

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 22, 2022**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**REVISED RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 was called to order at 6:32 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Craig Fishbein (remote), Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, Jason Zandri, Vincent Testa (remote) and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, was also present.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$697.04 (##316-#323)  
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,720 from Maintenance of Equipment, Acct #10010600-54325 to Election Expenses, Acct. #10010600-58705 - Registrars
- 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$735 from Operating Expenses, Acct. #10050050-58735 to Capital Gymnastics Equipment Wavy Steps, Acct. #TBD – Parks and Recreation
- 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,282 From Operating Expenses, Acct. #10050050-58735 to Capital Gymnastics Equipment Highland Climber, Acct. #TBD – Parks & Recreation
- 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,000 to Purchase Professional Services-Custodial and;
- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$690 to Purchase Professional Services-Boom Truck – Public Works

\$15,690      From: Regular Salaries & Wages      Acct. # 10030000-51000

\$15,000      To: Purchase Prof Serv. Custodial      Acct. #10030000-56736

\$ 690      To: Purchase Prof. Serv.- Boom Truck      Acct. #10030000-56742

- 3g. Budget Amendment in the amount of \$141,600 – Water Div.

- 3h. Acceptance of funds from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for imbursement of services related to infectious disease case management and consider and

approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$888 from Revenue-Misc., Acct. #1009052-47040 to Contingency-Educ./Training Exp., Acct. #10040050-55700 – Health Dept.

- 3i. Consider and approve Town Council Calendar for 2023- Chairman Cervoni
- 3j. Approve Town Council Minutes of November 8, 2022.

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent Agenda Items 3a, 3c.-3d, and 3g.-3j.**

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

**4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:**

- 3b. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,720 from Maintenance of Equipment, Acct #10010600-54325 to Election Expenses, Acct. #10010600-58705.

**MOTION WAS MADE to consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,720.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: ZANDRI**

Ms. Parisi explained the mailing was due to redistricting and there were time constraints. She went on to say that not going out to bid was probably an error on her part. She did not want to disenfranchise voters and didn't want them to go to the wrong polling place. She stated the second mailing helped voters and there were no errors.

Councilor Laffin thanked Registrars for their hard work and doing the best they could with a complicated a situation.

Councilor Carmody agrees with Councilor Laffin.

**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**

- 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,000 to Purchase Professional Services-Custodial and;

- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$690 to Purchase Professional Services- Boom Truck – Public Works

\$15,690 From: Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. # 10030000-51000

\$15,000 To: Purchase Prof Serv. Custodial Acct. #10030000-56736

\$ 690 To: Purchase Prof. Serv.- Boom Truck Acct. #10030000-56742

*In Attendance: Robert Baltramaitis, Director, Public Works*

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,000 to Purchase Professional Services.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**

**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

Mr. Baltramaitis explained he was requesting the transfer to continue the additional cleaning at the Town Hall that was brought in at the start of the pandemic in 2020. He mentioned while working on the current year's budget, he based his allocations on pre COVID specifications. He went on to say all town buildings are cleaned by an outside custodial vendor. The current contract expires this year and will have to be renegotiated for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The Mayor stated once the pandemic hit, he authorized bringing in an additional custodian part-time as well as extending the hours of the full-time custodian by one hour a day. He went on to say in 2020 he authorized the contractual increase of duties to be performed by the existing vendor which permitted moving forward without going out to bid.

Councilor Zandri inquired if you have to go out to bid for additional services. Mr. Baltramaitis stated Purchasing signs off on it.

**MOTION WAS MADE to amend the original motion to require the funds to come of the Town's ARPA funds.**

**MADE BY: MARRONE**

**SECONDED BY: TATTA**

Councilor Carmody asked if this would be routine custodial work and Mr. Baltramaitis stated that is correct.

Councilor Carmody then inquired about the ladies room complaint at the Town Hall. Mr. Baltramaitis explained it was not a lack of cleanliness rather aged materials.

Councilor Laffin thinks the amendment is for discussion for another time and therefore is opposed to this.

Councilor Fishbein is in support of amendment but rejects procedural process.

The Mayor stated we had a second attorney's opinion regarding handling and of ARPA funds and noted the Charter is very clear "For actions within budget year, there must be an Administrative recommendation before something can be appropriated". He went on to state the executive branch must make the request for an appropriation from the ARPA funds. Mayor stated it is not appropriate to do this because transferring funds from ARPA is not on Agenda.

Councilor Allinson does not agree with the amendment and feels the building should be cleaned to a certain standard.

Mayor stated if you don't approve this, there is no other appropriation before you, at this meeting it dies.

The Mayor also stated that we typically do not change an appropriation at a meeting.

Councilor Marrone stated Charter says Council and Mayor and he is in support of amendment.

Bill Comerford, 5 Broadview Drive, asked if this has to do with OSHA Complaint or basically because of COVID. Mr. Baltramaitis answered no.

The Mayor stated this was a COVID Concern, offices stayed open, services were provided and we needed more cleaning. He authorized contractual duties to be done by existing vendor.

#### **VOTE ON AMENDMENT**

##### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

|                  |            |                 |            |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>ALLINSON:</b> | <b>NO</b>  | <b>TATTA:</b>   | <b>YES</b> |
| <b>CARMODY:</b>  | <b>YES</b> | <b>TESTA:</b>   | <b>YES</b> |
| <b>FISHBEIN:</b> | <b>YES</b> | <b>ZANDRI:</b>  | <b>YES</b> |
| <b>LAFFIN:</b>   | <b>NO</b>  | <b>CERVONI:</b> | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>MARRONE:</b>  | <b>YES</b> |                 |            |

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

#### **VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENED**

##### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

|                  |            |                 |            |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>ALLINSON:</b> | <b>NO</b>  | <b>TATTA:</b>   | <b>YES</b> |
| <b>CARMODY:</b>  | <b>YES</b> | <b>TESTA:</b>   | <b>YES</b> |
| <b>FISHBEIN:</b> | <b>YES</b> | <b>ZANDRI:</b>  | <b>YES</b> |
| <b>LAFFIN:</b>   | <b>NO</b>  | <b>CERVONI:</b> | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>MARRONE:</b>  | <b>YES</b> |                 |            |

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Michael Glidden asked who the ADA coordinator is and Mayor responded Joan Stave. Mr. Glidden said sidewalks are unsafe and then asked if there is any action on red building at Doolittle. Mayor stated no action as of yet.

Mr. Comerford inquired about OSHA Complaint. Mayor indicated he stands by what Risk Manger determined. Mr. Comerford stated that an employee showed him filthy vents.

Jim Loughlin, 238 North Main Street, stated he is happy with the building.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding 2023-2026 Contract between the Wallingford Board of Education and the Wallingford Education Association – BOE

*In Attendance: Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent, BOE  
Fran Thompson, Asst. Superintendent, BOE  
Tammy Raccio, BOE Chair*

Mr. Thompson presented the contract between the Wallingford Board of Education and the Wallingford Education Association and stated it's a three year contract ending August 31, 2026. Members were represented by negotiating team and there is a general and step wage increase.

There was discussion regarding details of the contract.

Chairman Cervoni stated this contract will go into effect as Council has taken no action.

7. Consider and approve change of Technology/Administrative Application Technologist Job Description to Data Application Specialist - BOE

*In Attendance: Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent, BOE  
Fran Thompson, Asst. Superintendent, BOE  
Tammy Raccio, BOE Chair*

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve change of Technology/Administrative Application Technologist Job Description to Data Application Specialist.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**

**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

Mr. Thompson spoke about the current job description which was approved in 2013 and noted technology has changed and they amended essential components. He went on to state a college degree is not necessary.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**

**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

**VOTE: ALL AYE**

**MOTION: PASSED**

- 12. Consider and approve the nomination of Maureen Reed to fill the Board of Education position vacated by Patrick Reynolds, effective immediately and for the remainder of the present term – Chairman Cervoni

**MOTION WAS MADE to approve the nomination of Maureen Reed to fill the Board of Education position vacated by Patrick Reynolds, effective immediately and for the remainder of the present term.**

**MADE BY: ZANDRI  
SECONDED BY: CARMODY**

Councilor Zandri thanks Mr. Reynolds for his dedicated service. He then spoke about Maureen Reed and mentioned she has 30 years of experience as an English teacher and assistant principal in Cheshire and has a doctorate in education. He stated she has real world experience.

Councilor Carmody echo’s what Councilor Zandri said and mentioned she has advanced degrees, dedication and a tremendous amount of expertise.

Councilor Testa feels fortunate to have her serve on the Board. He thanked Patrick for his service.

Councilor Laffin thanked Patrick for his service and welcomes Ms. Reed.

Councilor Marrone echo’s Councilor Laffin and noted she is a model board member.

Councilor Allinson thanks Patrick for his service and welcomes Dr. Reed.

Councilor Tatta is impressed with Maureen Reed and welcomes her.

Councilor Fishbein appreciates Patrick and approves the selection of Maureen Reed.

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> | <b>MARRONE: YES</b> |
| <b>ALLINSON: YES</b>   | <b>TATTA: YES</b>   |
| <b>CARMODY; YES</b>    | <b>TESTA: YES</b>   |
| <b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>   | <b>ZANDRI: YES</b>  |
| <b>LAFFIN: YES</b>     | <b>CERVONI: YES</b> |
| <b>9 – AYE</b>         |                     |
| <b>MOTION: PASSED</b>  |                     |

- 8. Discussion and possible action to present and refine the precise documentation needed to submit a finalized and acceptable ARPA application for nonprofit organizations – Councilor Carmody

*In Attendance: Attorney Janis Small*

**MOTION WAS MADE that non-profit organizations with annual revenue less than \$500,000 must provide one of the following types of financial statements in lieu of a recent audited financial statement: 1. a balance sheet; 2. an income statement;**

**3. statement of cash flows; or 4. a statement of functional expenses for 2019, 2020 and 2021.**

**MADE BY: CARMODY  
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

Councilor Carmody stated non-profits reached out to him stating that organizations of a certain size are not required to do an audit. Attorney Small stated if they have an I90 we want that or whatever documentation they are required to submit.

Councilor Fishbein does not know if this would be sufficient.

Councilor Laffin feels this is enough and noted the goal is to give access to these funds.

Councilor Fishbein stated as drafted they would not have to submit all of those documents, they could submit what they claim to be a balance sheet.

Councilor Laffin said that the Committee at any time can request additional information.

Attorney Small stated at some point, we have to have faith that the Committee will ask appropriate questions and that they meet the criteria.

Councilor Tatta suggested using the same form but take out the word "or" and submit all that apply.

Joe Mirra, Chairman, EDC, stated that EDC has been holding meetings and noted these are very small non-profits and can't get an accountant to provide information by deadline.

Riley O'Connell, Edgerton Road, thanks Councilor Carmody and hopes the Town Council will approve this and extend the deadline. He stated some non-profits have chosen not to apply because of this.

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> | <b>MARRONE: YES</b>             |
| <b>ALLINSON: YES</b>   | <b>TATTA: YES</b>               |
| <b>CARMODY: YES</b>    | <b>TESTA: (ABSENT FOR VOTE)</b> |
| <b>FISHBEIN: NO</b>    | <b>ZANDRI: YES</b>              |
| <b>LAFFIN: YES</b>     | <b>CERVONI: YES</b>             |
| <b>7 – AYE</b>         |                                 |
| <b>1 – NAY</b>         |                                 |
| <b>1-ABSENT</b>        |                                 |
| <b>MOTION: PASSED</b>  |                                 |

**MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION to replace 'any' with 'all' and the 'or' in number 4 be changed to 'and'. Not seconded.**

9. Consider and approve ARPA Public Projects Program documents and charge to the Committee – Law Department

*In Attendance: Attorney Janis Small*

**MOTION WAS MADE that the ARPA Review Committee not be allowed to open or review any business or non-profit application unless and until the Mayor has submitted to the Town Council for its consideration, a list of potential public projects totaling at least an estimated \$5 million to be funded with ARPA funds and that this be incorporated into the ARPA Committee's charge.**

**MADE BY: TATTA**

**SECONDED BY: MARRONE**

The Mayor stated the only way money is spent is if Administration and Town Council agree.

Councilor Zandri stated we have discussed this prior and there are entire communities that did not give funds to non-profits and business. He spoke about how this bothers him that we keep coming back to saying Council and Administration have to be in agreement. He remarked fair is the eye of the beholder. He feels we are probably overthinking this.

Councilor Tatta agrees with Councilor Zandri. She stated she takes offense accused of being unkind and unfair. She feels this motion is a good compromise.

Mayor stated if you read the Act there is nothing in that Act that states everyone is entitled to funds. He said to him it's a betrayal of the purpose of federal legislation.

Councilor Tatta said she did read the entire Act.

Councilor Zandri stated it's a permissible use.

Councilor Fishbein stated that's why drafters of Charter did not include Administration in use of grants because ultimately, Town Council makes determination in favor of motion. Councilor Fishbein is in favor of this motion.

Mayor stated two attorneys opinions disagree with that interpretation.

There was further discussion.

Councilor Testa wants to reiterate that he is opposed to this motion. He feels we need to put more trust in one another and get back to what we're supposed to be doing.

Mr. Mirra stated people have gotten disgusted with this process and have walked away from this. He went on to say we should look at the way we are handling this versus other towns. He asked to please not hold them up anymore.

Riley O'Connell stated every person who pays taxes will be helped by town projects.



Mike Brodinsky, Valley View Drive, stated if motion passes, Committee needs clear signal that list of projects has been filed. He went on to ask internally, how does Committee know when green light is on? He remarked most problems in life are caused by bad communications.

Mr. Brodinsky explained applications have nothing to do with need and businesses that don't have need can apply.

Attorney Small stated in two weeks you are going to know what the number is and asked can't that factor into the public programs part of it. She went on to state you can do that, at that point numbers will be real.

Mayor tries to clarify "need" with Mr. Brodinsky.

Mr. Gross spoke about the original intent of legislature being four prongs - water, sewer, broadband and infrastructure. He also stated there are other programs available for businesses.

Mr. Mirra noted they reached out to chambers and SCOW and they reached out to community and are working with Spanish community with applications.

Councilor Tatta stated original motion in August still stands and this should not delay anything. She went on to state this motion takes Committee out of it.

There was further discussion regarding list of town projects.

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b> | <b>MARRONE: YES</b> |
| <b>ALLINSON: NO</b>    | <b>TATTA: YES</b>   |
| <b>CARMODY; YES</b>    | <b>TESTA: NO</b>    |
| <b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>   | <b>ZANDRI: YES</b>  |
| <b>LAFFIN: NO</b>      | <b>CERVONI: NO</b>  |
| <b>5 – AYE</b>         |                     |
| <b>4 – NAY</b>         |                     |
| <b>MOTION: PASSED</b>  |                     |

11. Discussion and possible action in recognizing and honoring the longtime community service of former Town Councilor Iris Papale – Councilor Carmody and Councilor Testa

**MOTION WAS MADE to name the Wallingford Senior Center Building, located at 238 Washington Street, in honor of Iris Papale and authorize the Committee on Aging to plan the implementation of the naming of the building over the next six month timeframe.**

**MADE BY: CARMODY**  
**SECONDED BY: TESTA**

Councilor Carmody spoke of Iris in that she is a true friend and first woman elected to Town Council. He went on to say for 32 years she served on many committees until the end of her life.

She had great ethics, morals & values. She respected every individual she ever met and we could all learn a lot from Iris. He then thanked Iris' family.

Chairman Cervoni said he has known her as long as he lived in town and they had common friends. She always had encouraging words and it was always a joy to see her. He feels this motion is appropriate, fitting and an honor.

Councilor Testa is honored to speak in support of Councilor Carmody's motion. He said he could never thank Iris enough for what she did for Wallingford and he is happy we can do what we're doing.

Councilor Laffin stated no-one could ever say enough good things about Iris. He is in support of this motion.

Councilor Tatta said she didn't know Ms. Papale as long but she was a supportive, real sweet, kind and compassionate person. She feels this is a very fitting tribute to her.

Councilor Zandri said he has known Iris his whole life. She was always there, always seeing her somewhere, doing something. He feels this is a great way to pay tribute to a great citizen of this town.

Mayor stated he agrees with all of the Councilors and went on to state that Iris was kind and caring all the time.

Councilor Fishbein said he knew Iris all his life as a kid and remarked Aunt Iris was everywhere. He feels this is a fantastic idea and hopes the Senior Center explains all great things Iris did for the town.

Liz Verna, Maplewood Road, reads letters from Dale Wilson and Bob Parisi and spoke about Iris (attached).

Jim Fitzsimmons, North Main Street, Thanks Town Council and spoke about his friendship with Iris.

Maria Harlow stated she whole heartedly supports this and mentioned that Iris was on the SCOW Board.

Kathleen Romania, 126 Grove Street, supports this proposal.

Mary Mushinsky supports proposal and feels this is a wonderful idea.

