

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Town Council Chambers
February 13, 2018
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Workshop on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 was called to order at 6:33 P.M. The opening prayer was given by Pastor Steven Peiffer, First Methodist Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Gina Morgenstein, Vincent F. Testa, Jr. and Jason Zandri. Councilors Fishbein, Marrone and Shortell were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. were also present at the meeting.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Steven Peiffer, First Methodist Church

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$13,046.25 (#637-664)Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,500 from Contingency, Acct. #10019000-58820 to Diagnostic Scan Tool/Capital Item, Acct. #TBD – Public Works
 - 3c. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$19,640 from Contingency, Acct. #10019000-58820 to Repairs - Center Street Cemetery Wall – Capital Item, Acct. #TBD – Public Works
 - 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$82,000 – Public Works:

\$60,000	From: Wood Chipper	Acct. #10030000-57000-00648
\$22,000	From: Town Hall HVAC Controls	Acct. #10030000-57000-00645
\$82,000	To: Materials & Supplies	Acct. #10030000-56140
 - 3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,675 from Traffic Maintenance, Acct. #10020050-56135 to Post Driver, Acct. #TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3f. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,260 from Regular Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Scanners, Acct. #TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3g. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,175 from Regular Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Storage Container, Acct. #TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3h. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,200 from Regular Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Badging Station, Acct. #TBD – Police Dept.

- 3i. Acceptance of Donation from Wallingford Elks Club and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Misc. Donations – Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3j. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Regular Salaries/Temp. Help, Acct. #10010550-51000 to Purchased Services, Acct. #10010550-56702 – Building Dept.
- 3k. Acceptance of Donation from Chet Miller of a Lexmark color printer valued at \$50 – Registrar of Voters
- 3l. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$23,150 to Appropriation from Cash (RE) and to Maintenance of Pumping Equipment, Acct. #43100633 – Water Division
- 3m. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,600 from Distribution Maintenance Line Transformers, Acct. #595 to Distribution Maintenance Overhead Lines, Acct. #571 – Electric Division
- 3n. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$11,400 from Admin & General-Employee Pension and Benefits, Acct. #926 to Admin & General-Maintenance of General Plant, Acct. #932 - Electric Division
- 30. Appointment of Jeffrey Kohan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a 5 year term effective immediately and expiring January 8, 2023 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3p. Appointment of James Hines as an Alternate member to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a 3 year term effective immediately and expiring January 8, 2021 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3q. Appointment of Samuel Carmody to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5 year term effective immediately and expiring January 8, 2023 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3r. Appointment of Bruce Conroy as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term effective immediately and expiring January 8, 2021 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3s. Appointment of Robert Avery to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a 3 year term effective immediately and expiring January 1, 2021 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3t. Appointment of Christina Tatta to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired 5 year term of William Birney effective immediately and expiring January 8, 2021 – Chairman Cervoni

- 3u. Appointment of Glenn B. Havumaki as the Town Council's designee to the Committee on Aging Board of Directors for a 3 year term effective March 2018 to March 2021 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3v. Appointment of the following individuals to the Public Celebrations Committee for a 2 year term effective immediately and expiring February 1, 2020 – Chairman Cervoni:

Lorraine Devaney
Michelle Bjorkman
Patricia Combs
Nancy Miller
Roz Gallagher
Joan Ives-Parisi
Barbara Kapi
Jane Rizzo
Carolyn Massoni
Dawn Lindauer
Ruth Palmer
Ray Ross
Lisa Chuba
Holly Lafond
Kimberly Pisani

- 3w. Approve Town Council Minutes of January 23, 2018.
- 3x. Approve Special Town Council Workshop Minutes of January 30, 2018.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda – None

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

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

CHAIRMAN CERVONI ABSTAINED FROM ITEM 3V.

VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Opened Public Question and Answer Period at 6:43 p.m.

There was no public comment.

- 6. Acceptance of Donation from Choate Rosemary Hall and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$6,500 to Revenue – Donations, Fund #2524002-47152 and to Expenditures, Fund #25240150-58830 – Wallingford 350 Jubilee

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO ACCEPT DONATION.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
ALL AYE
MOTION PASSED

7. Discussion and possible action regarding Police Pension Contract Tentative Agreement – Personnel

*In Attendance: William W. Wright, Police Chief
James Hutt, Director, Human Resources*

MOTION TO ACCEPT POLICE PENSION CONTRACT TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Chief Wright states we are here to seek approval of the Police Pension Agreement contributions.

Chairman Cervoni wanted to confirm that these items are a benefit to us as a municipality and that we have made gains. Mr. Hutt responded yes.

Chairman Cervoni asked for an explanation of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). Mr. Hutt stated it starts as soon as your employment starts, you receive what you put into it and you have three years to opt in or out.

Councilor LeTourneau asked Chief Wright how it was received by his employees. Chief Wright stated the vote was 56-1 in favor of the contract.

Councilor LeTourneau stated some towns have done away with their pensions.

Chief Wright thinks from a recruiting point of view, it is attractive to maintain a pension.

Councilor Zandri asked if an employee wants to drop in or out do they have three years and Chief Wright answered yes. Councilor Zandri then asked if they can extend and Mr. Hutt answered no.

Councilor Zandri then wanted to confirm if the pension is frozen, overtime is not calculated into it. Mr. Hutt confirmed that is correct and stated no additional pay or overtime is paid into the pension.

Gina Morgenstein wants to understand why they would opt into this DROP Pension. Mr. Hutt explained it is an option open to them and stated as an example many police officers work up until retirement and then leave and they can leave the money in the fund. He then went on to state that 21.4% of payroll is what the town puts in and that is what the actuary suggests.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES
MARRONE: ABSENT
6-AYE
MOTION: PASSED

MORGENSTEIN: YES
SHORTELL: ABSENT
TESTA: YES
ZANDRI: YES
CERVONI: YES

- 8. Consider and Approve new lease with SNET for use of Water Division owned land, Youngs Apple Orchard Road, North Branford – Water Division

*In Attendance: Rick Henershot, Director of Public Utilities
Neil Amwake, P.E., General Manager, Water - Sewer Division*

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE LEASE.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

Mr. Amwake explained this is a 20 year lease- four, five year terms which begin on October 1, 2019 through October 1, 2039.

Councilor LeTourneau asked if this is near the water tank. Mr. Amwake answered no, it’s in North Branford.

Councilor Zandri asked who is SNET? Mr. Amwake responds it is Frontier now but they are requesting we refer to SNET in the contract and the Law Department has helped with that language.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
FISHBEIN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES
MARRONE: ABSENT
6-AYE
MOTION: PASSED

MORGENSTEIN: YES
SHORTELL: ABSENT
TESTA: YES
ZANDRI: YES
CERVONI: YES

- 9. Discussion and possible action regarding revisions to Town Council Rules of Procedure – Chairman Cervoni

Rules of Procedure:

VI.

The Law Department does not feel that an Executive Session item needs to have an actual action item in order to be placed on the agenda so that change does not seem accurate.

Councilor Testa states he has never had any problem with that item being on our Agenda.

Councilor Laffin agrees with Councilor Testa, but one councilor thought that he wouldn't be comfortable leaving early or not coming if there was an item to be discussed.

Councilor Morgenstein thinks maybe the council should be made aware ahead of time that an item is going to be discussed regardless that it's in Executive Session.

Chairman Cervoni states the FOI rules allow for this item to be on an agenda at each meeting and that is why it has always been on.

Councilor Laffin states he would like to run through each change item individually and vote on them individually.

MOTION TO AMEND SECTION IV FROM PUBLIC COMMENT THIRTY MINUTES TO 20 MINUTES.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU**

Councilor Zandri thinks that the Chairman is generally very generous with time but he doesn't like curtailing public comment.

Councilor Morgenstein states that 30 to 20 does not work for her.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	MORGENSTEIN: NO
FISHBEIN: ABSENT	SHORTELL: ABSENT
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: ABSENT	CERVONI: YES
5-AYE	
1-NAY	
MOTION: PASSED	

VI.

MOTION MADE TO CHANGE TIME FROM NOON TO 12:30.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
ALL AYE
MOTION PASSED**

VI.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – THERE WAS NO MOTION SO THE ITEM IS NOT MOVED.

X.

Councilor Testa doesn't like this. It will just open up to the public chatter about the same thing we hear all the time. He doesn't think it's helpful or productive.

Councilor Morgenstein asks if that financial report can be more of a summary. Mayor Dickinson replied we can look into it but it won't be helpful to you at all. He then stated that the report tells you all the information.

THERE WAS NO MOTION SO THE ITEM IS NOT MOVED.

XVI.

MOTION TO MOVE MONDAY MORNING TO 9:30.

MADE BY: LETOURNEAU

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

ALL AYE

MOTION PASSED

XVI.

MOTION TO MOVE DELETED ITEMS BE ACCEPTED.

MADE BY: LETOURNEAU

SECONDED BY: MORGENSTEIN

Councilor Laffin thinks it's our own little way of having accountability and it's good to leave it. It gives councilors a pause before having the whole department head and team show up.

Councilor Testa states that he would like this to stay in for accountability purposes.

LETOURNEAU WITHDRAWS MOTION.

MORGENSTEIN WITHDRAW SECOND.

NO MOTION SO THE ITEM IS NOT MOVED.

10. 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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:52 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO 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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:02 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEUA
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

Time of Executive Session 7:52 p.m. to 8:02 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

LAFFIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LETOURNEAU	ATTORNEYGERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
MORGENSTEIN	
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

11. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending tax appeal matter of *J. Gavin Properties, LLC v. Board of Assessment Appeals* – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:02 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending tax appeal matter of *J. Gavin Properties, LLC v. Board of Assessment Appeals*.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:12 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEUA
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

Time of Executive Session 8:02 p.m. to 8:12 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

**LAFFIN
LETOURNEAU
MORGENSTEIN
TESTA
ZANDRI
CERVONI**

**MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.**

12. Motion to consider and authorize settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *J. Gavin Properties, LLC v. Board of Assessment Appeals* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
ALL AYE
MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: MARRONE
MOTION: PASSED**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 2-15-18
AT 2:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded

Vincent Cervoni
Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

2-28-18
Date

Barbara Thompson
Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

2-28-18
Date