

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019
6:30 P.M
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Councilors Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone (left early), Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell, Vincent F. Testa and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also present.

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$66,898.75 (#166-265) Acct. #1001001-41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and approve appointment of Dee Prior Nesti to the Central Regional Tourism District Board of Directors for a three year term – Mayor
- 3c. Acceptance of grant from the Digital Harbor Foundation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 to Revenue, Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS
- 3d. Acceptance of funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,125 to Revenue, Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS
- 3e. Acceptance of Donation from the Connecticut Street Rod Association and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$250 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3f. Acceptance of Donation from the Wallingford Foundation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,000 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3g. Re-appropriation of Project Graduation funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$8,925 to Revenue, Acct. #2324002-49000 and to Expenditures, Acct. #23240150-58252 – Y&SS
- 3h. Consider and approve acceptance of reimbursement from the State of Connecticut for Dispatcher 911 Training and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$787 – Police Dept.

\$787	From: Revenue	Acct. #1009052-47040
\$249	To: Continuing Education & Training	Acct. #10020050-55700
\$537.92	To: Police Overtime	Acct. #10020050-51400

- 3i. Consider and approve Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Safety grant and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$6,728 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$543 from Regular Wages, Acct. #10020100-51000 to Overtime, Acct. #10020100-51400 (FY 2018-2019) – Animal Control Officer
- 3k. Consider and approve Acceptance of Gifts to the Wallingford Public Schools for 2018-2019 totaling \$226,431 - BOE
- 3l. Approve August 20, 2019 Town Council Minutes

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

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

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Opened Public Question and Answer Period at 6:37 P.M.

Bill Comerford, discussed the photos of the building on Prince Street and the condition of the siding. The Mayor said the representative from the siding company took samples and he will be writing a report which should be available in three to four weeks. Mr. Comerford provided a photo of the building for the record to the Town Clerk.

Larry Morgenstein asked chairman Cervoni if there will be public input during the CMEEC discussion. Chairman Cervoni answered yes.

Closed Public Question and Answer Period at 6:41 p.m.

- 6. Consider and approve a Bid Waiver Request for Verathon, provider of the GlideScope Video Laryngoscopes at a cost of approximately \$35,000 – Fire Dept.

*In Attendance: Chief Heidgerd, Fire Chief
Stephen Alsup, Deputy Fire Chief*

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a Bid Waiver Request for Verathon, provider of the GlideScope Video Laryngoscopes at a cost of approximately \$35,000.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

Chairman Cervoni asked why we are doing bid waiver. Deputy Chief Alsup explained it was a six month process and we chose the best device. He stated it's an expensive product up front but it meets the needs in the field.

Chairman Cervoni asked if this device is used to look for an obstruction. Deputy Chief Alsup stated yes and also for cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest and to secure an airway. Deputy Chief Alsup also said the company covers the cost for consumables for one year.

Councilor Fishbein questioned the procedure for going directly to a bid waiver for the purchase of this device. He stated the procedure is first to go out to public bid and if that doesn't work the alternative is a RFP which still puts it out there. He noted this is not what happened here and asked why not a RFP.

Deputy Chief Alsup felt this was the best way to purchase this item. He stated it is only available through the manufacturer and we evaluated many products and chose the best one.

Councilor Fishbein said you cannot go out to bid for a sale source. He has faith in the Fire Department but has a problem with the process not being followed.

Councilor LeTourneau asked if the picture they received in their packet is the device they are talking about; is it going into emergency vehicles; and how many units are we purchasing. Deputy Chief Alsup stated we are purchasing 10 units. Councilor LeTourneau then inquired about consumables. Deputy Chief Alsup stated from screen down is disposable.

Councilor Letourneau asked if we will only be using the new product from now on. Deputy Chief Alsup said no, we will always maintain the flashlight type as well.

Councilor Testa asked the question is this unit the best one? Is this the unit that will save lives? He then discussed the bid process and commented that maybe the low bid is not the best way to go when buying life-saving equipment. He also stated we know the Fire Department has done their homework.

Councilor Morgenstein stated she can relate completely with the importance of getting intubation right on the first try because she is in the medical field.

Councilor Laffin inquired about the cost of consumables. Deputy Chief Alsup stated it is approximately \$20 to \$30 per blade and we are getting one year's worth of consumables.

Councilor Laffin is okay with this process.

Councilor Fishbein stated that his understanding is that a department cannot decide willy nilly not to go with the low bid and if you want a RFP you need permission. Attorney Farrell indicated you need to give notice to seek a RFP. Councilor Fishbein stated once more we need some action to give prior notice. He likes the process and does not want chaos. He thanks the Fire Department for coming.

