

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY  
MAY 25, 2021  
6:30 P.M.**

**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 was called to order at 6:34 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Thomas Laffin, Gina Morgenstein, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilor Fishbein was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
  - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$5,084.41 (#893-919)  
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
  - 3b. Consider and approve Merit Increase (1) – Human Resources
  - 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,500 – Human Resources

\$3,500	From: Professional Services-Consulting Services	Acct. #12000-56774
\$5,000	From: Unemployment Insurance	Acct. #12100-52970
\$8,500	To: Professional Svcs. – Employment Exams	Acct. #12000-56728
  - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$6,000 from Unemployment Insurance, Acct. #12100-52970 to Office Expense and Supplies, Acct. #12000-56100 – Human Resources
  - 3e. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50,000 to Outside Contractors, Acct. #10020050-51600 and to Charges for Current Services, Acct. #1002001-46020 – Police Dept.
  - 3f. Acceptance of Donation from Mr. and Mrs. Chieppo and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.

- 3g. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$14,200 from Wells and Springs (FY-16-17), Acct. #433-00314 to Retained Earnings (Cash) - Water Div.
- 3h. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$14,200 from Retained Earnings (Cash) to Wells and Springs (FY17-18), Acct. #433-00314 – Water Div.
- 3i. Acceptance of Donation from Estate of Elizabeth Harkin and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100 to Miscellaneous, Fund 250 Account #TBD and to Miscellaneous Donations, Fund 250 Acct. #TBD –Fire Dept.
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$24,000 – Fire Dept.
- |          |                                |                       |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$10,000 | From: Overtime                 | Acct. #10020150-51400 |
| \$ 9,000 | From: Physicals                | Acct. #10020150-56734 |
| \$ 5,000 | From: Maintenance. of Building | Acct. #10020150-54315 |
| \$24,000 | To: Replacement Pay            | Acct. #10020150-51500 |
- 3k. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Animal Control -Mayor
- 3l. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for BOE - Mayor
- 3m. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for EDC - Mayor
- 3n. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Engineering - Mayor
- 3o. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Finance – Mayor
- 3p. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Fire Dept. - Mayor
- 3q. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Human Resources – Mayor
- 3r. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Police Dept. - Mayor
- 3s. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Public Works – Mayor
- 3t. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Town Attorney – Mayor
- 3u. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Town Clerk – Mayor
- 3v. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Utilities - PUC/Electric Div. - Mayor
- 3w. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Utilities - Water/Sewer – Mayor

- 3x. Consider and approve FY 2021-2022 Bid Waiver request for Hardware Items, Executive Chevrolet/Dealer only OEM parts and service, Eversource, Frontier Telecommunications Service – Mayor
- 3y. Consider and approve setting a Public Hearing for 6:30 p.m. on June 8, 2021 to Consider and Act on 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Program - Mayor
- 3z. Approval of April 20, 2021 Budget Minutes, April 22, 2021 Budget Minutes, April 27, 2021 Town Council Minutes and April 29, 2021 Budget Minutes

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

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**

**SECONDED BY: TATTA**

**VOTE: 8 AYE; 1 NAY (ZANDRI)**

**MOTION: PASSED**

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

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Mr. Ciardullo inquired about the tax payer credit ordinance that Councilor Zandri was supposed to put on the agenda. Chairman Cervoni said it still needs work within the Committee. Councilor Shortell thought it was decided that it was better served going through the regular Council agenda. Mr. Ciardullo agrees with Councilor Shortell's perception of that. He feels there is a fair amount of support for this ordinance. Mr. Ciardullo discusses past and current budgets.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, talked about ARPA money mentioned in the paper regarding Meriden use of funds.

Mr. Gross asked the Mayor if he plans on hiring anybody to replace Scott Hanley. The Mayor said there is a staff of video technicians at this point and noted the governor has extended remote meetings until June 30, 2021.

Mr. Gross asked the Mayor if he plans on doing the pickleball courts. The Mayor said he would be happy to do it and it requires more involvement of different departments. He would expect later in the year to put specifications together.

