

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

September 22, 2015
6:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING IS CANCELLED
AND
RESCHEDULED
For

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 6:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 8-25-15
AT 10:30 AND RECORDED BY
Diana Griffin TOWN CLERK

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act- Individuals in need of auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Wallingford are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator at 203-294-2070 five days prior to meeting date.
Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

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RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:42 P.M. The Opening Prayer was given by Rev. Dee Anne Dodd, of St. Pauls Episcopal Church of Wallingford. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni; Councilors John LeTourneau; Christine Mansfield; Larry Russo; John Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa Jr. Councilors Robert Parisi; Craig Fishbein and Vice-Chair Tom Laffin were not in attendance. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney G.E. Farrell, Sr. were also at the meeting.

Revered Dodd thanked Mayor Dickinson and Councilor Mansfield for their involvement in the Peace Service earlier in the week.

Chairman Cervoni noted there was an addendum to the Consent Agenda, Item 3i.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$9,872.41 (#181-240) Acct. #1001001-41020/Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and Approve Transfer of \$1,250 to Recreation PS-Portolets Acct. #10019000 56782 from Contingency-General Purpose Acct. \$10019000-58820/Recreation Dept.
- 3c. Consider and Approve Acceptance of \$1,000 Grant from the National Education Foundation and Consider and Approve Appropriation to Revenue Acct. #2264002 47152 and to Expenditure Acct. #22640150-58830/Youth and Social Services
- 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer of #2,000 to Capital-PC & Associates Acct. # 10010200-570900 from Contingency-General Purpose Acct. #10019000-58820/ Program Planning
- 3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer of \$2,000 to Overtime Acct. #10030050-51400 and \$12,000 to Plotter/Printer (New) Acct. #TBD from Regular Salaries, \$14,000 Acct. #10030050-51000/Engineering

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- 3f. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donation of funds from registration fees and Consider and Approve Appropriation of Funds in the amount of \$520 to Donations Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures Acct # 21340100-58830/Youth and Social Services
- 3g. Consider and Approve the Appointment of Daryll Porto to serve as an Alternate Member of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission for a three year term expiring March 1, 2016/Chairman Vincent Cervoni
- 3h. Approve Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of September 8, 2015
- 3i. Consider and Approve a Transfer of \$1,200 to Registrar of Voters-Continuing Education Acct. #1060-55700 from Contingency-General Purpose Acct # 10019000-58820/Registrar of Voters

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a THROUGH 3h INCLUDING ADDENDUM 3i
MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: SULLIVAN
VOTE: 6-AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

**4. Items Removed From Consent Agenda – None.
5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, told the Council that he is sexton at Beth Israel Cemetary on Dudley Avenue and beginning in July, one of his volunteers contacted him stating she had seen rats and actually had hit a rat with her tractor. He said in the 15 or 16 years he has been sexton, he has never seen a rat. He said he went to the site and took photos of rats which were dead and alive, contacted the State and sent the photos to DEEP and made a complaint. Mr. Gross said he went to the Wallingford Health Dept. who went out the next day to Covanta which admitted they had a problem and they were in the process of cleaning their pit and rats were getting out.

Mr. Gross said he was told it was his problem because there is a food source at the Cemetary which he denied. He said this continued for a while and the State walked away from it; DEEP sent this problem back to the Town which went out to Covanta who told the Health Dept. that some of the rats are escaping. He said some of the rats seen were dying in the cemetery. He said he was concerned rats were now going into the neighborhoods to set up nests and said he believed the Council should be aware of this. Mr. Gross said he hasn't been to the Cemetery in a while because there hasn't been the need to cut grass because of the drought and there have been very few funerals. He said this is something that shouldn't have been seen. He said he didn't know if the Mayor was aware of this, but noted the Health Dept. received a report from DEEP. He said a Town employee told him Covanta was literally picking up five gallon buckets of rats and throwing them away.

Mayor Dickinson said the Health Dept. is able to deal with what has to be done. He said the typical response is that it is the property owner's responsibility. Mr. Gross said he brought this up is because

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have lowered this percentage to 7% or lower and if it is lowered, it isn't doable and the Town will have to put millions more into the fund. He asked what the Town was doing about this.

