

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
March 26, 2024
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson (video called in), Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Samuel Carmody, Vincent Testa, Christopher Regan, Jesse Reynolds and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone III. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Corporation Council Janis Small and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$5,942.59 (#683-#699)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of donation from the Dag Hammarskjold Middle School Builders Club and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$102 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #25020002-47152 and to Expense Donations – Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$4,160 from Revenue-State Grant Lead, Acct. #2244002-45108 to Expense Medication Boxes, Acct. #22440050-58830-10227 - Health
 - 3d. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,563 from Revenue State Grant – Public Health, Acct. #2244002-45112 to Expense – Infectious Disease, Acct. #224-TBD - Health
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$32,000 – Public Works

\$32,000	From: Regular Salaries and Wages	Acct. #10030000-51000
\$22,000	To: Maintenance of Bldgs. & Grounds	Acct. #10030000-54315
\$10,000	To: Materials and Supplies	Acct. #10030000-56140
 - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,000 from Contingency, Acct. #10019000-58820 to Maintenance of Signals, Acct. #10030050-34305 - Engineering

- 3g. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$46,100 from Retained Earnings, Acct. N/A to Maintenance of Water Treatment Equipment, Acct. #43100652 – Water Div.
- 3h. Consider and approve Merit Review Board (3) – Human Resources
- 3i. Approve Town Council Minutes of March 12, 2024.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3i.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

MOTION: PASSED

4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:** None

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Eddie Garlick of Vumbaco Dr. wanted to thank the Council for taking a look at the letter he sent them last week. He stated that he received the letter the Chief sent back in response to his letter. He asked the Council to forward on the bullet points questions to get answers and further information.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Technology

Mayor Cervoni stated that the consultant is done with the analysis and waiting for their plan. The Director of IT interviews are taking place early next week he stated. There will be five candidates that will be interviewing. Councilor Regan is the liaison and will be taking part in the interviews.

(b) Update on Train Station RFP

Mayor Cervoni stated that a completed draft has been forwarded to certain Town Departments for comments and input before it is presented to the Council.

7. Discussion and possible action on Hidden Brook Lane – Councilor Fishbein

Councilor Fishbein is looking for an update on this agenda item. Corporation Council Small said they are still in the drafting stage. They finished the review of the engineer's map of their utility easement. They are now waiting on a description. Councilor Fishbein asked when can they expect it to be done. Corporation Council Small stated that the process is moving slowly.

Councilor Fishbein asked if everything was completed on the developer's side meaning street lights were put in, etc. he wanted to make sure that the homeowners were getting everything they paid for to be in that development.

8. Consider and approve Appropriation of ARPA funds in the amount of \$210,594 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Municipal, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD – BOE

Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent of schools, spoke about one of the elevators at DAG school. She stated that there were parts of the elevator that can stay and not have to be replaced. This particular elevator goes between the library and the 1st floor. The mechanical parts of the elevator is what needs to be repaired.

Councilor Fishbein asked if someone is looking at the mechanicals of this elevator, it would give them a chance to look at the rest of the elevator to see if anything else needs to be repaired.

Mark Deptula spoke about what is wrong with the elevator. He said it is the shaft that needs replacing. He said that the elevator needs to be modernized. The modernization will be of the switches, wiring, things like that. The elevator will be updated to modern codes and ADA compliant.

Councilor Reynolds asked if this has been an ongoing problem with the elevator. He asked how are the elevators at Moran. He also asked what is the life span of an elevator. He wanted to know if this agenda item has ever been discussed in the past or if this is the first time it is being presented to the council. There was a discussion as to why ARPA money is being used for this.

Mayor Cervoni said that is a Capital Improvement item and that is what ARPA funds should be used for.

Councilor Tatta asked about this item being budgeted for the current 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. Mrs. Bellizzi stated that this is a capital budget item and has always been. The previous mayor made a recommendation to the Board of Education to appropriate this money for the elevator. This item will not be affecting the Board of Education budget.

Councilor Allinson asked if this has been an issue for quite some time, why wasn't the school ARPA money used to fix the elevator. The ARPA money that the school received is already allocated for other things and the fixing of the elevator did not fall under the necessary categories that the school ARPA money can be used for.

Councilor Testa asked for further clarification as to why the previous mayor chose to have the town fund this item. He wanted to know why ARPA money is being used instead of the town trying to fund it with other sources of money. He wanted to know if this item is not approved where does that leave the elevator being fixed. This item would have to appear on another agenda at another meeting. Waiting for another meeting can push back the timeline as

to when the elevator can be fixed.

Councilor Fishbein asked about using the 2% account that the Board of Education has instead of using ARPA money. Part of the 2% account money is allocated already and the remaining amount of money is not enough to fix the elevator. He asked if the Board of Education reserve money and the town money can be used to fund the fixing of the elevator.

Councilor Laffin asked Mrs. Bellizzi to share what the three buckets are that the Board of Education ARPA money can be used for. She said most of the ARPA money was used for health and safety and academics for the students and staff. He asked who determines the buckets and she stated it is the State. He asked Mr. Sena if the council approves the spending of this ARPA money, then how much would be in the ARPA fund.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: NAY

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

MOTION: PASSED

9. Discussion and possible approval of funding and lease for Adult Education in the amount of \$498,196 – BOE- Taken off the agenda.
10. Discussion and possible action to renew 1 year contract with CliftonLarsonAllen for auditing – Finance

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #10.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Mr. Sena stated that their auditing contract is up. He stated that last year they held their price at zero. The company couldn't do that again this year so Mr. Sena discussed this with the council and the company agreed to 5%. He is looking for the council to approve a bid waiver for one year at that cost and then the following year have the process be going out to bid.

Councilor Tatta questioned the time frame of this contract via Mr. Sena's memo.

Councilor Fishbein asked when the town last entered into a binding contract with this company. The original contract was for four years so the town entered into this contract in 2020. There was a discussion as to how Clifton Larson Allen became the town's auditor.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: AYE
LAFFIN: AYE
REGAN: AYE
REYNOLDS: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: AYE
MARRONE: AYE
MOTION: PASSED

11. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the following pending tax appeal matters: / Law Dept.

- (a) *Silvertree Realty LLC v. Town of Wallingford*
(b) *Sterling Estates LLC v. Town of Wallingford*

MOTION WAS MADE to go into Executive Session at 7:27pm.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED
All councilors were in favor.

In attendance were:
All council members, Mayor Cervoni and Corporation Council Small.

MOTION WAS MADE to come out of Executive Session at 7:45pm.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED
All councilors were in favor.

12. Motion to consider and authorize settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *Silvertree Realty LLC v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #12.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED
All councilors were in favor.

13. Motion to consider and authorize settlement in the pending tax appeal matter of *Sterling Estates LLC v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #13.
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED
All councilors were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act- Individuals in need of auxiliary aids

Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

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.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-2-24
AT 3:00 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY
Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK