

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers
December 12, 2017

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council on Tuesday, December 12, 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, John J. Sullivan, Vincent F. Testa, Jr. and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James were also present at the meeting.

Moment of Silence

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$6,157.71 (#544-576)
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$750 from Maintenance of Equipment, Acct. #10020050-54325 to Cruiser Video Screen Replace, Acct. #TBD – Police Dept.
- 3c. Acceptance of donations for Holiday for Giving and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount \$690 to Revenue/Donations, Acct #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3d. Acceptance of donations for Holiday for Giving and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,410 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3e. Acceptance of donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$25 to Donations/Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3f. Acceptance of donations for Holiday for Giving and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,154 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3g. Acceptance of donation from Wallingford Rotary Foundation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,059 to Revenue/Donations, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct# Expenditures – Y&SS
- 3h. Acceptance of donation of battery powered Hurst Combi Tool valued at \$15,000 from Nucor Corporation – Fire Dept.
- 3i. Acceptance of donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$344 to Revenue, Acct. #2524002-47040 and to Expenditures, Acct. #25240150-58830 – Wallingford 350th Committee

- 3j. Acceptance of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$800,000 to Small Cities Grant Revenue, Acct. #TBD and to Small Cities Grant Expenditures, Acct. #TBD – Mayor
- 3k. Consider and Approve Renewal of 5 year Lease Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and Comunidad Hispana de Wallingford, Inc. (SCOW) for use of 284 Washington Street –Mayor
- 3l. Consider and Approve Job Description for Town Clerk position - Personnel
- 3m. Consider and Approve Job Description Revision for Attendant I position (Sewer Division) - Personnel
- 3n. Consider and Approve Job Description Revision for Attendant II position (Sewer Division) - Personnel
- 3o. Consider and Approve Job Description Revision for Attendant III position (Sewer Division) - Personnel
- 3p. Consider and Approve *amended* Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Personal Services Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to complete various improvements to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park and *Pragemann Park*, STEAP 2014-04 – Mayor
- 3q. Consider and Approve the reappointment of Nicholas Lombardi to the Housing Authority for a five year term effective immediately and expiring October 31, 2022 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3r. Consider and Approve a bid waiver authorizing the Town Attorney to interview selected firms for the investigation of and the possible commencement of legal action relating to the opioid crisis – Law Dept.
- 3s. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,307 from Maintenance of Building & Grounds, Acct. #10030000-54315 to Capital Account, Acct. # TBD - Public Works
- 3t. Approve Town Council Minutes of November 28, 2017.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3k., 3m-3q and 3s-3t.

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

4. Items Removed from Consent Agenda:

- 3l. Consider and Approve Job Description for Town Clerk position - Personnel

- 3r. Consider and Approve a bid waiver authorizing the Town Attorney to interview selected firms for the investigation of and the possible commencement of legal action relating to the opioid crisis – Law Dept.
- 3l. Consider and Approve Job Description for Town Clerk position - Personnel

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION OF TOWN CLERK.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LEOURNEAU**

MOTION WAS MADE TO AMEND THIS DESCRIPTION TO: DRAFTS AND CREATES VARIOUS DOCUMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL TOWN COUNCILORS AT THEIR DISCRETION.

**MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: ZANDRI**

Councilor Laffin states he is leery about adding too much Town Council language. He explained that it is working for this Council now, but it may not work in the future.

Mayor Dickinson stated he has no concerns with drafting of documents i.e. agendas and minutes, but if it comes to disagreements between different councilors and the Mayor's office has to determine what's going on, that's not going to be good.

Councilor Testa has concerns about the Clerk doing anything for a single Councilor making requests from the Clerk.

Councilor Zandri is not sure what is wrong with a little more formal definition.

Councilor Fishbein thinks we wind up right back where we started with the Executive Branch interfering with the Legislative Branch. He went on to say that the salary increase was to take over the Council office but it doesn't seem like we are getting what we are paying for. We should most likely have a part time secretary, so as not to have the Executive Branch telling us what we can and cannot do.

Councilor Sullivan agrees with Councilor Fishbein that maybe we should hire a part-time secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gina Morgenstein, South Main Street, stated that the current Town Clerk increase in duties and pay seems to be working just fine and asked why would the Mayor be saying you should hire someone to do this and at what cost and then states who really ends up paying for it, the taxpayers.

Mayor Dickinson states the Clerk will now be a department head and part of the classified service and sooner or later a conflict will arise.

Chairman Cervoni asks Mr. Hutt how the compensation will change. Mr. Hutt responded that we have a management matrix and that when we combined the two offices, he did that calculation to determine the pay increase, and that is where he got the pay range from. The salary range remains the same.

Councilor Sullivan thinks the best course of action is just to wait and see how it all works out, and we don't know who the Town Clerk will be.

Councilor Laffin feels that it is such a small amount of time that is asked of the secretary or the Clerk to do anything for the Council, that when we moved away from the staff function, he thought it was a cost savings and function we did not need.

Councilor Marrone doesn't see what would be the harm of adding the language, the executive overreach is a bit of an exaggeration and I do not see the harm in adding it.

Councilor Laffin believes the duties are excessive and we do not use them.

Councilor Marrone feels it is a service that has been provided to the Council and now thrown away by the wayside.

Councilor Zandri states that we have to look at the value of a part-timer, and he feels that the office is run very well and that they get more service now than they ever have. He went on to say if the Clerk is not in, her staff responds immediately and emails are answered right away. All requests are done as soon as asked. It's like getting a whole office instead of just one person.

COUNCILOR SULLIVAN CALLS THE QUESTION

MADE BY: SULLIVAN
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL
VOTE: 8 AYE
ZANDRI - NO
MOTION: PASSED

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT:

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: NO
FISHBEIN: YES	SULLIVAN: NO
LAFFIN: NO	TESTA: NO
LETOURNEAU: NO	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: YES	CERVONI: NO

3-AYE; 6-NAY
MOTION: FAILED

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: NO	SULLIVAN: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: NO
MARRONE: NO	CERVONI: YES
6-AYE; 3-NAY	
MOTION: PASSED	

- 3r. Consider and Approve a bid waiver authorizing the Town Attorney to interview selected firms for the investigation of and the possible commencement of legal action relating to the opioid crisis – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO APPROVE BID WAIVER.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

Councilor Fishbein asks the Mayor if he was lobbied to join this action.

Mayor Dickinson explained that they went to a presentation in Waterbury in which this action was taking place and they were asked to join.

Attorney Farrell stated there is no downside or cost to the Town. He went on to explain that the opioid crisis in each municipality is different. A lot of law firms do not want to get into these types of cases on a contingency basis but they feel, in our town, there could be a substantial gain.

Ken Welch, President of the Coalition for a Better Wallingford, spoke about the devastating effects of addiction.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, stated that he asked Councilor Zandri to pull this from consent and was happy to hear the Mayor speak so passionately about this issue. He is glad to see the Mayor be a champion of this cause.

6. Executive Session pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B) with respect to the pending worker's compensation case in the matter of *McPherson v. Town of Wallingford* (BOE Claim) - Personnel

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:00 P.M.

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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(B) with respect to the pending worker's compensation case in the matter of *McPherson v. Town of Wallingford* (BOE Claim).

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:20 P.M.

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

Time of Executive Session 8:00 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

FISHBEIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN	ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
LETOURNEAU	COMPTROLLER JAMES BOWES
MARRONE	JAMES HUTT
SHORTELL	KURT TREIBER
SULLIVAN	ATTORNEY COLLETTE GRIFFEN
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

7. Motion to consider and authorize a possible settlement in the pending worker's compensation case in the matter of *McPherson v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Personnel

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO AUTHORIZE a possible settlement in the pending worker's compensation case in the matter of *McPherson v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	SULLIVAN: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: YES	CERVONI: YES
6-AYE; 3-NAY	
MOTION: PASSED	

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Open Public Question and Answer Period at 8:22 p.m.

There were no questions from the public.

Closed Public Question and Answer Period at 8:22 pm.

8. 6:30 p.m. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider and act on the following ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$6,205,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN-WIDE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$6,205,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

Chairman Cervoni opened the Public Hearing at 8:22 p.m.

EXCERPT FOR MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
HELD DECEMBER 12, 2017

Chairman Cervoni convened the public hearing and stated that the \$6,205,000 Radio Communication System bond ordinance which is the subject of this public hearing is available to the public and may be obtained at this meeting from the Town Clerk.

Councilor Laffin moved, and the motion was seconded by Councilor LeTourneau, to read the title of the ordinance and to waive the reading of the remainder of the ordinance, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting.

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES

NAYS

FISHBEIN
LAFFIN
LETOURNEAU
MARRONE
SHORTELL
SULLIVAN
TESTA
ZANDRI
CHAIRMAN CERVONI

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$6,205,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN-WIDE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$6,205,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

There were no public comments.

