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**Town of Wallingford**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017**

**6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chair Vincent Cervoni; Vice-Chair Tom Laffin; Councilors Craig Fishbein; John LeTourneau; Joseph A. Marrone III; Christopher K. Shortell; John J. Sullivan; Vincent F. Testa Jr.; Jason Zandri; Mayor William Dickinson Jr.; Gerald Farrell, Town Attorney.

**NOT PRESENT:** Jim Bowes, Comptroller.

Chair Cervoni called the Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. with a Moment of Silence observed and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Consent Agenda

3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$5,283.66 (#323-345) Acct. # 1001001-41020 – Tax Collector

3b. Acceptance of donation from Peer Advocates for the Alzheimer’s Association and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,054.00 to Revenue/Donations, Acct. #2134002-478152 – and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS

3c. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$10.00 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS

3d. Acceptance of donation from Ashlar Village Association of Masonicare and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,200 to Revenue Account Ashlar Village Assoc. – Fire, Acct #250 TBD and to Expense Account Ashlar Assoc. – Fire, Acct. #250 –TBD – Fire Dept.

3e. Acceptance of Grant and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$257,270 – Conservation Commission

\$205,826.00 To: State Grant Revenue, Fund #215

\$ 51, 454.00 To: Program Revenue, Fund #215

\$257,2780 To: Recreational Trails Expense, Fund #215

3f. Consider and Approve a transfer in the amount of \$27,950 and Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$27,950 – Public Works

- (a) Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$27,950 from Contingency, Acct. #10019000-58820 to Transfer out to Bldg. Project Fund – SCOW, Civ. Prep, Sign Shop – Acct #TBD - Public Works
- (b) Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$27,950 to Rev-Transfer in from Gen. Fund, Acct. #TBD and to Architect, Testing & Remediation Costs, Acct. # TBD – Public Works

3g. Approve Town Council Minutes of September 26, 2017

**MOTION BY: LAFFIN: APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3A THROUGH 3D, 3F & 3G**

**SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

#### **4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda -Item 3e**

**MOTION BY LAFFIN: APPROVE THE GRANT AND ACCEPT THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$257,270.00 AND \$205,816 TO THE STATE GRANT REVENUE FUND AND \$51,454 TO THE PROGRAM REVENUE FUND**

**SECOND BY: SHORTELL**

Councilor LeTourneau asked Mayor Dickinson about the State Grant, Fund 215 and if this State money was currently in the account. Mayor Dickinson said he didn't believe the Town had received the money and said he believed this was a reimbursement grant. He said upon approval, the Contractor could be paid on the promise of the State providing the money. He said he believed approximately \$51,000 was the Town's share. Mayor Dickinson said the remaining \$215,000 is provided by the State and upon completion, the State would reimburse.

Councilor LeTourneau said the verbiage which stated the estimated project cost would be \$257,270, including a 5% contingency and a required local fund match. He asked how much the Town had to match the State

Rob Baltramaitis, Town Engineer, told the Council that all the contracted items cost \$245,018. He said he is recommending a small contingency of 5% which allows us to measure and pay for installed items and to account for unforeseen condition, which totals \$257,270. Mr. Baltramaitis said the DEEP grant will reimburse the Town 80% of the cost up to \$227,228. He noted the 80% share will be \$205,816; the Town's 20% will be \$51,454. He said all of this money (the \$51,454) resides in the Open Space Fund. He said it is an 80%/20% program.

Councilor LeTourneau said the State is bleeding money and the Town is going to construct a trail. He said the Town's share of \$51,454 could be used in a different way. He said he could not approve this.

### **Public Comment**

Alli McKeen, 13 Burke Heights Drive, said this money is coming from a bond and is not sitting in a fund and is totally guaranteed. She pointed out the Town's share at 20% is a small amount, and doesn't believe there should be any reservations in granting this.

Chair Cervoni entertained a Roll Call Vote.

