

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

February 22, 2011

MINUTES and RECORD OF VOTES

ATTENDANCE:

Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M.

1. Opening Prayer was given by The Reverend Dean Warburton of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford.
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#551- #576) totaling \$23,772.51
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and Approve Request for use of Parade Grounds by Yalesville/Wallingford Lions Club Inc. on Saturday, September 10, 2011 from approximately 9:00 A.M. to Noon – Mayor
 - 3c. Acceptance of Donation and Appropriation in the Amount of \$259 to Youth and Social Services Special Fund Donations Acct # 213-1042-070-7010 and to Expenditures Acct # 213-070-600-6000 – Youth and Social Services
 - 3d. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety Grant and Appropriation in the Amount of \$2,122 to Revenue Highway Safety Acct # 001-1050-050-5883 and to Police Overtime Acct # 001-2005-101-1400 – Police Chief
 - 3e. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$1,450 to Self-Insurance Claims Acct # 001-1603-800-8280 from Contingency #001-7060-800-3190 – Town Attorney
 - 3f. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$10,000 to Purchased Professional Services-Negotiations Acct # 001-1300-9002-00 from Contingency-General Acct # 001-7060-800-3190-00 – Mayor
 - 3g. Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$3,000 to Maintenance Structures & Improvements Acct # 431-8640-651 from Transportation Equipment Acct # 433-9012-392 – Water Division
 - 3h. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$40,000 to Injuries and Damages Acct # 431-8920-925 from Employee Pension & Benefits Acct # 431-8920-926 -Water Division
 - 3i. Consider and Approve job description revision for position of *Stock Supervisor* -Electric Division/Personnel
 - 3j. Approve with regret the resignation of Tom Vitali from the Vo-Ag Building Committee effective immediately – Chairman Robert F. Parisi
 - 3k. Approve with regret the resignation of Fred Monahan as a Commissioner of the Wallingford Housing Authority effective immediately – Chairman Robert F. Parisi

- 3l. Approve minutes of Regular Town Council meeting of February 8, 2011

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

NONE

WAIVE RULE V

Consider and Approve a Request for Bid Waiver for East PBE, Inc. to rent a Wheel Loader in the amount of \$2,100 – Public Works

MOTION to Waive Rule V for the purpose of taking up a Bid Waiver request from Public Works.

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

MOTION to Approve a Request for Bid Waiver for East PBE, Inc. to rent a Wheel Loader in the amount of \$2,100 as requested by Public Works.

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati

Mr. Farrell read the memorandum from Mr. McCully explaining that the department's pay loader is overheating, and that even after some repairs in the Public Works garage the equipment is still overheating. Mr. McCully would like to rent the wheel loader while the pay loader is being repaired. Henry McCully, Director Public Works, explained that the repair would take about two days at the cost of \$3,000 which he has in his budget. There was some discussion as to why a bid waiver since the cost is under \$4,000.

VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

WAIVE RULE V

Set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. to discuss the 2011 Community Development Block Grant Program and to solicit citizen input regarding the 2011 Grant – Grants Administrator

MOTION to Waive Rule V for the purpose of setting a Public Hearing on March 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. with regard to the Community Development Block Grant Program

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

MOTION to Set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. to discuss the 2011 Community Development Block Grant Program and to solicit citizen input regarding the 2011 Grant as requested by the Grants Administrator

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati

Mr. Farrell read Mr. Roe's letter, which stated that the grant program would address roof and basement projects at the Wallingford Housing Authority's moderate rental units. Southside Terrace would benefit with the installation of a new alarm system.

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

VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

Chairman Parisi read correspondence from Robert Prentice stating his resignation as Commissioner of the Wallingford Housing Authority effective immediately.

5. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6) (D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with regard to strategy and negotiations with respect to Collective Bargaining – Board of Education

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to §1-200 (6) (D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with regard to strategy and negotiations with respect to Collective Bargaining

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

THE COUNCIL ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:45 P.M.

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

THE COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:41 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Town Council (9), Mayor Dickinson, Superintendent Salvatore Menzo, Assistant Superintendent Jan Guarino, Roxanne McKay, Vice Chairperson, Board of Education, Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director

Chairman Parisi acknowledged Boy Scout, Tyler DeLaurentis, who was attending the meeting as part of earning the Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. He thanked him for attending the meeting.

6. Discussion and Possible Action regarding UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 18B, Computer Techs Union, effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013– Board of Education

Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools
Jan Guarino, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel
Roxanne McKay, Vice-Chairwoman, Board of Education

Town Councilors expressed their thoughts of responsibility to the taxpayers, feelings of being struck with the system and explained how they arrived at their own decision with regard to approval, or not, of the proposed contracts. Discussion encompassed strong feelings with regard to the state of the economy, Connecticut unemployment, costs and past results of arbitration, cost of retro pay, the need to negotiate in good faith, union health care concessions, the representation of a change due to the loss of \$4 million in the Grand List and the resulting need to raise taxes.

Mayor Dickinson stated that the reduction of one (1) mill is going into this budget, adding that arbitrators do not understand the proper management of money. The State of Connecticut has difficulties that are now our difficulties. He explained that this is not a climate to approve increases. On his wish list are three zeroes, or zero for one year with a re-opener, which yield wages that the town can afford to pay.

The total increase for three contracts for three years is \$133,000.

The system was addressed. Mr. Farrell said that with his experience in Hartford that the possibilities of the system changing are nil. Mr. Economopoulos offered the suggestion of having a financial group to manage finances in the 16 units in the municipal section in a restructuring system with people who attend negotiations and who are expert in salaries, pensions, insurance and who are expert in the re-design of jobs and departments.

Members of the public who commented: Ben Martin, Ward Street; Paul Ciardullo, 2 Bayberry Drive; Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Drive and Wayne Gilbert, representing the three unions.

- 7. Discussion and Possible Action regarding UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 31, Clerical Union, effective October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2013– Board of Education
- 8. Discussion and Possible Action regarding UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 18, Management Union, effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013– Board of Education

MOTION to Approve three contracts as requested by the Board of Education as follows:

- 6. **UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 18B, Computer Techs Union, effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013**
- 7. **UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 31, Clerical Union, effective October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2013**
- 8. **UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 18, Management Union, effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013**

MADE BY: Testa
SECONDED BY: Councilor John Sullivan

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>Cervoni</u> No	<u>Economopoulos</u> Yes	<u>Farrell</u> Yes	<u>Fishbein</u> No	<u>LeTourneau</u> Yes
<u>Rascati</u> No	<u>Sullivan</u> Yes	<u>Testa</u> Yes	<u>Chairman Parisi</u> No	

Five (5) Aye; Four (4) Nay

MOTION PASSED

9. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER

Paul Ciardullo, 2 Bayberry Drive,

Wesley Lubee, 15 Montowese Trail

Two more Boy Scouts came to the microphone to tell the Town Council that they were also in the process of earning their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. Chairman Parisi acknowledged them and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road

10. Discussion and possible action on soliciting audit(s) and recommendation(s) relative to municipal telephone services. – Councilor Craig C. Fishbein

As an employee of AT & T, Councilor Sullivan recused himself from the discussion.

Mr. Fishbein, Co-Chair Information Technology Committee, acknowledged his Co-Chair Mr. LeTourneau and stated that this item came from a committee meeting. He recalled a question during the 2010-11 budget process with regard to how we are using our telephone services and if it was good use of town funds.

Mayor Dickinson reported that costs and services were audited in 2008 when 250 lines were reviewed. He stated that the core dependable service, referring to especially the 911 system, is error free. He asked who would provide this service who isn't selling a service.

They discussed cell phones, expanding services, voice mail, views with regard to voice mail and the performance of a cost benefit analysis.

NO MOTIONS WERE PRESENTED.

Co-Chairmen Fishbein and LeTourneau will speak to the Purchasing Agent with regard to a list of companies that could perform an audit of the town's municipal telephone services to determine what the town might do better.

11. Discussion and possible action on making the tax assessor's field cards available online. – Councilor Craig C. Fishbein

Mr. Fishbein related that this item also came from the Information Technology Committee where it was discussed that online assessor's field cards would benefit the business community. The discussion included comments with regard to ongoing field card system updates in the assessor's office, and if cards were online, the cost related to the online process initially, followed by system update costs. The suggestion of having the committee work with the Mayor on a plan to address where to invest funds in the future that would yield a return on that investment was also discussed.

Mayor Dickinson expressed his concern with privacy, asking where can you get an absolute guarantee of security? He asked who would guarantee security. He stated that he does not understand why one would want to take the risk, reporting that there is no backlog to relieve and no problem to address.

NO ACTION TAKEN

12. 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

WITHDRAWN

13. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6) (B) of the Connecticut General Statutes pending litigation, Nucor v. Town of Wallingford – Director Public Utilities

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to §1-200 (6) (B) of the Connecticut General Statutes pending litigation, Nucor v. Town of Wallingford – Director Public Utilities

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

THE COUNCIL ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:45 P.M.

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

THE COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:41 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Town Council (9), Mayor Dickinson, Town Attorney Janis Small, George Adair, Director Public Utilities

14. Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$60,000 to Outside Services Acct # 923 from Retained Earnings as discussed in Executive Session - Director Public Utilities

MOTION TO Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$60,000 to Outside Services Acct # 923 from Retained Earnings as discussed in Executive Session - Director Public Utilities

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

15. Discussion and action regarding selection of firm to conduct the Town's audit - Comptroller

WITHDRAWN

AGENDA ADDENDUM

16. Set a Public Hearing for March 8, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. to consider repeal of existing Ordinance and enactment of revised Ordinance regarding Abandoned Vehicles, Chapter 214, of the Code of the Town of Wallingford.

MOTION TO Set a Public Hearing for March 8, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. to consider repeal of existing Ordinance and enactment of revised Ordinance regarding Abandoned Vehicles, Chapter 214, of the Code of the Town of Wallingford.

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 10:07 P.M.

MADE BY: Farrell
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: All (9) Aye
MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Chairman Robert Parisi

Date

Town Clerk Barbara Thompson

Date