

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**TUESDAY
MAY 10, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jr., Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller Tim Sena were also present.

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$5,694.06 (#1020-#1055)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and approve Suspense List – Tax Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve request from First Congregational Church to use Parade Grounds in front of Church on Sunday, June 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Chairman Cervoni
 - 3d. Acceptance of FBI Safe Streets/Violent Crimes Taskforce overtime reimbursement funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$294 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of FBI Safe Streets/Violent Crimes Taskforce overtime reimbursement funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$294 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3f. Acceptance of 2021/22 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program grant and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$9,360 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct.#10020050 -51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3g. Acceptance of Donation from “The Pit Stop” and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
 - 3h. Acceptance of Donation from “The Pit Stop” 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.

- 3i. Acceptance of Donation from Bianca Flores “The Pit Stop” and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$366 to Revenue Donations- Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3j. Acceptance of Donation from Mr. and Mrs. James 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. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3k. Acceptance of Donation from Rohm America and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 to Revenue Donations - Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3l. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,000 from Transmission-Maintenance of Station Equip., Acct. #570 to Transmission-Operations Station Expenses, Acct. #562 – Electric Div.
- 3m. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$25,000 from Distribution-Maintenance of Station Equip., Acct. #592 to Distribution-Operations Station Expenses, Acct. #582 – Electric Div.
- 3n. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$20,000 from Distribution-Operation-Meter Expenses, Acct. #586 to Distribution-Operation-Customer Installation Exp., Acct. #587 – Electric Div.
- 3o. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$60,000 from Distribution-Operation-Underground Line Exp., Acct. #584 to Distribution-Maintenance of Overhead Lines, Acct. #593 – Electric Div.
- 3p. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$24,650 from Appropriation from Cash to Chemical Expenses – Aluminum Sulfate and Polymer For Tertiary Phosphorus Treatment, Acct. #461-00641 – Sewer Div.
- 3q. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$97,443 from New Debt Financing, Acct. #10070050-58920 to Debt-Interest Expense, Acct. #10070050-58915 – Comptroller
- 3r. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$616 from Office Expenses & Supply, Acct. #10010400-56100 to Capital-Office Chair, Acct. #10010400-57000-TBD – Comptroller
- 3s. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Utilities, Acct. #10030000-53010 to Maintenance of Equipment, Acct. #10030000-54325 – Public Works
- 3t. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Comm. Mental Health, Acct. #10040100-56709 to Youth Projects, Acct. #10040100-58272 – Y&SS

- 3u. Acceptance of donation from "Pavilion of Hope" and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$300 from Revenue, Acct. #2505002-47152 to Donations Parks & Recreation, Acct. #25050050-58830-10174 - Recreation
- 3v. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$650 from Operating Expenses, Acct. #10050050-58735 to Capital, Acct. #TBD - Recreation
- 3w. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,163 from Reg. Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10050050-51000 to Capital Doolittle Park Shade Replacement, Acct. #10050050-57000-01043 - Recreation
- 3x. Acceptance of Donation from Rohm and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 from MRC 2022, Acct. #2504002-47152 and to MRC 2022, Acct. #25040050-58830-TBD – Health Dept.
- 3y. Acceptance of Donation from Rohm and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 from Miscellaneous, Acct. #2502002-47152 to Miscellaneous Donations, Acct. #25020150-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.
- 3z. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$200 from Emergency Management Maintenance of Equipment, Acct. #10010800-54325 to Emergency Management Telephone, Acct. #10010800-53000 – Fire Dept.
- 3aa. Consider and approve Appointment of Robert Gross as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals replacing a vacancy which expires January 8, 2024 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3bb. Approve Town Council Minutes of April 12, 2022 and Special Town Council FY 2022-2023 Budget Minutes of April 12, 2022.

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

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION: PASSED

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, feels a few hundred thousand dollars from ARPA funds should be used to compensate police officers, Public Works, Fire Department, and Town Clerk's office for coming into work during pandemic.

Mr. Gross inquired about Police Department web page and the Mayor said it's nearing completion.

Mr. Gross feels by waiting on the pool we're going to get hammered. He stated bond rating won't matter it will end up costing a lot more money.

Mr. Gross asked Mr. Sena about the \$192,000 self-insurance fund. Mr. Sena indicated he does not have that information and noted that is not on the agenda.

Councilor Zandri stated this is an exercise the Mayor started and we augmented and every action we do with ARPA funds helps every person in this town.

Councilor Allinson stated the average property value is \$190,278 and that a lot of properties are valued more and some valued less.

Councilor Tatta stated \$190,278 is the average assessed value.

Chairman Cervoni stated taxes are based on 70% of appraised value.

Councilor Tatta stated what we have before us is certainly not my plan but is a good product, not perfect, but a good compromise. She went on to state the Mayor's budget is a wonderful starting point.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON:	NO	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	NO	CERVONI:	NO
MARRONE:	YES		
6-AYE			
3-NAY			
MOTION:	PASSED		

II. Councilmember : TATTA

MOVED: TO ADOPT THE TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE BUDGET OF \$ 179,311,265, PER THE CHANGES MADE TO THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET ON THE ATTACHED RECONCILIATION DETAIL SHEET, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022.

Councilmember: ZANDRI seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON:	NO	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	NO	CERVONI:	NO
MARRONE:	YES		
6-AYE			
3-NAY			
MOTION:	PASSED		

III. Councilmember: TATTA

MOVED: ESTABLISH THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AT 28.39 MILLS.

REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES IN EXCESS OF \$100 SHALL BE MADE IN TWO INSTALLMENTS. THE FIRST OF WHICH IS DUE JULY 1, 2022, PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2022. THE SECOND INSTALLMENT SHALL BE DUE JANUARY 1, 2023, PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2023. REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES OF \$100 OR LESS SHALL BE PAID IN ONE INSTALLMENT DUE JULY 1, 2022 AND PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2022 AS PROVIDED BY CONNECTICUT STATUTE, CHAPTER 204, SECTION 12-144.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES SHALL BE MADE IN ONE INSTALLMENT DUE JULY 1, 2022 AND PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2022 AS PROVIDED BY CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE, CHAPTER 204, SECTION 12-144A.

DELINQUENT MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES SHALL BE PAID ONLY IN CASH OR BY CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER AS PROVIDED BY CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE, CHAPTER 204, SECTION 12-146.

PROPERTY TAXES IN AN AMOUNT OF LESS THAN FIVE DOLLARS SHALL BE WAIVED. CHECKS IN PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES WHICH HAVE BEEN RETURNED BY THE BANK SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A THIRTY FIVE DOLLAR (\$35.00) FEE.

Councilmember: FISHBEIN

seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

6-AYE

3-NAY

MOTION: PASSED

IV. Councilmember: TATTA

MOVED: TO ADOPT THE BUDGETS OF THE DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AS HEREIN STATED:

Electric Enterprise Fund

Operating Revenues	<u>\$72,170,905</u>
Operating Expenses	<u>\$72,495,854</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (324,949)</u>
Non-Operating Revenue	<u>\$ 2,603,241</u>
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 150,508</u>
Net Income Before Operating Transfers In (Out)	<u>\$ 2,127,784</u>
Operating Transfers (Out)	<u>(\$1,762,362)</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 365,422</u>
Working Capital: Sources of Funds	<u>\$ 5,861,065</u>
Working Capital: Use of Funds	<u>\$ 5,861,065</u>
Re-appropriation of Prior Years Capital Items	<u>\$ 3,248,047</u>