**Roll Call Vote: Fishbein-yes; Laffin-yes; LeTourneau-NO; Marrone-yes; Shortell-yes; Sullivan-yes; Testa-yes; Zandri-yes; Chair Cervoni-yes**

### **Motion Passes – 8-1**

## **5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked why there was only one question on the ballot regarding the Charter Revision. Chair Cervoni said there was a motion presented at the time the Council was considering this item, and eight Councilors voted for one question to be on the ballot. Mr. Gross noted that if someone was against one of the questions, i.e., not wanting the Town Clerk to be appointed by the Mayor, they end up voting for everything at once. Chair Cervoni emphasized that he wasn't going to tell people how to vote.

Mr. Gross said this is what happens when the questions aren't broken up. Chair Cervoni said he believed the ballot was already set and approved. Mr. Gross asked the rationale of putting everything into one question, instead of three or four. Chair Cervoni said the consensus among the Councilors who voted in favor of the single question, was that the proposed changes were generally good business, a more efficient way to run the town, and non-controversial. Mr. Gross asked about the removal of elected and appointed officials in the Charter, noting he believed the Charter Revision Commission seemed to be taking the process out of the Charter and moving it to the Ordinance Committee.

Chair Cervoni said his understanding of that change was that despite the fact it was in the Charter, there was no legal authority for the removal of elected officials as contained in the Charter. Mr. Gross asked if Wallingford was allowed home rule. Atty. Farrell said he didn't know the answer off-hand. Mayor Dickinson pointed out that all municipalities fall under the home rule act which allows certain authorities to be utilized at the local level. He added that every municipality is a political sub-division of the State, which could abolish all the municipalities and the State would continue. He said he understood from the Corporation Counsel that there is nothing in State law which authorizes the removal of public officials, and may violate State law

and doesn't leave it up to an ordinance. Mr. Gross said he disagreed and stated Wallingford was entitled to home rule. He said the State can abolish home rule, but won't do this. He said if Wallingford had home rule, the question of whether there is authority to remove elected officials is valid. He said this can be in our Charter, so why would it be taken out. He noted there was a lawsuit against a municipality that wanted to do this back in 2015.

Chair Cervoni said he understood from the Charter Revision Commission discussion with the Corporation Counsel, the legal authority wasn't there so it was pointless to have it in the Charter. Mr. Gross said this is allowed to be in the Charter as long as it doesn't go against State law. He said by removing this, the removal process regarding elected officials is weakened in the Charter. He said if it is removed, this won't be in the Charter anymore, and rules are not being followed. He noted there is nothing in the Ordinance to remove elected/appointed officials and noted if the ballot questions pass in November, there will be no rules to remove an elected/appointed official. He said this is why there should have been separate questions. Mayor Dickinson advised Mr. Gross to consult with the Corporation Counsel on this matter. Mr. Gross noted that there was a win against a specific community in keeping the removal of elected/appointed officials in the Charter.

Daryll Stancuna, 18 Olde Village Circle, said he looked over information given to him by the Comptroller regarding the retirees 1%, and noted it wasn't good. He asked the Council if any of them looked at the retiree's monthly income before they made a decision. Chair Cervoni said he has taken the position that he will not allow a polling of the Council during Public Comment because it could be considered a violation of the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Stancuna noted he received the information from the Comptroller, James Bowes, through Freedom of Information. Mr. Stancuna asked if Chair Cervoni was refusing the answer the question. Chair Cervoni said he answered the question to the extent that it was going to be answered.

Mr. Stancuna said many of these retirees don't get Social Security and are barely getting by, and noted the large amount of foreclosed homes in Wallingford. He asked the Council to review and rethink their decision and said the Council wasn't looking out for these people with the 1%. Mr. Stancuna said the Council was also ignoring the serious opiate epidemic and the homeless in Town. He said many people are not happy with the answers they are getting. He said more money needs to be given the Coalition. He said teens are walking around town aimlessly. He said the teens told him they believe the town doesn't care and are not even registered to vote. He noted the lack of a skateboarding park and suggested there should be something besides the Coalition who he said was doing a great job. He said there should be an outside park for the teens with skateboarding, noting there is a lot of land in Wallingford.

Mr. Stancuna said regarding homelessness, there are a lot of people walking around town aimlessly with no place to go, noting there is no shelter. He asked when it is open. Mayor Dickinson said he wasn't sure when the shelter operated, but said he was aware of a shelter.

Mr. Stancuna asked Mayor Dickinson how he could not know when the shelter is open. Mayor Dickinson said he didn't pretend to know every detail of the Town. Mr. Stancuna said it isn't good to put the wool over the public's eye and noted the shelter is only open during the winter months and this is known by the town government. He asked what is being done for people that aren't making it, losing their houses and can't afford food at the local supermarket. He said this is bad and said he wants the Town to do something for these people.

Mr. Stancuna told the Council that a lot of businesses are hurting and can't rely on Wallingford people alone. He asked the Council to bring in name bands for the Twilight concerts to lift up businesses in town.

**END OF PUBLIC COMMENT – 7 p.m.**

6. Report from Parks & Recreation Department on the Community Pool – Councilor Zandri

Appearing in front of the Council was John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director, David Gelo, Parks & Recreation Commission Director, Michael Savinelli, Vice-Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Michelle Bjorkman, Supt. of Recreation.

Mr. Gawlak presented a slide show of the current pool conditions, an historical timeline and statistics of current usage. He told the Council over the past two years he has been making Town staff and the Council that the pool is aging and will require repairs. Mr. Gawlak said two years ago he requested \$200,000 to sandblast, paint and repair the pool bottom. He said he would not be making a recommendation at this time.

Mr. Gawlak said the pool was constructed in 1948 as a swimming hole created by a brook on its way to the Quinnipiac River and in the spring of 1960, the Lion's Club launched a fund drive to raise money for a conventional pool. He said in 1999 repairs were made to the pool to eradicate algae blooms and to repair the pool bottom. He said according to the 1991 study, the bath house while outdated is still functional, and feedback has been to update and bring to current building and health standards. He noted the CT State Swim codes indicate 1 shower per 50 bathers (male/female). He pointed out that the current average is 300-500 bathers at high end and the shower facility would allow for 800 bathers. He said the pool has had a long history of peeling paint, floating paint chips resulting in an annual need to scrape and repaint sections of the entire pool since 1999 which is done by Public Works.

Mr. Gawlak said in 1998, the Friends of the Community Pool, created in 1974, received a base bid of \$1,941,000 to renovate the pool. Mr. Gawlak said a survey by the Recreation Department of pool tag holders in 2015 revealed that the users wanted the bath house updated, the pool to be open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the elimination of peeling paint from the pool bottom and an earlier starting hour of 9 a.m. as opposed to the current starting time of 11 a.m. He also said users wanted the bathhouse to be updated and to have a slide and

splash park feature. Mr. Gawlak said the pool is now open approximately 9 weeks and if Memorial Day and Labor Day were added to the schedule, with chemicals, staff and custodial, it would cost an addition \$70,000 to operate the pool on top of the \$149,900. Mr. Gawlak showed photos of the peninsula on the north side of the pool and of the concrete coping which he said is failing just about every year. He also showed various views of the peeling pool deck on the north and east side. Mr. Gawlak said since changing the pool tags to Photo ID's back in 2012 because of the drowning, pool sales have declined steadily from approximately 5,300 users in 2010, to 1,975 this past summer. He said only 2,400 tags have been averaged over the past five years. Mr. Gawlak presented a pool pass chart by age and by year.

Councilor Testa noted that since 2010, the passes went from 5,000 to ,1,960 which he said was a slow decline. He asked if there was a time when these numbers dropped dramatically. Mr. Gawlak said in 2012, there was a 50% instant drop when the Photo ID's were introduced. He said out of town residents are allowed to use the pool through Wallingford family member. Councilor Zandri noted there were a lot of passes sold prior to the Photo ID's and prior to this, many out of towners came to the pool because there was no way to identify this, and this precipitated the drop in usage.

Mr. Savinelli presented the Council with an itemized spreadsheet of what it would cost to operate the pool. He said the total expense per year is approximately \$142,000. He said 1,960 tags were sold in 2017, resulting in an income of \$32,520; the loss was approximately \$109,414. He said the pool is open approximately 60 days per year and the cost per tag to break even would b3 \$56 per person. He said the average cost per day to operate the pool is \$2,365. He said since 2012, attendance with photo ID's is down 52%. Mr. Savinelli said the ongoing issues with the pool are part of the problem of why people are not using the facility.