Ray Ross, Center Street, speaks kindly about Iris.

Former Councilor Zappala speaks about his friendship with Iris.

Jerry Farrell, Jr., North Elm Street, tells tory about his friendship with Iris.

Iris' daughter Linda thanks Council for this consideration.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**            **MARRONE: YES**  
**ALLINSON: YES**            **TATTA: YES**  
**CARMODY: YES**            **TESTA: YES**  
**FISHBEIN: YES**            **ZANDRI: YES**  
**LAFFIN: YES**            **CERVONI: YES**  
**9 – AYE**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the re-creation of the Town of Wallingford Maintenance Advisory Committee – Councilor Zandri

**MOTION TO create a Committee to appoint a Town Council Subcommittee to examine the issue of creating a Building Committee chaired by Councilor Zandri.**

**MADE BY: ZANDRI**  
**SECONDED BY: CARMODY**

Councilor Zandri said there has been a lot of discussion of whether this is needed and he brought it back to move forward or put it to bed. He feels there are a lot of positives if done right.

Councilor Carmody feels we could use help to maintain town facilities.

Councilor Allinson is not in favor and stated in her opinion, if we are doing our job, she doesn't agree with creating yet another commission.

Councilor Laffin agrees with Councilor Allinson.

Councilor Marrone feels we need more information about what our bigger needs are and stated this is worth a shot.

Councilor Testa is in favor of this. He feels this is a good idea and could be effective.

Councilor Fishbein mentioned constant problems with infrastructure around town, residents who pay taxes are appalled with condition of restroom and serious problems with parks. He stated something has to be done.

Councilor Zandri suggested to bring to ordinance to discuss.

Chairman Cervoni suggested Council appointment right here. He stated Council Committee will decide on make-up of Committee.

Councilor Tatta stated it sounds like you have the support tonight.

The Mayor stated we will have to post meetings and minutes.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about the make-up of prior Committee.

There was further discussion on the make-up of Committee.

**MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: MARRONE**  
7 – AYE  
2 – NAY  
**MOTION: PASSED**

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**  
**ALLINSON: YES**  
**CARMODY; YES**  
**FISHBEIN: YES**  
**LAFFIN: YES**  
8 – AYE  
1 – NAY  
**MOTION: PASSED**

**MARRONE: YES**  
**TATTA: YES**  
**TESTA: YES**  
**ZANDRI: YES**  
**CERVONI: NO**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff

Meeting digitally recorded

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12-12-22  
AT 10:20 a.m. AND RECEIVED BY  
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK

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

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

Iris Papale is one of the nicest, warmest, faithful friend that anyone could have.

She was always ready to help someone in need and was always compassionate about someone else's problems.

I enjoyed a very special relationship with Iris that started in eighth grade and one we shared thought out our lives until she passed.

I commend the Wallingford Town Council for this action, although it is long overdue.

I miss Iris to this day and often times in the afternoon think of the good times we shared.

May she Rest in Peace and I want to thank her for the memories she gave me.

November 21, 2022

To: William Dickinson, Jr., Mayor of Wallingford  
Vincent Cervoni, Town Council Chairman  
Town Councilors

I am writing this letter in support of renaming the Wallingford Senior Center to the Iris Papale Senior Center. I believe that it would be a wonderful tribute to Iris Papale. Iris epitomized what a leader and a Town Councilor should be. She listened; she cared; she tried to help, and if she was unable to help, she would clearly explain why. What more could you ask from a town leader? A very simple philosophy but a very powerful one.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Iris for nearly 40 years, as a Town Councilor and, more importantly, as a friend. I knew how proud she was of the Wallingford Senior Center. We are very fortunate that the leaders of Wallingford continue to fund such a vital program in our town. Iris would have been so honored and humbled to have the Senior Center named after her. This would mean her legacy in Wallingford would live on forever. Iris' family, friends, and constituents would always be reminded of her when they visit the center.

In closing, I would like to add that I can't think of a better person who is more deserving of this gesture. If we think of all the contributions Iris has made to the town of Wallingford during her time as Town Councilor it is an easy and meaningful decision. I enthusiastically support the naming of the Wallingford Senior Center to be the Iris Papale Senior Center. I strongly feel the town of Wallingford is a special place and this action would make it even more special.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter; I'm sorry I couldn't be there myself.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Wilson  
Former Superintendent of Schools, Town of Wallingford