

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers

June 26, 2012

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

Opening Prayer – Rev. James Richardson, Most Holy Trinity Church of Wallingford.

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. The Opening Prayer was offered by the Reverend James Richardson, Most Holy Trinity Church of Wallingford, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance as follows: Nick Economopoulos, Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Councilor Vincent Cervoni was absent from the meeting. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were in attendance at the meeting.

2. Correspondence

None

Chairman Parisi congratulated the Wallingford Senior Center for attaining National Accreditation, considered a most high honor. He also announced that the Wallingford Housing Authority Tenant Commission will be honoring Councilor Economopoulos in December 2012.

11. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) to discuss the following case:

Staszewski v. Town of Wallingford, et al
- Law Department

**MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO:
Connecticut General Statutes §225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) to discuss the following case:**

Staszewski v. Town of Wallingford, et al

**MADE BY: RASCATI
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT
MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.
MADE BY: RASCATI
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT
MOTION PASSED.**

TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:30 p.m. TO 7:23 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION INCLUDED:
EIGHT (8) TOWN COUNCILORS, MAYOR DICKINSON,
TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.,
TERENCE SULLIVAN AND ATTORNEY MICHAEL ROSE**

12. Possible Action on Staszewski v. Town of Wallingford, et al as discussed in Executive Session
– Law Department

**MOTION WAS MADE TO REJECT THE SETTLEMENT IN THE MATTER OF
STASZEWSKI V. TOWN OF WALLINGFORD AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE
SESSION.**

**MADE BY: RASCATI
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

**CERVONI-ABSENT ECONOMOPOULOS-ABSTAIN FISHBEIN: Yes
LAFFIN: Yes LETOURNEAU: Yes RASCATI: Yes
SULLIVAN: Yes ZANDRI: Yes CHAIRMAN PARISI: Yes
7-AYE; 1-ABSTAIN; 1-ABSENT**

THE MOTION PASSED TO REJECT.

3. Consent Agenda
- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#611 - #632) totaling \$2,318.76
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 to Professional Services-
Code Compliance Acct # 10019000 (new line in Health Department) from
Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 – Health Director
 - 3c. Acceptance of Donation and Appropriation in the Amount of \$20 *Youth & Social
Services Special Fund -Relay for Life* to Expenditures Acct # 26640100-58830
and to Donations Acct # 2134002-47152 – Youth & Social Services
 - 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$60,000 from
Regular Salary & Wages Acct # 1003000-5100 to New Resident Transfer
Station (Transfer to Fund # 307) Acct # 10030000-57000 – Director Public Works
 - 3e. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$60,000
Capital Projects Fund-Transfer Station Project to Revenue-Transfer in from
General Fund Acct #307 (new revenue line to be established) and to Expenditures-
Transfer Station Project Acct #+ 30780350-57000-20049– Director Public Works
 - 3f. Approve minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of May 22, 2012
 - 3g. Approve minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of June 12, 2012

CONSENT AGENDA ADDENDUM

- 3h. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$500 to Office Expenses
& Supplies (ZBA) Acct # 10010750-56100 from Office Expenses & Supplies
(P & Z) Acct # 10010700-56100 – Acting Town Planner
- 3i. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$2,450 to Other Pay
Acct # 10020150-51900 from Telephone Acct # 10020150-53000
– Fire Chief

MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a. to 3i.

(Note: The motion included the two Consent Agenda Addendum items.)

MADE BY: RASCATI
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT
MOTION PASSED.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, stated that he has recorded on a list signs that he has seen around town with regard to advertising for painting, cleaning, fitness, and lawn service and asked about enforcement of the zoning regulations. Mayor Dickinson said that if signs are on Town property and are reported to the Public Works Department, they can be removed by Public Works. Councilor LeTourneau indicated that Planning and Zoning has a policy of telephoning businesses to remind them of what is allowable with regard to signs.

Bill Comerford, 5 Broadview, talked about the Purchasing Ordinance and conflict of interest.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, expressed concern of the moral and ethical issues raised and conflict of interest in any Councilor addressing Item #9 with regard to the Holy Trinity wall repair issue. He asked the Council follow the Charter and the ordinances.