Mr. Gawlak noted the pool pumps are in good shape being 17 years old. He presented another fact sheet of the South Windsor pool complex, and noted the field trip taken to South Windsor. He said their pool was constructed in 2012 on a 16-acre parcel, similar to Wallingford's pool. He said their asphalt pool to concrete and gunite for a total coverage area of 34,000 sq. ft. He said S. Windsor also added a lap pool, all swim and a diving well to the adult pool and a 40 ft. zero depth entry features and a toddler pool with an 80 ft. zero depth entry with manual water toys.

Mr. Gawlak distributed a handout showing the different type of municipal pool/splash pads which were done in CT by TLB Architecture was originally hired by the Town for the 1999 pool renovation. He said there master plans typically cost up to \$22,000 and their proposal would include aquatic park programming, master plans to evaluate the best use of not only the pool, but of the balance of the park to determine non-aquatic programs related to the site. He said this plan could be completed in three months. Mr. Gawlak said he met in June with Savoy Pools and Weston and Sampson who provided two complimentary site schemes to improve the bath house and pool and look at keeping the lap pool, adding a splash pad, wading pool, lazy river

and a new bath house. He said the cost estimate for either one of their schemes including cost components would be estimated at \$4.2 million. He noted in his opinion, the 1991 design hits it out of the park vs. this new design. Mr. Gawlak spoke about receiving a phone call in late August from Myrtha Pools of Boston. He said Murtha Pool introduced a concept to them called RenovAction Technology that essentially puts a pool into a pool adding a 25 year warranty. Mr. Gawlak said this system reduces the annual maintenance by eliminating water and chemical loss. He said a rough estimate based on the Wallingford pool size and keeping the integrity of the pool would cost \$1.5 million. He noted this estimate didn't include any bath house improvements. Mr. Gawlak said these improvements would involve the installation of stainless steel plates with a vinyl coating on one-side which would be used to rebuild the pool. He said the two rubber pieces would be used for the current zero depth entry. He distributed the samples to the Council.

Mr. Gawlak said he spoke to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM,) requesting a survey of towns within the 30,000 to 60,000 population range. He went over the statistics and fees that other towns charge. He noted some towns don't charge resident fees. Mr. Gawlak noted that three communities have community pools open less days than Wallingford and three or four open more days than Wallingford. He noted some towns also don't take attendance, which is done in Wallingford. He said Wallingford's \$20 adult fee matches Enfield and is close in range to Middletown.

Mr. Gawlak went over additional pool fees, pass options and swimming lessons which he said is offered in Wallingford by the Life Guards. Mr. Gawlak said in 2013, he studied splash parks and did a survey through CT Recreation Parks Associations and received a lot of data. He said he had a splash park created which represented a 2,000 sq. ft. footprint priced at approximately \$160,000. Mr. Gawlak noted the Lighthouse Park splash pad in New Haven retailed in 2008 at approximately \$300,000. He said the Recreation Commission endorsed this report and stated that if there is a pool committee, they would be the core group.

Councilor Shortell asked about the percent of population which he noted were not unique visits. Mr. Gawlak said the numbers inflate and with swimming lessons, the numbers change. Councilor Shortell asked about the chronology and the impetus to go to Photo ID's after the drowning. He asked about the parking situation and if the parking lot would have to be expanded. Mr. Gawlak said if one takes a look at the 1991 study where the pool was cut into two-thirds, more parking was available. Councilor Shortell asked if the \$146,000 was budgeted in 2018. Mr. Gawlak said from his department, there is enough funding for staff. Mayor Dickinson said he believes Public Works have budgeted the same amount of funds as Parks and Recreation. He said there is a leak in the pool and do have a system to save the water and recirculate it.

Councilor Shortell asked about marketing and asked what has been done differently noting declining numbers since 2012. He noted the hours were changed. Mr. Gawlak noted the operating hours were always 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. except during last year, when the pool opened 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. which received negative backlash and said the pool returned to the 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. hours of operation.

Mr. Gawlak said the office is open seven days a week until 10 p.m. to obtain the Photo ID's. He said he doesn't want to get into a cash handling business at the pool. Councilor Shortell asked about the concession stand which handled cash. Mr. Gawlak said this was done by a private vendor and was never a Town function. Councilor Shortell said there is a way not to handle cash, and there has got to be a way to make this work at the pool. He said he hopes as a citizen and a Councilor is to look at every option, whether it is this footprint or a new footprint and is open minded. He said is not open minded to closing the pool.

Councilor Zandri asked about out-of town residents and why we don't want to have them at the pool. He said it seems all the other municipal pools allow out-of-town residents to come even at a daily rate. He pointed out that S. Windsor, which allows out-of town residents is close to the operating budget and their annual revenue. He said S. Windsor also runs a longer season, Memorial Day to the end of August. He said if the Town could get the attendance up to 4,000 at \$55 single season pass, the Town would break even on the extended level. He said the Town has to make a decision on what to do with this. He said the Town needs to look at what we have and make it so people will want to come. He said this might involve expanding the program to allow out-of-town people to come and charging a surcharge. Councilor Zandri said there may also be a way to tier the tickets.

Mayor Dickinson said he has heard at various times regarding non-residents, the issue of young children being dropped off and not being monitored and the issue of non-sufficient parking which wouldn't allow a resident to visit the pool. Councilor Laffin thanked everyone for the in-depth report. He said he hopes that the public sees this is a priority and is important. He said the Town has a very strong and active Parks & Recreation Commission and offered his support to them going forward. He said the Council is in support of doing something. Councilor Laffin asked about the life of the pumps which are currently 17 years old. He asked what the full life would be. Mr. Gawlak said he had no idea. He asked how much extra land there is. Mr. Gawlak said as one goes in the back, it's tough because the property goes to a point, and there is a brook and wetlands on both sides so there is not much land.

Councilor Laffin asked about the primary age source and availability of the Life Guards and how many high school vs. college aged Life Guards were on duty. Ms. Bjorkman said there are approximately 30 Life Guards on staff which are part-time who can work a maximum of 40 hours per week. She said the majority of the Life Guards are probably high school and college age. She said once we lose the majority of the college students in August, we are short-staffed.



She suggested downsizing the amount of pool available to the general public for an extended, having sections one and two open rotating throughout. Councilor Testa spoke about the availability or ways to get information from the public. He suggested surveying people as to why they are not coming to the pool and what they are looking for. He suggested using Survey Monkey on the Town website, and on Facebook. He asked what the panel would like to do, and do they have a recommendation not considering cost, letting the Town Government determine what is possible and what is not.

Mr. Gawlak said we are not there yet citing so much information. He said he would like to see a Committee to begin developing what can be done if there is the money. He said the first step is to ensure the pool is operational for the next season. He said there will be another field study and walk in November to determine what the pool needs. Councilor Testa said it needs to be decided what to do long-term, while the pool is being managed short-term. Mr. Gawlak said he would like to see the Council appoint a Committee.

Councilor LeTourneau pointed out that his family was one of first out-of towners to use the Community Pool and came back many times. He said he would like to see future generations use the pool and would like to see conceptual drawings which would be a good start. He asked about the condition of the pool and how many more summers it could be used. He said he doesn't want to see eight or nine years go by. He said he is confident in a year or two get some public input and move this along. Mr. Gawlak said he began two years ago and with the meeting in November, this will be year number three. He said he has no idea how the pool deteriorates and what is within Public Works capacity to take care of the pool. Councilor LeTourneau asked if there was anything the Council could do to expedite this and suggested a workshop. Mr. Gawlak said he can report to the Council after their November meeting.

Councilor LeTourneau suggested having a food truck on-site at the pool. Mr. Gawlak said the last vendor created some issues. He pointed out when the pool first opened, food wasn't allowed inside the gate. He noted that in 2008, people wanted the food option. He said the vendor hired was not happy because sales dropped and was always balking at the fee in the bid. Mr. Gawlak said the vendor reneged the next year and another bidder was selected who then wanted to change the scope of the bid but the Health Sanitarian said extra wash stations were needed because this was being changed to a restaurant grade type of station which resulted in the contract being ended. He said this was three years ago and since then the concession part has not been brought back.

