

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers  
**June 9, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 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 (on video conference), 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 \$529.83 (#1089-1096) – Tax Dept.
  - 3b. Consider and approve acceptance and appropriation of a donation in the amount of \$500.00 – Youth & Social Services.  

\$500.00 To: Donations	Rev. Acct. #2134002-47152
\$500.00 To: Expenditures	Exp. Acct. #21340100-58830
  - 3c. Consider and approve transfer in the amount of \$10,000 – Inland Wetlands and Watercourses  

\$5,000 From: PS – Microfilming	Acct. #10011000-56600
\$5,000 From: Regular Salaries and Wages	Acct. #10011000-51000
\$10,000.00 To: IWWC – PS – Consulting	Acct. #10011000-56774
  - 3d. Consider and approve transfer in the amount of \$30,000.00 from Utilities Acct. # 10020050-53010 to Capital-Storage Drawers Acct. #10020050-57000 - TBD – Police Dept.
  - 3e. Consider and approve transfer from General Plant – Miscellaneous Equipment Acct. #398 to General Plant – Communications Equipment Acct #397 in the amount of \$8,400 - Electric Division
  - 3f. Consider and approve FY 2025-26 budget amendment and appropriation of \$222,784 from Retained Earnings Acct. to Various-per attachment Acct. #VAR - Electric Division
  - 3g. Consider and approve FY 2025-26 budget amendment and appropriation \$5,650,000 from Retained Earnings Acct. to Other Power Supply Exp- Purchased Power Acct. # 555 - Electric

Division

- 3h. Consider and approve appropriation of \$11,974 from National Opioid Settlement Fund and DPH Funding to support the Fitness Court Project and other Public Health & Environmental Health Initiatives - Health Department
- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| \$7,813.70 To: National Opioid Settlement Fund       | Acct.# 2504002-45200        |
| \$4,160.00 To: DPH Funding                           | Acct.# 2504002-45114        |
| \$7,813.70 To: Fitness Court                         | Acct.# 25040350-58830-10246 |
| \$1,573.00 To: Fitness Court                         | Acct.# 25040350-58830-10246 |
| \$2,587.00 To: PH & Environmental Health Initiatives | Acct.# 25040350-58830 - TBD |
- 3i. Consider and approve transfer of \$30,000.00 to cover overtime from weekend park clean-ups, trash removal and Wallingford Celebrates America's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration activities from Waste & Compost Acct. #1030000-56754 to Overtime Acct. #103000-51400 - Public Works
- 3j. Consider and approve reappointment of Barbara Kapi to the Public Celebrations Committee for a term of two (2) years set to expire 2/1/2028 – Chairman Testa
- 3k. Consider and approve reappointment of Whitney Mooney to the Public Celebrations Committee for a term of two (2) years set to expire 2/1/2028 – Chairman Testa
- 3l. Consider and approve reappointment of Ruth Palmer to the Public Celebrations Committee for a term of two (2) years set to expire 2/1/2028 – Chairman Testa
- 3m. Approve Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting, May 26, 2026

**MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent items 3a-3l, 3m as amended.**

**MADE BY: CARMODY**

**SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

**ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR**

Barbara Kapi was sworn into the Public celebrations Committee.

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

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bill Comerford asked if the Town Council reads any of his emails that he sends. He discussed the flags down at Community lake and how they are in disrepair. The Lions Club donated a new flag given to Mr. Comerford to give the mayor. There was a discussion about the flags around town and how they need to be replaced. He

discussed his daughter and the awards she won from the hospital. There was a discussion about how the Police Department had video conversation about him and his mother and that he played for the Town Council.

Barbara Kapi wanted to discuss some mis information that was published about her in the Record Journal and what she said about outdoor dining in town. She is in favor of outdoor dining but against the proposal that Vice Chair Carmody has suggested because of the financial restrictions placed on Gaetano's Restaurant. There was a discussion about the financials and how it should be spread around all of the restaurants in Simpson Court. There was a discussion about outdoor dining. She would like Vice Chair Carmody to come up with a new plan and involve the town lawyers so that everyone can benefit from outdoor dining at Simpson Court.

6. 6:30 p.m. To conduct a Public Hearing to Consider and Act on the 2026 Neighborhood Assistance Program – Program Planning

Mayor Cervoni explained that this is a State program where certain nonprofits can apply to be considered for donations from businesses who pay corporate income tax to the State and by making donations to the approved agencies they will receive a credit against their tax obligation.

Councilor Fishbein discussed how in past years the list was longer. He wanted to know what was being done to advertise this program. Mayor Cervoni said he would check with the Program Planning Department to see how they promote this program. There was a discussion as to what nonprofits actually applied for this program. There was a discussion about the operating budget for Columbus House seeing how they are one of the nonprofits who applied.

