

31.

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers
November 28, 2017**

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 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: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Vincent Testa, Jr. and Jason Zandri. Councilor John J. Sullivan was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Corporation Counsel Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes (arrived at 6:35 p.m.) were also present at the meeting.

Moment of Silence

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$8,117.63 (#492-543)
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$6,500 from Contingency, Acct. #1001-9000-58820 to Office Expenses – Town Clerk, Acct. #1001-0650-56100 – Town Clerk
- 3c. Acceptance of Donation from the Estate of Rose M. Mazerolle in the amount of \$377.95 to Animal Control Trust Fund – Animal Control
- 3d. Acceptance of Donations and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,153 to Revenue/Donations, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3e. Acceptance of Donations and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$885 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3f. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$35 to Revenue, Acct. #2524002-47040 and to Expenditures, Acct. #25240150-58830 – 350 Jubilee Committee
- 3g. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$584 to Revenue – Misc., Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Continuing Education & Training, Acct. #10020050-55700 – Police Department
- 3h. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$267 from Revenue – Misc., Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Continuing Education & Training, Acct. #10020050-55700 – Police Department
- 3i. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,428 from Zero Turn Mower, Acct. #10030000-57000-00649 to Skid Steer w/attach, Acct. #10030000-57000-00643 – Public Works
- 3j. Consider and Approve Town Council 2018 Meeting Calendar – Town Clerk

- 3k. Approve Town Council Minutes of November 14, 2017.

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

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

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Opened Public Question & Answer Period at 6:33 p.m.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked if Mr. Bowes would be attending. He then asked if we are bonding for the police radio and if we know the rates on the bonds. Mayor Dickinson responded no.

Mr. Bowes arrived and stated the bonds are about ¼ percent higher than a year ago about 1 ¾% a year.

Mr. Gross then asked how much money we have sitting to keep our Triple A rating and Mr. Bowes answered about 10% of our budget.

Closed Public Question and Answer Period at 6:41 p.m.

6. Presentation-recap of Healthy Wallingford and new initiative “Eat, Play, Unplug” – Health, Y&SS

*In Attendance: Eloise Hazelwood, Director of Health
Dr. Salvatore F. Menzo, Superintendent of Schools*

Mrs. Hazelwood gave the presentation and stated they were looking to mirror what the State was doing. Dr. Menzo followed suit in the schools and they came up with the logo “Eat, Play & Unplug” Choose Kindness.

A short video was presented and Mrs. Hazelwood asked that everyone in the community try to participate in acts of kindness.

Chairman Cervoni thanked Mrs. Hazelwood and Dr. Menzo for their efforts and a great presentation.

7. Consider and Approve Management Agreement between Town of Wallingford and Center Street Cemetery Association for the management of the Center Street Cemetery – Law Dept.

In Attendance: Janis Small, Corporation Counsel

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF WALLINGFORD AND CENTER STREET CEMETERY ASSOCIATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER STREET CEMETERY.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU**

Attorney Small explained that with the development of the property on Prince Street, this brings the property to modern times and the Agreement provides for the town to fund in the same manner it does today.

Councilor Fishbein asked if there was legal representation on behalf of the cemetery and Attorney Small replied no and stated she drafted it. He then asked what the local requirements were and Attorney Small stated that she is not sure there are any. Councilor Fishbein questioned what they are supposed to be maintaining. Attorney Small asked Councilor Fishbein if he wanted an itemized list and she went on to say she would think they maintain the headstones, the grounds and whatever else a cemetery does to maintain. Councilor Fishbein mentioned it says Public Works will help and Attorney small stated Public Works will provide assistance upon request.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: NO	SULLIVAN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: YES	CERVONI: YES
7-AYE; 1-NAY	
1-ABSENT	
MOTION: PASSED	

8. Consider and Approve a bid waiver to hire Epic Masonry to complete repairs on the Center Street Cemetery wall for a cost not to exceed \$19,640 – Law Dept.

In Attendance: Janis Small, Corporation Counsel

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE A BID WAIVER TO HIRE EPIC MASONRY TO COMPLETE REPAIRS ON THE CENTER STREET CEMETERY WALL FOR A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$19,640.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU**

Attorney Small spoke about the development of the new building on Prince Street. She stated that we received a State Grant for wall repairs and that she had a local company look at the wall and they gave her a list and estimates. She asked the State Historic Preservation office if they were an approved contractor and they were. She also asked if this work would suffice with the repair work and she implied the State thought it would.

Councilor Testa stated he does not have a problem with this but asked who cut the wall in the first place. Attorney Small stated it was part of the design on the Prince Street project. Councilor Testa then asked why this had to be reviewed by the State and Attorney Small responded the only reason it was reviewed is because we are using State grant money.

Councilor LeTourneau asked if this is the first time Epic Masonry worked on the wall and Attorney Small answered yes she is under that impression.

Councilor Fishbein asked if they are fixing previous repairs and Attorney Small responded no.

Attorney Fishbein asks why this project when put out to bid in 2012, three bidders bid on it, but the bid was awarded to a company from the Bronx that did not bid on the project. He then mentions that Epic Masonry, in their report, states that the previous work done by the Bronx company was bad workmanship. Attorney Small stated she is not involved in the bidding process.

Councilor Testa stated he is confused with where Councilor Fishbein is going with this.

Councilor Laffin thought we should just go forward with this bid and if we need to pursue going after someone to resolve getting funds back, we can do that later.

Councilor Zandri asked if we don't do this work, do we lose the grant? Attorney Small responded yes, worst case scenario. He then confirmed if there is someone to go after later, we actually have documentation of the repairs and Attorney Small answered yes.

Bruce Conroy, Burke Heights Drive, questioned the allegations of the need to be repaired and asked if we had a structural engineer look at it. Attorney Small stated no one has suggested that we need a structural engineer.

Mr. Gross has an issue with the transparency when we don't go out to bid.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, wanted to remind everyone that in 2012 Steve Lazarath had donated his time and drew the rendering of this project but the Council went out to bid anyway and Mr. Lazarath wound up winning the bid.

James Hine, South Elm Street, questioned if anyone from the State indicated that they would withdraw the funding if there is no resolution tonight. Attorney Small stated she does not know about tonight but we have to resolve the issue. She went on to say we have had many extensions and we need to get approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

FISHBEIN: NO
LAFFIN: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES
MARRONE: YES

7-AYE; 1-NAY

1-ABSENT

MOTION: PASSED

SHORTELL: YES

SULLIVAN: ABSENT

TESTA: YES

ZANDRI: YES

CERVONI: YES

- 9. Consider and Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and State Historic Preservation Office regarding the Center Street Cemetery wall repairs – Law Dept.

In Attendance: Janis Small, Corporation Counsel

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN AND STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE REGARDING THE CENTER STREET CEMETERY WALL REPAIRS.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU**

Councilor Fishbein asked when this will begin and when it will be completed. Attorney Small answered shortly. He then asked if we will get a warranty and Attorney Small responded that we will work on that.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: NO	SULLIVAN: ABSENT
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: YES	CERVONI: YES
7-AYE; 1-NAY	
1-ABSENT	
MOTION: PASSED	

- 10. Presentation – report regarding the financial impact of the adopted State of CT budget and subsequent Governor’s actions on the Town of Wallingford 17-18 budget – Mayor

In Attendance: James Bowes, Comptroller

Mr. Bowes explained that the State has gone through 6 versions of a budget and wanted to bring everyone up to date. He stated that nothing is set in stone yet so the grants may change.

Mr. Bowes thinks that he will be back in front of us again because nothing is set in stone at the State level and the grants have not been computed yet so they may change still. He compares last year’s grant money to this year’s grant money.

Last year we received \$25 million, this year we budgeted \$21 million based on the Governor’s original budget. As of now, the Town is slated to receive \$600,000 more than budgeted; however, “holdbacks” could be larger if the State revenues do not come in.

Mr. Bowes mentioned that the State is mandating that we pay for one half of the renters rebate program and that it is only half funded at the State level and our grant will be reduced. Our maximum contribution will be \$250,000 per year.

Councilor Fishbein stated that renters rebate is not part of holdback and Mr. Bowes confirmed that is correct.

11. Executive Session pursuant to Section 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 MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:37 P.M.

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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 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 MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:50 P.M.

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

Time of Executive Session 8:37 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

FISHBEIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN	CORPORATION COUNSEL JANIS SMALL
LETOURNEAU	COMPTROLLER JAMES BOWES
MARRONE	
SHORTELL	
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED

The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

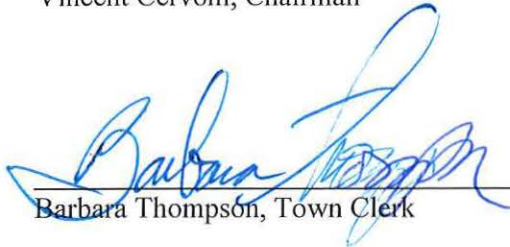
Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

12 DEC 2017

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

12-12-17

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12-1-17
AT 11:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK