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Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

June 11, 2024

6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson (video call) Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Samuel Carmody, Vincent Testa, Christopher Regan, Jesse Reynolds and Chairman Joseph A. Marrone III. Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell Sr., Comptroller Timothy Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$58,130.84 (#798-#969)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety Grant “2023/2024 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Program” Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of Funds in the amount of \$12,633 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,000 from Secretarial, Acct. #10010550-56702 to Office Supplies, Acct. #10010550-56100 – Building Dept.
 - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$20,000 – Fire Dept.

\$10,000 From: Maintenance of Equipment Acct. #10020150-54325
\$10,000 From: General Operating Expense Acct. #10020150-58735

\$20,000 To: Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #10020150-54320
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$30,350 from Overtime, Acct. #10030000-51400 to Purchased Services-Building Assessment, Acct. #TBD – Public Works
 - 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,500 from Overtime, Acct. #10030000-51400 to Maintenance of Buildings & Grounds,

Acct. #10030000-54315 – Public Works

- 3g. Consider and approve a RFP for the purchase of a Vacuum Truck from the Sourcewell purchasing collaborative – Public Works
- 3h. Consider and approve the Continued use of Silver Petrucelli & Associates Services and Funding Opportunity for the Historic Train Station – Public Works and EDC
- 3i. Consider and approve job description for new classification for Building Construction Official – Building Dept. /Human Resources
- 3j. Approve Minutes of May 7, 2024 Special Town Council meeting, Amended Minutes of May 14, 2024 Town Council Meeting, Minutes of May 23, 2024 Town Council Meeting and Minutes of May 28, 2024 Town Council Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3f, 3h-3j removing May 28 minutes.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, EXECPT ALLINSON
ABSTAINED FROM VOTE FOR ITEM #3J

4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Consent item #3g is removed from the agenda, #3k is pulled from consent and #10 is withdrawn.

- 3k. Consider and approve a Bid Waiver to purchase a new Pierce 75' PUC (Pumper under Chassis) Quint Truck –Fire Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #3k.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

Sam Wilson, Acting Fire Chief spoke about this new purchase of the above fire truck replacing Engine #3. He stated during this year's budgeting process the Fire Administration requested first year funding for the replacement of Fire Engine #3 which is at Station #7. He spoke to the mayor about the difficulty of getting replacement parts for fire engines over the past few years.

Councilor Reynolds questioned the price for this fire truck. He mentioned back in April of this year the price was \$1,200,000 and now it is up to \$1,700,000.

Councilor Fishbein questioned why the increase from the original number that was given to the council. He asked what process they should be following. The reason for

the price increase was discussed by Acting Chief Sam Wilson. He questioned why the backup did not provide more detail.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

9- AYE

0- NAY

MOTION: PASSED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Bill Comerford of Broadview Drive asked about the work done to the stairwell walls. He talked about work done at the railroad station. He talked about the Public Works VAC Truck.

A resident talked about the basketballs at Dolittle Park.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Janis Small, Corporation Counsel said that the attorney for the developer is supposed to be contacting all of the homeowners to get the necessary easements. She said that she sent her own letter to the homeowners telling them that they should be getting a letter from the attorney. She gave the attorney a list of everything that is outstanding again and she is just now waiting to hear back.

7. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 225(f), Section 1-200(6)(E) and Section 1-210(b)(10) regarding an employment legal matter – Law Dept.

8. 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 WAS MADE to go into Executive Session at 7:03pm and combine items #7 and #8.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

Executive Session Item #8 time and attendance- 7:03pm-7:18pm.

Councilor Laffin, Councilor Regan, Vice-Chair Tatta, Chairman Marrone, Councilor Fishbien, Councilor Carmody, Councilor Reynolds, Councilor Allinson via zoom, Councilor Testa @7:07pm, BOE member Passaretti, BOE member Doering, BOE member Votto, BOE Member Roscoe, BOE member Rosacci, BOE memner Raynis, BOE member Ross, WPS Belizzi and WPS Barrone, Mayor Cervoni, Attorney Small, Attorney Farrell and Comptroller Sena.

Executive Session item #7 time and attendance- 7:18pm- 7:52pm.

Councilor Laffin, Councilor Regan, Vice-Chair Tatta, Chairman Marrone, Councilor Fishbein, Councilor Carmody, Councilor Reynolds, Councilor Testa, Councilor Allinson via zoom, Attorney Escalera, Attorney Small, Attorney Farrell, Comptroller Sena and Mayor Cervoni.

MOTION WAS MADE to come out of Executive Session at 7:55pm and go back into Regular Session.

MADE BY: MARRONE

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

9. Hold a Public Hearing to Consider and Act on the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Program – Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE to approve item #9.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: AYE

9- AYE

0- NAY

MOTION: PASSED

10. Discussion and possible action regarding Simpson Court Outdoor Dining – Chairman Marrone

This item was taken off the agenda per council.

11. Discussion and possible action regarding Council Budget Process – Chairman Marrone

Councilor Marrone wanted to have a discussion on the budget process going forward to get their thoughts on it and see if they liked the process for the 2024-2025 budget or if they had other ideas. He posed three questions to the council. Do they want budget books, do they want to do a mid-year review of department's budgets and what is their overall thoughts of the budget process.

Councilor Laffin wants an electronic copy of the budget book instead of a paper copy. He Thinks the mid-year review is good. He does not see the need to review all departments mid-year. He thought that the questions sent from the councilors to the department heads was good, he would just have those departments come answer the questions in person instead of through email. He likes the discussion part of the budget process and he feels like that was missed this year.

Councilor Regan would also like an electronic copy of the budget book. He talked about an Organization called Clear Gov that the Town of Guilford uses for their budgeting process. He feels like there was not enough information given to him about the department's budgets. He had to go looking for information.

Councilor Tatta stated that if the electronic version of the budget book is a scanned pdf, then she would prefer the hardcopy of it. If the electronic version is a usable, interactive version then she would want the electronic version. She is in favor of the mid-year review. She suggested having the mid-year review in December. She liked the questions through email but would prefer to go back to the old way and have the budget workshops in person. She suggested scheduling the workshops differently if the meetings are a problem for people. She would rather be at a budget workshop for a longer period of time then to have many short budget workshops.

Councilor Testa would also prefer an electronic budget book. He would be in favor of a mid-year review of department's budgets if the council is going to be getting a real picture of the budget. He likes the idea of holding the public hearing at the end of the month of April. He appreciated that Chairman Marrone did not make every department sit through the entire Public Hearing for the Budget process this year. He likes the idea of the council doing a little work upfront so that every department does not have to show up to the Public Hearing if there are no questions for their department.

Councilor Reynolds would also like an electronic budget book. He would also like a little bit more detail when it comes to the budgets from departments. He would also like a schedule of the events for April concerning the budget process. He like all of the questions and feedback via

email but he also agrees that the departments should answer the questions in public for everyone to hear. He doesn't think that the mid-year review has to be for every department.

Councilor Carmody likes the new process of the budget season. He missed having the dialogue with the departments and everyone. He is in agreement with having fewer budget workshops and having more departments per night to lessen the number of workshops in April. He would also like an electronic copy of the budget book. He would be on board with the mid-year review.

Councilor Fishbein mentioned the value of an electronic copy of a document and not a scanned pdf which you cannot do much with. He concern is the backup that goes along with the budgets for each department. He would use the electronic copy of the budget book if necessary. He asked for clarification about how many departments they would meet with during the mi-year review. He mentioned that there were positive and negatives to the emailed questions.

Chairman Marrone said that Mayor Cervoni and himself had discussions about the technology Coming to Wallingford and how it can help the budget process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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.