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TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT Mayor Pango (12) TOWN CLERK
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
May 12, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Minutes

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, was called to order at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Jesse Reynolds, Bryan Rivard, Melanie Rossacci (via Zoom), Christina Tatta, and Chairman Vincent F. Testa. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Timothy Sena, Comptroller, and Geoffrey Einhorn, Town Attorney, were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Recognition of Lyman Hall CIAC Division II Boys Hockey Team

Mayor Cervoni and Chairman Testa recognized the 18 team members for qualifying for the tournament for the first time in four years and for taking the first state championships in Hockey in the history of the school as a standalone program.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$2,145.82 (#1067-1081)- Tax Dept.
- 3b. Consider and approve a Transfer of various real estate and personal property to suspense list in the amount of \$306,397.28 - Tax Dept.
- 3c. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Animal Control - Mayor
- 3d. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for BOE- Mayor
- 3e. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for EDC - Mayor
- 3f. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Finance- Mayor
- 3g. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for the Fire Dept. - Mayor
- 3h. Consider and approve 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Human Resources - Mayor
- 3i. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Information Technology – Mayor
- 3j. Consider and approve 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Law Dept. -Mayor
- 3k. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Planning and Zoning - Mayor
- 3l. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for the Police Dept. -Mayor

- 3m. Consider and approve 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Public Works - Mayor
- 31l. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Utilities - PUC - Mayor
- 3o. Consider and approve 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Utilities - Electric - Mayor
- 3p. Consider and approve 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Utilities Water/Sewer - Mayor
- 3q. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Purchasing- Mayor
- 3r. Consider and approve 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for Town Clerk - Mayor
- 3s. Consider and approve the 2026-2027 Bid Waiver request for town-wide use– Mayor
- 3t. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Grant "2025-2026 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program" funds and consider and approve Appropriation in the amount of \$9,163 to Revenue Highway Safety Grant, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 - Police Dept.
- 3u. Consider and approve FY 2025-2026 budget amendment and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100,000 to Outside Contractors, Acct. #10020050-51600 and to Charges for Current Services, Acct. #1002001-46020 -Police Dept.
- 3v. Consider and approve a resolution authorizing Mayor Vincent Cervoni to execute and deliver any documents regarding grants from the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security - Fire Dept.
- 3w. Consider and approve revisions to the job description of Maintainer II-Water Division - Human Resources
- 3x. Acceptance of donation to the America250 Committee and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$4,500 to Rev.-Donations, Acct. #2505002-47152 and to Exp.-America250, Acct. #25040150-58830-10245 –Mayor
- 3y. Consider and approve a request from America250 to use the Parade Grounds for the 250th celebrations for June 14-21, 2026- Mayor
- 3z. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,900 - Health Dept.

\$2,200	From: PS-Software SU	Acct. #10040050-56718
700	From: Maintenance of Equipment	Acct. #10040050-54325
\$2,200	To: Health Promotion Programs	Acct. #10040050-58831
700	To: Dues and Fees	Acct. #10040050-58810

- 3aa. Consider and approve the reappointment of Robert Prentice as an alternate to the Historic Properties Commission for a term of five (5) years and set to expire on March 27, 2031 - Chairman Testa
- 3bb. Approve Minutes of April 13, 2026, Special Town Council Meeting, April 27, 2026, Special Town Council Meeting, and April 28, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE OR ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a through 3u, 3v as amended, and 3w through 3aa and item 3bb, but with the removal of the April 28, 2026, meeting minutes.

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Chairman Testa noted that the Minutes from the April 28th meeting were pulled due to some corrections, but can be discussed at the next meeting.

Chairman Testa welcomed Mr. Robert Prentice as an Alternate to the Historic Properties Commission for a term of 5 years and swore him in.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD - none

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Collective Bargaining Tentative Agreement between Town of Wallingford and IBEW, Local 420, effective from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2028 - Human Resources

In attendance: James Hutt, Town Human Resources Director, and Jake Arborio, General Manager, Electric Division

MOTION WAS MADE for discussion and possible action regarding the Collective Bargaining Tentative Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and IBEW, Local 420, effective from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2028.

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

Mr. Hutt explained that this is for the line workers and electricians for the Wallingford Electric Division. He outlined the changes, including safety, licensing, work to be performed, and requested additional resources. He explained the schedule for wage adjustments, health insurance copays, and cost sharing. He also explained the meal allowance and increase to sick family days.

Councilor Tatta asked if this is completely supported by the ratepayers and not taxes. She also asked if the pay rates for workers are competitive. Mr. Hutt replied yes to both.

Chairman Testa noted that no vote is needed as it will take effect on May 28th.

**7. Acceptance of a donation of large boulders from Tilcon CT- Police Dept.
*In attendance: Anthony DeMaio, Deputy Chief, and Michael Colavolpe, Operations Captain***

MOTION WAS MADE TO accept a donation of large boulders from Tilcon, CT, as presented by the Police Department.

MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

Chairman Testa clarified that this would have been on the consent agenda, but since it was a generous donation, he added it to the agenda so the public would be aware of it. He noted that the boulders are for safety. Deputy Chief DeMaio explained that they are perimeter security on the employee side. Gina Damico of Tilcon notified them that they will be donating them. He explained that they are working with Public Works on the delivery and may wait until fall. He doesn't yet know how many boulders they will receive.

Councilor Tatta asked about placement. Deputy Chief DeMaio replied that they will be used to control vehicular traffic.

VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

8. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$300,000 - Police Dept.
In attendance: Anthony DeMaio, Deputy Chief, and Michael Colavolpe, Operations Captain

\$200,000 From: Regular Salaries & Wages	Acct. #I0020050-51000
\$100,000 From: Wage Differential	Acct. #I0020050-51450
\$300,000 To: Capital-Police Equipment	Acct. #I0020050 57000 TBD

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a transfer of \$200,000 in Salary and Wages and \$100 from Wage Differential to Capital Police Equipment.

MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

Deputy Chief DeMaio reported that the funds are to support two projects. The funds will be used to replace some end-of-life radios that are no longer supported by the manufacturer. Also, the Chief wants to transition firearms to Red Dot sights. This is within the department budget. The extra funds are from unfilled positions.

Councilor Allinson asked if the radios are the latest iteration of the technology? Deputy Chief DeMaio replied that they are the newest platform.

Councilor Fishbein asked why they are going with Red Dots. Deputy Chief DeMaio replied that the system is used by a lot of law enforcement agencies and allows shooters to quickly and accurately acquire a target. They did their own testing.

Councilor Rivard understands that they explored the options, and he supports it.

Councilor Laffin noted that police in other communities prefer Red Dot.

Chairman Testa stated that we need to approve the transfer, not the philosophical decision.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
ALLINSON: YES

REYNOLDS: YES
RIVARD: YES

CARMODY:	YES	ROSSACCI:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	TATTA:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	TESTA:	YES

9 – AYE

0 – NAY

0 – ABSTAIN

0 – ABSENT

MOTION: PASSES

9. Adoption of FY 2026-2027 Annual Budget.

Chairman Testa asked for an update on legislative action and what that means for Wallingford. Mr. Sena replied that the legislature increased educational aid to help towns reduce the tax burden. Wallingford received \$851,446. Chairman Testa asked if there are any conditions on the money and how it is separate from the cost share. Mr. Sena stated that it needs to be spent on education, and since we fully funded the BOE budget, it can be used to reduce the Mill rate. He explained how he arrived at a net increase of \$112,103 and where the detail appears in the reconciliation. Chairman Testa clarified that the revenue from the state increased, so we can reduce the amount of revenue from taxes by an equivalent amount. Mr. Sena concurred. Chairman Testa clarified that the BOE will receive their full Strategic Budget. Mr. Sena confirmed. Chairman Testa noted that if we reduce the amount we are taking out of reserves, that would have left the Mill rate as it was at the end of the Motions. The decision is to either maintain the level of contributions from reserves and further reduce the tax increase, or reduce the draw from reserves and keep taxes as they were when we voted.

Councilor Rivard stated that the Council worked very collaboratively to create the budget. He would like to further reduce the tax burden.

Mr. Sena clarified that Version One does that, and Version Two reduces reserves from \$900,000.

Councilor Allinson stated that she is not comfortable reducing the reserves by \$2.9 million and would rather offset and set the reserve reduction at \$2 million. This is a large reduction. She asked if we are kicking the can down the road. We want to reduce the tax burden while continuing to invest in the departments. Can we get to a place where we are all comfortable? She is happy to contribute to Columbus House and use the remainder to offset the reserve reduction. This is still aggressive. She likes Version 2.

Councilor Fishbein stated that he appreciates the money from the State, but it is not enough. Other towns received more.

MOTION WAS MADE TO take the \$851,446 and increase the education cost share revenue line to general government, which would decrease the tax increase.

MADE BY: FISHEIN

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Mr. Sena stated that it is part of Version 1. Councilor Fishbein noted that Version 1 has a lot of other things, so he carved out that section.

Councilor Reynolds asked if this applied to the \$2.9 version and moving the \$851,000 from one area to another area of the version, or is it something separate? Chairman Testa replied that this is one possible

reconciliation provided by the Comptroller.

Chairman Testa asked if Version 1 includes the \$112,103, the way the motion was made. Mr. Sena replied that it is in the reconciliation. Everything goes to reduce taxes.

Councilor Laffin noted that Governor Lamont announced that Wallingford would receive a total of \$1.122 million. Mr. Sena replied that the Pilot grant for \$278,800 was cut. Councilor Laffin agreed that the State funding was not equitable. He added that he is frustrated that the Motions Meeting, based on what the State would give us and the State gave more. He doesn't agree with putting it on top. This is a one-time grant. He believes this is not fiscally conservative. He stated that he is not in favor of the \$2.9 million and is wrestling with the \$2 million. It just passes the money owed to next year.

Councilor Tatta asked what happens if the Council's budget doesn't pass and the Mayor's budget stands. Would there just be a surplus? Mr. Sena replied that the Council can do an additional appropriation if they want to spend the money with no effect on taxes. Or the funds can just stay in the general fund.

Councilor Reynolds noted that the money in reserves is mostly from open positions. If we hire a lot, it won't be there. The \$1.9 million surplus was what we overestimated last year. Plus, the money we got from the State cancels out the \$2.9 million. He suggested a compromise to think about other things, like moving money to Columbus House.

Councilor Rivard stated that the State money intends to reduce property taxes. We need to maximize what we give back to taxpayers.

Chairman Testa noted that two sets of Motions seem to have the same revenue and expenditures but different Mill rates. He asked which version keeps the contributions from the general fund at \$2.9 and which is \$2.0. Mr. Sena replied that Version One is \$2.9 million and Version Two is \$2 million. It appears on page 4. How do we word the Motion, and what is the impact of Councilor Fishbein's Motion? His motion is close to Version One without the \$100,000 for the Town. Mr. Sena replied that it would increase revenue and reduce taxes. It does not include the Motions agreed upon during the Motions Meeting. It does not include the Increases or decreases to revenue or decreases in expenses.

Councilor Fishbein stated that both versions on page 4, both have the same use of the \$851,446. The motion includes that line to incorporate the State money into the revenue line.

Councilor Laffin clarified that Councilor Fishbein is stating that he is in favor of accepting the State money but not supportive of all the motions included in the package.

Chairman Testa stated that this means that more motions would be needed to add back the other parts of the package. Mr. Sena agreed.

Councilor Rivard stated a preference to vote on one of the packages. He is not against accepting the State money. He suggested voting on Councilor Fishbein's motion.

Chairman Testa stated that he is in favor of a package as well. He clarified that the Motion is to increase the BOE cost share revenue line by \$851,446.

Councilor Tatta asked if approval of this Motion would affect the package Motion. Mr. Sena replied that if we are making changes to the expense budget, we need to do that first, then do the revenue budget. If the vote is to increase revenue, then we should do all the revenue changes.

Councilor Fishbein stated that if the Motion fails, it can be resurrected as part of a package. If it passes, it can be incorporated into a package.

Chairman Testa asked if we can make further motions to do the rest of the package, if this Motion passes. Mr. Sena replied that he wasn't sure, as it would be different.

ROLL CALL VOTE:		REYNOLDS:	NO
ALLINSON:	NO	RIVARD:	NO
CARMODY:	NO	ROSSACCI:	NO
FISHBEIN:	YES	TATTA:	YES
LAFFIN:	NO	TESTA:	NO

2 – AYE

7 – NAY

0 – ABSTAIN

0 – ABSENT

MOTION: FAILS

Chairman Testa asked the Council to think about potential Motions on expenditures. We seem to agree with the BOE money.

