
TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 26, 2004

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The following are the minutes of a regular meeting Wallingford Town Council held at the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall on Tuesday, October 26, 2004. Town Council Chairman James M. Vumbaco called the meeting to Order at 6:37 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Clerk Kathryn Zandri were Councilors Vincenzo DiNatale, Lois Doherty, Gerald E. Farrell, Jr., Stephen W. Knight, Robert F. Parisi, Michael Spiteri, Vincent F. Testa and James M. Vumbaco. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Janice Small, Town Attorney and James Bowes, Comptroller were also present.

There was a moment of silence preceding the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Vumbaco announced that Ms. Papale is not in attendance due to illness.

2. Correspondence – No correspondence.

Mayor Dickinson introduced James Bowes, the new Comptroller for the Town of Wallingford who comes to Wallingford from Southington, CT.

Chairman Vumbaco welcomed Mr. Bowes and congratulated Councilor Robert Parisi for being honored as one of six Distinguished Alumni by the Wallingford Educational Trust.

Mr. DiNatale: I move that we consider the Consent Agenda 3a and 3b.

Mr. Farrell: Second.

Chairman Vumbaco: All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. No items were removed from the Consent Agenda. Public Question and Answer Period. Any members of the public that would like to speak to the Council?

Carol Schillo, Martin Avenue, Wallingford: I just had a question if I could about the Simpson School. Are we going to have some input with the low income housing to that?

Chairman Vumbaco: We met with the gentleman, Mr. LaRosa, last Saturday and they will be presenting a mixed plan of options to this Council in November.

Ms. Schillo: Because we would like elderly or a park in that area.

Chairman Vumbaco: I understand that and we will be considering that. Any other members of the public wish to speak? Mr. Sheehan. Excuse me, sir, I called on Mr. Sheehan.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue: I was just going to followup on the same thing as her. Has a decision been made on what plan you're going to follow?

Chairman Vumbaco: At the last Council meeting, Bob, we voted to extend the courtesy to Mr. LaRosa. Mr. LaRosa has a plan on the table that we are in the process of negotiating.

Mr. Sheehan: But it's been official that...

Chairman Vumbaco: Mr. LaRosa has been accepted ... unless he can't present something that's acceptable to this Council, then we would have to take it to the next step. Mr. Parisi and I met with him last Saturday as stated at the last Council meeting.

Mr. Sheehan: I have a question on Item #10 on this ...

Chairman Vumbaco: OK, when we get there.

Mr. Sheehan: OK, when we get there.

Chairman Vumbaco: Yes, if you don't mind Bob. Next, sir?

Mayor, Council members, my name is Ryan Stample. I live at 19 Martin Avenue. I'm sorry that I'm kind of late for this but I thought the agenda would be 7:00P.M. There have been a number of articles in the paper that we are very confused with. I have not had the privilege to attend any meetings because I wasn't notified so I'd like to know exactly where Mr. LaRosa's plan stands and exactly what's going on at 19 Martin Avenue before I speak my piece. If anyone of the Council or the Mayor could update me on the meeting from Saturday, I'd appreciate it before I make any statements that I really don't want to back up.

Chairman Vumbaco: I just told Mr. Sheehan that Mr. LaRosa is coming back with three or four options to this Council, which will be discussed in November.

Ryan Stample: Can you discuss those with me now, please?

Chairman Vumbaco: It will be discussed in November, and you will have the opportunity to discuss it.

Ryan Stample: Is there any reason why you don't want to give me information right now?

Chairman Vumbaco: Because we are in the middle of a 20 minute question and answer period from the public. You asked if there was anything that was discussed with Mr. LaRosa, and, yes, there were discussions with Mr. LaRosa.

Ryan Stample: Well, I represent a number of people here from my neighborhood that I think have the same questions that I do.

Mr. Parisi: Mr. Chairman...

Ryan Stample: Out of all fairness, I would like to say that we have another proposal from Martin Avenue that we might be interested in the property ourselves at \$100,000, and we're not sure about how to go about the proper procedures to put our bid in for what we want to do with it because basically we would like to see it turned into a park. And if we can't turn it into a park, we'd like to see or be part of the negotiation process with Mr. LaRosa, or if not, we have our own plan for the property at that kind of price because I can afford it myself. Anything the Council would like to say?

Chairman Vumbaco: Mr. Parisi?

Mr. Parisi: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I wanted to call attention to is that we have nothing to tell the gentleman because Mr. LaRosa hasn't come back with the four proposals yet. So technically we can't tell you anything because you know as much as we do right now.

Ryan Stample: Saturday was the meeting. Could you give me the minutes of the meeting? Saturday, I understood, there was a meeting with Mr. LaRosa in Council.

Chairman Vumbaco: There was a discussion with Mr. Parisi and myself with Mr. LaRosa, which is a sub-committee group appointed by this Council to discuss issues with Mr. LaRosa. Mr. LaRosa will then be proposing back to this Council different situations that he feels he wants to propose for that site, which at that point in time his attorney will be drawing up some information that will go to the Town Attorney's Office to discuss. So as it stands right now, we have no idea what Mr. LaRosa will come back with. His original plan, as I told you on the phone a week and one half ago, and drawings, etc. are in the Council Office for review. You can come up here anytime during the work business days and review what Mr. LaRosa has proposed. That's his working document.

Ryan Stample: I spoke to Mr. LaRosa on the phone, and I'm not very happy with his proposal. Could you advise me on how I can address the Council to put our own proposal forth if we don't like ...

Chairman Vumbaco: We went to an RFP already. The RFP has been closed so there is no opportunity. There will be an opportunity if Mr. LaRosa and Housing Enterprises cannot come up with an agreement that this Council is willing to accept, then it will be up to this Council whether it wants to go back out on the market with an RFP or not.

Ryan Stample: Could you please put this in writing that we would like to be notified of any Council decisions, any Council meetings.

Chairman Vumbaco: The meetings are open to the public, Mr. Stample. You are more than welcome to come to the meetings.

Ryan Stample: Thank you, Mr. Vumbaco, but that's not the question I asked. The question I asked is, will you please call us on Martin Avenue, or me as a representative, to make sure that we can attend these meetings because tonight we are not prepared because it's not on the agenda. Open public forum I guess I have the wrong information. I thought it was going to be brought up tonight. Make sure that I am notified, so that when it comes up, I can put my clan together and come up and address the Council.

Chairman Vumbaco: Sandy will contact you when it's on the agenda.

Ryan Stample: Ok, there is something I would like to leave the Council with. We'd like you to keep in mind open space in town where everyone can possibly use it and benefit from it for \$100,000. I think that that's really not a lot of money to pay for that property, and we'd like to entertain a proposal, and I understand your restrictions. I'd like to thank

you for your time and entertaining my decisions and understanding where we stand.

Chairman Vumbaco: Thank you. Mayor?

Mayor Dickinson: Just a comment with regard to the reason for the price. Part of the reason ...

Ryan Stample: I understand.

Mayor Dickinson: Right.....the cost of the demolition and the restoration of the site, that's what's expected to cost a fair amount of money.

Ryan Stample: I understand, \$325,000 with or "\$1,000" without, and I'd be willing to donate my environmental lab services for nothing for the town if we want to turn it into a park which will approximately save \$20,000 for at least the analysis that I projected that would be necessary that would be asbestos, field tank, and possibly radon, but I don't think so. So I'd like to tell the Town Council that I'd like to donate my lab services to that if we can turn it into a park and save some money. Thank you very much for entertaining me tonight.

Chairman Vumbaco: You're welcome. Are there any other members of the public who wish to speak? I declare the question and answer period closed. Mr. DiNatale, Item #6.

Mr. DiNatale: I move that we consider and approve revised personnel technical job description.

Mr. Parisi: Second.

Mr. DiNatale: Mr. Chairman there's correspondence from Mr. Terence Sullivan to Mayor William Dickinson. (Mr. DiNatale read the memo that is part of the agenda packet.)

Terence Sullivan: I think that the letter speaks for itself. When we got down to the final interviews, we had candidates who had passed the examination but had experience in MIS, strategic planning, and may have worked in some capacity in a payroll department but who really lacked the kind of HR and recruiting personnel experience that we're looking for and really the job description that is currently adopted doesn't call for it, so by asking for one year of related experience, I think we'll go a long wayI'm being distracted by the gentleman to my left.

(Laughter. Mr. Parisi is wearing a Red Sox hat with a lighted, blinking 'B' on the hat)

Chairman Vumbaco: I know. We're trying to have some kind of decorum here.

(more laughter)

Mr. Sullivan: We've waited a long time.

Mr. Parisi: I lost a bet, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Vumbaco: Oh, is that what it was?

Mr. Parisi: Yes, it was. This is very humiliating.

Mr. Sullivan: The genesis for the request is that we want to tie it to the qualification for an HR personnel background.

Chairman Vumbaco: Is this in the existing position that someone left from?

Mr. Sullivan: Yes, this is my office that Sue Hanson retired from in August and when we recruited, we had over sixty people apply but very few with the experience that we really want.

Chairman Vumbaco: Did Sue have this experience?

Mr. Sullivan: Sue started with the CEDA program and developed on the job experience but what we really want to do is use the person to full capacity and the Town is best served by bringing someone in with a background, a little background.

Chairman Vumbaco: So all you did here was add into your service.

Mr. Sullivan: Yes, essentially.

Chairman Vumbaco: Any Councilors have questions? Public? OK, we have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. Before we go into Executive Session, I'd like to hear this bet. Mr. Parisi lost a bet. Was it a Yankee -Red Sox bet, Bob?

Mr. Parisi: Yes, it was. If I had won, it would have been a lot of fun because the other guy would have had to wear the Yankee hat in his restaurant for a week.

Chairman Vumbaco: OK, now I know who it is.

Mayor Dickinson: We have nothing on real estate.

Chairman Vumbaco: Item # 8.

Mr. DiNatale: I move that we go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200 (6) (B) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss pending litigation in the matter of James Sayre v. the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Farrell: Second.

Chairman Vumbaco: All those in favor? Opposed? The Council is now in Executive Session.

Mr. DiNatale: I make a motion that we come out of Executive Session.

Mr. Farrell: Second.

Chairman Vumbaco: All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. Item #9.

Mr. DiNatale: I'd like make a motion to approve the insurance company settlement of Sayre v. Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Farrell: Second.

Chairman Vumbaco: All in favor? Opposed? So moved. Item #10.

Mr. DiNatale: I make a motion that we Consider and Approve a Transfer to the following accounts in the amounts as noted:

\$212,443.67	Regular Salaries & Wages	Acct #001-5015-101-1000
\$ 12,900.00	Other Pay	Acct #001-5015-101-1700
\$ 2,644.05	Medicare Tax	Acct #001-1601-800-8010
\$ 4,194.01	Pension	Acct #001-1601-800-8080
\$ 8,279.27	Health Insurance	Acct #001-1602-800-8300

and from General Purpose-Contingency Acct #001-7060-800-3190 the amount of \$240,461.00

Mr. Parisi: Second.

Chairman Vumbaco: We have a motion and a second.

Henry McCully: As we have discussed before, this is a settlement, an award from the Connecticut Labor (Department). Jim was laid off and has since won his case, and we had to re-employ him at the town, and this is in compliance with that order.

Mr. Sullivan: The figures on the transfer include not only the back pay but enough money to get him through the rest of the fiscal year.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue: Evidently this is a settlement. For how long has this been?

Mr. McCully: Three years.

Mr. Sheehan: So this is for the past.

Chairman Vumbaco: This has been discussed in the past and is for current salary for the rest of this year too. It wasn't in the 2005 budget, so this takes care of the settlement piece plus salary for the remaining portion of 2005.

Mr. Sheehan: This is in your department, Henry? You hadn't budgeted for it?

Mr. McCully: Yes, it is.

Mr. Sheehan: So you hadn't budgeted for it? You had to hire him back?

Mr. McCully: That's correct.

Chairman Vumbaco: The position was eliminated three years ago, and through the settlement, we had to hire the gentleman back, so obviously he didn't have it in his budget this year. Thanks, Bob.

Mayor Dickinson: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make clear this is not a settlement. This is a technical thing here, and the Town Attorney is yelling in my ear.

Chairman Vumbaco: It's a Court Order. Any other questions or comments from the Council? We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? So moved.

Mr. DiNatale: I make a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Parisi: Second.

Chairman Vumbaco: We set a record this evening, and I think it's in honor of all baseball fans who want to go home tonight and watch the World Series. We have a motion and a second to adjourn. All in favor? Opposed? So moved.

Mr. Parisi: Long live the Yankees.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

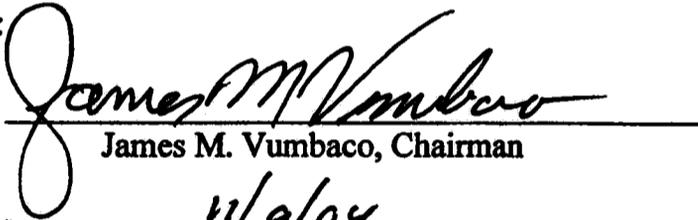
Meeting recorded and transcribed by Sandra R. Weekes

Respectfully submitted,



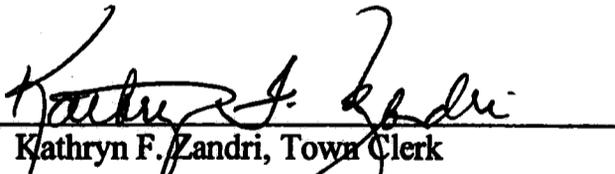
Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:


James M. Vumbaco, Chairman

Date:

11/9/04


Kathryn F. Zandri, Town Clerk

Date:

11/9/04

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

10-29-04

AT 3:00 P.M. AND RECORDED BY

Kathryn F. Zandri TOWN CLERK