

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

**TUESDAY  
October 12, 2021  
6:30 P.M.**

**AMENDED RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 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 Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Gina Morgenstein, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Tim Sena, Deputy Comptroller were also present.

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$5,633.36 (#346-398)  
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety Grant and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,231 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3c. Acceptance of CT Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services for Opioid Safety (ADOPS) and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$8,200 from DMHAS, Acct. #2244002-45100 and to ADOPS Grant, Acct. #224-TBD – Health Dept.
- 3d. Consider and approve Farmland Lease Bid Award to the Johnson Family Farm, LLC for Public Bid #21-027 regarding three fields: Field 5A, Cook Road, Field 7A, Northford Road and Field 8B, 70 Tyler Mill Road for a 5 year lease term at \$20.00 per year for each field – Environmental Planner
- 3e. Approve Town Council Minutes of September 28, 2021.

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

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

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

**MOTION TO WAIVE RULE V FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION  
REGARDING WALLACE AVENUE PARKING LOT.**

**MADE BY: MARRONE  
SECONDED BY: ZANDRI**

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: NO</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: NO</b>	<b>CERVONI: NO</b>

**6- AYE  
3-NAY  
MOTION: PASSED**

**VOTE ON APPEAL TO OVERRULE CHAIRMAN**

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: NO</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: NO</b>	<b>CERVONI: NO</b>

**6- AYE  
3-NAY  
MOTION: PASSED**

Chairman Cervoni and Councilor Marrone discussed Wallace Avenue parking lot.

Councilor Fishbein stated parking lots are important to him and others and noted he was taken back that the Wallace lot was not going to get done.

Councilor Marrone stated on Tuesday we received notification that the bid was not going to go forward and he is concerned because it's the end of paving season.

The Mayor stated it's still one project and both need to be paved and improved and he fully intends to do that. He went on to state in the interest of taxpayers, rebidding is appropriate. He noted materials are not available and we should be in a better position in the spring.

Councilor Marrone asked if the Simpson account is finished and The Mayor answered yes.

Councilor Marrone asked why this decision was made and the Mayor responded workload of departments.

Councilor Marrone asked why not award the bid now and lock in the price. The Mayor remarked why accept a high bid and then stated maybe six months from now things will be better.

Councilor Laffin stated that usually Waive Rule V is for something urgent. He also stated the memo says we are rebidding in the spring.

Councilor Zandri asked the Mayor for an example of saving money by delaying. He agrees with Councilor Marrone regarding the urgency of this.

Councilor Testa said his recollection was that Public Works would handle Wooding and Wallace would be bid out. He went on to say Wooding went to bid and Simpson cost less than anticipated and now we're told we are \$100,000 over than what was expected.

The Mayor explained the amount appropriated was \$77,000, \$300,000 was for Simpson and \$77,000 for Wallace. He stated Public Works was not in a position to do it and at that point the decision was made to go out to bid.

Councilor Testa stated \$114,000 was left over from Simpson and he's trying to figure out rationale that this bid was too high for the market.

Councilor Fishbein remarked he can't wrap his arms around this. He stated he didn't know this was happening. He went on to state this being one project would cost taxpayers less.

Councilor Tatta asked about a bid in the future and if it's possible that Public Works can do the work in the spring. The Mayor stated he can't say if Public Works can do it or not.

#### Public Comment

Lucille Casagrande stated the money has to be there. She feels this is fiscal irresponsibility and it's up to Council to vote on this and put it trough.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, stated he remembers some numbers differently. He asked the Mayor when this went out to bid. The Mayor responded last spring. Mr. Gross asked if the money can be taken from ARPA funds. The Mayor stated we are looking to hire a consultant to see what is allowable and what is not.

Councilor Zandri discussed material costs and stated this body should take action tonight.

Councilor Morgenstein stated she was caught off guard and thanks fellow Councilors for bringing this up. She remarked a town owned lot sits undone again. She feels this is well past due.

#### **RESOLUTION READ BY COUNCILOR MARRONE**

#### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

Whereas, on January 12, 2021, the Mayor requested permission of the Town Council to rehabilitate and improve the parking areas on Wallace Avenue and in the rear of Simpson Court as one package; and

Whereas, the Town Council desired to address the two projects separately due to (at least) the fact that the Wallace Avenue project involved town owned property and the Simpson Court project involved property not owned by the town; and

Whereas, the Mayor adamantly opposed addressing the two projects separately, stating that either both get done or none get done; and

Whereas, on said date the Town Council divided the question to vote on the two projects separately, ultimately approving of both projects; and

Whereas, the Simpson Court project has been completed, and the Wallace Avenue has been stalled until at least next year by the Mayor, claiming project bid prices to be undesirable; and

Whereas, the Town Council desires the Wallace Avenue project to be completed forthwith; and

Whereas, the Town Council also desires that period lighting, similar to that installed on Quinipiac Street be installed at the Wallace Avenue site; and

Whereas, there is no credible information before the Town Council that the improvement of the property comprising the Wallace Avenue project will be offset by any dramatically decrease in cost; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Wallingford Town Council desires that the Wallace Avenue project be completed forthwith, and awarding the project to the responsible bidder with the lowest bid price, such unanticipated funds to be appropriated from existing accounts.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: NO</b>
<b>LAFFIN: NO</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: NO</b>
<b>6- AYE</b>	
<b>3-NAY</b>	
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>	

**Chairman Cervoni stated the Amended Agenda passes.**

5. Public Question & Answer Period

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, asked the Mayor if he will be giving an update on the status of the animal shelter. The Mayor stated he didn't know if work was completed but he will let him know.

Mr. Gross inquired about how long the Treasurer position has been unfilled for. The Mayor stated he did not know but would be looking to hire a Treasurer and Deputy.

Mr. Gross asked if Scott Hanley's position will be filled. The Mayor stated he's not planning to fill that position.

Mr. Gross asked the Mayor if we have a consultant for ARPA funds. The Mayor said we've had a bid out and we expect responses.

Raymond Rys, 96 Pierson Road, feels the town is running smooth and remarked keep up the good work.

Lucille Casagrande questioned Chairman Cervoni voting against this. Chairman Cervoni explained that's not what he voted against. He said he voted against the Resolution because he doesn't believe it has legal merit to go forward.

Mr. Gross asked if we have a grant writer and the Mayor responded yes, Susan Schott.

Aili McKeen, Burke Heights Drive, stated government is here to support its citizens and we would be wise to plan. She went on to state with regard to Tyler Mill archery is safer than golf.

6. Discussion with Youth and Social Services regarding diversionary programs available for youth, as well as programming to minimize the need for intervention – Councilors Laffin, Shortell and Cervoni

*Mandy Miranda, Director, Youth and Social Services*

Chairman Cervoni stated several meetings ago the Police Department was here talking about Doolittle Park and was interested in hearing about Youth & Social Services programs.

Ms. Miranda discusses Youth & Social Services programs and referrals.

Councilor Fishbein mentioned he received a call from a mom who was concerned about her son running away. He asked Ms. Miranda what they do in this situation. Ms. Miranda explained they start by talking to the mom then talk to the youth about what's going on.

Chairman Cervoni thanked Ms. Miranda for what they do.

7. Presentation regarding YMCA Pool Project and Potential Wallingford Partnership – Councilor Shortell

*In Attendance: Sean Doherty, Executive Director, YMCA  
Sam Sargent, Board Chair*

Mr. Doherty noted no one has fought harder for community pool, not giving up and exploring other options than he did.

Councilor Laffin thanked Mr. Doherty and asked at the end of it, does the town own one third of the pool.

Councilor Shortell suggested bringing Sheehan pool back.

Councilor Fishbein and Mr. Sargent discussed parking and addition.

Councilor Fishbein asked if the pool on the east side would remain. Mr. Doherty answered yes and stated the residents would have to pay to use the pool. Mr. Doherty said he is working on details.

Councilor Marrone asked how likely it is to raise \$2 million by April. Mr. Doherty explained they have a fundraising team and they have a list they are working with. He stated they were doing well until COVID hit.

Councilor Testa indicated he will not consider anything until community pool is done and he does not have favorable feelings on this as a replacement.

Chairman Cervoni inquired about preserving use for town residents. He then asked what the return is on investment.

Mr. Hoffman, 35 Carr Street, agrees with Councilor Testa. He feels community pool is a much better thing with limited funds.

Michael Savenelli asked if the town is for this, would the money come out of community pool. He then asked if both pools are built would the YMCA still be interested in a partnership.

Danielle Lutz, 57 North Street, is concerned about parking.

Carol Forte, 53 Parker Place, asked why we would want a 25 yard pool in opposition to an olympic size pool and Mr. Doherty responded price.

Councilor Morgenstein read a letter into the record.

Mary Mushinsky, 188 South Cherry Street, said they worked hard to get these funds. She noted this was not done to put community pool out of commission it was done to support the YMCA only and she feels the YMCA needs to expand.

Riley O'Connell, 30 Northford Road, asked the Mayor if he intends to put community pool back out to bid. The Mayor replied after the pandemic is past us.

Councilor Laffin asked if the town does not participate does the project end. Mr. Doherty replied its full steam ahead.

Councilor Shortell asked what if the town gives \$500,000.

Councilor Zandri stated we have a strong form of mayoral government and noted the best we could do on paving was to vote on the Resolution. He went on to state the Mayor makes the ultimate decision. He then discussed public/private partnership.

Councilor Morgenstein agrees with Councilor Zandri. She feels the community pool is a large piece of land that is sitting and rotting. She feels we need better.

Councilor Shortell thanked everyone and inquired about the next steps.

Councilor Tatta thanked everyone and stated she hopes this is not either/or. She stated the community pool is very small and she hopes that everyone keeps an open mind.

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Doherty about his concept on our property. Councilor Fishbein feels there may be a way to get there if we think outside the box.

Councilor Shortell asked where it goes from here. The Mayor stated Parks & Recreation must make the decision.

8. Discussion regarding the recreational use of Tyler Mill – Councilor Tatta

Councilor Tatta stated she visited Tyler Mill and was taken-back by the beauty. She spoke about some issues being the lack of marked trails and no trail maps. She said she would not be comfortable going on a hike there. Also, she mentioned water was waist high when crossing river and there was no bridge walk. She went on to state there was a little parking lot and no signage to the inner parking lot. She stated she was told Wallingford bought land by a grant solely for recreational use. She feels we can use it more than we are currently.

Chairman Cervoni remarked he lived near Tyler Mill for 13 years and his wife enjoyed walking the property.

John Lathrop, Vice Chair, Conservation Commission, feels the biggest problem is people cutting new trails that are not marked or authorized. He is concerned about the cost of a bridge over a muddy river. He said they took the time to mark every 600 feet so people who are injured can stay where they are and be rescued.

Councilor Zandri would like the ability to get maps. He asked if there is a way to get maps uploaded. He feels it would be difficult for emergency services to find someone. Mr. Lathrop stated most people carry cell phones, can take pictures and have maps. He noted trails are well blazed.

Ken Rowe, Pine River Road, feels all the conflict lies with the want to see more focus on recreation.

Mr. Parent asked if there are farm leases. Chairman Cervoni indicated he is not sure.

The Mayor stated he believes there are farm leases at Tamarac Swap.

Mr. Parent stated leases are illegal and noted when you take land away for recreation you have to find replacement. He feels everything here is all wrong. He then discusses commission.

Joseph Robles, 45 Northford Road, stated we are not taking advantage of who is managing this and noted it should be managed by users. He feels land should be kept natural and beautiful.

Ken Michaels, Director, Parks and Recreation, stated Tyler Mill users group gives an avenue to talk about concerns. He mentioned that the mountain bike group is not happy with the trail and

that trails are not put into the trail map. He feels hopefully with this group ideas could be put to paper.

Councilor Testa asked if motorized vehicles are a problem in open space. Mr. Michaels stated this is not a constant issue.

Councilor Marrone is trying to understand the Conservation Commission's role in this at all. Mr. Michaels stated they are the overseers.

Mr. Parent asked what the next step is. Chairman Cervoni responded the Law Department.

Mr. Parent suggested giving a tour of Tyler Mill to Councilors. Mr. Saunders stated not this week, its hunting season.

Councilor Fishbein said can't we just all get along. Chairman Cervoni felt that was a nice way to end that.

- 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: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
 Council Staff  
 Meeting digitally recorded

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 10-15-21  
 AT 4:15 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY  
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

18 JAN 2022  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

January 18, 2022  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date