

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 3-4-24

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AT 4:00pm AND RECEIVED BY
 Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK
TUESDAY, February 27, 2024
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 was called to order at 6:30pm. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Samuel Carmody, Craig Fishbein, Tom Laffin, Christopher Regan, Jesse Reynolds, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa Jr., and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone III. Also in attendance were Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell Sr., Timothy Sena Comptroller, Kristen Panzo Town Clerk and Leanna Gnazzo Assistant Town Clerk. Councilor Autumn Allinson was absent.

Moment of Silence

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$5,799.77 (#631-#660)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of donation for K-9 and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 to Revenue-Donation-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer of funds in the amount of \$2,500 from Contingency-Misc., Acct. #10019000-58820 to PUC-Overtime, Acct. #10011150-51400 – PUC
 - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer of funds in the amount of \$2,500 from Tuition Reimbursement, Acct. #10012100-52962 to Overtime, Acct. #10012000-51400 – Human Resources
 - 3e. Consider and approve Council Rules – Chairman Marrone
 - 3f. Approve Town Council Minutes of February 13, 2024.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent Items 3a-3d
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED

4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:** 3e was removed and 3f was withdrawn.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve 3e as amended to remove wording from Section IV stating the Public comment will be allowed at all Town Council regular meetings, special meetings and workshops, except as noted in Section XII, B (3).

**MADE BY: MARRONE
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
MOTION: PASSED**

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

Update on Technology

Mayor Cervoni updated the Town Council on the progress. He mentioned that 25 people applied for the Director of IT position. 17 people were qualified to proceed and the first round of interviewing is going to happen next week.

Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell Sr. gave an update that the builder was in talks with the town on resolving the easement issue.

7. Consider and approve revision of Emergency Medical Services job description – Human Resources

Jim Hutt, Director of Human resources and Joseph Czentnar, Fire Chief explained that the only change to this job description is to eliminate candidates needing one year of working experience.

Councilor Fishbein asked for the reason for the change and what impact this would have on the budget. Mr. Hutt explained that lowering the experience requirement should address the lack of job applicants to this position. The Chief explained that pay is determined by contact so all new recruits come in at step 1. He further cited a lack of applicants statewide for public safety positions.

Councilor Laffin asked about the development of an inexperienced EMT. The Chief noted that they would be cycled onto a crew after orientation with adjustments made for their experience.

Councilor Carmody asked about the current openings for EMT. The Chief advised that there are currently three.

Councilor Marrone asked to clarify the pay at \$78,000. The Chief responded that the \$78,000 would be base pay plus overtime and that it takes four weeks of training to get an inexperienced EMT into service.

Resident Eddie Garlick asked about the ambulance committee. The Chief stated that they set the rates for the ambulance

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #7

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

MOTION: PASSED

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: ABSENT

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

MOTION: PASSED

8. Consider and approve Appropriation of ARPA funds for municipal projects in the amount of \$996,000 to Revenue-Federal Grant, Acct. #2391002-45200 and to ARPA-Municipal, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD – Mayor

Councilor Fishbein expressed that he was pleased that this item was moving forward.

Councilor Tatta explained the importance of the items on the list like the town hall roof and the fire department items and thanked the Mayor for moving this forward.

Councilor Laffin asked about the remaining ARPA funds, which Tim Sena represented was about \$2.6M.

Councilor Testa asked about further items. The Mayor advised that he is inspecting the list of items to find other uses for the money, which need to be used by the end of the year
Councilor Testa asked that the Council cooperate with the Mayor to find uses for the remainder of the money.

Jason Michael asked why we did not use the rainy day fund for the town hall roof. Chairman Marrone responded that there is a time restriction on this money that does not exist for the rainy day fund. Mr. Michael asked about the money for Pragemann Park. The Mayor responded that it is for a replacement of the basketball courts to include the surface and hoops.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #8
MADE BY: TATTA
SECONDED BY: REGAN
MOTION: PASSED

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: ABSENT
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: AYE
LAFFIN: AYE
REGAN: AYE
REYNOLDS: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: AYE
MARRONE: AYE
MOTION: PASSED

9. Discussion and possible action regarding the reinstatement of the Building Maintenance Committee – Councilor Regan

Councilor Regan spoke about the progress made by the Committee in the past and their experience as community volunteers.

Councilor Testa appreciates the approach taken by the administration to this point regarding maintenance. He asked about the length of the term, Councilor Regan agreed that the trajectory of the administration is appropriate and in 12 months we potentially have a better mechanism to report on issues and the Committee is unnecessary.

Councilor Tatta does not see the need for the Committee at this time due to the Mayor and administration.

Councilor Fishbein would be in favor of just reappointing the Committee with no expiration date and still believes there is a role for the Committee.

Councilor Laffin is opposed to the Committee as he feels the Committee was used as a political tool without regard for results. The Committee was created due to a worn relationship in the past and feels that the Mayor should have an opportunity to work on this issue without the Committee. He would be willing to look at this issue a year from now.

Councilor Marrone stated that work got done that would not have gotten done without the Committee. There could be a venue for a committee to address issues in town that are not adversarial and provide value to the administration.

Councilor Regan notes that this committee is helpful to the Council to take advantage of the skill set that these people bring to the role. He also would like a final report from the Committee.

Councilor Carmody appreciates the extra set of eyes on town property and has been valuable, without regard for the impressive start of the new administration.

Councilor Tatta asked what was left for the committee to inspect, Councilor Marrone responded that the Committee could re-inspect numerous properties during construction, etc.

Jason Michael represented that the Committee will be more valuable over time when repairs are made and can report back to the Council on the status of repairs. He further noted that the Committee was non-political in their approach.

Bruce Conroy stated that the Committee was created to address building issues and this is a tool in our toolbox for efficient government.

Larry Morgenstein asked about the scope of the committee and the access for the committee.

Chairman Marrone clarified with Councilor Regan that the intent if the motion was that the charge; membership and scope remain the same. Councilor Regan agreed.

Council Tatta stated that she changed her position and will support the Committee.

Councilor Regan volunteered to be the Council liaison to the Committee.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #9 reinstating the Building Maintenance Committee with the same members and same charge through December 24, 2024

**MADE BY: REGAN
SECONDED BY: TESTA
MOTION: PASSED**

ROLL CALL

**ALLINSON: ABSENT
CARMODY: AYE
FISHBEIN: AYE
LAFFIN: NAY
REGAN: AYE
REYNOLDS: AYE
TATTA: AYE
TESTA: AYE
MARRONE: AYE
MOTION: PASSED**



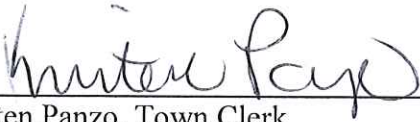
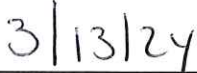
The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Wallingford Town Council Meeting
February 27, 2024
Record of Votes & Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

	
Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman	Date
	
Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk	Date

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act- Individuals in need of auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Wallingford are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator at 203-294-2070 five days prior to meeting date.