Mr. Gawlak said people can have food delivered or bring their own coolers. He said he was looking into putting out a mobile concession bid with the parks and possibly doing something with the pool. Councilor Marrone said he also had fond memories at the pool and said he noticed the Town changing demographically and people installing their own pools. He said he wasn't sure what the demand for the pool is and wondered if the lower attendance figures were

due to the condition of the pool. He asked if there were private companies that manage or run municipal pools. Mr. Gawlak said he wasn't aware. Councilor Marrone said this might be a potential means to save money if some or all of the pool operation could be farmed out. Mr. Gawlak said currently, Public Works takes charge of the chemicals, the pump house and its operation, with the operation of the pumps being done by a private vendor. Councilor Marrone said this seems like a rough time to talk about putting money into the pool. He said he would rather wait to see how the State budget materializes before putting together a committee. He said the pool is usable and looks great and the Town should continue doing what it is doing.

Councilor Fishbein said he believed the short season may have something to do with the lower amount of passes. He asked if a large splash pad would be considered to replace the existing pool or as an accent. Mr. Gawlak said this splash pad could be a part of the pool or be an accent. He said there are many options. He agreed with Councilor Fishbein that a splash pad by itself would meet the community's needs. Councilor Fishbein said he believes there is a clamoring for more hours and a larger season. He asked how this would be staffed. Ms. Bjorkman said in her 22 year tenure, the pool has always been open 59 to 60 days. She said she didn't believe this was the reason for the reduction in pool passes. She said the staffing could be a challenge but said the Town is fortunate to have 30 Life Guards on staff. She suggested grooming a younger group of Life Guards, i.e. 16 year-olds and breaking the pool down to two sections instead of three. She said there are options available.

Councilor Fishbein noted there is Town property leased by others, and pointed out the YMCA wants a 10-lane pool. He asked if a private-public partnership has been considered. Councilor Fishbein said a committee should be put together. Councilor Sullivan said he isn't closing the doors on this pool but we don't know what the State will do. He said there may be room to improve the pool. He said when there is a proposal on the pool, he would also like to see a business model which shows the cost, hours and maintenance. He said hopefully, the pool can pay for itself over the years.

Chair Cervoni spoke about opening up the pool to residents of other towns. He noted he is not principally opposed to this if it makes sense and puts the Town in a position closer to self-subsidy of the pool. He said he is concerned that tax dollars are subsidizing the pool by 77%. He said he wasn't sure he wanted to confer this benefit to non-residents. Chair Cervoni spoke about taking advantage of the opposite of a preferential rate for non-residents and people are paying this and we have a pool that is more of a net zero in terms of operation, he would certainly be willing to consider. He said at a future meeting, the Council will discuss the appointment of a committee if appropriate to moving forward.

### **Public Comment**

Larry Morgenstein, S. Main Street, noted page 11 of the presentation regarding demographics, which shows how few youths ages 13-17 and seniors use the pool. He said this only goes back

to 2013, and asked if the attendance has always been this low. Ms. Bjorkman acknowledged this as being true and noted that historically, there is no draw for a teen-age population to use the pool. She noted they have to be at least 15 years of age to use the pool alone. She said there is no slide or splash pad for them to use. Mr. Morgenstein said this could be a population that could be looked at. He asked why there were more seniors not utilizing the pool.

Jon Walworth, 28 Laurelwood Drive, said the one thing learned from history is that we don't learn. He said the pool is a facility that is 1 million gallons of which 400,000 gallons of water a day is treated and that pool portion is not even open. He said the facility accommodates 1,700 bathers with parking for 65 or 80 cars. He asked the Council to imagine a smaller facility to accommodate the largest enough of swimmers and have a larger parking lot. He pointed out the State has rigid specifications as far as how the pool needs to operate. He said this pool needs to have a separate toddler pool. Mr. Walworth said the poolhouse needs to accommodate a shower for every individual. He said this is based on the total sq. footage of the pool. He said if the pool was made smaller, a larger poolhouse wouldn't be needed. Mr. Walworth said this would make the pool enduring, attractive and safe. He implored the Council to be committed to the large number necessary to build this pool to a quality specification before asking a committee to spend hundreds of hours. He invited the Council to look at the initial design report and noted there was a survey of 1,000 people. He told the Council not to reinvent the wheel, noting there is enough information without having to spend tens of thousands of dollars. He told the Council not to be caught up with low-ball numbers.

Mr. Walworth also told the Council not to be swayed by numbers from the master plan at \$25,000. He said the design of this facility will be 10% of the construction cost. Mr. Walworth said this is not an easy project, noting that a municipal pool is one of the most difficult types of projects in which to obtain support and funds for. He asked the Council to not make this a more protracted avenue if the money will not be committed to this.

Jared Liu, 59 Curtis Avenue, thanked Mr. Gawlak and Parks & Recreation for their efforts. He said this would be a different conversation if the pool was generating revenue. He said eight years ago, the pool was generating revenue for the Town and offering a service. He said over the last eight years, the Town has failed to maintain the pool to the point where it is losing money. Mr. Liu said he would be concerned if he was watching from home thinking about the pool's future. He said he is hearing about pushing this further down the road and keep studying it and it is the State. He noted it wasn't the State which kept Wallingford from maintaining the pool. He said it wasn't the State that rejected plans for concessions and advertisements and how to improve the pool, or to force people to come to Parks and Recreation to get an ID badge or that would only accept cash or checks.

Mr. Liu said the Town and Council should take leadership and committed that the Town would have a Community Pool and within eight years, the Town will get it back to generating revenue.

Leslie Williams, 595 Woodhouse Avenue, said she spent many days at Parks and Recreation with her children and at the Community Pool when there was a concession stand and crafts. She said the parking was horrendous but made due. Ms. Williams said when she was buying pool passes she could also use the Sheehan High pool in the winter which was a great advantage. She said the Community Pool is important to the Town and said the splash pad is an excellent idea. She said she hopes the crafts and concessions can be brought back.

Stefano Fasulo, Cardinal Drive, asked about feedback and methodology used to collect this. Mr. Gawlak said the 2015 survey was just to the users of the pool in that particular year and was an electronic survey. Mr. Fasulo asked about the 2,840 tag holders and the percentage of the survey response. Mr. Gawlak said he could obtain the information. Mr. Fasulo said he has no ties to this pool, but tips his hat to the Parks & Recreation. He said the Town should look at this pool as a go-ahead in terms of collecting ideas and looking at specific Contractors who work in this field. Mr. Fasulo spoke about the ID passes and asked if there was a different system, i.e. having the user sending a photo in advance. He said he sympathized with the fact there is too much going on to commit to one single idea. Mr. Fasulo said outdoor pools have been a huge part of his upbringing and implored the Council to move forward with direction.

Jaime Hine, 342 S. Elm Street, said he doesn't use the pool that much, but said there are obvious issues; limited hours and a limited season. He said day passes aren't sold and cannot be purchased at the pool. He said this limits a person's desire to use the pool. Mr. Hine noted his wife brought his son to the Cheshire pool, paid for a day pass and was able to use the pool. He said it has to be made easier to use the pool. He suggested if this is going to be a multi-year project, extended hours and an extended season should be tried out as well as offering day passes and allowing people to purchase passes at the gate to see if this works.

#### **Public Comment closed at 8:40 p.m.**

Councilor Fishbein referred to slide 11 and the amount of pool passes sold by age. He asked if there was data on how many times people of a certain age utilized the pool pass which he said would be more relevant. Mr. Gawlak said a facility as Cheshire which is year round, has a computer system with a card swipe which allows a report. He said Wallingford does not do this. Mr. Gawlak recognized Jason Michaels and Phyllis Murray, additional members of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

#### **NO ACTION TAKEN-DISCUSSION ONLY**

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

#### **NO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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Wallingford Town Council Meeting  
Record of Votes and Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Councilor LeTourneau made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Fishbein seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist

Recording Secretary