

1

Special Town Council Meeting

Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium

January 6, 1986

8:00 p.m.

INVOCATION - Monsignor Connelly

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we adore you. We thank you for your many blessings. None the least of which is the privilege of citizenship, in this Republic, in this State, in this Town. May we never take for granted, either our liberty or the intended responsibilities incumbent on us as citizens of this Nation. Father, we ask your blessing, your guidance upon those of our fellow citizens who this evening are charged with the duties of public office, to which their peers have freely elected them. May these good people exercise responsibly, the duties which our community entrusts to their care with your help. It is right, it is fitting, that we readily and greatly acknowledge the spirit of magnanimity which moves these officers of government to give of themselves, their talents, experience, time, and concern. To give of all of these things to attend to our business which is the maintenance of a piece of government and the promotion of the best interest of our expanding and developing community. Almighty God, strengthen these officers of government, that they may be trustworthy stewards of the authority and competences entrusted to them this evening by us, their friends and neighbors. In all of our prayers, in all of our petitions, we make humbly, competently, gratefully, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the American Flag.

Rita Katona, Justice of the Peace, swore in William W. Dickinson, Jr. as Mayor of the Town of Wallingford, Connecticut.

(Applause from audience)

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.

Thank you all very much. It is a terrible thing to start another two years having an excuse. The excuse is that we were suppose to have entertainment tonight that we are not going to have. The Yalesville Fife & Drum Corp. can't be here. With some bitterness and certainly with a great deal of history in mind, I am going to blame it on Haley's Comet. Unfortunately, the Director was ill tonight and was not able to be here.

It is with real pleasure that I stand here before you this evening. It is a pleasure because I deeply appreciate your confidence, your friendship as we embark on another two years. Certainly the two years passed, was not the easiest two years. Nor, if tonight's events are any forecast, do I look forward to two easy coming years. The pleasure, whether it be mine or any one else's, is not the reason we are here tonight. We are here tonight because of the people you have elected to public office. There is much work to be done. It has been said that the greatest labor saving device known is tomorrow. Do it tomorrow. There is no time for tomorrow in Wallingford. Wallingford is at something of a cross-roads. Wallingford still thinks of itself as a small town, but we have needs, we have congestion, we have turmoil, perhaps equal to that of many larger communities. That is because we are in a transition. That transition can only be handled easily if everyone works together to accomplish it. Whether the concern be road congestion, utility service, education or health, there are no easy questions, and I am going to be the last one up here to say that I have all the answers. I do not have all the answers. But I think as a group of people, my fellow elected representatives and I, we can and will address the problems in as a responsible a manner as we can. We can look at it as if everything is a problem. It is either a problem or an opportunity. I think opportunity is the side we should stress. The opportunity to have a community that addresses the needs of its citizens and still retains the character, the friendliness, the comradery of a small town. That is the challenge, that is the opportunity. I am reminded of a boy who asks a great industrialist "What is the secret of success?"

have to jump at every opportunity when it comes your way." The boy then said "How do I know I know when there is an opportunity?" The industrialist said, "You don't, you have to keep jumping." This is what I think we are headed for. Keeping jumping, keeping hopping, however you want to term it. Sticking to the business at hand. Government is no longer a place to go about the business of egos, the business of pride, the business that wastes time. Government must address needs. If we do not address the needs now, they will only be there for future Council, future Mayor, and for the people who live in Wallingford in the future. Tonight, I pledge myself to you that my intention, and I believe the intention of the other elected officials is to address those needs. Not to play games but do the job and look to you in two years and determine whether you feel those who want to be reelected should be. That is the final test. The election by the public. I am gratified that you felt that I should continue for two years. I accept that challenge with humility and I ask that all of you stay involved. I don't have all the answers. I need your input. I need your energy. I need your prayers. I thank you.

(Applause from the audience along with a standing ovation.)

Rita Katona, Justice of the Peace, swore in the following members of the 1986/87 Town Council:

Marie B. Bergamini, Edward L. Diana, David A. Gessert, Peter A. Gouveia, Steven B. Holmes, Albert E. Killen, Iris F. Papale, Edward G. Polanski, Raymond J. Rys.

(Applause from the audience.)

The Council Secretary then read the roll call to which all Members of the Council answered present.

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. entertained nominations for the office of Council Chairman.

Mrs. Bergamini then states that 2 years ago she had the pleasure of nominating a man who she refers to as "Mr. Republican", as Vice-Chairman at that time. Today I have the pleasure of nominating that same gentleman, who she still refers to as "Mr. Republican". A man who puts the Town of Wallingford first in his endeavors and he never stops working for the Town of Wallingford. It gives me great pleasure to nominate for Chairman of the Town Council of the Town of Wallingford, David A. Gessert.

Councilman Rys then says it is his pleasure tonight to second the nomination of David A. Gessert to Chairman of the Town Council. David is beginning his 7th term on the Town Council this year and he has always been a good representative to the people. As Chairman of the Town Council he has provided the Council with good direction and leadership. He has always acted in a fine manner and has provided the Town with a productive business-like body. Dave stands for integrity, unity, motivation and leadership. This is necessary in running a multi-million dollar business such as the Town of Wallingford. I ask my fellow colleagues to support David A. Gessert as Council Chairman and provide the leadership that is necessary for the next two years.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Killen moved that nominations be closed.

Councilwoman Bergamini seconded this motion.

VOTE: All Council Members voted aye and nominations were closed.

VOTE: - David A. Gessert, Council Chairman - All Council Members voted aye and David A. Gessert was elected Council Chairman.  
(Applause from the audience.)

Council Chairman David A. Gessert -

First of all, I would like to thank my colleagues for the trust that they have just bestowed on me and the honor that they have given me. I have enjoyed my term as Chairman and look forward to working with all of you during the next few years and would like to welcome Peter Gouveia who is the newest member of the Town Council, we are happy to have Peter aboard.

As I walked in tonight, as did everyone else, we were all reminded of the fact that we do live in a Republic. In a republic, the rights of a minority are protected as well as the rights of the majority. The only problem comes when the rights of one group starts to trample on the rights of the other. Because we live in a Free Republic, the people outside tonight had the right to express their opinion. They had the right to do so in an orderly fashion and the constitution guarantees the right of peaceful assembly. As far as I am concerned, from what I saw, they acted in an orderly fashion. Although I disagree with some of the statements, they did not proceed to disrupt this meeting and I respect them for that.

The group I would like to address tonight are the political widows and widowers. There are very few people that can appreciate the time and effort that goes into serving in public office and I commend all of you that are willing to serve your community. The men, women, and all of you who took the time to put your name on the ballot and come out and campaign for the office and seek the support of your friends and neighbors. It takes a great deal of personal stamina and a great deal of courage to put your beliefs on the line and put your shoes on the sidewalk and go out and ask for that support. For all the candidates that were victorious and all that weren't, I express the appreciation of the Town of Wallingford for your willingness to serve because without people willing to serve, government doesn't exist.

There is another group that has to be very willing. That is the housewife that has to hold a dinner until it burns sometimes. Or the husband who goes without dinner for a while because his wife is serving. The interrupted evenings, the campaign, the press. Sometimes it is more difficult on the families than it is on the candidates. The candidates develop a thick skin but it is a little harder for their families to do that. I can tell you that it is almost impossible for any candidate to survive politically or even to participate politically without the love and support of those around them, their friends and their families. For those of you who have supported all of us, I would like to say thank you and God Bless You.

(Applause from the audience.)

Chairman Gessert then entertains nominations for the position of Council Vice Chairman.

Councilman Rys -

Tonight I would like to place the nomination for the position of Town Council Vice Chairperson, a person I have known for several years. This person will be starting her third consecutive term on the Town Council and in her last term was elected as Vice Chairwoman to the Council. She is very vocal and looks out for the Town and the citizens at all times. She provides the Council with good input and is also a good leader. This woman is a fighter. When she goes on the warpath, you better get out of her way because she enjoys fighting for what she thinks is right and what benefits the Town and all of its citizens. I am proud to place Marie Bergamini's name in nomination for Town Council Vice Chairwoman.

Councilman Polanski then seconds the nomination of Marie Bergamini as Vice Chairwoman.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Killen moved that nominations be closed.

Councilman Rys seconded this motion.

VOTE: All Council Members voted aye and nominations were closed.

(Applause from the audience.)

Chairman Gessert then says that in the 20 years or so that he has been involved in Wallingford politics, he has never met anybody as dedicated to the people and as hard working as Marie Bergamini. She is a tremendous asset to this Council and she has been a tremendous asset to me as Chairman. I am delighted that the Council, in their wisdom, reelected Marie. I certainly appreciate it because I know she will do an excellent job for the next two years.

Rita Katona, Justice of the Peace, then swore in the following members of the Board of Education:

(Applause from the audience.)

Rita Katona, Justice of the Peace, then swore in the following Constables:

Mr. Michael Denino, Jr., Mr. Harold C. Gehrke, Jr., Mr. Anthony Giresi, Mr. Robert A. Jacques, Mrs. Vivian R. Jones, Mr. Dennis R. Katona, Jr., and Mr. John J. Powers.

(Applause from the audience.)

Rita Katona, Justice of the Peace, then swore in the following members of the Board of Selectmen:

Mr. Joseph F. Kubeck, Mr. Richard L. LeClaire, and Mr. Eugene C. Riotte.

Chairman Gessert then notes that the Chair in its infinite wisdom neglected to take a formal vote on the election of Marie Bergamini and their colleagues on the Board of Education pointed it out and they appreciate that. He then says if that is the biggest mistake he makes over the next two years, he will be very happy.

VOTE - Marie B. Bergamini, Council Vice Chairwoman - All Council Members voted aye and Marie B. Bergamini was elected as Vice Chairwoman.

Chairman Gessert then says now it is official and the Chair stands corrected.

Chairman Gessert then says the next item of business is the appointment of Town Clerk.

Mrs. Bergamini then says she would like to place in nomination for the appointment of Town Clerk, Rosemary A. Rascati, who for the past two years has done a tremendous job for the Town of Wallingford. She has been very dedicated. She certainly has put in a lot of hours. She has tried to improve an office that generates a lot of funds for the Town of Wallingford. She has never once, to my knowledge, complained about the amount of work that has been involved with her duties. It gives me great pleasure to have Rosemary again serve as Town Clerk for the next two years.

Councilman Polanski then seconds the motion for Rosemary A. Rascati as Town Clerk. Her dedication to her job is shown to all of those who have had to come in to use her services, that she has only one purpose in mind and that is to serve the people of Wallingford in a courteous, efficient and business-like manner. I am sure that she will do as good a job as she did in the past.

Chairman Gessert then notes that the Town Charter says the Town Council controls three positions in the entire Town. The Fire Marshall, the Town Clerk, and our Secretary. Other than that they are up to the Mayor. He also comments on the fine job that Rosemary has done. He has heard nothing but favorable comments from people who have been dealing with her. The transactins that have been coming in there in the past 2 years, the volume of work has increased probably around 70% and she has done a fine job.

There being no further nominations, Mrs. Bergamini moved that nominations be closed.

Councilman Rys seconded the motion.

VOTE: All Council Members voted aye and the nominations were closed.

VOTE - Rosemary A. Rascati - Town Clerk - All Council Members voted aye and Rosemary A. Rascati was elected Town Clerk.

Rita Katona, Justice of the Peace, swore in Rosemary A. Rascati as Town Clerk, Town of Wallingford.

(Applause from the audience.)

BENEDICTION - Monsignor Connelly

May the blessing of Almighty God, The Father and The Son and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you always.

Chairman Gessert then thanks all for coming. He says they all need their support and guidance and their input over the next two years. They appreciate hearing from them. We will be holding about 50 meetings over the next year and they are all open to the public. He thanks them for their support and informs them that there are refreshments in the lobby for all to enjoy. The meeting is then adjourned. Refreshments were then served.

5

Lisa M. Bousquet  
Council Secretary

Approved: David A. Gessert  
David A. Gessert, Council Chairman

1 - 28 - 86  
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati  
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

1 - 29 - 86