MOTION WAS MADE TO add an additional \$50,000 to the Columbus House budget, which was \$60,000 in the Mayor's original allocation.

MADE BY: REYNOLDS

SECONDED BY: RIVARD

Councilor Tatta asked how that would affect the package. Mr. Sena stated that it is already in the package. Councilor Tatta asked why that was done without discussion. Changes should not be made after the Motions meeting. Mr. Sena said that it can be taken out. It was the only change to the expenditures.

Chairman Testa apologized, as it was added at his suggestion. The only other change to the Motions is the State money, which wasn't there yet. There is no motion yet to apply the State money either.

Councilor Laffin asked what effect the school projects and the pool will have on the Town's bond rating. Mr. Sena replied that the agency won't say what goes into the ratings, so he can't tell. But we wouldn't see the effect for two years.

Councilor Rivard stated that he has no issue with giving \$50,000 to the emergency shelter. We should encourage them to seek outside funding anyway. He asked for clarification on the changes to the motions since the Motions meeting. Mr. Sena confirmed that it is just the \$50,000 on the expense side and the State money on the revenue side.

Mayor Cervoni stated that some of the non-profit funding the Town does count on the generosity of the community. This contribution intends to share the burden. He has no strong feelings about this \$50,000 addition. He is concerned that we have increasing recurring expenses in the budget, increasing the unallocated reserve, and increasing taxes in the future.

Councilor Tatta stated that she doesn't know where this donation to the shelter is coming from, and she cannot support it.

Councilor Reynolds suggested just considering one of the packages. For the sake of time, he is willing to withdraw the line item motion of \$50,000 since it's part of both packages.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW THE MOTION

MADE BY: REYNOLDS
SECONDED BY: RIVARD

Chairman Testa suggested looking at the packages to see if the Council wants any changes. He stated that he wants to reduce the tax increase as much as possible.

Councilor Carmody agreed that we all want to lessen the tax burden. He stated that he is more comfortable with taking \$2 million from reserves.

Chairman Testa noted that the difference is .15 Mill in that package. The State money goes to reducing the tax burden if we don't increase expenditures. Mr. Sena noted that the difference between the two packages is \$2 million from reserves verses \$2.9 million from reserves.

Councilor Reynolds noted that the \$2 million version is the same as the budget that we passed, except now we don't need the \$900,000 from reserves. The state money makes the difference.

Councilor Tatta noted that the \$50,000 for Columbus House is in both versions. She asked what the procedure would be if the Mayor didn't think it was appropriate, even if approved by Council. Mayor Cervoni replied that the Administration administers the budget, but he would prefer to address issues in advance. Councilor Tatta noted that it is possible that the administration would not spend the money.

Councilor Rossacci stated that she thinks it's important to fund Columbus House. If it is pulled out of the package, she would make a separate motion for it.

Councilor Allinson asked if every line of the motion would need to be read into the record. Mr. Sena replied no. It states 'per the changes made on the proposed attached reconciliation.' If there is a change to any expense lines, that would need to be done first. Councilor Allinson clarified that the Columbus House money is in both packages. Mr. Sena confirmed.

MOTION TO adopt the total general fund revenue budget of \$212,644,712 per changes made to the Mayor's proposed budget on the attached reconciliation sheet for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, specifically for the other Councilors voting, this places the State money back into the budget, and as we know, has already removed \$50,000 additional from expenditures for Columbus House.

MADE BY: ALLINSON

Councilor Rivard clarified that this is Version Two.

SECOND: RIVARD

Chairman Testa noted that both versions have the same Motion. We need to clarify that it is Version Two, which shows a \$2 million increase to the audited fund balance.

Councilor Laffin stated that he is confident we will have to cut into the general fund. He would rather have

done \$1 million.

Councilor Rivard stated there was clear collaboration at the Motions meeting. This package will restore the full strategic budget for the BOE, increase some critical Fire positions, and address errors, as well as reduce the tax increase by 50%.

Councilor Tatta thanked the other councilors for their willingness to compromise. She noted that she had presented savings to reduce the tax burden, but the Council added expenses that used up those savings. This is still an increase. We can expect another increase next year. The State money should come off the top. She can't accept the premise that taxes always have to go up. She will not back anything that increases taxes.

Councilor Reynolds expressed gratitude for the collaboration on the Council. He would love to find a way to pay for the required services in Town without putting a burden on taxpayers. We need to learn to accept what things actually cost. The schools were not funded enough historically. The Town is getting older and more services are needed. What happens when we use up the reserves? He supports using \$2 million versus \$2.9 million.

Councilor Rossacci agreed that we need to be realistic about what things cost. The schools are deteriorating. This is not as simple as taxes going up. What services are needed, and what does that cost? There is good collaboration on the Council. She supports the \$2 million versus the \$2.9 million.

ROLL CALL VOTE:		REYNOLDS:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	RIVARD:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	ROSSACCI:	YES
FISHBEIN:	NO	TATTA:	NO
LAFFIN:	YES	TESTA:	YES

7 – AYE
2– NAY
0 – ABSTAIN
0- ABSENT
MOTION: PASSES

MOTION WAS MADE TO adopt the total general fund expenditure budget of \$212,644,712 per the changes made to the Mayor's proposed budget on the attached reconciliation detail sheet for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:		REYNOLDS:	YES
ALLINSON:	YES	RIVARD:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	ROSSACCI:	YES
FISHBEIN:	NO	TATTA:	NO
LAFFIN:	YES	TESTA:	YES

7 – AYE
2– NAY
0 – ABSTAIN
0 - ABSENT

MOTION: PASSES

MOTION WAS MADE TO establish the property tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, at 24.57 Mills. Real estate and personal property taxes in the excess of \$100 shall be made in two installments. The first of which is due July 1, 2026, payable on or before August 1, 2026. The second installment shall be due January 1, 2027, payable on or before February 1, 2027. Real estate and personal property taxes of \$100 or less shall be paid in one installment due July 1, 2026, and payable on or before August 1, 2026, as provided by Connecticut General Statute, Chapter 204, Section 12-144. Motor vehicle taxes shall be made in one installment due July 1, 2026, and payable on or before August 1, 2026, as provided by Connecticut General Statute, Chapter 204, Section 12-144a. Delinquent Motor Vehicle taxes shall be paid only in cash or by certified check or money order as provided by Connecticut General Statute Chapter 204, Section 12-146. Property taxes in the amount of less than \$5 shall be waived. Checks in payment of property taxes that have been returned by the bank shall be subject to a \$35 fee.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: YES
CARMODY: YES
FISHBEIN: NO
LAFFIN: YES

REYNOLDS: YES

RIVARD: YES
ROSSACCI: YES
TATTA: NO
TESTA: YES

7 – AYE

2 – NAY

0 – ABSTAIN

0- ABSENT

MOTION: PASSES

MOTION WAS MADE TO adopt the budgets of the Divisions of the Department of Public Utilities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, as herein stated.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

VOTE: ALL AYE

OPPOSED: TATTA

MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO adopt the budget of the Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$2,222,328 revenues per the Mayor's proposed budget and \$2,222,328 expenditures.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

VOTE: ALL AYE

OPPOSED: TATTA

MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve special funds of the Board of Education of the Town of Wallingford for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, as attached hereto and made a part hereof, pages A through C.

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS
VOTE: ALL AYE
OPPOSED: TATTA AND FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED**

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve special funds of the Town of Wallingford for general government for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, as attached hereto and made a part hereof, pages D and E.

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS
VOTE: ALL AYE
OPPOSED: TATTA
MOTION: PASSED**

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve capital appropriations in force reserve fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$708,710 revenues and \$708,710 expenditures. This represents the amount as of March 31, 2026, which may decrease as expenditures occur through June 30, 2026.

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS
VOTE: ALL AYE
OPPOSED: TATTA
MOTION: PASSED**

MOTION WAS MADE TO authorize the Chairman to sign three copies of the finalized budget. Two are to be filed with the Town Clerk, and one be placed on file in the Wallingford Public Library.

**MADE BY: CARMODY
SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

Chairman Testa thanked Council members and stated that he appreciates how they work together.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl-Ann Tubby
Recording Secretary