

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
June 23, 2026
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 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, 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 \$18,710.03 (#1097-1156) – Tax Dept.
 - 3b. Acceptance of donation from Mary Lou Stamp and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of donation from the Fuller family and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
 - 3d. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement of Federal Taskforce Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,791 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,636 – Building Dept.

\$4,636	From: Regular Salaries & Wages	Acct. #10010550-51000
\$3,786	To: Office Expense & Supplies	Acct. #10010550-56100
\$ 850	To: Telephone-Mobile	Acct. #10010550-53000
 - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,100 – Engineering Dept.

\$287	From: Maintenance of Equipment	Acct. #10030050-54325
\$813	From: Maintenance of Vehicles	Acct. #10030050-54320

- \$1,100 To: Utilities-Traffic Signals Acct. #10030050-53010
- 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10030000-51000 to Other Pay, Acct. #10030000-51900 – Public Works
- 3h. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,000 – Town Clerk
- \$2,226 From: Elections Materials & Supplies Acct. #10010650-56105
\$5,774 From: Office Exp. & Supplies Acct. #10010650-56100
- \$7,000 To: Pur. Svcs-Computerized Index Acct. #10010650-56758
\$1,000 To: Maint. of Equipment Acct. #10010650-54325
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$180,000 – Fire Dept.
- \$10,000 From: General Operating Expense Acct. #10020150-58735
\$25,000 From: Purchased Services-Physicals Acct. #10020150-56734
\$10,000 From: Purchased Services-Ambulance Billing Acct. #10020150-56778
\$10,000 From: Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #10020150-54320
\$125,000 From: Employer Pension Contribution Acct. #10012050-52305
- \$180,000 To: Replacement Pay Acct. #10020150-51500
- 3j. Consider and approve reappointment of Sean Doherty to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029 - Mayor
- 3k. Consider and approve reappointment of Mary Paquette to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029 – Mayor
- 3l. Consider and approve reappointment of Jon Paul Venoit to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029 – Mayor
- 3m. Approve Minutes of June 9, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent items 3a-3i.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

ALL MEMBERS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

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

3j-3m were removed from the Consent Agenda. 3j-3l were removed by Councilor Tatta. 3m was removed to discuss the amendment to the minutes.

- 3j. Consider and approve reappointment of Sean Doherty to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029 - Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve the reappointment of Sean Doherty to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Councilor Tatta spoke about how board members being business owners is a conflict of interest especially if they receive money from the town for their business. She gave some examples of how this can be a conflict. She discussed her reasoning for bringing this up.

Councilor Fishbein spoke about his interactions with the Board of Ethics members and how in one instance a member recusing themselves because of the topic at hand to make sure there was no conflict of interest. There was a discussion about possibly changing the ordinance language.

Mayor Cervoni said that the obligation of the Ethics Commission is to follow the code of ethics. If the member of the Ethics Commission thinks that because of the individual before the commission, they cannot be biased then it is their duty to tell the commission and recuse themselves. There are five members and three alternate members. There was a discussion about the three Board of Ethics Commission members being reappointed tonight.

Councilor Rivard discussed that there is bias in almost every commission and also in the Town Council. He agreed with the mayor's point that if an individual feels like they cannot make a biased decision that they can recuse themselves. There was a discussion about other types of bias that can happen.

Councilor Rossacci asked about the process of how to get onto the Board of Ethics. There was a discussion about how over the years the same people have been on boards and commissions in town. There was a discussion about how there are people in town who would like a chance to sit on a board or commission in town. Mayor Cervoni explained that the three appointments discussed are re-appointments. In most appointed seats in town on boards and commissions, once people are appointed they can serve on that board and commission for as long as they are interested and able. There was a discussion about vacancies on boards and commissions. There was a discussion about the amount of time a person should be able to serve on a board or commission.

Chair Testa discussed the ordinance for the board and commissions. He mentioned that the charter discusses terms of board and commissions and the ordinance does not. There was a discussion about the term expiration dates of the members of the Board of Ethics.

Councilor Reynolds discussed how sometimes it is not easy to be civically engaged and serve on a board or commission for various reasons. He is in favor of looking at the process and seeing what they can do to ensure for future administrations, if there needs to be minority representation, council involvement, etc.

Chair Testa discussed looking at the ordinance committee for guidance and to make changes.

Councilor Laffin talked about how this discussion boils down to the type of community that the town has and the type of community that the town wants to have when it comes to people being appointed to boards and commissions. There was a discussion about how it is valuable to have community members who are invested and are not afraid to get involved on other levels. There was a discussion about the Board of Ethics and how they should recuse themselves if needed and how the functions of this board and what they do go beyond dealing with the Town Council or receiving any type of funds from the town. There was a discussion about getting more people involved with board and commissions.

Councilor Fishbein weighed in on the whole charter vs. ordinance discussion. There was a discussion about regionalized ethic boards. He feels that the Board of Ethics members should not be Wallingford residents. There was a discussion about the makeup of the Board of Ethics.

Councilor Reynolds discussed how the town website only has six members listed. Chair Testa discussed the members of the Board of Ethics and how there is a vacancy on the board. There was a discussion about how often the Board of Ethics meets. They meet as needed; there is no set schedule.

Mayor Cervoni mentioned they brought three re-appointments to the council to create staggered terms.

Chair Testa mentioned that the Board of Ethics appointments are mayoral appointments and the council should rely on the mayor to use his best judgment when choosing people to serve on this board.

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

- 3k. Consider and approve reappointment of Mary Paquette to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029 – Mayor

- 3l. Consider and approve reappointment of Jon Paul Venoit to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029 – Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve the reappointment of Mary Paquette and Jon Paul Venoit to the Board of Ethics for a term of three (3) years set to expire June 23, 2029.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

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

- 3m. Approve Minutes of June 9, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Councilor Laffin mentioned that the last vote in the minutes of June 9, 2026 indicated that he was absent, but the tally of that vote shows 1 nay vote, and it should say 1 absent vote and 0 nay vote.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve the minutes as amended for June 9, 2026 Regular Town Council meeting.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

There was a voice vote and all members present were in favor.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

There was no Public Question & Answer Period.

6. 6:30 p.m. To conduct a Public Hearing to Consider and Act on the amended Building Construction Ordinance – Law Dept.

Councilor Reynolds went over what the changes were to the Building Construction Ordinance. The building permit fee for \$0 to \$2,000 is now \$30, the building permit fee for over \$2,000 is now \$16 per thousand or any part thereof and the last change is that the schedule of fees shall apply for a permit for signs, billboards and other display structures for which permits are required under the provisions of the Connecticut State Building Code.

MOTION WAS MADE TO adopt the approved ordinance

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Councilor Allinson asked the Building Inspector Lou Coppola if there was anything he wanted to add and he stated no. She thanked him for coming.

ROLL CALL:

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

RIVARD: AYE

ROSSACCI: AYE

TATTA: NAY

TESTA: AYE

8- AYE

1-NAY

0-ASBENT

MOTION: PASSED

7. Discussion and possible action regarding Fire Pension Tentative Agreement for a Successor Pension Contract, one-year extension with Fire Union - Local 1326, AIFF – Human Resources Department

Jim Hutt, Human Resources Director explained that he was at the meeting to seek the council's approval for a one year extension from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 for a Local 1326, Fire Union Pension Contract. He mentioned that there are no changes to the document. This was just to update the dates of the contract and the tax code language that was recommended to the town by the town's pension attorney.

8. Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §1-200(6)(D) and §1-225(f) for discussion with respect to the purchase of property – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO enter into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes 1-200(6)(D) and 1-225(f) for discussion with respect to the purchase of property at 7:05pm.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

There was a voice vote and everyone present were in favor.

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

MOTION WAS MADE TO come out of Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 7:42pm.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

There was a voice vote and all members present were in favor.

9. Discussion of title piracy and any ongoing or anticipated Town responses – Councilor Fishbein

Councilor Fishbein discussed the ongoing issue with title fraud not just in town but all over. He mentioned how this was discussed last term with the previous Town Council. He discussed a situation with a member of the public in town who had a fraudulent document recorded on the land records in the person's name without their knowledge. There was a discussion about talking to the administration to see what can possibly be done. There was a discussion about an article that was in the backup for this meeting and how it talked about property fraud.

Mayor Cervoni said that the administration will pursue this. He mentioned the company in the article discussed providing a free service and discussed looking into that to see what it is all about.

Councilor Fishbein had asked if this agenda item could be put on the next agenda so that way they can receive an update.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

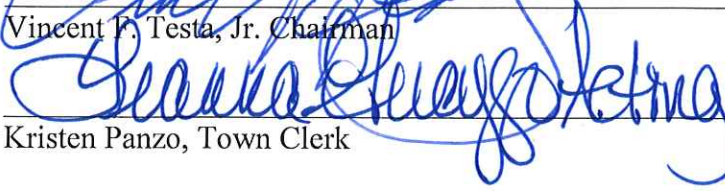
Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

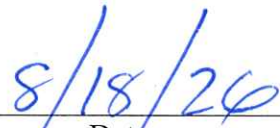
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent P. Testa, Jr. Chairman



Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk



Date



Date