

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers

February 14, 2012

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Thomas Laffin, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Councilor Craig C. Fishbein was absent. It was announced that Councilor John LeTourneau would be late in arriving. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

The Opening Prayer was offered by the Reverend Dean Warburton of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$24,461.27 (#452 - #506)
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
- 3b.** Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$5,000 to Fuel Crisis Program Acct # 10040150-58220 from General Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820
- Mayor
- 3c.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$700 to Gas & Diesel
Acct # 10020100-53100 from Operating Expenses Acct # 10020100-58735
- Animal Control
- 3d.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$1,200 to 2-22 Ton Air Jacks
Acct \$ 10030000-57000 from Maintenance of Vehicles Acct # 10030000-54320
- Public Works
- 3e.** Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$37,500 to
Outside Services Employed Acct # 43100923 and to Appropriation from Cash
- Water Division
- 3f.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$15,000 to Maintenance of
Collection Impounding Reservoirs Acct # 43100612 from Power Purchased for Pumping
Acct # 43100612 - Water Division
- 3g.** Set a Public Hearing for February 28, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. to Amend Chapter 43, Purchasing,
he Code of the Town of Wallingford, §43-2.B., §43-11.S, §43-12.A and §43-12B

- 3h.** Acceptance and Appropriation of \$700,000 Small Cities Grant 2011 to Revenue-State Grant Acct # 2484002-45100 and to Expenditures: Construction \$633,00 Acct #4880050-4550, \$2,000 Program Acct # 24880050-58830 and \$65,000 Administration Acct # 4880050-58590 – Program Planning
- 3i.** Consider and Approve Resolution authorizing the Town to enter into and deliver to the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, including the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate and authorize the Mayor to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Wallingford and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents - Mayor
- 3j.** Consider and Approve the Appointment of Robert P. Blanchard to the Pension Commission to fill a vacancy which will expire December 31, 2012 - Mayor
- 3k.** Consider and Approve the Appointment Gary Draghi to the Pension Commission to fill a vacancy which will expire December 31, 2017 - Mayor
- 3l.** Consider and Approve the Appointment of Stacy Voss to the Planning and Zoning Commission as an Alternate for a Term Expiring January 8, 2015
– Chairman Robert F. Parisi
- 3m.** Consider and Approve an extension of a 10-year License Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and Fred M. Valenti regarding encroachment of his building located at 800 South Colony Road on to Town property – Corporation Counsel
- 3n.** Consider and Approve bid waiver request for Hurst Hydraulic Rescue Tool Fittings in the Amount of \$4,455 – Fire Chief
- 3o.** Approve Minutes of Town Council meeting of January 24, 2012

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA 3a. to 3n.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: All Aye of Councilors present (7)

MOTION PASSED.

The Town Clerk, Barbara Thompson, swore in Robert P. Blanchard and Gary Draghi to the Pension Commission. Stacey Voss was not in attendance.

Councilor Cervoni stated the minutes of January 24, 2012 meeting will be re-presented on the February 28, 2011 agenda, with a correction.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, spoke again about the issue of safety as it relates to street lamps that are out and asked the Mayor if he felt this was a safety issue and if the Police Department could help in reporting lights that are out. It seems as if they are not now helping with this task.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked if Boards and Commission could come before the Town Council and report their activity to the Council. He also suggested that non-profit organizations; tax-exempt companies, corporations schools be approached to help out with the payment of taxes to the town to relieve the tax burden as some cities, such as Providence, R.I., are now doing. Chairman Parisi stated that large corporations in the town do contribute to organizations in the town. Mayor Dickinson responded that he thinks that budgets need to be based as much as possible on recurring income. He said that the town has been gifted in the past with such things as ambulances.

Ray Ross, Silver Pond Apartments, spoke about the landfill and problems with lifting and that there is no help to do this. Mayor Dickinson said that there is a ready-to-be-constructed, fully designed transfer station that will hopefully be build this spring.

6. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$15,000 to Maintenance of Signals Acct # 10030050-54305 from General Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 – Engineering

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 TO MAINTENANCE OF SIGNALS ACCT. # # 10030050-54305 FROM GENERAL CONTINGENCY ACCT. # 10019000-58820 - ENGINEERING

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

In attendance: John Thompson, Town Engineer

Mr. Thompson recalled the Budget Workshop for the current Fiscal Year 2011-2012, when he was asked what would happen, or what would be the consequences if this said account was reduced from \$17,000 to \$12,000. Mr. Thompson recalled that he replied that he would return to the Council for additional funds provided the budgeted funds of \$12,000 were expended. He stated that this is why he is making this request this evening.

There were no comments from the Council or from the Public.

VOTE: All Aye of Councilors present (7)

MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion and Possibly Action on approving the Town Council's *Rules of Procedure* for the 2012-2014 Term.

Councilor Cervoni stated that in a prior Town Council meeting there was some discussion about the problem of some of the committees being unable to go forward as a result of attendance issues and possibly addressing the attendance requirements for those committees or the size of those committees. He continued that in response to that, although he is not here tonight, Councilor Fishbein had proposed an amendment to our rules. For the record, he read the proposed amendment:

At the discretion of the Council Chairman, or upon the affirmative vote of at least five (5) Councilors, the Town Council shall have sub-Committees. It is anticipated that during the current term there shall be (at least) the following sub-Committees: an Ordinance Committee and a Merit Review Committee. The Ordinance Committee shall be made up of the whole of the Council. A quorum of the Ordinance Committee shall be five (5) Councilors, and all matters acted upon by a simple majority. The Merit Review Committee shall be comprised of three (3) members of the Council, selected by the Council Chairman. A quorum of the Merit Review Committee shall be two (2) Councilors and all matters acted upon by a simple majority.

Councilor Cervoni offered the proposed amendment just read for discussion.

Councilor Laffin said he doesn't think the amendment is necessary. The Rules as proposed and that have been practiced for a while stipulate, if it is not mentioned explicitly, that *Roberts Rules of Order* reign. In this case a quorum is simply a majority of people, more people present than not, and that is basically what the amendment is proposing. We don't need to add anything and can leave it as it is. And it mentions committees that have yet to be officially established.

Councilor Cervoni indicated how it would work mathematically in referring to what Mr. Laffin stated. He said if there were five members at a committee meeting, we would be able to open the committee meeting, conduct business and vote on items. As example, at an Ordinance Committee meeting, we would be able to vote on things to advance to the Town Council's agenda. Mr. Laffin agreed and added that for the Merit Committee, only two would need to be present.

There were no other comments from the Council or from the public.

Chairman Parisi stated that he thinks that this came from the Corporation Counsel. Mayor Dickinson asked if *Roberts Rules of Order* were adopted in the Town Council's *Rules of Procedure* as the Bible for procedure. Councilor Cervoni pointed out Rule II and read the following in answer to the Mayor.

- II. Except as otherwise specified in this procedure, the order of all Council meetings will be conducted at the discretion of the Chairman, or in his/her absence or inability to serve, the Vice-Chairman, with Robert's Rules of Order (as amended) as a guide.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL'S *Rules of Procedure* FOR THE 2012-2014 AS PRESENTED.

**MADE BY: CERVONI:
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

VOTE: All Aye of Councilors present (7)

MOTION PASSED.

8. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.

MADE BY: FARRELL
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: UNANIMOUS - ALL AYE/7
MOTION PASSED

Councilor Letourneau arrived during the Executive Session at approximately 7:10 P.M.

MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

MADE BY: FARRELL
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: UNANIMOUS - ALL AYE/8
MOTION PASSED

EXECUTIVE SESSION ATTENDANCE: Cervoni, Economopoulos, Laffin, Letourneau, Rascati, Sullivan, Chairman Parisi, Mayor Dickinson and Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. Councilor LeTourneau entered the session at approximately 7:10 P.M.

TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:50 P.M. – 7:20 P.M.

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: UNANIMOUS - ALL AYE/COUNCILORS PRESENT-8
MOTION PASSED

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date