Chairman Cervoni called the public hearing adjourned.

Councilor Laffin moved, and the motion was seconded by Councilor LeTourneau, that the ordinance entitled:

" RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$6,205,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN-WIDE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$6,205,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE," a copy of which is attached hereto, be adopted.

*In Attendance: Chief William Wright
Deputy Chief Mark Mikulski
Fire Chief Richard Heidgerd
Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar*

Chief Wright states that there was incredible collaboration between different town departments and we did much better than a consultant would have. This is a collective piece of work.

Councilor Fishbein asked where Attorney Fasi was and the Mayor responded that he was at another community.

Councilor Sullivan thanks the Chiefs for their due diligence, memo on this and cost savings of almost \$2 million dollars. He then asks how soon we can move on this and Chief Wright stated once the bond period passes we will meet with Motorola and go line by line and make sure we have everything we need. He went on to say that this could take 12-18 months to build and they will go out to Illinois and try it out so as to work out the kinks. He stated that they have a lot of work ahead of them but he is confident they will get it done.

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES

NAYS

FISHBEIN
LAFFIN
LETOURNEAU
MARRAON
SHORTELL
SULLIVAN
TESTA
ZANDRI
CHAIRMAN CERVONI

Chairman Cervoni declared the ordinance adopted.

9. 6:45 p.m. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider and act on the following ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,300,000 FOR SCHOOL SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PHASE II AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,300,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

Chairman Cervoni opened the Public Hearing at 8:34 p.m.

EXCERPT FOR MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
HELD DECEMBER 12, 2017

Chairman Cervoni convened the public hearing and stated that the School System Capital Improvement Program Phase II amending bond ordinance which is the subject of this public hearing is available to the public and may be obtained at this meeting from the Town Clerk.

Councilor Laffin moved, and the motion was seconded by Councilor Fishbein, to read the title of the ordinance as proposed in its entirety and to waive the reading of the remainder of the ordinance, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting.

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES

NAYS

**FISHBEIN
LAFFIN
MARRONE
SHORTELL
SULLIVAN
TESTA
ZANDRI
CHAIRMAN CERVONI**

COUNCILOR LETOURNEAU: ABSENT

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,300,000 FOR SCHOOL SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PHASE II AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,300,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

There were no public comments.

Chairman Cervoni called the public hearing adjourned.

Councilor Laffin moved, and the motion was seconded by Councilor Fishbein, that the ordinance entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,300,000 FOR SCHOOL SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PHASE II AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,300,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE", a copy of which is attached hereto, be adopted.

Councilor Fishbein asked why are we amending this and Mr. Bowes replied that we are doing the second phase of the project.

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES

NAYS

**FISHBEIN
LAFFIN
LETOURNEAU
MARRONE
SHORTELL
SULLIVAN
TESTA
ZANDRI
CHAIRMAN CERVONI**

Chairman Cervoni declared the ordinance adopted.

Chairman Cervoni acknowledges Councilor Sullivan and thanks him for his service for these past eight years.

Councilor Testa thanks Councilor Sullivan for his passion and service to the Town.

Councilor Fishbein thanks Councilor Sullivan for keeping him in check and for his service.

Councilor Shortell states to Councilor Sullivan that as a rookie, it's hard to not like serving with you.

Councilor Laffin stated that Councilor Sullivan will be missed and that he always did what was best and right for the town.

Councilor LeTourneau thanks Councilor Sullivan for his service and stated that he did a good job.

Councilor Sullivan thanks everyone and especially reaches out to the people he serves. He stated that he has always tried to keep the right services for everyone and that he doesn't know what the future brings.

10. 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 8:46 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: FISHBIN
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 8:56 P.M.

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

Time of Executive Session 8:45 p.m. to 8:56 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

FISHBEIN MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
LETOURNEAU COMPTROLLER JAMES BOWES
MARRONE
SHORTELL
TESTA
ZANDRI
CERVONI

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
MOTION: PASSED

The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

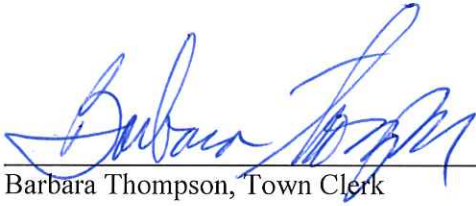
Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

8 JAN 2018

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

1-8-18

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12-15-17
AT 4:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK