

3K.

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers**

**TUESDAY
JANUARY 8, 2019
6:30 P.M
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 was called to order at 6:33 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell and Vincent F. Testa. Councilor Jason Zandri was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr. were also present at the meeting.

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$12,442.47 (#468-533)
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
- 3b. Acceptance of Donations and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$3,449.00 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3c. Acceptance of Operation Fuel funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$550 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3d. Acceptance of Donation from the Rotary Foundation for food assistance and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,201 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3e. Acceptance of Donation for Holiday for Giving and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$6,151 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3f. Acceptance of Donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$25 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3g. Acceptance of Donation for Holiday for Giving and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of 1,373 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3h. Acceptance of funds for Fire Watch Services and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$8,599 to Public Safety-Fire, Acct. #1002001-46040 and to Replacement Pay, Acct. #10020150-51500 – Fire Dept.

- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$700 from Rental of Polling Place, Acct. #10010600-54420 to PS Programming of memory cards, Acct. #10010600-56713 - Registrars
- 3j. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement funds from U.S. Secret Service and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$11,287 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3k. Acceptance of Donation from Mr. and Mrs. T. Horn and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$150 to Revenue Donations - Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3l. Acceptance of Donation from the Groumousas family and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3m. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$72,600 for the purpose of securing funds for the 1183 contract voted on at the November 27, 2018 meeting from Contingency-Accrued, Acct. #1001900058821 to Various Accounts (See Attached) – Human Resources
- 3n. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,000 – Electric Division
 - \$4,000 From: Office Furniture and Fixtures Acct. #391
 - \$4,000 From: Power Operated Equipment Acct. #396
 - \$8,000 To: Stores Equipment Acct. #393
- 3o. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount \$7,000 from Retained Earnings, Acct. #NA to Transportation Equipment, Acct. #392 – Electric Division
- 3p. Consider and approve confirmation of reappointment of Robert Blanchard to the Pension Commission for a six year term effective immediately and expiring December 31, 2024 – Mayor
- 3q. Set a public Hearing for February 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Community Development Block Grant Program and to discuss the final outcomes of the 2016 and 2017 Community Development Block Grants awarded to the Town – Mayor
- 3r. Consider and approve revised Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2019.
- 3s. Consider and approve Town Council Minutes of December 11, 2018.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3s.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Opened Public Question and Answer Period at 6:36 p.m.

Jared Liu, 59 Curtis Avenue, inquired about hiring a consultant to write grants.

Mayor Dickinson stated upon hiring, he only makes money if we obtain money from the grant.

Closed Public Question and Answer Period at 6:37 p.m.

6. Discussion and Possible Action regarding UPSEU, Local 424-18B, 424-30, 424-31 Case No. 2018 MBA-379 (BOE Units-Pension).

In Attendance: James Hutt, Director, Human Resources
Dennis Ciccarillo, Labor Attorney

Attorney Ciccarillo spoke about the labor arbitration award for three Board of Education pension units. He stated it had to do with the cash balance plan that we won.

Mr. Hutt explained that the cash balance plan is different.

Councilor LeTourneau asked how they are different. Mr. Hutt explained the cash balance plan is a part of the defined plan with a 7% employee contribution and a 5% town contribution. He went on to state 12% goes into pension and then interest is added. He stated it depends on your start date as to what plan you are in or if the union has moved into it. He said the Defined Benefit Plan has a certain amount of risk involved.

Chairman Cervoni stated no action is need by the Council unless we were going to appeal. Mr. Hutt indicated there is no need to appeal.

7. Discussion regarding motor vehicle and personal property theft.

In Attendance: William Wright, Chief of Police
Lieutenant John Ventura
Lieutenant Michal Colavolpe

Chairman Cervoni welcomes Chief Wright, Lieutenant Ventura and Lieutenant Colavolpe and asks Councilor Morgenstein, who also asked for this to be on the Agenda, if she had any comments.

Councilor Morgenstein thanks the Chief for all his efforts and asks what his needs will be and how does he see his department responding to this letter.

Chief Wright stated to set the frame this past fiscal year we asked for two police officers and received funding for them and we are fully staffed. He stated he's been trying to hire laterally and he has three officers out on long term injury leave and three at training. He will be asking for more staffing but he noted he does have to be careful on those costs i.e. more uniforms, more cars and more space. He explained they have a large contingent of female officers, one the largest in the state, and he doesn't want to grow out of the building. He stated they are currently staffed at 73 and he would love it to be at 80. It is the standard to be at 90 officers. He indicated they would like to be in the neighborhoods all the time but the commercial district keeps them very busy. He mentioned they were at Walmart last year over 425 times.

Chief Wright noted Jessica's group has been very helpful and collaborative with us but it is not a problem that is only happening here, it's happening everywhere.

Councilor Laffin asked how many car break-ins there were in 2018 and Chief Wright responded 183. Councilor Laffin stated there was an increase in home invasions and that he heard of the one Gina referred to. Chief Wright stated we are deeply concerned about that but we have only had that one and we are in the middle of the investigation.

Councilor Laffin asked about the bike officers and Chief Wright stated he is not opposed to adding more but some days it's just too busy and the bikes are just hanging on the rack.

Councilor Shortell talked about staffing. He stated we do not have SRO's and asked what our presence is? Chief Wright stated that they rotate two to three hours each day at each high school four days a week and one day a week at each middle school.

Councilor Shortell asked if we would need to add \$110,000 for each additional officer. Chief Wright responded yes, taking insurance, overtime and uniforms into account.

Councilor Shortell asked with regard to your building, is there any potential to be creative and have a satellite building, using another building that we own? Chief Wright stated it's nice to have everyone in one building but we could be split. He mentioned he has a meeting with the Mayor and Henry McCully about the maintenance of the building.

Councilor Shortell said don't be afraid to ask for what you want.

Councilor Testa wants to talk about apprehensions of individuals and the fact that they are let go and they do the same thing again.

Councilor LeTourneau stated we find a lot of people who were hitting us in the past are hitting us again.

Councilor Testa commented that a lot of time we hear it's the justice system and then asked to what degree does that contribute? Chief Wright explained everything they do has to be in the best interest of the child but there has to be a punitive measure. He stated they have to go to

Bridgeport for juvenile court and the case doesn't even see a judge. He stated we in criminal justice are frustrated and the watch group is frustrated. He is hopeful for some change and indicated the legislature has to pass legislation that will help us.

Councilor Testa stated we as a Council can support funding for your department and we can advocate to the legislature for action. He then asked Chief Wright if he had any data he can provide to show more staffing will help this issue.

Councilor LeTourneau thanks Chief Wright, Lieutenant Ventura and Lieutenant Colavolpe for coming and stated there were good comments tonight. He believes we need resources to deal with these kids. He would like to see these crime watch groups get together statewide and go to the legislature and work for a resolution.

Councilor Fishbein stated he did propose that we roll back what was done in Hartford a few years back but will the democrats support it?

Councilor Fishbein inquired about Cook Hill Firehouse being a satellite office. Chief Wright stated we are right in the middle of a two way radio system and Cook Hill Firehouse will be the main sight so that will be already utilized but could be a good fit. He went on to state if you have two buildings you would need two shifts of supervisors so we would need to staff and train for that in the future.

Councilor Fishbein asked Chief Wright where he was at with overtime. Chief Wright responded we are right where we should be. We are at 58% through the year with a 47% burn rate. In the warmer weather we will use more overtime.

Chairman Cervoni thanks the Chief and tells the Chief that he definitely senses there is support from the Council for an increase in officers in his upcoming budget this year. He stated he hopes the entire room here understands this has to be a group effort.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Teta and Bob Bayberry stated they are blown away by all the responses of their proposal. Jessica stated she knows it's a budgetary issue but you went over it line by line and she is very impressed and thanks everyone. She stated she is a social worker and she sees these kids and knows they realize what they can get away with.

Tracy Galouille, 9 Hayledge Court, feels confident that we will be moving forward and thanks everyone.

Jared Liu thanked everyone for having this meeting. He stated he is frustrated with the Town Council. The Chief is taking a great deal of responsibility on this but what is the Council doing on this? He thinks they should encourage the administration to add the officers now, not wait for budget time.

Larry Morgenstien, South Main Street, thanked the Chief for what he does. He stated we have been asking you to do more and more but we do need to ask our leaders to pick up the pieces that are broken. He wants to point out the positive, the watch group and people getting together.

Ben, public speaker, commented to Chief Wright that he seems to have a lot of support. He then asked Chief Wright if he ever considered a reserve office, someone not paid? He stated these juveniles are carrying a 45 revolver and something's got to change.

Chief Wright explained a part-time or reserve (auxiliary) officer must have been through the academy at some point. He went on to state they are looking for full-time officers.

David DeBlozzie, 14 Tammy Hill, asked what about a weekly update to citizens. Chief Wright stated you can come in any time or you can come in on Monday mornings, this is our briefing topic every Monday.

Jane Conway, public speaker, stated she is blown away and thanks everyone for listening.

8. Consider and approve a Bid Waiver in the amount of \$17,000 to Secure Watch 24 to purchase and install the LPR system.

In Attendance: Chief Wright

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a Bid Waiver in the amount of \$17,000 to Secure Watch 24 to purchase and install the LPR system.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: SHORTELL

Chief Wright stated about a month ago he found out we could purchase this automated license plate reader. He explained this proposal allows him to secure a two camera system that will be permanently mounted on a cruiser.

Councilor Laffin stated a big brother flag went off in my head but I trust you and so I will support you.

Chief Wright stated he had the same reservations but everything they do is to protect this community and he understands we will only use this data for lawful purposes.

Councilor Fishbein stated the memo contemplates a transfer from NUCOR. Chief Wright stated yes, we are usually the recipient of a \$15,000 gift from Nucor.

Councilor Fishbein commented that his Big Brother flag is still up there and asked what will you do with the information of the scans that are not illegal?

Chief Wright explained only illegal plates that have been loaded into the system from the state police will scan up like a silver alert – stolen plate.

Councilor Marrone thinks the fears of this falling into the wrong hands is so overblown. He stated from being in the insurance business, he'd love to see more uninsured drivers off the road and it amazes him how many there are out there.

Councilor Testa asked if it is legal to run a plate randomly if they feel they want or need to. Chief Wright responded yes, they can but he stated his guys are really busy and usually have a reason before doing it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ben, Public speaker, asked if this is just tied to the motor vehicle or child support as well. Chief Wright stated it scans the registered owner against the plate.

ROLL CALL VOTE:		MORGENSTEIN: YES
FISHBEIN: NO		SHORTELL: YES
LAFFIN: YES		TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES		ZANDRI: ABSENT
MARRONE: YES		CERVONI: YES
7-AYE		
1-NAY		
1-ABSENT		
MOTION: PASSED		

9. 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.
10. Executive Session pursuant to CGS Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Denise Whittaker, et al* – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:45 P.M.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO 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 AND pursuant to CGS Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Denise Whittaker, et al*.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:05 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
ALL AYE
MOTION PASSED

Time of Executive Session 8:45 p.m. to 9:05 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session:

**FISHBEIN MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
LETOURNEAU
MARRONE
MORGENSTEIN
SHORTELL
TESTA
CERVONI**

11. Motion to consider and authorize taking action in the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Denise Whittaker, et al* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE TAKING ACTION in the pending foreclosure matter of *Town of Wallingford v. Denise Whittaker, et al* as discussed in Executive Session.

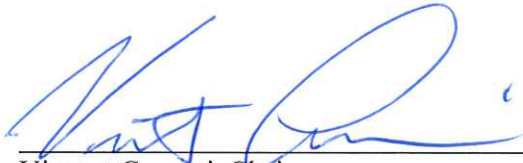
**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU
ALL AYE
MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL
MOTION: PASSED**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

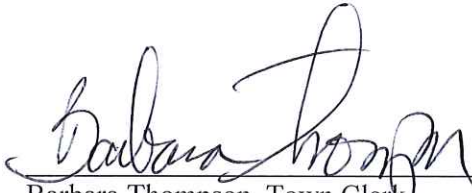
Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

22 JAN. 2018

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

1-23-18

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1-11-19
AT 4:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK