

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

July 16, 2013

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

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

2. Correspondence

None

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$93.39 (#1 - #3) Acct. # # 1001001-41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b.** Acceptance of Holiday for Giving funds and Appropriation in the Amount of \$160 to *Youth and Social Services Special Fund Donations* Acct # 2134002-47152 and to Expenditures Acct # 21340100-58830 – Youth and Social Services
- 3c.** Acceptance of *Super Stop & Shop Donation* and Appropriation in the Amount of \$2,500 for *Twilight Tunes Concert Series* to Professional Services-Entertainment Acct # 10050050-56746 from Miscellaneous Revenue Acct # 1009052-47040 – Parks & Recreation Department
- 3d.** Consider and Approve Amendment to Capital Appropriations Reserve “carry forwards” for \$11,825 to Fund Balance/2012 Surplus Acct # NEW LINE and to Public Works Snow Plow Truck for \$5,000 Acct # 10030000-NEW and to Police-Network Hardware for \$6,825 Acct # 10020050-NEW – Comptroller
- 3e.** Consider and Approve Revised job description for Social Services Caseworker - Personnel
- 3f.** Consider and Approve Utilization of the Qualifications-based selection procedure for selection of a firm to perform power supply auditing services– Director Public Utilities
- 3g.** Consider and Approve Utilization of the qualifications-based selection procedure for consultant to carry out power supply manager functions – Director Public Utilities
- 3h.** Consider and Approve Minutes of Regular Town Council meeting of June 25, 2013

CONSENT AGENDA ADDENDUM

- 3i.** Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$120,000 *Capital Appropriation Reserve (carry forward)* to Fund Balance Acct # 100-49010 and to Property Purchase-60 Prince Street Acct # 100-New Line To Be Established – Comptroller

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

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: ALL AYE (9)

THE MOTION PASSED.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, questioned the 4:00 P.M. time for the Public Hearing on the street tree issue.

Bill Comerford, 5 Broadview Drive, talked about the 'spill' on North Turnpike Road and the OSHA issues and he spoke about why the silver maples on his street aren't getting attention, especially since they have disturbed the sidewalks which are now being covered with new sidewalks.

Ken Daly, 594 North Elm Street, advocated a written environmental plan with regulations for handling pollutants so the town can avoid the high cost of fines.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, talked about the list of DEEP violations with the Mayor and Mr. McCully. Mr. McCully stated that there was not a 'spill' at North Turnpike Road but rather a non-hazardous oily substance from catch basins. The Mayor discussed that the waste oil container at the recycling, which is a fenced area, was closed due to concerns that the oil being collected was contaminated. He said there are efforts to control the area but that no one could watch it for twenty-four hours per day.

Larry Morgenstein, 171 South Main Street, expressed concerns that the area in question should not be used for dumping since it is in a sensitive aquifer area. Mr. McCully reported that he had met with DEEP that day and that they are working with DEEP's recommendations. Catch basins are now being cleaned by outside companies who are responsible for clean disposal.

6. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$149,010 to State Grant Revenue Acct # Fund #305 and to Expenses-Variou Asbestos Projects Acct # -Fund #305 (to be established) – Board of Education

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$149,010 TO STATE GRANT ACCT # -FUND #305 AND TO EXPENSES-VARIOUS ASBESTOS PROJECTS ACCT # -FUND #305 (TO BE ESTABLISHED)

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

*In attendance: Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Wallingford Public Schools
Roxane McKay, Chairwoman, Board of Education*

Dr. Menzo explained to the Council the continuing asbestos abatement, which is part of the school systems strategic plan, and the many school locations this abatement plan reaches. He discussed that 100% of the priority level abatements are complete and that they are now working on addressing the second level. He added that this program takes place only when students are not in the buildings and that in addition to summer work, they schedule work to occur during vacation and recess times.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CERVONI:	YES	ECONOMOPOULOS:	YES	FISHBEIN:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	LETOURNEAU:	YES	RASCATI:	YES
SULLIVAN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES	CHAIRMAN PARISI:	YES

VOTE: 9-AYE; UNANIMOUS

THE MOTION PASSED.

7. **Consider and Approve the Town of Wallingford/Board of Education enter into a Technology Lease Agreement with CalFirst Government and Education Group for a three(3) –year term to purchase instructional equipment (HP computers) from Advanced Corporate Networking for a total cost of \$450,000 – Board of Education**

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD/BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ENTER INTO A TECHNOLOGY LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CAL/FIRST GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION GROUP FOR A THREE (3) –YEAR TERM TO PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT (HP COMPUTERS) FROM ADVANCED CORPORATE NETWORKING FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$450,000.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

*In attendance: Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Wallingford Public Schools
Roxane McKay, Chairwoman, Board of Education*

Dr. Menzo reported some of the specifics with regard to Cal/First, consortium bidding for the best products, which the State of Connecticut uses for all technology. He spoke about the breakdown of the technology for teacher evaluation over the next three years. He said all of this has been vetted through the bidding process. In response to contract questions, Mr. Bowes stated that the contract is a template of the final, which he expects to be updated yet be like the copy in the agenda packets.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CERVONI:	YES	ECONOMOPOULOS:	YES	FISHBEIN:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	LETOURNEAU:	YES	RASCATI:	YES
SULLIVAN:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES	CHAIRMAN PARISI:	YES

VOTE: 9-AYE; UNANIMOUS

THE MOTION PASSED.

8. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider and Act on the following Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$175,000 TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 58 PRINCE STREET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$175,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSURANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

Councilor Fishbein announced that he would be recusing himself from this question as he has a conflict with his law firm and this transaction.

MOTION WAS MADE TO READ THE TITLE OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE REMAINDER OF THE ORDINANCE, INCORPORATING ITS FULL TEXT INTO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: YES FISHBEIN: RECUSE

LAFFIN: YES LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES

SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES

VOTE: 9-AYE; UNANIMOUS

THE MOTION PASSED.

The proposed Ordinance and Section I. were read by Councilor Cervoni.

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$175,000 TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 58 PRINCE STREET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$175,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSURANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

Section I. The sum of \$175,000 is appropriated for the purchase of approximately 0.11 acres known as 58 Prince Street and improvements thereon (the "Property"). Said appropriation may include expenses for appraisal, testing, demolition, environmental assessments and remediation, surveying, title insurance and other expenses necessary or appropriate for such acquisition and the closing costs associated therewith, and including administrative, printing, legal and financing costs related thereto.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:15 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Christopher Shortell, Cassella Drive, said that the cemetery is an historic, living part of the town that is still being used and this builds upon prior investments in this location. He stated that this is a vital part of the downtown, and he supports this purchase.

Peter Gouveia, 34 Lincoln Drive, said he speaks as a citizen and as President of the Historic Cemetery Association, and that he would like the Council to support this item. He reported that 100% of the Board of Directors and all of the Executive Board are in favor of this transaction.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:20 P.M.

MOTION WAS MADE THAT THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$175,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF 58 PRINCE STREET AND BOND AUTHORIZATION BE ADOPTED.

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

Councilor Zandri asked about bonding. Mr. Bowes responded that the town probably would not bond this transaction but that it is good practice to have this in place.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: NO FISHBEIN: RECUSE
LAFFIN: YES LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES
SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES

VOTE: 7-AYE; 1-NAY; 1-RECUSE

THE MOTION PASSED.

The Ordinance was declared adopted.

(The full Ordinance is part of the record of this meeting.)

9. Discussion of Ornamental Street Trees – Councilor Economopoulos

In attendance: Henry McCully, Director Public Works and Tree Warden for the Town

Councilor Economopoulos posed a number of inquiries of Mr. McCully. They discussed the tree replacements on the Railroad Station green, a plan for the next two years, an arborist, the upcoming Public Hearing, a review of the history of the tree planting in various locations indicating their age and growth patterns that have caused the need for removal of the trees. Mr. McCully said there is a need to clean up the whole railroad station area, including parking lot across the tracks. At this time, there is no set plan for replanting. Costs for removing and replanting were reviewed. Tree replacements on Quinnipiac Street, Center Street and other town locations will be tree replacements again in another 15-20 years. He said several people have asked for trees to be cut. They discussed trees being too close to the buildings and that there is a lack of set-back for these street trees. Councilor Letourneau stated that according to the recommendations in the book Urban Tree Selection Manual, we should not be planting street trees as we do not meet specifications. Mr. McCully said they are evaluating the tree situation with the Mayor and with Wallingford Center Inc.

Councilor Zandri asked if there could be a time to discuss replacement. Mr. McCully said that they have two companies on board, one for tree removal and one for tree planting with a list of ten (10) types of trees that could be used. He said that it will cost \$268 per tree. He wants more dialogue with the Mayor and with Wallingford Center Inc. to discuss type of trees and the number of trees. He does not plan on a bare downtown. Councilor Zandri said that in talking with people and business owners that he has heard of interesting ideas and suggested trees in pots to control root growth. He would like to see business owners solicited for ideas and would like to see another public meeting with a better time for the public.

Councilor Sullivan expressed his concern with regard to a street tree which enclosed one of the town's ornamental street lamps. He commented on the beauty of the flowering trees in the spring. He wants to see a lot of care in the next layout as far as where are trees are placed with sensitivity to business owners. He would like to see new trees that do not cause problems for business owners or for traffic signals or for street lamps. Mr. McCully said many things are being considered in this project including underground wiring and pipes.

From the public, Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, spoke mainly on poor maintenance. Lucille Casagrande, 25 Turnberry Road, also spoke of the necessity of maintenance and pruning. She asked Mr. McCully to *take his time* to determine the best approach to the tree program.

Jerry Liu, an urban forester, suggested a five-year rotation type of plan for the town street trees. He note that it is uncommon to cut all trees on a street but rather to cut one every five years thereby having no barren appearance. He suggested that the town engage the state's urban forester for assistance in drawing up a plan. The stat provides this expertise at no cost to the town. He also named several entities that offer grants for street tree renewal.

Bill Austin, 38 Northford Road, has studied trees and listed their characteristics. He reviewed several diseases of trees tying that in with not having all the same tree in the same location. He mentioned 'the right tree in the right place' in order to avoid trees blocking certain features on a streetscape, such as business signs or street lamps. He stated that certain trees should not be used as street trees as they are not suitable for urban planting. They are wetland trees and include silver maple and red maple. He said the Norway maple has surface roots. He spoke about the health of trees in relation to how they are planted.

Paul Pender, owner of Old Dublin, Quinnipiac Street, took responsibility for the street tree issue, reporting that the trees by his place of business block the name of the establishment causing him to lose business. He offered to cut the trees himself and put trees into planters instead.

Tina Morganstein asked for thoughtful planning and to choose trees carefully. She asked if the meeting would be televised. The Mayor stated that there is not staff to televise. She offered the name of Jeff Ward, Forester at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, to the Council with his phone number (203-974-8495).

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail, urged use of talent that is in the citizenry of this town who have spoken this evening. He asked about having an audio recording made of the Public Hearing.

Mayor Dickinson reminded everyone that the point of the Public Hearing is to discuss objections about the cutting of the trees. Mr. McCully concurred.

Robert Gross stated that many good points are made with regard to the trees as he experienced at the Public Hearing by the trees in front of the railroad station. He thinks that these points get lost

when they are not recorded and in the best interest of the people of town about trees in the center of town that it should be televised.

Ken Daly raised objections to the participation of WCI in the decisions for the citizens as they are not an entity of the town.

- 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 TO ADJOURN

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date