Jason Zandri, in speaking with the Mayor, asked about the Show Mobile, which was used at the Lyman Hall graduation. Councilor Zandri asked how it was different in using the Show Mobile for the Graduation Ceremony activities and not using the Show Mobile for veterans for Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail, stated that it is important to note where bias is hidden and said that *any* association with Holy Trinity is a conflict of interest.

Jerry Kennedy, Town Farm Road, also spoke about the Show Mobile as a member of the Wallingford Veterans Memorial Committee.

Mary Beth Applegate, 1 Perkins Drive, made comments with regard to ethics.

6. Consider and Approve a new job description for Technology/Administrative Application Technologist – Board of Education

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A NEW JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A TECHNOLOGY/ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATION TECHNOLOGIST

MADE BY: RASCATI
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

*In attendance: Jan Guarino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Personnel
Randall Backes, Director, Information Technology Services, Board of Education*

This critical, bargaining unit position will provide service to the newest software program, PowerSchool, for student records. PowerSchool is in use in most schools in Connecticut and is used nationally and internationally. This department has not grown in a number of years. Ms. Guarino stated that it is the beginning of more growth to come. The Council asked questions with regard to the salary for this position, and whether it is competitive in the marketplace or not. It was determined that it is.

INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT VOTE:

CERVONI-ABSENT ECONOMOPOULOS-YES FISHBEIN: Yes
LAFFIN: Yes LETOURNEAU: Yes RASCATI: Yes
SULLIVAN: Yes ZANDRI: Yes CHAIRMAN PARISI: Yes
8-AYE; 1-ABSENT

MOTION PASSED.

7. Acceptance and appropriation of Board of Education Grants:

- 1) Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant \$21,096
Implementation of the Electronic Student Success Plan
To State Grant Revenues Fund # 235
and to Program Expenditures Fund # 235

- 2) Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant \$15,444
E-Commerce/Entrepreneurship in the Comprehensive High School
To State Grant Revenues Fund # 235
and to Program Expenditures Fund # 235

- 3) Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant \$33,060
Development of Agricultural STEM Project
To State Grant Revenues Fund # 235
and to Program Expenditures Fund # 235
– Board of Education

MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE CARL D. PERKINS INNOVATION GRANTS

-Implementation of the Electronic Student Success Plan in the Amount of \$21,096 to State Grant Revenues Fund # 235 and to Program Expenditures Fund # 235

-Commerce/Entrepreneurship in the Comprehensive High School in the Amount of \$15,444 to State Grant Revenues Fund # 235 and to Program Expenditures Fund # 235

- Development of Agricultural STEM Project in the Amount of \$33,060 to State Grant Revenues Fund # 235 and to Program Expenditures Fund # 235

MADE BY: RASCATI
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

The amounts listed will fully fund the projects with no additional funds anticipated. No public comment was offered.

INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT VOTE:

CERVONI-ABSENT	ECONOMOPOULOS-Yes	FISHBEIN: Yes
LAFFIN: Yes	LETOURNEAU: Yes	RASCATI: Yes
SULLIVAN: Yes	ZANDRI: Yes	CHAIRMAN PARISI: Yes
8-AYE; 1-ABSENT		

MOTION PASSED.

8. Consider and Approve an appropriation in the amount of \$113,626 State and Federal Education Grants Fund-Vocational Agricultural Additional Grant to State Grant Revenue Fund #235 and to Expenditures- Vocational Agricultural Additional Fund #235 – Board of Education

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$113,626 STATE AND FEDERAL EDUCATION GRANTS FUND- VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADDITIONAL GRANT TO STATE GRANT REVENUE FUND #235 AND TO EXPENDITURES-VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADDITIONAL FUND #235

MADE BY: RASCATI
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

*In attendance: Jan Guarino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Personnel
Linda Winters, Business Manager*

Linda Winters, Business Manager, stated that Senate Bill 458 §64 requires that any increase in funds be used to supplement our Vo-Ag Program and that it cannot supplant local funding. There was discussion with regard to the general budget revenue line and the Board of Education budget. Mr. Bowes stated that this is a bookkeeping transaction. Ms. Winters reported that they intend to use the additional funding for non-recurring expenses. It's to supplement, not supplant, what they currently have. The whole intent of this is that the state is supporting vocational-agricultural science technology centers and that Wallingford is very fortunate that we have a successful program with 271 students and the intent is to fill more slots. It's a good thing that we have this additional money. There was further discussion with regard to the number of students; the number of local/out of town students; the tuition for the out of town students; and the cost to the taxpayer for each of the students. Mr. Bowes added that what is going to happen, imagine June 2013, and we would have received in the general fund \$406,000 of revenue from the State of Connecticut for this program; we would have budgeted \$350,000 and we would have received the additional \$113,000, which would have been booked in the special revenue fund for the school board to spend on this program.

INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT VOTE:

CERVONI-ABSENT	ECONOMOPOULOS-YES	FISHBEIN: Yes
LAFFIN: Yes	LETOURNEAU: Yes	RASCATI: Yes

Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

SULLIVAN: Yes
8-AYE; 1-ABSENT

ZANDRI: Yes

CHAIRMAN PARISI: Yes

MOTION PASSED.

9. Discussion regarding presentation by representatives of Holy Trinity Church and School with regard to the parking lot wall that bounds on the Holy Trinity School property
– Chairman Robert F. Parisi

The motion that was made in error was withdrawn by the motion maker. The second was also withdrawn.

*In attendance: Father Thomas Walsh, Holy Trinity Church Pastor
Sister Kathleen Kelly, Head of Holy Trinity School*

Father Walsh read from a prepared statement (*This document is part of the record of the meeting.*) He spoke about the location of the wall with its reference to the school and to the parking lots in the rear of the buildings on Simpson Court. According to a survey that the school has, he stated that the wall lies on Holy Trinity church ground. He talked about the date of the wall's construction; its maintenance, or lack thereof; and of the storm sewers; among other things. The question remains as to what entity wall maintenance belongs. In an effort of cooperation, Father Walsh suggested the council several questions, that having the answers, would promote a dialogue between the town and the church.-What is wrong with the storm sewers; who has the documents that would answer the questions; that John Thompson, Town Engineer and Purchasing, determine the cost of repair to the wall and finally that the Council, the neighbors and the school meet to settle the issue.

It was stated that the Council can only do so much but it is the role of the Administration to request those things and not the Council. The Mayor agreed to attempt locating documents pertinent to this issue.

To respond to earlier comments from the public regarding conflict of interest, Chairman Parisi disclosed his relationship and that of his family to Holy Trinity. Councilor Laffin said he is a member of Holy Trinity and that he attended school at Holy Trinity. Councilor Fishbein stated that he is a member of Holy Trinity but is not active. Councilor LeTourneau stated that his family attended or attends the school and that his daughter will be on the school board.

Councilor LeTourneau stated that he had requested that this discussion take place in a workshop but that idea was not accepted. He had hoped that some neighbors would come forward to speak in that setting rather than in a Council meeting.

There was reference to the referendum that defeated the re-design of this parking area which would have used taxpayer money to refurbish private property. The wall issue is very similar. There was a general consensus that more information was needed. One Councilor would like to see a plan for the town that addresses all parking lots.

There was public comment from the following: Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Road; Mary Beth Applegate, 1 Perkins Drive; Christine Mansfield, 29 Tammy Hill Road; John McGuire, 6 North Main Street.

Lastly, Jerry Farrell, Jr., gave a short commentary on the issue with the use of old maps from the Town Clerk's vault. the thrust of his short talk was that trying to pin down ownership (*of the wall*) is murky at best, given the manner in which property lines were determined in the past. He provided a set of photographs of the parking lot-wall area to the Council for review. (These photos are part of the record of the meeting.)

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail, acknowledged the Councilors who declared their relationship to Holy Trinity.

RECESS:

Chairman Parisi said that this was an important first step. He then called a five-minute recess at 9:18 P.M. so that the Council could see the maps. The meeting was reconvened at 9:30 P.M.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

- 10.** Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor

Withdrawn

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT
MOTION PASSED.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date