

3W.

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
Town Council Chambers  
January 23, 2018  
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 was called to order at 6:40P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Gina Morgenstein, Jason Zandri and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Councilor LeTourneau was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

Moment of Silence

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
  - 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$1,510.89 (#621-635)  
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
  - 3b. Reappointment of Gary Draghi to the Pension Commission for a six year term effective immediately and expiring December 31, 2023 – Mayor Dickinson
  - 3c. Acceptance of donation from Ms. Deborah Fitzsimmons to support K-9 program and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations – Police K-9 Unit, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Chief
  - 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Transmission Maintenance – Station Equipment, Acct. #570 to Transmission Operations – Station Expenses, Acct. #562 – Electric Division
  - 3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$25,573 from General Contingency Purpose, Acct. #1900-58820 to HVAC-T. Hall (Roof Top Unit), Acct. #TBD – Public Works
  - 3f. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$59,617 to Revenue, fund #200 and to Scale-Resident Disposal, Fund #200 TBD – Public Works
  - 3g. Consider and Approve acceptance of Royal Oak Lane as a Town road – Planning & Zoning
  - 3h. Reappointment of Chester Miller, Robert Jacques, Sr., John LeTourneau and Armand Menard to the position of constable for a two year term effective immediately and expiring January 7, 2020 – Chairman Cervoni

- 3i. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Contingency, Acct. #10019000-58820 to Maint. of Equipment, Acct. #10030000-54325 – Public Works
- 3j. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$25,000 – Public Works
  - \$ 7,000 From: Capital Item: Cones Acct. #10030000-57000-00651
  - \$18,000 Contingency Acct. #10019000-58820
  
  - \$25,000 To: Maint. of Vehicles Acct.#10030000-54320
- 3k. Approve Minutes of January 8, 2018 Swearing In and Town Council Meeting.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3k.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**  
**VOTE: ALL AYE**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

- 4. **Items Removed from Consent Agenda: *None***
- 5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Opened Public Question & Answer Period at 6:42 p.m.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road states that he feels that the Johns street lease money should come back to the town's general fund.

Mr. Gross then spoke about the new tax laws that are in place and stated even small universities are going to start to be taxed. He stated that Ashlar Village and the town have a deal where they only pay 40% of tax on the land. In these hard times, he thinks it's time the town changes their mind on how we tax Ashlar Village.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, asked the Mayor how many new businesses came into town last year as opposed to how many businesses left town, how we keep track of that and how it affects the grand list.

Mayor Dickinson stated the grand list will decrease in town this year.

Paul Ciardullo, 2 Bayberry Drive, congratulates the Mayor and the Council on their new term. He believes that the audit shows that we came in above expectation on the expense side and below expectation on the revenue side.

Closed Public Question and Answer Period at 6:58 p.m.

- 6. Discussion of June 30, 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Summary – Councilor Shortell

Councilor Shortell stated to Mr. Bowes that his intention with this item is that it's hot off the press and asked why not talk about it. He commented to Mr. Bowes that in his cover memo, he states that actual expenditures compared to what was budgeted is \$3.8 million. He then spoke about open positions and mentioned that there are five in Mr. Bowes' office including the Electric Division.

Mr. Bowes confirmed that there are five open positions and stated they have not asked to fill these spots.

Councilor Shortell went on to talk about general fund balance and the unassigned balance and stated it is 10% of our budget.

Councilor Shortell stated that he assumes we try to wean ourselves off of assigned fund balance. Mr. Bowes responded yes and explained we try to stop using reserves and stated that we used to use a lot more. He went on to say we have gotten it down over the years.

Chairman Cervoni stated that his reading of this report is that we ended the past year with a deficit. Mr. Bowes responded that we use GAP accounting principles.

Councilor Zandri noted that he keeps his own spreadsheets of all of our budgets.

Councilor Fishbein stated he thought we would make appropriations to the CAP and non-recurring fund. Mr. Bowes agreed and stated now is a good time of year to do that.

Councilor Fishbein questioned if we give the auditor what they ask for or do we give them what we want. Mr. Bowes replied it's a two-way street; they ask for certain things and we give certain things.

Councilor Testa asked if when we account for appropriations in force carried forward, if it is committed or assigned. Mr. Bowes responded that it is committed. Councilor Testa wanted to confirm that it is always committed and that we are balancing it against revenues and future revenues.

Councilor Testa asked how we have a deficit. Mr. Bowes stated you have to see what happened actually.

Councilor Testa then asked what the difference is between GAP revenue and private revenue.

Councilor Testa asked if we collected \$1.8 million more taxes than we budgeted for. Mr. Bowes responded yes. Councilor Testa then confirmed \$1.4 million less on the incoming side and it all balances out. Mr. Bowes responded yes.

Councilor Morgenstein stated she is new and taking it all in. She stated the town is having a difficult time but so are the residents. She will be meeting with residents to talk about keeping taxes down this budget year.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, thinks it's important to change auditors every few years and hopes we will go out to bid next time.

Mr. Bowes explained they did not do a hard core bid but they got pricing and the audit team does switch personnel each year and you get new eyes on each audit.

Paul Ciardullo, 2 Bayberry Drive, wants to focus on 2015-2016 fiscal year and stated we underspent by \$3.34 million. He went on to say we never use the reserve money we put into the budget and yet we raise taxes every year.

7. Schedule a Workshop to interview applicants for the Public Celebrations Committee – Chairman Cervoni

A date was set for January, 30, 2018 for a Special Town Council Workshop at 6:00 p.m.

8. Schedule a Workshop regarding the Town Council Rules – Chairman Cervoni

A date was set for January 30, 2018 for a Special Town Council Workshop at 6:00 p.m.

9. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor - *Withdrawn*

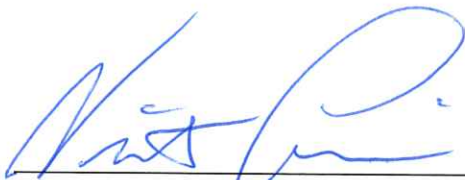
## MOTION TO ADJOURN

**MADE BY:** SHORTELL  
**SECONDED BY:** FISHBEIN  
**MOTION:** PASSED

The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

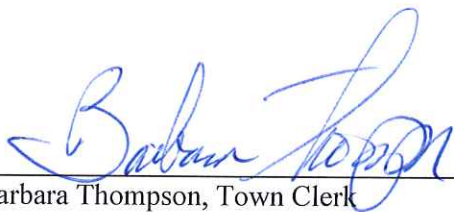
Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

13 FEB 2018

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

2-16-18

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1-25-18  
AT 3:00 AND RECEIVED BY  
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK