

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

**TUESDAY
February 8, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

AMENDED RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 was called to order at 6:31 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, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Janis Small, Corporation Counsel and Comptroller Tim Sena were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$23,789.67 (#759-#825)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Budget Amendment in the amount of \$131,036 – Water Division

\$131,036 From: Appropriation from Cash Acct. #43300346
\$131,036 To: Meters
 - 3c. Budget Amendment in the amount of \$9,600 – Water Division

\$9,600 From: Appropriation from Cash
\$9,600 To: Miscellaneous General Expense Acct. #43100930
 - 3d. Budget Amendment in the amount of \$10,692 – Water Division

\$10,692 From: Appropriation from Cash
\$10,692 To: Transportation Equipment Acct. #433-00392
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,500 – Human Resources

\$2,000 From: Continuing Education & Training Acct. #10012000-55700
\$1,500 From: Training Acct. #10012100-58360

\$3,500 To: Overtime Acct. #10012000-51400

- 3f. Consider and approve reappointments of James Seichter, Robert Jacques, Jr., John LeTourneau, and Armand Menard as Constables for a 2 year term expiring 2024 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3g. Consider and approve reappointment of Carl Bonamico to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a 3 year term effective immediately and expiring January 2025 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3h. Consider and approve reappointment of James Vitali to the I/W Commission for a 5 year term effective immediately and expiring March 1, 2026 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3i. Approve Town Council Minutes of November 23, 2021, December 7, 2021, December 14, 2021, December 18, 2021 (Special Meeting) and December 21, 2021 (Special Meeting), January 3, 2022 and January 18, 2022.

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

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION: PASSED

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, asked for an update on Wallace Avenue and the Mayor said it's going out to bid next week.

Riley O'Connell, 30 Northford Road, inquired about criteria to extend the time of Public Question and Answer Period.

Chairman Cervoni stated he assesses volume of people at meeting and sensitivity of subject matter during Public Question and Answer Period.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked if the grant is not used for the railroad, will it be used for another project. The Mayor responded he sees no reason not to at this point.

6. Presentation and discussion regarding ARPA by UHY Advisors. The Consultant will present draft application forms – Mayor

In Attendance: Jack Reagan, Managing Director, UHY Advisors

Mr. Reagan presented information on UHY Advisors (attached).

Councilor Laffin asked when the presentation will be online and Mr. Reagan replied in the next week to two weeks.

Councilor Laffin asked who reviews the applications. Mr. Reagan explained applications would be reviewed in a two-step process. First UHY would review them and then give the applications to town staff. He also talked about possibly launching a web portal for applications. Mr. Reagan said the company would not recommend funding or not funding an application. Councilor Laffin then inquired who is doing that in other municipalities and Mr. Reagan replied staff, committees, legislative body—that it varies, but there is some input by government.

Councilor Testa feels the presentation was tremendous and would like to see this done. He stated that this is what it feels like to be patted on the head. He went on to state he asked to be involved in the development of the criteria and noted Council was told they would be involved and they weren't.

Chairman Cervoni stated he wants to be included also and noted the allocation is still going to be left to the Council.

Mr. Reagan stated ultimately it goes through the appropriation process.

Chairman Cervoni stated this presents a way for us to learn what need is.

Councilor Tatta agrees with Councilor Testa. She stated she is not sure why the application process has been set up and remarked "Is it not the Town Council's responsibility on how money is spent?"

Councilor Tatta questioned Mr. Sena about revenue loss. Mr. Sena said he will have that soon.

Councilor Tatta questioned if the applicant received other money are they disqualified. Mr. Reagan stated we are not there yet.

Councilor Tatta expressed concern that if this were to go through and applications come in, it would not take long to hit \$13 million. She is not sure she is in favor of going forward.

The Mayor stated that the purpose of gathering information is to address the needs of the people so we can know the depth of their loss. The Mayor commented that the spirit of ARPA is critical to human and business needs and there is a lot of pain.

Councilor Fishbein asked Attorney Farrell what the rule is in the Charter to create criteria for grant money.

Attorney Farrell answered similar to budget.

Councilor Fishbein reads from the Charter.

Councilor Marrone stated he does not have that many concerns and questioned how we engage the public.

MOTION WAS MADE TO FORM TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ARPA.

MADE BY: MARRONE
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Councilor Carmody stated that this is a starting point and it falls on the Council on how to spend the money and set the process. He supports this motion and also stated that Town Council needs to get it right.

Councilor Testa stated our authority is in our actions as a body and what we decide as a group. He stated his objection is that he wants Town Council to establish criteria for philosophic decisions and questions, philosophically, what we want to do with this money. Councilor Testa questioned if administration would follow what the committee says and how the community as a whole can benefit from this.

Councilor Tatta asked if this is going to be a full committee and Chairman Cervoni replied a group of five would make it easier for scheduling.

Councilor Fishbein asked if it was possible to put together a menu of what is possible with different ranges and have choices to check off. Councilor Fishbein also stated he does not like self-reporting and asked what protection we have.

Mr. Reagan stated that if you are following the final version there is an underlying theme about community engagement and that other localities post a survey and rank priorities.

Councilor Zandri stated we need a way to define economic loss and we need to find a way to spread this out more. He also commented that he doesn't know how we can open up a portal with criteria we didn't set up and that there could be problems with self-attestation.

Mr. Reagan stated that he has seen other governments divide their ARPA money upfront into buckets; 50 percent to businesses, 30 percent to non-profits and 20 percent to city projects.

Riley O'Connell, 30 Northford Road, feels money needs to be spent yesterday if we're talking about helping people who suffered losses.

Liz Davis, Director, Wallingford Center Inc., wants to keep focus on merchants and businesses in town.

Maria Campos Harlow, United Way, feels that ARPA funds should be spent on immediate relief to help people who were severely impacted by the pandemic.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road agrees with last three speakers and feels leftover money should be used for the Town.

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, feels a committee is a good idea.

Councilor Allinson stated we need more meetings if we want to get things done. She then asked, if we allocate half now, can they apply again. Mr. Reagan stated it's how you set it up.

The Mayor said he was tired of hearing we acted without anyone, that this was a first step and we are not here for a vote. He went on to say we (Administration) work for the Town every day and just received the final report two weeks ago.

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Reagan who he had been in contact with and Mr. Reagan answered the Mayor, and Youth and Social Services.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

7. 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 8:55 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

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 9:05 P.M.

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

Time of Executive Session 8:55 p.m. to 9:05 p.m.

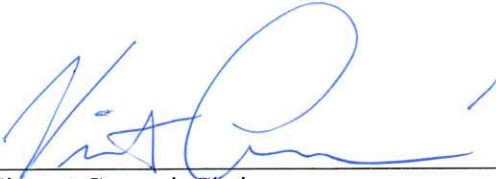
Attendance at Executive Session:

FISHBEIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN	TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
MARRONE	CORPORATION COUNSEL, JANIS SMALL
ALLINSON	MIKE MILLER, CHAIR, CONSERVATION COMMISSION
CARMODY	
TATTA	
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman



Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk



Date