

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
ROOM 315
October 27, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, was called to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Samuel Carmody, Thomas Laffin, Jesse Reynolds, Bryan Rivard, Melanie Rossacci, Christina Tatta and Chairman Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Geoffrey Einhorn, Comptroller Tim Sena and Acting Town Clerk, Leanna Gnazzo were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$4,104.34 (#228-262) – Tax Dept.
 - 3b. Consider and approve a correction to the tax refunds amount from October 13, 2026 Town Council meeting in the amount of \$8,614.79 – Tax Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of a donation from Ms. Patricia Chieppo and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.
 - 3d. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement of Federal Taskforce Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,520 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety Grant “2025/2026 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program” funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$10,549 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3f. Consider and approve a bid waiver for E-J Electric Installation Co. – Electric Div.
 - 3g. Consider and approve a bid waiver for McPhee Electric Ltd . – Electric Div.

- 3h. Consider and approve a bid waiver for AT&T to replace current T-Mobile bid waiver – Electric Div.
- 3i. Consider and approve revisions to the job description for Fire Inspector – Human Resources
- 3j. Consider and approve reappointment of Jane Fisher to the Board of Ethics for a three (3) year term set to expire October 19, 2029 – Mayor
- 3k. Consider and approve appointment of Maria Harlow as a regular member of the Board of Ethics for a three (3) year term set to expire October 19, 2029 – Mayor
- 3l. Approve amended Minutes of October 13, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve Consent items 3a – 3i and 3l.

MADE BY: CARMODY

SECONDED BY: REYNOLDS

THERE WAS A VOICE VOTE. ALL COUNCILORS PRESENT VOTED AYE.

MOTION: PASSED

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Councilor Tatta requested that items 3j and 3k be removed from the Consent Agenda. She would like to discuss the process of appointments to the Board of Ethics for people who have or may potentially have ties with other town organizations, creating a conflict of interest. Appointments to the Board of Ethics are determined by the Mayor.

The Mayor explained the Board of Ethics are bound by the Code of Ethics. If there is a conflict or concern, they have an obligation to recuse themselves from the item being discussed. Alternates are assigned to the Board for this purpose. The Mayor was asked if he feels the ordinance sufficiently lays out the issues that a member would need to recuse themselves. Mayor answered that a breach of ethics is a breach of ethics, whether by the Board of Ethics or the Town Council. The code of ethics is universal and if a member has a conflict on something being discussed, the member should recuse themselves.

Councilor Laffin supports having local community members involved in these positions as they are part of the fabric of Wallingford and can recuse themselves just as the Town Council can recuse themselves from council duties.

Councilor Rivard feels that most of the people of the highest character in Wallingford are already engaged with the town government. If we make it challenging for these members to be appointed due to

potential conflicts, we may lose good candidates that have already demonstrated good character and high ethical standards.

Councilor Rossacci feels we should break away from doing things the way we've always done them. The Board of Ethics is a five (5) person committee. We should be able to find five (5) ethical people that do not receive money from the town. She supports the reappointment of Jane Fisher and Maria Harlow.

Chairman Testa would support the Ordinance Committee reviewing this ordinance to specify the terms a member would need to recuse themselves.

Bill Comerford, Broadview Drive, would like to see the Charter reviewed and feels that the Board of Ethics should be made up of members that reside in surrounding towns, such as Cheshire or Southington to ensure board members will be impartial.

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve the appointments of Jane Fischer and Maria Harlow as regular members to the Board of Ethics for a three (3) year term to expire October 19, 2029.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: CARMODY

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: ABSENT

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: ABSENT

LAFFIN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

RIVARD: AYE

ROSSACCI: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

7 – AYE

0 – NAY

2 – ABSENT

MOTION PASSED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Sheila Tierney stated it's been 28 weeks since money was appropriated to replace the Parade Ground driveway because of crumbling concrete and tripping hazards. Since then, she has submitted 36 investigation reports for sidewalk repair to the Engineering Department and only two (2) have been investigated. She is asking for the Engineering Department to paint the areas that are tripping hazards. She feels there are other roads that should have been addressed earlier and are in worse disrepair than the Parade Grounds.

Bill Comerford read a statement regarding contaminated soil at 60 Prince Street. He asked for an environmental audit of 60 Prince St and the cemetery road.

Jim Economopoulos spoke in regard to the poor condition of both high schools. He would like the issue of having one (1) or two (2) high schools resolved so we can either work on repairing/rehabbing both schools or constructing one (1) high school for Wallingford. This is a long-standing issue that needs to be resolved.

Chairman Testa agreed to put this topic on the next meeting agenda for follow up.

6. Consider and approve the naming of softball field #1 at Pragemann Park after Stanley Shepardson –Parks & Recreation

Item 6 was previously removed from the agenda and will be represented at a future meeting.

7. Discussion of the June 2026 reports from the Comptroller summarizing the Unaudited Municipal Account for end of fiscal year 2025-2026 – Councilor Reynolds

Councilor Reynolds requested to examine the relationship between the unaudited General Expense Summary Report and the unaudited General Fund Revenue Report to determine if departments met their goals. There was a discussion on encumbrances, expenses and revenue. Comptroller Tim Sena explained that the budget is a road map of what we can spend and department heads make their best guess on what will be used. His job is to ensure that the departments don't spend more than what is allotted to them. Mayor spoke about the importance of keeping a good bond rating so we can borrow money as inexpensively as possible.

Councilor Tatta inquired about a Finance software system that would provide historical data and trends on previous budgets as well as the status of direct deposit to employees. Mr. Sena explained it's been difficult to implement but they are working on it.

Councilor Rivard feels we need to think about bonding for future projects.

Jason Michael asked for the final number on the police station. Mr. Sena explained there is not a final number yet. There is a final invoice that needs to be paid.

Sheila Tierney inquired as to which roads were paved using the \$390,136 paving funds in the budget. She contacted Public Works and was told ten (10) roads were paved in the Spring and there will not be paving in the Fall. The remainder of the \$390,136 was returned to the Cap and Non Fund.

8. Chairman's Update

(a) Golden Fox Theatre

Chairman Testa requested an update from the Mayor. Mayor stated he received a response to his email from Mr. Michael and will follow up. Mr. Michael addressed the Council to clarify he responded to the Mayor's email that he would meet with the Mayor to discuss facility usage and storage but he will not create another budget. He feels the Council approved the \$5000 grant funds and he should be awarded them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Meeting digitally recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanna Gnazzo
Acting Town Clerk

Vincent F. Testa, Jr., Chairman

Leanna Gnazzo, Acting Town Clerk

Individuals in need of auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Wallingford are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator at 203-294-2070 five days prior to meeting date.