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TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2019-2020 BUDGET WORKSHOP
Town Council Chambers
April 18, 2019
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Special Town Council Meeting on Monday, April 18, 2019 was called to order at 6:39 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell and Jason Zandri. Councilor Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III and Vincent F. Testa were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Comptroller James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
3. **POLICE:**

*In Attendance: Chief William Wright
Beth DiGhella, Executive Secretary*

Chief Wright talked about a salary increase, two new police officers, and an overtime line increase for the 2020 Parade. He indicated a 1.2% maintenance increase for clothing and equipment and a 21.3% capital line increase. He then stated that four host servers are needed, they are replacing PC's and laptops.

Chairman Cervoni inquired about the parade cost. Chief stated it will cost between \$22,000 and \$30,000 for that day.

Councilor Shortell asked if the monthly service volume call has spiked.

Chief Wright discussed car break-ins and traffic violations on Route 5 corridor.

Councilor Shortell asked if crime is down or if the nature of crime is different. Chief Wright stated crime is down but there is a spike in car thefts and opioid overdoses are up. He stated we want to keep our level of service the same going forward.

Councilor Zandri asked when making the comparison that crime is down how do you analyze that? Chief Wright indicated they get a quarterly report with calls. He stated they believe about 50% of crime is not reported.

Councilor Zandri asked if we are at where we want to be with the number of officers we have. Chief thinks we will be the year after next once we get the two officers in place. He stated we will have 75 officers once we hire new officers and indicated each community is vastly different.

Councilor Morgenstein asked while working in the schools, are your officers using the Board of Education computers. Chief stated between 2 ½ and 4 hours are spent in the schools, and we use only our own equipment.

Mayor Dickinson stated only one person is in charge of the police staff and that is the Police Chief. Councilor Morgenstein stated she is asking if officers are using Board of Education equipment. Chief Wright responded no.

Councilor Shortell inquired about diversity in the Police Department. Chief Wright stated 13.5% are females. He stated they have one Latino female and one Latino male. Chief Wright mentioned they had a video out last year showing their diversity and noted they have only one African American. He stated our population in Wallingford is 11% Latino so we do need to work on diversity but we need a qualified workforce. He stated we could and should be more in line with the census. He then remarked if we hire more than three more females, we will be out of space. He stated he spoke with a specialized law enforcement architect about some locker room renovations and we are looking at about 1 million dollars in costs. We will need to do that in the next few years.

Chief spoke briefly about some bills in Hartford that discuss Regionalization.

Chairman Cervoni stated he feels safe in this town and it is largely because of the work that you and your people do so keep it up.

FIRE

*In Attendance: Richard Heidgerd, Fire Chief
Joseph Czentnar, Deputy Fire Chief
Stephen Alsup, Deputy Fire Chief*

Chief Heidgerd explained they are in the process of contractual negotiations. They will be purchasing a ladder truck for \$800,000 which will be paid out of CRRRA funding money.

Councilor Morgenstein stated we all know the rescue truck that was down for a month was nerve wracking and we do not want to see that this year.

Chief stated we have shift strength so we can usually predict our amount of staff. We are fully funded going forward this year. Last year we had a few shortfalls.

Councilor Morgenstein stated she understands you have to have the skill set and testing and asked when will you have two new firefighters? Chief responded testing is very competitive and every community is challenged with the same problems and we are looking at other solutions. He explained that presently they can only hire a certified paramedic but they are discussing this with the Personnel Department to help attract more candidates.

Chairman Cervoni asked if the calls have shifted to more medical than fire and the Chief stated that is correct. Chairman Cervoni indicated he suspects that there are firefighter paramedics on those calls. Chief responded yes, but noted most of their calls are now medical and within medical

there are five categories. Chief then stated daytime calls are the highest and we have two transporting ambulances.

Councilor Shortell inquired about salaries and asked when that contract will be negotiated. Chief responded July 1st. Councilor Shortell then asked why you didn't put a place holder in.

Mayor Dickinson stated that we never put a place holder in and noted there are negotiations going on.

Councilor Shortell asked for a breakdown of volunteer and career positions. Chief stated there are 63 filled career positions, 33 volunteer and 18 EMS volunteer positions.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: MORGENSTEIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNE
MOTION: PASSED

The Council adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-22-19
AT 10:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK

Vincent Cervoni, Chairman Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk Date