

3h.

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
FY 2019-2020 BUDGET WORKSHOP  
Town Council Chambers  
April 11, 2019  
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Special Town Council Meeting on Monday, April 11, 2019 was called to order at 6:37 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Gina Morgenstein and Jason Zandri. Councilors Craig Fishbein, Christopher K. Shortell and Vincent F. Testa were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Comptroller James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
3. **LIBRARY:**

No questions.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

No questions.

**ELECTRIC**

*In Attendance: Richard Hendershot, Director, PUC  
Thomas Sullivan, Office Manager, Electric Div.  
Antonio Buccheri, General Manager, Electric Div.*

Councilor LeTourneau asked Mr. Hendershot if there is any provision in the budget for repairing light poles since many are old, peeling and faded. Mr. Hendershot said nothing specific but they do some touching up on an annual basis. Councilor Letourneau then stated that some of the bases are eaten up and they look very shabby and he wants them fixed.

Councilor Zandri and Mr. Hendershot discussed rate changes and late payments.

Councilor Zandri inquired about the new lightbulbs. Mr. Hendershot said the LED lightbulbs are better than the HPS lightbulbs in that there is more focused light on the street.

Councilor Zandri inquired about the light mechanism and asked if we have enough budgeted for that. Mr. Hendershot explained that they are a capital item and as they fail we replace them.

Councilor Zandri asked about the standard in distance between light poles and Mr. Hendershot replied that the standard is 200 feet within each other.

Councilor Zandri asked what the procedure is if a resident requests that a light pole be installed. Mr. Hendershot stated that they evaluate each request and make a recommendation to the town.

Councilor Zandri asked about solar power and if we do net metering. Mr. Hendershot stated yes we do net metering. He noted that it is somewhat unfair and the differential is statistically insignificant.

Councilor Morgenstein inquired about the energy conservation program. Mr. Hendershot explained that we have a residential program that is worth close to \$1,000.00 where a team comes into your home and they inspect your lightbulbs, insulation, shower fixtures, etc. and then they make recommendations on how to conserve energy. He went on to state we also have a lightbulb giveaway, and a commercial program that gives incentives to improve lighting, air conditioning, air compressors and replacement of old motors with high efficiency motors.

Councilor Morgenstein asked if our programs are comparable to other town programs. Mr. Hendershot said no and stated that because of our lower rates, we have less money to rebate our customers but we do meet state statutes.

Councilor LeTourneau mentioned that he did the energy program and it made a huge difference in his energy bill. He also asked about the community welfare portion of the budget. Mr. Buccheri stated that is for donations, celebrations, hanging banners, social service programs, electric bill assistance programs, etc.

### **WATER DIVISION**

No questions.

### **SEWER DIVISION**

No questions.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

*In Attendance: Henry McCully, Director, Public Works  
Cathy Johns, Executive Secretary, Public Works*

Mr. McCully stated that the biggest challenge for his department is maintaining the 231 miles of road in town. He commented that park maintenance is going well.

Councilor Zandri congratulated Mr. McCully on his retirement. He then asked Mr. McCully if overtime was lower than expected this year because of the mild winters. Mr. McCully answered yes.

Mayor Dickinson stated that our road treatment routine can change depending on the weather. Councilor Zandri asked if we maintain the materials all year. McCully said yes we do try to stockpile it.

Councilor Zandri inquired about illegal dumping at our parks. Mr. McCully said it's not a daily event and the problem is not worse or better.

Councilor Zandri asked how road projects are coming along. Mr. McCully said they are meeting with gas, water and sewer to coordinate a street paving schedule and that a lot of incidental work needs to be done before paving begins.

Mr. McCully confirmed with Councilor Zandri that the paving schedule is not public.

Councilor Letourneau thanked Mr. McCully for his years of service and remarked that he is leaving the department in good shape.

Councilor Morgenstein inquired about our resident recycling program. Mr. McCully stated that the residents take their recycling to the recycling center.

Councilor Morgenstein inquired about replacing trees that were lost during the microburst. Mr. McCully stated tree replacement and pruning take place in the fall.

Chairman Cervoni stated he enjoyed working with Henry for 10 years and he agrees with Councilor Letourneau that he's leaving the department in great shape.

## **ENGINEERING**

*In Attendance: Rob Baltramaitis, Town Engineer*

Mr. Baltramaitis stated that business is good and the budget is tight. He explained there is a 7% increase mainly due to salary increases and employee training. There is one capital item for \$12,000 for a large format printer, they use it on a daily basis and it does generate revenue for copies of maps and building plans, etc.

Councilor Zandri remarked that the fencing came down on the John Street Bridge. He asked what was spent on it and if it can be sent to the insurance company as a claim. Mr. Baltramaitis said it was in the \$12,000 range and in order to submit a claim to insurance you have to catch someone in the act of destroying it. He stated it ends up being an out of pocket expense.

Mr. Baltramaitis stated that the Department of Transportation inspects the bridge every two years and it is structurally deficient. He went on to say we are trying to get into a grant program for repair to avoid it becoming out of service and having a negative impact on residential neighborhoods.

Councilor LeTourneau remarked that the town, the state and Amtrak have to come together for a design on the bridge. He then stated that he thought damage was increasing. He thinks we should consider putting in a security camera in that area. He inquired about the cost of the last repair done to the bridge. Mr. Baltramaitis stated \$5,000.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN  
MADE BY: ZANDRI  
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU  
MOTION: PASSED**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded

  
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Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

23 APRIL 2019  
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

4-24-19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-15-19  
AT 10:00 AND RECEIVED BY  
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK