

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

**TUESDAY
January 18, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, Vincent Testa and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller Tim Sena were also present.

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$25,066.25 (#678-738)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Acceptance of donation from Fuller Family and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3c. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety grant “2022 Click it or Ticket Enforcement Campaign” and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,730 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3d. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety grant 2021/2022 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Program funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,347 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3e. Acceptance of US Secret Service computer fraud investigating and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,108 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 - Police Dept.
- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Regular Salaries and Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Redactive Tower, Acct. #TBD – Police Dept.
- 3g. Budget Amendment in the amount of \$48,000 from Appropriation from Cash to Injuries & Damages, Acct. #431-00925 – Water Division
- 3h. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,500 & \$2,600 for a total of \$6,100 – Public Works

- \$3,500 From: Air Compressor Acct. #10030000-57000-01053
\$2,600 From: 60-Inch Mower Acct. #10030000-57000- 01052
- \$6,100 To: Pick-Up Truck Acct. #10030000-57000-01050
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$13,500 From Pay Loader, Acct. #002022-57000-10063 to Class 7 Plow Truck, Acct. #2002022-57000-10064 – Public Works
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$43,200 from Contingency Accrued Expenses, Acct. #1001900-58821 to Retirement Sick Leave, Acct. #12100-51750 – Human Resources
- 3k. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 – Human Resources
- \$4,000 From: Longevity Acct. #12100-51700
\$1,000 From: Life Insurance Acct. #12100-55940
- \$5,000 To: Office Expense & Supplies Acct. #12000-56100
- 3l. Acceptance of donation from Louis and Deborah Tagliatela and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500 to Revenue Account Miscellaneous-Fund-250, Acct. #TBD and to Expense Account Misc. Donations – Fire Department – Acct. # TBD - Fire Dept.
- 3m. Consider and approve Appointment of Bruce Conroy to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately and expiring January 8, 2023 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3n. Consider and approve Appointment of Attorney Jonathan Chappell to the Personnel and Pensions Appeals Board for a five year term effective immediately and expiring December 31, 2026 – Mayor
- 3o. Town Council Minutes of November 23, 2021, December 7, 2021, December 14, 2021 and January 3, 2022 - *Withdrawn*
- 3p. Consider and approve Ordinance Committee Schedule 2022-2023.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3n. & 3p.

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

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked for an update on Wooding/Kaplan parking lot. The Mayor suggested checking with the Engineering Department and stated he did not have current information on it.

Mr. Gross feels it's taking too long to update Police Department website.

Whitney Mooney, 28 South Elm Street, feels we should move faster to update our website.

Mr. Comerford, Broad View Drive, commented that the town does not have a Grant Administrator and stated Ms. Schott is a grant secretary.

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, would like an update on Wooding/Kaplan lot next meeting.

Mr. Gross mentioned that the town of North Haven distributed masks to everyone in town and he feels that was a wise decision. The Mayor stated at the point we receive additional masks we will consider it. Mr. Gross then asked why we don't have a mask mandate and the Mayor responded we are following state guidelines.

6. Discussion and Action to fill a Town Councilor vacancy due to resignation of Gina Morgenstein – Chairman Cervoni

Councilor Testa stated it's clear the Charter is pretty simple as to how this situation should be handled. He feels it should be of same political affiliation - protocols/courtesies. He went on to state following tradition and procedure we typically look to local party representative and ask for nomination. Candidacies are determined by local party. He feels it's very important for this Council to follow that tradition/policy. Councilor Testa urges Town Council to accept nomination and seat Ms. Tomassi.

MOTION WAS MADE to fill a Town Councilor vacancy due to resignation of Gina Morgenstein.

**MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: MARRONE**

**Councilor Testa nominates Alexa Tomassi
Councilor Carmody Seconds**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: NO	TATTA: NO
CARMODY: YES	TESTA: YES
FISHBEIN: NO	CERVONI: NO

LAFFIN: NO

MARRONE: NO

2 - AYE

6 - NAY

MOTION: FAILED

Councilor Carmody stated that his party recommends Alexa Tomassi unanimously. He went on to state voices of voters should be heard.

Alexa Tomassi, 213 Washington Street, thanked the Council and asked to be considered for that seat. She stated she is prepared to serve and read a letter and outlined her resume.

Rebecca Hyland, 18 Haller Place, a teacher at Sacred Heart Academy, discusses integrity.

Nancy Fabrizzi, 923 Clintonville Road, read a letter she sent to Council.

Mr. Avallone, 1 Ashford Court, stated he was DTC Chair for nine years when Bob Parisi was Town Council Chairman; he was never denied by Mr. Parisi. He questioned why republicans would get in the middle of DTC recommendation, maybe because Mr. Zandri has experience and is incumbent.

Lia Marin, 25 Wallace Row, stated Ms. Tomassi is qualified and has energy to do it.

Riley O'Connell, 30 Northford Road, says there is no excuse to deny this recommendation.

Councilor Marrone stated he appreciates everyone coming out and refers to the Charter in this circumstance. He then commented that he has three kids and integrity.

Councilor Fishbein nominates Jason Zandri
Councilor Marrone Seconds

Councilor Fishbein stated Jason desires to be back.

Chairman Cervoni stated Councilor Fishbein has the right to speak.

Councilor Fishbein continues and stated that Mr. Zandri has the best interest of the town and has been very successful.

Councilor Marrone stated he has great respect for Mr. Zandri. He sees his family at church and at sporting events and he trusts his judgment.

Councilor Testa spoke highly of Mr. Zandri and he will abstain from this vote.

Councilor Laffin indicated he supports his no vote.

Councilor Carmody feels Jason has served our town well and he will abstain from this vote.

Alida Cella, 241 North Whittlesey Ave Ext, stated if voters wanted Zandri he would be on the ticket. She then mentioned the Jinks/Fishbein recount.

Jason Zandri, 35 Lincoln Drive, stated he has been in the Chambers since he was 16. He wanted to set the record straight that he's not counting on the Committee and stated these votes should be the will of the people always. He talked about the process and how he almost died.

Whitney Mooney, 28 South Elm Street, feels no Council should have this power and stated this is how tyranny starts.

Jesse Reynolds, 850 Old Durham Road, feels this is overall disrespectful to the Town Committee's recommendation.

Rajan Doering, 48 Sharon Drive, thanked the eight councilors for their hard work.

VOTE ON MOTION

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON:	YES	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY:	ABSTAIN	TESTA:	ABSTAIN
FISHBEIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES		
MARRONE:	YES		
6 - AYE			
2 - NAY			
MOTION:	PASSED		

7. Discussion and possible action regarding Wallingford's Historic Rail Road Station RFP – EDC

*In Attendance: Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist
Joe Mirra, Chairman, EDC*

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE Wallingford's Historic Rail Road Station RFP.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: TATTA

Mr. Ryan stated he's excited for EDC to do something different and stated we want you to say yes go for it and put a vision together for the building. He feels this is exciting and wants to see something happen.

Chairman Cervoni looks forward to the possibility of revitalizing that part of town.

Councilor Laffin thinks this is very exciting and a great opportunity to encourage more development. He thanked Ms. Bellizzi for working with them to find a better location.

Councilor Tatta is very excited about this. She said she does not want to neglect adult education and feels we could find them a better location.

Councilor Fishbein is in support but is protective of the park. He is concerned about parking and the crossing railroad tracks.

Mr. Mirra doesn't see any problems and said that's why we're asking for the next step.

Councilor Fishbein stated if someone gets hit by a train and we own the property there may be a problem. He asked if there is a possibility to change entryways.

Mr. Ryan stated it's not likely we would change entryways.

Councilor Testa is happy to see this but is concerned about adult education.

Councilor Carmody is concerned about the relocation of the adult education system and stated it's a vital part of the community. He will be more comfortable knowing what will happen to adult education before he supports this.

Mr. Ryan stated Ms. Bellizzi is working to find a new location.

Councilor Allinson is concerned about crossing railroad tracks and feels we should look into getting insurance. She is also concerned about the relocation of adult education and urges them to consider adult education on a primary transportation line. She stated all factors line up for us and she has faith in what is needed will get done.

Chairman Cervoni said this is the first step in figuring out what optional use is and went on to say there is plenty of time to relocate adult education.

Councilor Fishbein stated he appreciates Councilors Allinson and Carmody being here and remarked he won't have to vote first.

Councilor Tatta and Mr. Ryan discussed getting a grant.

Susan Pearson stated she's worked at the Learning Center for 17 years and would hate to see this program made into a smaller one.

Bill Comerford spoke about community pool and Wooding/Kaplan. He said the lighting falls within the same grant and he doesn't know why the railroad got picked. He then brought up the condition of the Town Hall and stated it falls within this grant.

Mr. Gross said he was involved with the school for years and that location is important to so many people. He then asked if we are planning on keeping it in the center of town. There was further discussion between Mr. Gross and Mr. Ryan.

Chairman Cervoni stated none of us are interested in abandoning it.

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, inquired about an RFP to get ideas of what to do with the building. Mr. Ryan replied not just ideas but structure, electrical, ADA compliance and remarked this is a

rare opportunity to showcase a gem in the center of town. Mr. Ryan went on to state it does not cost money to put out an RFP.

Mr. Mirra noted tonight's conversation is to find out what is appropriate. Councilor Fishbein and Mr. Mirra discuss the process.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: YES	TATTA: YES
CARMODY: NO	TESTA: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	ZANDRI: YES
LAFFIN: YES	CERVONI: YES
MARRONE: YES	

8 - AYE

1 - NAY

MOTION: PASSED

8. Discussion and Approval of Re-districting as follows:

In Attendance: Bob Avery, Registrar

Joan Parisi, Registrar

A. The small section of the 8th District that was in the 90th and is now in the 85th to be added to the 2nd District.

B. Legislature essentially eliminated the 1st District, giving its area to the 9th District. Request splitting this district into the 1st and 9th; dividing it along East Center Street (after Interstate 91) to Whirlwind Hill Road, then to the Durham border making the North (top) part the 9th District and the South (bottom) part the 1st District – Registrar of Voters

Ms. Parisi discussed:

The State legislature moved the 86 Assembly District out of Wallingford thereby eliminating the First District. The area that was covered by the First District was incorporated into District 9 the 90th Assembly District;

Moving Rock Hill to another location. She explained Rock Hill is not in district and voters would not have to travel as far if voting location is moved.

There was further discussion between Chairman Cervoni, Councilor Fishbein and the Registrars.

Councilor Fishbein would like to see the Registrars come back before the Council with a whole package and Chairman Cervoni agreed.

Councilor Tatta suggested to Table this and come back.

9. Discussion regarding the 2020-2021 fiscal year independent audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – Councilor Tatta

In Attendance: Tim Sena, Comptroller

Councilor Tatta stated this is the second year that the audit has been delayed and we've had a staffing shortage. She went on to say departments are starting to budget now and it's difficult if departments don't have final numbers.

Mr. Sena indicated they are making progress and on track to have the audit ready at the end of this month. He then discussed filling vacancies in his department.

- 10. Discussion and action to adopt new 2022 Town Council Rules – Chairman Cervoni

MOTION WAS MADE TO CHANGE THE WORDING TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

Councilor Marrone discussed changing Page 2, Article 6 end of Paragraph 1 to extend the deadline from 12:30 Tuesday to 12:30 Thursday for Councilors to have more time to add items to the agenda.

Chairman Cervoni made a friendly amendment to leave 12:30 Tuesday and add "addendums may be added by noon on Thursday".

**Councilor Laffin accepts this as a friendly amendment.
Councilor Allinson seconds the amendment.**

Councilor Marrone suggested a friendly amendment to strike out Page 3 Article 14 Section B - "Any problems or questions that arise regarding an item on the Consent Agenda should first be taken up with the Mayor if a satisfactory answer is not obtained".

**Councilor Laffin accepts this as a friendly amendment.
Councilor Allinson seconds the amendment.**

The Mayor remarked it should be taken out because it never happens.

Councilor Tatta discusses Article 12A Section 4 and 12B Section 3.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: YES	TATTA: YES
CARMODY: YES	TESTA: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	ZANDRI: YES
LAFFIN: YES	CERVONI: YES
MARRONE: YES	
9 - AYE	
MOTION: PASSED	

11. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the CGS with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:15 P.M.

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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the CGS with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:30 P.M.

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

Time of Executive Session 10:15 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

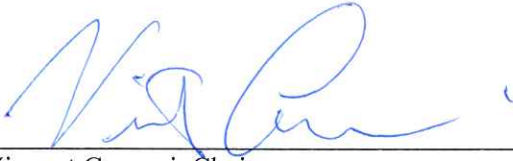
FISHBEIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN	TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
MARRONE	MIKE MILLER, CHAIR, CONSERVATION COMM.
ALLINSON	JEFF BORNE, MEMBER, CONSERVATION COMM.
CARMODY	
TATTA	
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

18 FEB. 2022

Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

2/18/2022

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1-24-22
AT 3:30 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK