

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

December 15, 2015

6:30 p.m.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6: 33 p.m. The Opening Prayer was given by Rev. Will Marotti, New Life Church, Wallingford. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni; Vice-Chair Tom Laffin; Councilors John LeTourneau; Robert Parisi; Christine Mansfield; Larry Russo; John Sullivan; Craig Fishbein Vincent Testa. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. was not in attendance. Town Attorney G.E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller Jim Bowes were also at the meeting.

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

Motion to move into Executive Session

Made by: Laffin
Seconded by: Fishbein

Vote: Unanimous

Town Council moved into Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. In attendance at the Executive Session was all Town Council members; Kacie Costello, Town Planner; Tim Ryan, Economic Development; Atty. G.E. Farrell, Sr.; Don Roe, Program Planner.

Motion to move out of Executive Session

Made by: Laffin
Seconded by: Parisi

Vote: Unanimous

Town Council moved out of Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda

- 4a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds Totaling \$6,227.35 (#423-444)

Acct. #1001001-41020/Tax Collector

- 4b. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$4,450 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$4,450 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-58830/Youth Services
- 4c. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$100 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$100 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-58830/Youth & Social Services
- 4d. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$30,385 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$30,385 to Revenue Acct. #227-T/B/D and to Expense Acct. #227-T/B/D/Youth & Social Services
- 4e. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$50 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$50 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-58830/Youth & Social Services
- 4f. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$7,765 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$7,765 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-58830/Youth & Social Services.
- 4g. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$805 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$805 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-8830/Youth & Social Services.
- 4h. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$580 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$580 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-58830/Youth & Social Services
- 4i. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$837 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$837 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-8830/Youth & Social Services
- 4j. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Donations in the amount of \$2,130 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$2,130 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #21340100-58830/Youth & Social Services
- 4k. Consider and Approve Acceptance of Funds in the amount of \$350 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of \$350 to Revenue Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expense Acct. #22640150-58830/Youth & Social Services
- 4l. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$6,000 to Stormwater Services Acct. #10030000-56711 from Recycling Contract Acct. #10030000-56752/Public Works
- 4m. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$24,047 to Capital Acct. TBD from Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds Acct. #10030000-54315/Public

Works

- 4n. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,000 to Fire Marshal Maintenance of Vehicle Acct. #10020200-54320 from Fire Marshal Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #10020200-51000/Fire Department
- 4o. Consider and Approve Acceptance of the Donation of an Oceanid Water Rescue Craft with accessories, valued at \$4,600 from the North Farms Volunteer Fire Department Company 7 to the Wallingford Fire Department /Fire Department
- 4p. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 to Office Expenses & Supplies Acct. #10012100-56100 from Unemployment Insurance Acct. #10012100-56970/Personnel
- 4q. Consider and Approve Updated Job Description for the position of Metering and Substation Maintenance Supervisor in the Electric Division/Personnel
- 4r. Consider and Approve Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of November 24, 2015

5. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda – None.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 4a through 4r.

Made by: Laffin

Seconded by: Fishbein

Vote: 9 ayes

Motion passes.

6. Public Question & Answer - No Public Questions

7. Discussion and Possible Action regarding recognition of the service of Robert F. Parisi on the Wallingford Town Council/Chairman Cervoni.

Chairman Cervoni paid tribute to Councilman Parisi whom he noted was first sworn into the Council in 1972, when he, (Chairman Cervoni), was just three years old, and noted Councilman Parisi has served the Town continuously since 1997. He said Councilman Parisi was first elected Chairman of the Town Council in 1984, and spent approximately 15 years in that position. He said Wallingford has been blessed by his service and has been a supporter and role model to him and is fortunate to call him a friend.

Vice-Chair Laffin remembered meeting Councilman Parisi for the first time during 14 years ago for a college politics class assignment. He said Councilor Parisi served as a mentor and godfather to him. He said Councilman Parisi was not only interested in serving the best interests

of Wallingford, but to encourage people to carry on his legacy. Vice-Chair Laffin said he hoped on Councilman Parisi's last night on the Council, he would think about the change in leadership he brought to Wallingford and making it a better place. Vice-Chair Laffin said he hopes Councilman Parisi looks out and remembers that it is not just his last night looking out into what is known as the Robert E. Earley Auditorium; it is all of our last night's looking out at the Robert E. Earley Auditorium.

Motion to rename the Robert E. Earley Auditorium to the Robert F. Parisi Town Council Chambers.

Motion by: Laffin

Seconded by: Fishbein, LeTourneau, Mansfield, Russo, Sullivan, Testa and Chairman Cervoni

Councilor LeTourneau spoke about the Town Council Chambers being as much a part of Councilor Parisi as the Town of Wallingford. He spoke on how Councilor Parisi has been a friend, mentor, a teacher and someone to argue with. He spoke about the various discussions he and Bob had over the years. He said he has learned a great deal in his eight years on the Council from Bob and noted he will still be serving the Town.

Councilor Mansfield said there is no one person in Wallingford who epitomizes defending freedom than Councilor Parisi. She said there is a difference between being a politician and a statesman and noted that Bob served his seat with dignity, honor, passion and truth and there was no constituency in Town that didn't know his touch.

Councilor Fishbein recited his poem about Bob Parisi. Councilor Sullivan spoke about the close relationship he and his family had with Bob. He reflected on Bob's 43 years of service to the Town. He mused that Bob used the "Magic 8-Ball" to arrive at his decisions. Councilor Russo said he has only known Bob for two years, but knew him privately for many years. He said Bob was an inspiration and did what was right for the Town and changing the name of the Auditorium was well-deserved.

Councilor Testa said his service with Bob goes back 25 years when he was appointed to the Wetlands Commission. He said it was many years before he realized they were in different parties and expected to behave differently because of that. Councilor Testa remembered the encouragement Bob always gave to him.

Public Comment

State Rep. Al Adinolfi read a Proclamation from Governor Molloy and State Sen. Len Fasano read a General Assembly Citation from the Wallingford Delegation which included Fasano, Vincent Candelora, Adinolfi, and State Reps. Mary Mushinsky and Mary Fritz.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Bob Prentice said he has known Bob Parisi for many years and noted that Bob never took anything for granted, including when he ran for election. He said Bob always wanted to do something for the people of Wallingford every day of his life. David Gessert said he remembered when he and Bob ran for Town Council at the same time

and Bob got elected and he didn't. Mr. Gessert said he worked with Bob for 38 years, and noted that he was always straightforward. He congratulated Bob on his retirement.

Roxane McKay, spoke about when she decided to run for the Board of Education noting that Bob was one of the first people to come to her fundraiser which she said meant a lot to her and showed that he had confidence and trust in young people. She congratulated him on behalf of the Board of Education and noted there was not a Board member who wouldn't agree to the statement that he supports education in Wallingford. She said Bob asked tough questions and demanded information and made educated decisions on the budget. She said she always knew where she stood with Bob and respected this.

Jerry Farrell Jr. spoke about the 16 years he spent with Bob on the Town Council. He said he continues to admire Bob's skills with the public. Mr. Farrell said he remembers Bob more as a friend than as a fellow Council member. He reminisced about his time in high school when he called on Bob who helped him get tickets to see Ronald Reagan speak in Hartford and the time when his arm was broken and Bob drove him to court when he first became a lawyer. Mr. Farrell said Bob has been more than a civic leader; he has been a true friend to everyone.

Steve Knight said everyone in the room is much richer from working with Bob. He said Bob was his mentor and a good politician. Amanda Doerr said she has only known Bob for two years, but he has made an impact on her life by serving on SCOW with her. She said Bob encouraged and supported her during her campaign and thanked him for everything he had done for her and the Town.

Andrew Bravo said he met Bob when he became involved with the Wallingford Jaycees and thanked him for a job well done. Police Chief William Wright commended Bob for his service on behalf of the men and women of the Police Department. Maria Harlow said Bob was a tremendous leader and mentor and supported SCOW. Fire Chief Richard Heidgerd said that Bob's support for the Fire Dept. over the years was exemplary. Comptroller James Bowes said he always will remember Bob's support for him and that Bob said it shouldn't matter in politics whether there is an "R" or a "D" after ones name. Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk, said she met Bob 25 years ago, and he immediately took her under his wing. She said Bob is her mentor and friend and helped her become Town Clerk, was her boss for a while, and had a great working relationship. She said Bob is "Mr. Wallingford".

Roll Call Vote

Fishbein-yes; Laffin-yes; LeTourneau-yes; Mansfield-yes; Parisi-abstain; Russo-yes; Sullivan-yes; Testa-yes; Chairman Cervoni-yes.

Motion passes.

Chairman Cervoni congratulated Councilor Parisi and presented him with a facsimile version of the plaque which will hang outside Town Council Chambers. Chairman Cervoni thanked Bob Parisi for his service and said he was honored to serve alongside him.

Councilman Parisi acknowledged his family, friends and supporters. He said this is what makes this Town so good. Vice-Chair Laffin read a congratulatory letter from Ray Rys to Bob Parisi.

8. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the pending litigation matter of the Town of Wallingford v. Caplan, et al/Law Department

Motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the pending litigation matter of the Town of Wallingford v. Caplan, et al/Law Department

**Made by: Laffin
Seconded by Fishbein**

Vote: 9 ayes.

Town Council moved into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. In attendance was the Town Council members including Town Atty. G.E. Farrell Sr.

Motion to move out of Executive Session

**Made by: Laffin
Seconded by: Fishbein**

Vote 9 ayes

Town Council moved out of Executive Session at 8:18 p.m.

9. Discussion and Possible Action regarding a settlement in the pending litigation matter of the Town of Wallingford v. Caplan, et al/Law Department

Motion to authorize the Law Department to act on the Council's behalf on settling the pending litigation matter as recommended in Executive Session of Town of Wallingford v. Caplan et al

**Made by: Laffin
Seconded by: Fishbein**

Vote: 9 ayes

Motion passes

Chairman Cervoni recognized two Town Councilors: Councilors Mansfield and Russo, who will not be returning in January. He, thanked them for their service on behalf of the Town Council.

Councilor Sullivan suggested Councilor Parisi adjourn the meeting for the last time in his career.

Adjournment

Councilor Parisi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist

Acting Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12-18-15
AT 3:00 AND RECORDED BY
Dorcas Taylor TOWN CLERK