

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY
JULY 11, 2023
6:30 P.M.
AMENDED RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, Vincent Testa Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilor Samuel Carmody was present via telephone. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Tim Sena, Comptroller, Town Attorney, Gerald Farrell, Sr., and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$2,722.44 (#880-#885)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Acceptance of Donations collected at Memorial Day Parade to be used for the Tyler Mill Nature Preserve and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$56.00 to Revenue, Misc., Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Exp.-PS-Nat Resources (Conservation Commission), Acct. #10011100-56704 – Conservation Commission
- 3c. Budget Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$66,000 to increase Interest and Dividend Income Acct. #4190 and Other Interest Expense, Acct. #431 – FY 2022-2023 – Electric Div.
- 3d. Consider and approve Appropriation of ARPA funds in the amount of \$25,000 for Baran’s Kenpo Karate, LLC to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Nonprofits, Acct. #23940250-58830-AB049 – Law Dept.
- 3e. Consider and approve Appropriation of ARPA funds in the amount of \$500,000 for Gaylord Hospital to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Nonprofits, Acct. #23940300-58830-AN040 – Law Dept.
- 3f. Approve Town Council Minutes of June 27, 2023.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent Agenda Items 3a.-3c.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent Agenda Items 3d-3e.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: None**

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bob Gross discussed the Community Pool Grant. He wanted to know how ARPA money was left. He mentioned that the council could use the ARPA money to pay for half of the pool project and get money from the State of CT to fund the other half of the pool project.

Michael Glidden asked about an update on the Wood N'Tap parking lot being paved. He wanted to know when exactly that project was going to take place.

Jesse Reynolds wanted to know where the council was with the Fair Rent Ordinance.

6. Discussion and action regarding Bid Waiver in the amount of \$1,042,886 for Motorola Solutions to provide radio communication equipment installation services for the new radio tower at 100 Barnes Road – Police Station Steering Committee

Police Chief John Ventura and former Chief Wright discussed the need for a tower from Motorola. This bid waiver is to move equipment from 135 North Main Street to 100 Barnes Road and to install new equipment. They would need a microwave pin point from Barnes Road to prime sight on the west side of Wallingford.

Michael Glidden asked about the flight path to the heliport and if that would interfere with the tower and the flight path. It was stated that the Police Department has written permission from FAA that the tower will not interrupt the flight path.

William Comerford asked why the tower is being discussed now. He wanted to know why Motorola never mentioned the need for a tower until now.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Item 6.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

7. 6:30 p.m. To conduct a Public Hearing and Consider and Act on the following Ordinance entitled:

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Item 7 to adopt the ordinance.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING “AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$34,848,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF 100 BARNES ROAD AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$34,848,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE” TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AND INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND BOND AUTHORIZATION THEREIN BY AN ADDITIONAL \$1,550,000.

Michael Glidden discussed a better way to purchase the tower instead of having to go to bid for it. There was a discussion on why the bid waiver is necessary to purchase the tower and how it would be the only viable option at this point.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Item 7 to adopt the amended ordinance.

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON
VOTE: 8 AYE, 1 NAY
MOTION: PASSED**

8. Discussion regarding citizen concerns with respect to Choate expansion activities – Councilor Zandri

Counselor Zandri explained why he wanted to add this item to the agenda. He has gotten a lot of feedback and talk about the Choate expansion on social media and he wanted to address the concerns at the meeting so that the Town Council and the public know what is going on.

Jesse Reynolds, Michael Votto, Steven Knight, Phil Uker, Allison Kegan, John Wullworth, Michael Glidden and Gary Ciarleglio all voiced their feelings and concerns.

9. Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B) and Section 1-225(f) regarding discussion of action to enforce a legal right with respect to a pending matter of Town of Wallingford and David Porto- Law Dept.

The Town Council went into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

**MOTION WAS MADE to go onto Executive Session
MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
VOTE: 9 AYE, 1 ABSTAIN
MOTION: PASSED**

In attendance were Councilors Allinson, Carmody, Laffin, Tatta, Testa, Zandri and Cervoni. Mayor Dickinson and Town Attorney Farrell were also in attendance.

10. Motion to consider and approve action regarding the pending claim as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE to COME OUT OF Executive Session at 9:22 PM
MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

**MOTION WAS MADE to end the meeting
MADE BY: ALLINSON
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 7-14-23
AT 2:00 P.M. AND RECEIVED BY
Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK

Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date