Water Enterprise Fund

Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 6,908,902</u>
Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 8,390,231</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (1,481,329)</u>
Non-Operating Revenue	<u>\$ 164,700</u>
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 64,100</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$(1,380,729)</u>
Working Capital: Sources of Funds	<u>\$ 2,269,581</u>
Working Capital: Use of Funds	<u>\$ 2,269,581</u>
Re-appropriation of Prior Years Capital Items	<u>\$ 120,000</u>

Sewer Enterprise Fund

Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 8,151,414</u>
Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 10,642,572</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (2,491,158)</u>
Non-Operating Revenue	<u>\$ 385,174</u>
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 989,117</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (3,095,101)</u>
Working Capital: Sources of Funds	<u>\$ 1,639,650</u>
Working Capital: Use of Funds	<u>\$ 1,639,650</u>
Re-appropriation of Prior Years Capital Items	<u>\$ 481,348</u>

Councilmember: FISHBEIN

seconded the motion.

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

V. Councilmember: TATTA

MOVED: TO ADOPT THE BUDGET OF THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,542,362 REVENUES, PER THE CHANGES MADE TO THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET ON THE ATTACHED RECONCILIATION DETAIL SHEET, AND \$1,542,362 EXPENDITURES.

Councilmember: FISHBEIN

seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

8-AYE

1-NAY

MOTION: PASSED

VI. Councilmember: TATTA

FINALIZED BUDGET. TWO TO BE FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK AND ONE TO BE PLACED ON FILE IN THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Councilmember: FISHBEIN

seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: YES

TATTA: YES

CARMODY: YES

TESTA: YES

FISHBEIN: YES

ZANDRI: YES

LAFFIN: YES

CERVONI: NO

MARRONE: YES

8-AYE

1-NAY

MOTION: PASSED

- 7. Discussion and possible action regarding finalizing ARPA Applications – Councilor Laffin

MOTION TO AMEND TO INCLUDE BUILDING WALLINGFORD AND NON-PROFIT ARPA GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS WITH APRIL 12TH MEETING PACKET.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

Attorney Small presented her mark-ups to ARPA applications for Council review.

There was discussion with Councilors and Attorney Small.

Councilor Fishbein stated we specifically voted on “forward looking” projects and he has problems with subcommittee.

Attorney Small stated you are going to have to define “forward looking” and questioned if Council wants to use applications at all.

Mayor expressed concern about “forward looking” and stated we’ve got to know what the losses were.

Councilor Carmody stated he doesn’t think we should give money to businesses just because they lost money; we need to know what they are going to do with the money.

Councilor Testa stated he doesn’t want to see us replacing people’s bank accounts and there are multiple programs that provide for lost incomes.

Councilor Fishbein asked where Mr. Reagan was and Chairman Cervoni stated Mr. Reagan intended to be with us tonight but was unable to. Councilor Fishbein feels we should have some faith in him to put together this document. Attorney Small stated Mr. Reagan did work with these applications and noted that it’s his work product too. She then made comments and edits.

The Mayor suggested language “allow your business to continue”.

Councilor Allinson suggested asking “what do you need for your business to stay open?” and ask open ended questions.

Councilor Carmody stated grants should be project oriented.

Councilor Tatta suggested discussing with Mr. Reagan what other towns used and to send us five examples. She went on to say her issue is that grants will be awarded based upon who is evaluating application and she is not supportive of any application unless rubric is established.

Councilor Laffin doesn't agree with dollar amount cap and he is in favor of moving forward with the draft.

Councilor Testa stated he does not view the non-profit and private businesses equally in terms of reimbursement. He stated organizations taking care of neediest took a big hit and still had to operate with clients needing their services more than ever. Councilor Testa stated he does not think applications for non-profits should be project driven.

Councilor Fishbein has concerns with what Councilor Testa brought up and what ARPA would be paying for.

Councilor Marrone stated philosophically he is where Councilor Tatta is and is not ready to vote.

