

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

WEDNESDAY
May 22, 2019
6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 was called to order at 6:43 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell and Councilor Vincent F. Testa. Councilor Craig C. Fishbein, Gina Morgenstein and Jason Zandri were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

3. To conduct a public hearing and consider and at on the following ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000,000 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TERTIARY TREATMENT PROCESS FOR PHOSPHOROUS REMOVAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WALLINGFORD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$60,000,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

EXCERPT FOR MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
HELD MAY 22, 2019

Chairman Cervoni convened the public hearing and stated that the \$60,000,000 Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements bond ordinance which is the subject of this public hearing is available to the public and may be obtained at this meeting from the Town Clerk.

Councilor Laffin moved, and the motion was seconded by Councilor LeTourneau, to read the title of the ordinance and to waive the reading of the remainder of the ordinance, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting.

Upon vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
LAFFIN	FISHBEIN	
LETOURNEAU	MORGENSTEIN	
MARRONE	ZANDRI	
SHORTELL		
TESTA		
CERVONI		

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000,000 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TERTIARY TREATMENT PROCESS FOR PHOSPHOROUS REMOVAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WALLINGFORD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$60,000,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

*In Attendance: Richard Hendershot, Director, PUC
Neil Amwake, General Manager, Water/Sewer Div.
William Phelan, Office Manager, Water/Sewer Div.*

Mr. Amwake reviewed proposed improvements.

Bob Mansfield, Ridgeland Circle, wanted to know how much phosphorus we have. Mr. Amwake answered 0.7 mg./liter and indicated we should be at 8.95 lbs. per day. He stated anything over the limit needs to be removed.

Christina Tata, North Farms Road, stated that \$60 million is a huge amount of money and she has not heard that anyone wants this state mandate. She asked what would happen if the bond is not approved. Mayor Dickinson explained that Wallingford would be fined \$25,000 per day. The Mayor then stated that a letter has been sent to the Governor requesting a variance and we have not heard anything back at this point. He is opposed to this project.

Chairman Cervoni indicated EPA requires the mandate and DEEP is implementing it. He went on to state implementation of this is federal law.

Chairman Cervoni called the public hearing adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Councilor Laffin moved, and the motion was seconded by Councilor Marrone, that the ordinance entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000,000 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TERTIARY TREATMENT PROCESS FOR PHOSPHOROUS REMOVAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WALLINGFORD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$60,000,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE," a copy of which is attached hereto, be adopted.

Councilor Marrone stated that this has been a topic for several years and we knew this was coming. He asked why we are here at a special meeting tonight.

Mr. Bowes explained this was to be on the Agenda next week but due to a strict deadline we called this special meeting because they need every minute they could get to prepare. He went on to state that four or five other communities are going to Hartford at the same time so the earlier we are, the better off we are.

Councilor Marrone likes the idea to give them more time but he believes we could have done this sooner. He stated he's still not sure why this is last minute.

Mayor Dickinson stated that the state is managing this through DEEP. He went on to explain that the government has put a hold on bonding and this ordinance allows us to do all funding. We are fronting the money and hopefully going to be reimbursed. He finds this very frustrating. He feels this is not a public health or safety issue. He stated we will be spending \$60 million and there could be serious financial consequence to this with the state not coming through.

Mr. Amwake stated that there are no clean water fund monies available and he went on to say that Meriden, Danbury, Vernon and Ridgefield are also going through this process.

Councilor Testa and Mr. Amwake had a discussion on the tertiary treatment process.

Councilor LeTourneau does not understand how funding dollars could evaporate. Mayor Dickinson stated that every year the state authorizes bonding and thus far the governor has not allowed a meeting with the bonding commissioner. The Mayor then stated that there was not one sum of money sitting there. He expects the money will be approved and indicated we need the \$60 million to enter into contract.

Councilor Letourneau said we have the potential to spend \$60 issued as needed.

Mr. Bowes stated there are two factors, one is expected cash flow schedule and two, is how the state is going to fund this as we go along.

Councilor Shortell is trying to find the silver lining in all of this. Mr. Amwake stated everything we have proposed relates back to phosphorus and explains how the current system works and what is needed. Councilor Shortell believes we are going to get a better plant out of this.

Mr. Amwake stated that a wastewater plant is not something you run until it breaks. He indicated that the deadline is April 1, 2022 and after that is when the \$25,000 per day fine will commence.

Councilor Shortell and Mr. Amwake discussed the timeline and basically it is a 32 month construction period with another 60 days for "honey do list".

Chairman Cervoni stated that borrowing money for PUC will be repaid by rate payers. He then asked Mr. Amwake how long he has been here and Mr. Amwake replied 2 years 11 months and 2 days and noted that he has been working on this project for two years.

Chairman Cervoni thanked Mr. Amwake for his work and stated that this is a responsible way to deal with this.

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
LAFFIN	FISHBEIN	
LETOURNEAU	MORGENSTEIN	
MARRONE	ZANDRI	
SHORTELL		
TESTA		
CERVONI		

Chairman Cervoni declared the ordinance adopted.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: MARRONE
MOTION: PASSED**

Council adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded


RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5-28-19
AT 2:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

5/11/19

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

6-18-19

Date