Councilor Tatta wanted to know how the list sent out to nonprofits about this program was compiled. There was a discussion about certain applicants who were not chosen to be informed about this program. There was a discussion about how this program can be advertised better so all nonprofits have a chance to apply.

Councilor Allinson discussed how some of the applicants applied for grants. There was a discussion as to maybe some of these applicants did not receive their full request during budget season and applied to receive the rest of the money needed to be fully funded.

Councilor Rivard asked about how the process of this program works. It is an annual program where nonprofits get only one time a year to apply for this program.

Councilor Laffin explained how the town does not even give money to these nonprofits. People can donate money and then write that off on their taxes and it happens every year.

Chair Testa said he was listening to everyone speak. He explained that if private businesses donate money to certain types of nonprofit organizations they can then take advantage of this program to be able to write a portion of that on their corporate taxes to the State. There was a discussion about how to make this program more accessible to the nonprofits so more of them can apply each year.

7. Consider and Approve Resolution authorizing the mayor to submit Neighborhood Assistance Applications to the Department of Revenue Services and the Summary list of Neighborhood Assistance Programs for 2026 - Program Planning

**MOTION WAS MADE TO approve resolution authorizing the mayor to submit Neighborhood Assistant Applications to the Department of Revenue Services and the Summary list of Neighborhood Assistance Programs for 2026.**

**MADE BY: CARMODY**

**SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

**THERE WAS A VOICE VOTE AND ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR**

8. Consider and approve appropriation to Rev- Transfer In Acct. #3019053-49015 and to Exp – Town Wide Paving Acct. #30102026-5700-20086 in the amount of \$390,136 - Mayor

**MOTION WAS MADE TO approve appropriation to Rev-Transfer In Acct. and to Exp-Town Wide Paving Acct. in the amount of \$390,136.**

**MADE BY: CARMODY**

**SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS**

Mayor Cervoni explained that of the Cap N' Non recurring fund, the pilot from the Electric Division payment at the end of last year's budget process, \$390,000 remained unallocated. This presents an opportunity to allocate it to some place within the town budget where there is a need, a capital item the town has been more aggressive with paving the roads for the past several years.

Councilor Fishbein wanted to thank Public Works for paving Leigus Road.

Councilor Rivard discussed the need to have the roads paved. He said that hopefully people can appreciate the hard work that the DPW is doing to get the roads paved.

Sheila Tierney wanted to know how many roads this money will pave. Mayor Cervoni said it is about a mile of paving. She wanted to know how many miles were just paved in the 10 roads that were just paved. She also wanted to know how the roads are determined.

Rob Baltramaitis, Director of Public Works discussed the factors that go into which roads get paved when. The SCROG report was discussed and how it only rates the surface of a road. There was a discussion about the selection of roads and how he likes to pick roads all across town and not just one quadrant of town. He discussed that the \$390,000, if it was just milling and paving would get you about 1 mile of road. He discussed the Spring paving and how it was about 4 miles of road that was paved. There was a discussion about the milling and paving of roads. There was a discussion about the milling at Doolittle Park.

Barbara Kapi suggested that the road from the overpass of the Merritt, down passed the dog park get paved with the \$390,000 that can be used for paving and milling.

Bill Comerford wanted to know if there was a Fall paving project scheduled. Mr. Baltramaitis explained that in years passed they had rounds of paving in the Spring and in the Fall. There was not a Fall paving project this past Fall. The bid was expired because the asphalt is a petroleum based project and the prices change so

quickly. Their bids tend to be 6 month bids with a 6 month extension. This bid in question expired and could not be extended and had to go out to bid and because of the scope of the work and the price tag and waiting for the wages rates to come through they could not do the Fall paving project. Mr. Comerford asked if certain roads were scheduled in the Fall to get paved. There was a discussion that the roads that were paved in the Spring were next to get paved. There was a discussion as to who will pick the roads to get paved and milled. There was a discussion about Doolittle Park and why that got paved.

**ROLL CALL:**

**ALLINSON: AYE**

**CARMODY: AYE**

**FISHBEIN: AYE**

**LAFFIN: ABSENT**

**REYNOLDS: AYE**

**RIVARD: AYE**

**ROSSACCI: AYE**

**TATTA: AYE**

**TESTA: AYE**

**8- AYE**

**1-NAY**

**0-ASBENT**

**MOTION: PASSED**

9. Discussion on establishing a committee to explore options for outdoor dining, use of town spaces, and developing plans to enhance the commercial activities in town/Chairman Testa

Chair Testa read a statement that he had prepared for this agenda item and explained why he put it on the agenda.

Councilor Fishbein discussed how the town funds WCI and what they do for the town. They have not been in favor of the outdoor dining or what has been done in the past since pre COVID. There was a discussion about how the EDC and how they have not come forward to the council in favor of this. There was a discussion about creating a committee for outdoor dining aspect in town. He does not agree with putting a committee together. There was a conversation about how YSS did not want the outdoor dining to happen in the first place because it would be advertising drinking on the umbrellas that were on the tables on the sidewalk and they were afraid of under age drinking happening. There was a discussion about the Building Maintenance Committee and the Parks & Rec Commission and how they are only advisory committees. There was a discussion about the parking and how the parking spots are going to change possibly and become parking spots along the curblin.

Chair Testa discussed how many people from the public have mentioned to him having a long term plan for town and town activities. There was a discussion about involving WCI, EDC, the Planning Department and other town departments to help establish better ways to enhance the town. There was a discussion about how Simpson Court is an example of what could be possible in other parts of town if it is looked at and this is why he brought up the idea of forming a committee.

Councilor Rossacci agrees with the forming a committee to see how public space is used in town. She discussed how it is a good approach to have the council look at the community activities in town and see how they can be enhanced or replicated in other parts of town. She mentioned that there should be a time limit for recommendations and that time limit should be no later than February 16 that way there could be a broader discussion and possibly have something implemented by Memorial Day weekend of 2027.

Councilor Fishbein asked about what property in Yalesville would be looked at if this committee moves forward. He wanted to know what problems the committee would be addressing when it came to enhancing the commercial activities in town. Chair Testa said that people from the public have come to him to find out if the activities in the Simpson Court area can be replicated anywhere else in town. There was a discussion about having a possible workshop instead of creating a committee. Mayor Cervoni said the administration would want to be part of the discussion before any of the department heads are represented in such committee and a conversation would take place to determine if the department can take this on or not.

Councilor Reynolds had a discussion about the outdoor dining that the town has now in Simpson Court. He thinks finding new ways to enhance the town would be good so that new ideas can come before the council instead of just having outdoor dining be the topic of discussion each time. He is in favor of a committee or Ad-Hoc committee and work with the department heads to find new ways to enhance the town and not just in the Simpson Court area. There was a discussion about how the committee should operate and that there should be a timeline as to when recommendations should be made.

Councilor Tatta had a discussion on her take of forming a committee. She liked the suggestion of maybe using the Police Department lawn as a way for people to grab food and gather. There was a discussion about having a workshop like the budget workshops and just listen to what the public has to say. There was a discussion about possibly having a special tax district. There was a discussion about how the WCI history and how they got started. They actually started as a volunteer group who just wanted to beautify the town.

Councilor Rivard thinks that this committee is a good idea. He thinks that EDC and WCI should be involved for recommendation purposes. There was a discussion about the fairness of use from businesses in the downtown area and the uptown area. There was a discussion about starting with a target area instead of trying to look at the whole town and then go from there.

Vice Chair Carmody had a discussion about all of the possibilities that have come from the public and how the council can help achieve the enhancement of the town. He is in favor of the committee to help with that. He feels that the people who are on the committee should have certain expertise, so they know how to enhance the town in many different ways.

Councilor Allinson had a discussion about whether creating a committee is a good idea or not. She mentioned that most of the ideas talked about it about beautifying the town and so forth and maybe getting the input of what the WCI is already doing to enhance the town would be beneficial. There was a discussion about how the committee is formed, who is on the committee, the mission of the committee etc. There was a discussion about taking a few of the most talked about items and figure out a way to accomplish them first before taking on the whole enhancement of the town.

Chair Testa discussed what he was thinking about when he added this item to the agenda. The committee formed would be strictly advisory. There was a discussion about what could possibly happen in town in terms of enhancing the town for the future.

Barbara Kapi explained how she is a member of the Public Celebrations Committee and explained that it depends on the makeup of the committee to whether that committee gets things done or not. She had a discussion about what the Public Celebrations Committee does in the community. There was a discussion about what types of events can be done in the town.

Jason Michael had a discussion about creating a committee and having the support behind them. There was a discussion about WCI and what they do. There was a discussion about having a liaison as part of the committee to make sure they are doing what they need to do and can also report back to the council.

Scott Moore explained that he just went through the POCD draft and found that 64% of the people that responded want more walkable, mixed use development all over town and not just downtown. There was a discussion about how a committee could possibly identify new places to have the same types of events that are going on in the Simpson Court area.

Councilor Tatta discussed why maybe the reason the committees in the past never got of the ground is because those people had too much on their plate and could not give the time needed for the committee. There was a discussion about how a committee could actually work to help enhance the town.

Chair Testa said he would keep everyone informed moving forward with getting a committee formed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 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