Tim Ryan, EDC, remarked we are close and very much on the same page. He stated we are not looking to replenish someone's bank account. He urged Council not to support dollar cap and to control cap from committee standpoint. He stated application is not a guarantee of who will get money.

Maria Harlow suggested using non-profit application for businesses. She agrees with Councilor Tatta that the application needs tweaking. She thanked Councilor Testa for worrying about loss of revenue for non-profits and recommends using same application for businesses and non-profits.

Joe Mirra, EDC, stated that grants for non-profits and block grants for small businesses come from hard-working people paying taxes. He said we should look at ARPA funds as an investment in town and application process is not a guaranteed process. Mr. Mirra noted \$7 million to pool gets fuzzy for small businesses.

Ken Welch, Coalition, stated it is frustrating to watch Council talk about this over and over, it's time to move on and noted need is growing every day.

Riley O'Connell remarked this is ARPA Rescue Plan not business rescue plan. He feels we should help the community get back on its feet as a whole. He stated non-profits are most active members of our community and need to establish 100% of non-profits needs are met. He agrees with Councilor Testa this is where we can have the largest impact.

Ms. Gross agrees with caps and stated community projects affect everyone, ball fields are in terrible condition, community pool, etc. and that's what's really important.

Adriana Rodrigues, SCOW, stated her job is to listen to the community and that they are experts and make an impact. She urges Council to remember who needs help the most and stated we need you to support us.

There was further discussion between Attorney Small and Councilor Fishbein.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

3-AYE
6-NAY
MOTION: FAILED

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the use of \$7 million in ARPA funds to add to the presently held funds to complete the Community Pool Project – Councilor Zandri

MOTION WAS MADE TO USE \$7 MILLION IN ARPA FUNDS ADDED TO PRESENTLY HELD FUNDS TO COMPLETE COMMUNITY POOL PROJECT.

MADE BY: ZANDRI
SECONDED BY: TATTA

MOTION TO MODIFY TO USE \$5 MILLION IN ARPA FUNDS ADDED TO PRESENTLY HELD FUNDS TO COMPLETE COMMUNITY POOL PROJECT.

MADE BY: ZANDRI
SECONDED BY: TATTA

The Mayor stated the pool is not in any condition to repair.

Councilor Tatta stated she is not opposed to this and noted a lot of people want the pool. She questions the dollar amount.

Councilor Testa asked if we can force it to be done and if all money for community project will be used for this one thing.

The Mayor stated at the very least, we need to know what applications determine and he does not feel bidding of the pool comes first.

Councilor Marrone said he is in the same quandary Councilor Testa is in, he likes the pool and doesn't want to abandon the pool.

Councilor Laffin doesn't think this is the last chance to get pool done and remarked we can't pull the trigger without the executive branch. He stated it would be easy to bond the project and he is opposed to this.

Councilor Fishbein stated he is frustrated but not discouraged. He went on to say the pool was planned prior to the pandemic and it should be completed. He feels we should put bid back out there. He stated he is in support of this motion.

The Mayor said talk about values, read the description of what ARPA funds are for - the effects of COVID, shutting down of businesses, problems government created.

Councilor Zandri said he has identified what other towns spend ARPA funds on. He went on to say we voted 5 to 4 to do pool and the Mayor vetoed it, now it costs more. He stated there is always a reason we can't do it. He does not believe we will ever have the opportunity to open the pool.

Riley O'Connell stated he values what he saw tonight, democrats and republicans supporting the community. He went on to say there are countless members of the community who can use the pool including children and the elderly. He feels this is the last chance.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

6-AYE

3-NAY

MOTION: PASSED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

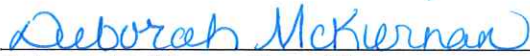
Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

12 July 2022

Date



Deborah McKiernan Town Clerk

July 13, 2022

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD _____
AT _____ AND RECEIVED BY _____
_____ TOWN CLERK

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5-16-22
AT 4:10 P.M. AND RECEIVED BY Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK