

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers
December 10, 2024
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Samuel Carmody, Vincent Testa, Christopher Regan, Jesse Reynolds and Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell Sr., Comptroller Timothy Sena and Town Clerk Kristen Panzo were also present. Chairman Joseph A. Marrone III was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$7,394.06 (#454-495)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and approve clarification of the Personal Property Office Incentive – EDC
 - 3c. Consider and approve the Reappointment of Mr. Robert P. Blanchard to the Pension Commission for a six (6) year term effective immediately and expiring on December 31, 2030 – Mayor
 - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$13,695 – Fire Dept.

\$13,695	From: ARPA-Ladder Truck	Acct. #23940320-58830-AM006
\$20,000	From: ARPA-Ladder Truck	Acct. #23940320-58830-AM006
\$11,911	From: ARPA-Ladder Truck	Acct. #23940320-58830-AM006
\$13,695	To: ARPA-EMS Comm. Veh.	Acct. #23940320-58830-AM007
\$20,000	To: ARPA-Shift Comm. Veh.	Acct. #23940320-58830-AM039
\$11,911	To: ARPA-EMS Comm. Veh.	Acct. #23940320-58830-AM040
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$34,100 from ARPA – Ladder Truck, Acct. #23940320-58830-AM006 to ARPA Computer Servers, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.

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Kristen Panzo TOWN CLERK

- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$90,829 from ARPA-Ladder Truck, Acct. #23940320-58830-AM006 to ARPA Oil Tank Removal, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.
- 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$10,776 from ARPA-Ladder Truck, Acct. #23940320-58830-AM006 to ARPA Vehicle Alerting Service, Acct. #23940320-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.
- 3h. Approve Minutes of November 26, 2024 Town Council Meeting.
- 3i. Consider and approve Bid Waiver for MES Shipman’s Fire Equipment Co. – Fire Dept.
- 3j. Consider and approve new Water Quality Field Technician Job Description – Human Resources.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent items 3a-3j.
MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR

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

There were no items removed from the consent agenda.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

6. Discussion of old business – Chairman Marrone

(a) Update on Hidden Brook Lane

Attorney Farrell Sr. updated the council. He stated that Corporation Counsel Small said the developer and his attorney have not responded to her inquires to the statues pertaining to the easements. Engineering believes that with the exception of resolving the issue, the A-2 survey is satisfactory. She has advised the developer of his decision to maintain the road throughout the winter and she will be meeting with the staff to discuss the next step.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding new Clinician Job Description – Human Resources

Jim Hutt, Human Resource Director and Mandy Miranda, Youth and Social Services Director were there to talk about this item. Ms. Miranda stated that this job description was created because there is a need for a counselor whether it be for kids, youth or

adults. She mentioned that they have had a lot of phone calls of the past few years about this. She said they struggle with wait lists at other agencies. She said the wait came be sometimes three to six months. Her department does a lot of check in's with the families while they are waiting to get into different agencies for help.

Councilor Fishbein asked who drafted the job description. Mr. Hutt stated it was his office, along with Youth and Social Services. They collaborated on it. Councilor questioned why the use of the word considerable was used in the job description in certain sections. He thought that word should have not been in there to begin with. Mr. Hutt disagreed with him. The qualifications and working hours were discussed. Councilor asked why the requirement for a Driver's License is needed. The insurance issue and payment to the town was discussed. Ms. Miranda said she is looking at other agencies about this. Councilor asked if there would be an overlap in services with the Coalition. Ms. Miranda stated that YSS is about counseling and the Coalition is about prevention. She mentioned that clients who are trying to get help rarely have just one issue that they need help with. She stated that the person applying for this job has to be well rounded in all aspects of mental health, substance abuse, family crisis etc.

Councilor Regan made a motion.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve the Clinician Job Description as it has been presented to the council.

MADE BY: REGAN

SECONDED BY: LAFFIN

Councilor Laffin stated that the YSS needs someone who can do it all, in all aspects of counseling so that way they can jump right in to help out someone in a time of crisis. He believes that the use of the word considerable should stay because it defines the type of experience this person will have already.

Councilor Reynolds asked if the pay scale would still attract highly qualified candidates to apply for this position. Mr. Hutt explained that in other municipality and he also sent this pay scale out to a fairly large mental health group Human Resources Director and was told that the amount is appropriate for this type of job.

Councilor Allinson stated that whether the word considerable is used in the job description or not that would be the basis to hire someone. You would want someone with considerable experience given this type of job.

Councilor Fishbein asked if the individual who is hired would have to comply with HIPPA. The YSS has the paperwork and protections in place for when the individual is hired.

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: NAY

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: ABSENT

7- AYE

1- NAY

1- ABSENT

MOTION: PASSED

8. Discussion and possible action regarding an update on ARPA funds – Comptroller

Tim Sena, Comptroller gave an update as to how much ARPA money was given, spent and is left over to use. He stated that the remaining money has to be committed by December 31, 2024 or it goes back to the Federal Government. The town received \$13.1 million, appropriated \$12.3 million for businesses, nonprofits and municipal projects. There is approximately \$800,000 un-appropriated. Over the last few months he has been working with departments trying to see if they had spent all of their money yet or not. He is projecting another \$175,000 that will go into that un-appropriated number. He said right now he is projecting around \$975,000 that will be un-appropriated. He is looking to use the placement provision for the remaining money so it is not sent back. He is looking for a motion from the council that will allow him to do this, that way the council will have a say as to how this remaining money is spent.

Councilor Fishbein wanted to go over the numbers again with Mr. Sena to make sure he got the numbers right. He asked what accounts this money can go into to be used for. There was a discussion as to the procedure of how the council can approve money for a project without the administration's input.

Vice-Chair Tatta stated that item #9 was withdrawn because of item #8 and the discussion of the remaining ARPA funds.

Councilor Testa appreciates the effort that the Comptroller is making to insure that the remaining ARPA money gets to stay with the town.

MOTION WAS MADE to authorize the Comptroller to use the balance of unobligated ARPA funds as of December 31, 2024 for expenditures in the 2024-2025 budget by December 31, 2024.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

ROLL CALL

ALLINSON: AYE

CARMODY: AYE

FISHBEIN: AYE

LAFFIN: AYE

REGAN: AYE

REYNOLDS: AYE

TATTA: AYE

TESTA: AYE

MARRONE: ABSENT

8- AYE

0- NAY

1- ABSENT

MOTION: PASSED

9. Discussion and possible action regarding allocation of remaining ARPA funds to Community Pool Park – Vice Chairwoman Tatta

Item #9 was withdrawn from the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo
Town Clerk

Meeting digitally recorded

Joseph A. Marrone III, Chairman

Date

Kristen Panzo, Town Clerk

Date

- ** Item added after initial Agenda (3i)
- ** Item added after initial Agenda (3j)

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.