

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

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

6:30 P.M.

FY 2023 – 2024 BUDGET

MINUTES

The Special Town council Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 was called to order at 6:02 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were, Joseph Marrone, Christina Tatta, Jason Zandri, and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilor Vincent Testa arrived at approximately 6:52 p.m. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller, Timothy Sena were also present.

- 1. Moment of Silence
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

- 3. FY 2023-2024 Budget

Chairman Cervoni asked for questions from the Public and Town Council for the following departments:

Public Celebrations – No questions

EDC (Economic Development Commission) – No questions

Veterans Center – No questions

Senior Center – No questions

Parks & Rec – No questions

Wallingford Center, Inc.

In attendance was Jeff Knickerbocker – President, Liz Davis - Executive Director, and Marge Abbagnaro -Treasurer

Councilor Tatta asked about the Capital and Street scape funds and the balance for the current year. What happens to that money if not expended by end of this fiscal year? Ms. Abbagnaro stated that the balance will be spent this year on replacing all the wreaths for the town center at a

cost of \$40K. They plan to purchase all new flags throughout the town center with the funds for FY 23-24. No more snowflakes.

WCI Capital/Façade

In attendance was Jeff Knickerbocker – President, Liz Davis - Executive Director, and Marge Abbagnaro -Treasurer

Councilor Tatta asked the same question for the facade program. What happens to the current years balance? Mr. Sena stated that any monies for the facade program that is not spent will go back into the General Fund, these transactions are reimbursements. Ms. Davis stated that the monies up through June 2023 will be spent. Mr. Knickerbocker said that WCI is back to business as usual. Councilor Tatta stated the P&L that they submitted included \$40.5K towards Celebrate Wallingford Event and asked if Public Celebrations is involved with this event. Ms. Davis stated that Public Celebrations traditionally do not collaborate on that event. They usually get involved more with the Holiday Stroll, but if they would like to help out they would not decline. She is looking to sit down with Ms. Gallagher to discuss collaborating more.

Councilor Tatta asked about the Digital Marketing spending. Mr. Knickerbocker stated that they use an independent contractor for this service and it has been very beneficial for the town center businesses.

Historic Program Match – No questions

Councilor Testa arrived at approximately 6:52pm.

Center Street Cemetery – No questions

Columbus House – No questions

SCOW (Spanish Community of Wallingford)

In attendance was Adriana Rodriguez - Executive Director, Jeffrey Neccio – President, and Steve Knight – Treasurer

Councilor Tatta asked about the \$35K that they are spending out of their reserves. Ms. Rodriguez stated that they are not certain if they will be receiving State Grant Funds. Mr. Knight stated that the State is still analyzing what applications will be funded. If they receive the state funds then they will maintain their reserve levels at a minimum of 6 months coverage and 9 months is more sensible. And not have to dip into the reserves. There is an informal agreement that if the state funding comes through then they may not need the full \$50K requested from the town and are open to discussion. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the \$50K would be beneficial to continue to provide the volume of services they currently have and grow even more. Councilor Tatta also asked what their agreement is with the town for the facility and if it's separate from STEM's agreement with the town. There was a brief discussion regarding the improvements to the building that is in Public Works budget for the roof. These improvements are exterior only, not interior.

Councilor Zandri stated that if the \$50K budget requested is approved and SCOW receives the

state funds, he would rather see them use the funds from the town budget and approach the Town Council for an additional project of good use, than give the funds back to the town.

Councilor Testa stated that this is more of a philosophical decision for the town. It is impossible to quantify or justify their services. It is more about acknowledging what they do for the community. With that said, can they explain the relationship between SCOW and STEM Academy? There was some discussion regarding how STEM came about and what people, departments, and agencies were involved. STEM is their own organization that recently obtained their own 501c(3), that rent space at the SCOW facility. SCOW and STEM use the facility in coordination together by sharing spaces for certain programs. Mayor Dickinson clarified that STEM Academy started with Chris Stone, Youth and Social Services, and previous Director Craig Turner. It was never out of the school system. They are separate entities that support and benefit each other's services.

Councilor Marrone thanked SCOW for their relationship with the community and appreciates their outreach and services. Thank you for the contributions you make to the community, the money they receive is well spent.

Mayor Dickinson stated that SCOW is now offering services to 2 new families per week. That alone is significant within the town, and provides a great deal of comfort knowing that SCOW is available for these families and shows how much they are needed.

Chairman Cervoni stated that there is no further business.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Stacey Hoppes

Program Planning Secretary

Vincent Cervoni, Chair

23 MAY 2023

Date

Joan M. Stave, Acting Town Clerk

6/1/23

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-19-23
AT 1:30 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKernan TOWN CLERK
Joan M. Stave, Acting Town Clerk

30.

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

TUESDAY

APRIL 25, 2023

6:30 P.M. or Immediately Following the Regular Town Council Meeting

FY 2023-2024 BUDGET

AGENDA

Councilors in attendance were, Autumn Allinson, Sam Carmody, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W Dickinson, Jr., and Comptroller, Timothy Sena, were also present.

Due to there being no questions from Town Council for these departments the meeting was cancelled. Chairman Cervoni thanked the respective staff for their attendance.

Registrar of Voters

Human Resources

Risk Management

Pension

Insurance Property/Casualty

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-30-23
AT 1:00 P.M. AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKernan TOWN CLERK
Joan M. Stave, Acting Town Clerk