Mr. Gross asked the Mayor if he plans on doing the parking lot across the street from Simpson Court. The Mayor answered yes. The Mayor does not agree with Mr. Gross that we are paving privately owned property. He went on to state a private contractor is doing the work, however, Engineering is involved daily. The Mayor said The legal status of that land is public use.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, inquired about a prior lengthy discussion regarding charging stations and status of RFP's. The Mayor stated Mr. Baltramaitis is drawing up specifications.

Adelheid Koepfer, 35 Whiffle Tree Road, asked if the town has submitted a report for the MS4 Program and if so, where could she find it. The Mayor said Public Works is in charge with compliance and he mentioned we've hired a consultant. The Mayor went on to state we file our reports annually.

Ms. Koepfer asked the Mayor about his concern to the proposed amendments to the Water Regulations. The Mayor stated the language is being analyzed. He went on to state we hired a new Town Planner that has a background with this work. The Town Engineer and Town Planner are working on language changes. Ms. Koepfer asked about the timeline. The Mayor said he hopes to see something in a few weeks and that we are anticipating sooner than later.

Ms. Koepfer indicated MIRA announced it will shut down the trash energy plant in Hartford in the summer of 2022 and it is expected that the majority of our waste will be transferred out of state and the fees will increase. She asked how this will affect Wallingford residents. The Mayor stated the town of Wallingford costs will be similar to what's across the state. He said there is nothing quick or less costly that can be done at a local level in order to meet the issues and challenges involved. Ms. Koepfer disagrees with the Mayor and asked the Council if the town could encourage residents to reduce the amount of garbage and fees for the residents and that it be put on the agenda.

6. Presentation by EDC Marketing Committee and Student Marketing Team from Quinnipiac University regarding the Commission's Digital Marketing Initiative – EDC

*In Attendance: Joe Mirra, Chairman, EDC  
Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist  
Mark Gingras, Vice Chair, EDC*

Mr. Mirra thanked the Council for allowing them to introduce EDC's latest marketing efforts and present the Economic Development Commissioner's Digital Marketing Initiative. He thinks we will be impressed with what the Marketing Committee has achieved through Chairman Mark Gingras.

Mr. Gingras thanked the Mayor for his support on this project and his confidence in the EDC. He stated that EDC Marketing Commission members have been models of volunteerism. He mentioned three members of a 7 member SMT that guided them through this journey and turned over the presentation to those 3 members.

Chandler Merz, student, presented Wallingford beyond state lines.

Brenna Rose presented about the different outreach channels.

Samantha Loud introduced landing page redesign subgroup of the student marketing team.

Mr. Ryan thanked everyone for this opportunity to present and he hopes everyone was impressed. He indicated the reason for digital is that Wallingford is an oasis in the State of Connecticut and has a solid reputation. He went on to say the data center initiative was one phone call to his office. It's about the quality of the phone calls not the quantity. He said we want to make sure we are in

the conversation in this town because we have a good selling story. He thanked the Mayor and the Town Council for budgeting a part-time Digital Marketing Specialist. He stated in September of this year we want to hit the ground running. He Thanked professor Tomczyk, the team and the Marketing Committee.

Chairman Cervoni thanked everyone and indicated it's very impressive. He stated this is a tremendous amount of work and probably a little bit past due. He feels its critical marketing in this modern world and increasing social media is essential at this point.

Councilor Laffin congratulated the new graduates. He talked about the fear of negative comments being so strong that it almost took Facebook out of the running. He stated that Councilor Zandri will be able to handle Facebook.

Councilor Zandri remarked this was a great presentation. He stated from his experience it's a delicate balance and noted assessment is spot on. He wants to encourage the use of Facebook. He explained on Facebook you can have the ability to put up posts and turn off commenting. He said he would defer to the marketing expertise that you all have he is just speaking of some of the experience he has from running these groups for ten years. He appreciates the presentation and all the hard work that's been done.

Councilor Testa thanks everyone who put all their time and effort into this and indicated this was a very impressive presentation. He Wants to talk about the consideration of a Facebook page. He feels it's not unreasonable to say you might have a Wallingford EDC Facebook page versus a Town of Wallingford Facebook page.

Mr. Ryan thanked everyone and asks the Council as part of the team if they see any comments to reach out.

Chairman Cervoni thanked the presenters for lending their talents to Wallingford.

7. 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*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

17 Aug 2021

Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

6/23/2021

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5-28-21  
AT 3:00 AND RECEIVED BY  
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK