: NAY
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: NAY
ROSSACCI: NAY
TATTA: NAY
TESTA: NAY
2- AYE

6-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: FAILED

MOTION WAS MADE TO eliminate the BOE contingency line of \$570,405

**MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY:
THERE WAS NO SECOND**

MOTION WAS MADE TO eliminate the general fund contingency line of \$600,000

**MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

There was a discussion about what the \$600,000 is actually used for. There was a discussion of the breakdown of the \$600,000. There was a discussion as the reason why the contingency fund exists. There was a discussion about the contingency fund in past years and what was spent. There was a discussion about whether there was no contingency where the money would come from. There was a discussion as to whether in past years, did the town spend the contingency fund. There was a discussion about bonding and the town's good rating and standing.

ROLL CALL:

**ALLINSON: NAY
CARMODY: NAY
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: NAY
RIVARD: NAY
ROSSACCI: NAY
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: NAY
1- AYE
7-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: FAILED**

MOTION WAS MADE TO move the \$912,083 from the general fund placed into revenue for the upcoming budget.

**MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI**

There was a discussion that they number should be higher.

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend motion to say move \$1 million from the general fund.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ROSSACCI**

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend motion from \$1 million added to revenue from the general fund to \$1.25 million.

**MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: TATTA**

There was a discussion as to what the number needs to be to be able to zero out this item. There was a discussion to increase the number to get back to the original motion of \$2.9 million. There was a discussion about the tax increase and see how close they can get to a zero tax increase.

MOTION WAS MADE TO amend motion to change the amount added to the reserve to \$2.9 million to get to 50% tax reduction.

**MADE BY: TESTA
SECONDED BY: TATTA**

ROLL CALL TO AMEND THE MOTION:

**ALLINSON: NAY
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: NAY
REYNOLDS: AYE
RIVARD: AYE
ROSSACCI: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: AYE
6- AYE
2-NAY
1-ASBENT
MOTION: PASSED**

MOTION WAS MADE TO increase the amount contributed from reserves into the revenue line of the budget by \$2.9 million.

**MADE BY: TESTA
SECONDED BY: TATTA**

There was a discussion as to what the \$11.9 million would be and it would be unassigned funds.
There was a discussion about balancing the budget.

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 10:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date

