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TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD REMOTELY
at GoToMeeting.com**

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Craig C. Fishbein, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilors Thomas Laffin and Vincent F. Testa were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also present (**BY TELECONFERENCE**).

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$37,145.75 (#30-103)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of Automated External Defibrillator Device donated by Ulbrich Stainless Metals through Mr. Michael Papale of In a Heartbeat Foundation valued at approximately \$1,000 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of donation from Ashlar Village Association of Masonicare and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,500 to Revenue Account – Ashlar Village Association, Acct. #250-TBD and to Expense Account – Misc. Grants & Donations – Fire, Acct. #250-TBD – Fire Dept.
 - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,350 (FY 2019-2020) from Distribution Plant-Services, Acct. #369 to Distribution Plant – Leased Property- Private Lights Acct. #372 – Electric Div.
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$52,200 (FY 2019-2020) from Fuel or Power Purchased for Pumping, Acct. #43100623 to Injuries and Damages, Acct. #43100925 – Water Div.
 - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$23,200 (FY 2019-2020) from Maintenance of Hydrants, Acct. #43100677 to Employee Pension/Benefits, Acct. #43100926 – Water Div.

- 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$26,800 (FY 2019-2020) from Miscellaneous Expense, Acct. #46100643 to Employee Pension/Benefits, Acct. #46100926 – Sewer Div.
- 3h. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$49,000 (FY 2019-2020) from Maintenance of Collection System, Acct. #46100673 to Interest on Long Term Debt, Acct. #46100427 – Sewer Div.
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,600 (FY 2019-2020) from Cont. Accrued Expenses, Acct. #10019000-58821 to Unemployment Insurance, Acct. #12100-52970 – Human Resources
- 3j. Acceptance of Donation from Dino's Modern Barbershop and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,125 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations - Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3k. Approve Town Council Minutes of August 18, 2020.

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

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

4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: *None***

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

There were no questions from the public.

6. Consider and approve adding TAB Computer Systems, Inc., estimated expenditures \$18,000, to the FY 2020-2021 Bid Waiver List – Fire Dept.

*In Attendance: Richard Heidgerd, Fire Chief
Samuel Wilson, Deputy Fire Chief*

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE adding TAB Computer Systems, Inc., estimated expenditures \$18,000, to the FY 2020-2021 Bid Waiver List.

**MADE BY: SHORTELL
SECONDED BY: MARRONE**

Deputy Chief Wilson stated IT service was chosen to use TBNG for the Fire service going forward. He explained they had to stay with TAB Computers one more year to finish the ongoing upgrades.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	TATTA: YES
LAFFIN: ABSENT	TESTA: ABSENT
MARRONE: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MORGENSTEIN: YES	CERVONI: YES
7-AYE	
2-ABSENT	
MOTION: PASSED	

7. 6:30 p.m. Public Hearing to Consider and Act on Amendments to Chapter 43, "Purchasing" of the Code of the Town of Wallingford.

Councilor Shortell stated this goes into work that started prior to COVID to raise the threshold on bid waivers. He asked what other towns do. Mr. Bowes and Mr. Amadeo, Purchasing Agent, provided a list of 20 towns and what their bid threshold was and the average was \$18,000. Councilor Shortell indicated they asked for more data and received 39 more towns and the average was \$16,500.

Councilor Shortell indicated the Ordinance Committee looked to raise the bid threshold from \$7,500 to \$16,000. He mentioned that they also looked at the open market procedure to raise it from \$300 to \$750 and you must then get three quotes. Councilor Shortell stated this brings us in line with other towns.

Opened Public Hearing at 6:44 p.m.

No Public Comment.

Closed Public Hearing.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED TONIGHT.

**MADE BY: SHORTELL
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	TATTA: YES
LAFFIN: ABSENT	TESTA: ABSENT
MARRONE: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MORGENSTEIN: YES	CERVONI: YES
7-AYE	
2-ABSENT	
MOTION: PASSED	

8. COVID-19 update from Stephen Civitelli, Health Director - Chairman Cervoni

Stephen Civitelli gave an update on COVID-19. He reported 522 positive cases to date. He went on to say 20% of the Wallingford population has been tested at this point. There have been no fatalities since July 19th and there are a total of 70 deaths. He also mentioned the Town is doing a drive thru Flu Clinic on October 19th. Police, Fire, EMS and Health will be the first to get vaccinated when a vaccine becomes available.

Rajan Doering, Sharon Dive, thanked Mr. Civitelli for all his hard work and hopes we continue with online meeting options.

9. Report of post primary outcome and preparation for general election of November 3, 2020 with Town Clerk and Registrars – Councilor Morgenstein

Town Clerk Thompson gave a brief update and explained that the Primary consisted of basically mailing out 4,000 ballots in a nine day period. She stated she expects that her office will receive between 10,000 to 17,000 absentee ballot applications for November and noted this time her office will be responsible for mailing out the ballots as usual.

Town Clerk Thompson said we are waiting for materials to be shipped to us from the Secretary of State's office and we are also waiting for the influx of incoming applications once voters receive them. She stated she has met with the Mayor and the Mayor is working on getting her extra helpers within general Government. She went on to say the Secretary of State's office has just informed us of how much money we will be receiving and we will meet with the Registrars and the Mayor to work out who gets what monies and then come back in front of the Council to appropriate the money hopefully at the next meeting.

11. Executive Session pursuant to CGS§1-200(6)(B) and §1-225(f) regarding strategy, negotiations and enforcement of a legal right with respect to a pending claim in the matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Quinnipiac Street Associates, LLC* – Law Dept.

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 7:34 P.M.

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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to CGS§1-200(6)(B) and §1-225(f) regarding strategy, negotiations and enforcement of a legal right with respect to a pending claim in the matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Quinnipiac Street Associates, LLC*. (#11)

Time of Executive Session 7:34 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

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. (#10)

Time of Executive Session 8:10 p.m. to 8:23 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

FISHBEIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
MARRONE	TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
MORGENSTEIN	
SHORTELL	
TATTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:24 P.M.

MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: MORGENSTEIN
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

12. Motion to consider and approve action regarding the pending claim as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE CLAIM AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MADE BY: SHORTELL
SECONDED BY: MARRONE

Councilor Fishbein stated we were presented with a lien for blight and possible resolution and the number is 20% of our lien. He went on to say our rules are to come in compliance with our release of blight.

Chairman Cervoni asked Councilor Fishbein not to discuss details that are discussed in Executive Session.

Councilor Zandri stated he has concerns as to how we are getting to this decision.

Councilor Shortell stated there are two factors; dollars involved and setting precedent. He does not feel settling right now hurts us.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

FISHBEIN: NO
LAFFIN: ABSENT
MARRONE: YES
MORGENSTEIN: NO
4-AYE
2-ABSENT
2-NAY
1-ABSTAIN
MOTION: FAILED

SHORTELL: YES
TATTA: YES
TESTA: ABSENT
ZANDRI: ABSTAIN
CERVONI: YES

POINT OF ORDER: COUNCILOR MARRONE

Councilor Marrone asked if a Councilor can abstain from a vote when there is no conflict of interest. Attorney Farrell answered yes.

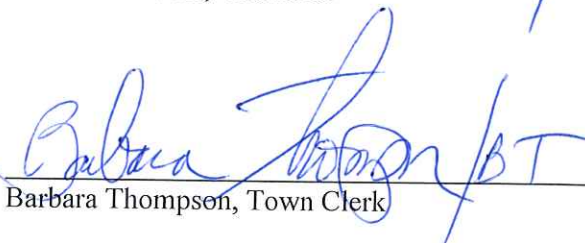
The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman Date 9/25/20



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk Date 9/25/20

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 9-11-2020
AT 4:30 AND RECEIVED BY
 TOWN CLERK