Mayor Dickinson said the Town follows the actuarial recommendations and is working towards changing the pension obligations to the extent that it will not be so costly, but this requires negotiation. Mr. Gross asked if any of the pensions have been taken away from the defined pension plan. Mayor Dickinson said currently no bargaining unit is interested in the defined bargaining approach. He said there are questions surrounding this as to what savings can be achieved and the Town is investigating all aspects of defined contribution versus defined benefit. He said he believes plan design is probably the best route, but to the extent that there can be an alternative with defined contribution, the Town has this on the books and is available, but so far, no pension contract has been willing to take the switch for the defined benefit plan. Mr. Gross said eventually, this plan will bankrupt communities. He said many corporations are selling their benefit plan and just paying their employees a lump sum. He said the Town will have to be more aggressive with new hires. He said this is one of the largest line items in the budget and will only go up from here. Mayor Dickinson said it is a major issue but this will require a change in State law. He noted the Town must follow the collective bargaining agreement which doesn't allow the Town to change the benefits. He said the Town is aware of this, and is looking to advance the direction of reduce the costs. Mr. Gross said the pension fund should be indexing the money.

Chairman Cervoni closed the Public Question and Answer Period at 7:03 p.m.

6. Consider and Approve Bid Waiver Requests in the amount not to exceed \$40,000, for Associated Electro Mechanics, Inc., and for Sartron LLC for purchase and installation of additional Variable Frequency Drives (VFD'S) to expand the public bid work being performed at the reservoir raw water pump stations/Utilities.

Motion made by: Sullivan
Seconded by: Letourneau

Appearing in front of the Council was George Adair, Director of Public Utilities and Richard Meskill, Assist. Supt Water Division. Mr. Adair explained the reason for the bid waiver request is that two of the raw water pump stations house two large electric motor-driven pumps.

He noted the pump at MacKenzie is 500 horsepower installation and the one at Ulbrich is 250 horsepower. He said the recent completed work was awarded based on a competitive bidding process for each facility. He said in the course of the work, based on the bid opening, the costs are considerably lower than the amounts appropriated for this purpose, and also, there is available space for these VFD's. He said the bid was specific, and only called for the replacement of one.

He said the Division can go to bid for a second one in each case, but from an operations and efficiency standpoint, having already awarded the low bid and that bidder willing to hold the same price for a second unit and working with the vendor which has familiarity with the station and matching VFD's at each location, there seemed to be the characteristics which go along with a bid waiver although, he emphasized, both parties have bid the work which he noted was a hybrid, because most bid waivers are done in lieu of a bid.

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Mr. Sullivan asked what the shelf life would be on these units, noting the units being replaced were from 1993. Mr. Meskill said these units have been in service over 20 years, but have reached the point where the manufacturer no longer supports the equipment. Mr. Sullivan asked if the backups were still working and what will happen to them. Mr. Meskill said the backups will remain in place and they will be relegated to an extra emergency backup condition. He said if needed, they could be used, but noted they are very expensive to turn on. He said the demand charge alone for a month could be over \$5,000. Mr. Sullivan noted that from time to time, a second pump is needed for increased pumping capacity. He asked what would trigger an increase in pumping capacity. Mr. Meskill said it comes down to trying to manage the water levels in the reservoirs and the availability of water at any given time. He said this is rainfall dependent and noted there is a diversion permit for over 12 million gallons per day at these facilities. Mr. Sullivan pointed out this is a pump used to shift water from one location to another to maintain levels. Mr. Meskill noted that MacKenzie is the largest watershed and pump from there to the Ulbrich Reservoir and from Ulbrich to the Pistapaug Reservoir.

Mr. LeTourneau noted the units are made by the same manufacturer and noted they would be installed by two separate vendors. He asked about the savings. Mr. Meskill said it ended up that the Division bid a drive for each separate location. He said this is something that happened between Purchasing and the Water Division, it just turned out this way. Mr. Meskill said they each bid for each individual location at the same time, noting that Sartron was the lowest for Pistapaug Pond and noted there were at least eight bidders.

No Public Comments

Chairman Cervoni asked about the appointment of Daryll Porto as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. He thanked Mr. Porto for accepting this position and serving the Town of Wallingford.

Vote: 6-aye
Motion: passed.

7. 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 to go into Executive Session
Made by: LeTourneau
Second by: Russo
Vote: 6- aye.
Motion: passed

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

Chair Cervoni called the Meeting back to order at 7:24 p.m. and asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Motion to come out of Executive Session
Made by: LeTourneau

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Second by: Russo
Vote 6-aye
Motion: passed

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cervoni entertained a motion to adjourn the Meeting.

Motion made by: Sullivan
Seconded by: LeTourneau

Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist
Acting Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 9.28.15
AT 12:00 AND RECORDED BY
Dolan Taylor TOWN CLERK