Public Comment

Jeff Kohan stated that vendors demo products and asked were you able to do that. Deputy Chief Alsup responded yes each vendor was given one hour in lab at the training station. He went on to say we whittled it down to two devices and the majority chose the final product. Mr. Kohan stated that's perfect and noted that is how he purchased products. Deputy Chief Alsup stated that they asked other paramedics for their opinion.

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

7. Presentation of design concept for a new community pool and possible action – Recreation Department Pool Committee

*In Attendance: Michael Savenelli, Chair, Pool Committee
Kenny Michaels, Director of Parks & Recreation
Michael Fortuna, AIA RLVA*

Mr. Savenelli thanked the Council for having the Committee here for this presentation. He stated they have put a lot of time and effort into this and they are confident and comfortable with what they have to present. He went on to say they are on a tight timetable to open in 2021.

Mr. Fortuna said this is a vigorous process with a lot of input. He stated that Wallingford's current pool is the largest in the nation. Mr. Fortuna presented a slide show of the proposed plan to the Council and members of the audience.

The highlights of his presentation include:

- Existing Site
- Site Plan
- New Bus drop-off location
- New Bath House Plans

- Pool Layout
- Splash Pad
- Play Scape
- Volleyball Court and Site Amenities
- Longer Season and Budget
- Summary
- Schedule

Councilor Laffin indicated this process went fast and he thanked the Committee. He stated he loves the pool, the splash pad and the bath house but he questioned the parking location.

Mr. Fortuna stated that the bus drop-off is the starting point which leads to the bathhouse.

Councilor Laffin asked about handicap accessibility and stated he would like to see a stage area.

Councilor Laffin questioned the life of the pool. He stated that he is a proponent of the pool and asked what we have to do to keep this moving.

Councilor Shortell stated he wants to get it right. He asked if there are comparable pools in the area and if we are comparing apples to apples. Mr. Fortuna stated that West Hartford has four pools and New Britain has a pool. He has concerns about the size of the pool and feels projected sales are underestimated.

Councilor LeTourneau asked if this will be a pool that we paint or will it be a liner system. Mr. Fortuna discussed the options which are concrete, gunite or a liner system. Councilor LeTourneau questioned how we can approve a proposal when we don't know what you are going to do. Mr. Fortuna stated that we are looking for approval for the overall design tonight.

The Mayor stated we are trying to stay close to the \$5 million.

Councilor Fishbein commented that no notice went out to the public. Chairman Cervoni referred to the Agenda item which states presentation and possible action.

Councilor Fishbein believes that raising the pool pass cost will lower the buyers. He asked if the Council is being asked to approve the base project. Mr. Fortuna said they are going to Inland Wetlands/P&Z with the full project. Councilor Fishbein stated in general, he is in favor of the project and asked if we are locked into that size pool. Mr. Fortuna replied yes, for this basic plan.

Councilor Fishbein calls the Question
There was no second

Councilor Zandri remarked if we have a smaller pool, then we would have fewer lifeguards. Mr. Fortuna said it would reduce lifeguards by two or three and stated there are currently eight lifeguards.

Mr. Bowes stated this is a perfect project to bond.

Councilor Zandri is in support of this.

Councilor Testa would like the Committee to propose the best options including what everything costs and stated it is up to the Council to say if it is feasible. He went on to say he likes the design and complimented the Committee for their expertise.

Councilor Shortell inquired about the base project approval versus the alternate project. Mr. Fortuna indicated that most seem to want the whole project.

MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE PARKS AND RECREATION TO PROCEED FORWARD WITH POOL PROJECT AS DESCRIBED.

**MADE BY: SHORTELL
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

There was discussion regarding four lanes versus eight lanes. Michelle Bjorkman stated they do not have demand or a need for more than four lanes.

Public Comment

Alida Cella, 241 North Whittlesey Ext., likes the original plan with two pools and asked if lap lanes could be separated by a wall. Mr. Fortuna replied it cannot be separated by a wall due to filtration.

Kevin McNamara, 356 South Orchard Street, stated he is a proponent of six lanes.

Joan Moore, 11 Stegos Drive, thanked everyone for their hard work and indicated she wants six lap lanes to be considered.

Maggie Vitale, 7 Dogwood, wants an explanation of the bus drop-off. She then inquired about security at the picnic pavilion area after the season. Mr. Michaels stated the police will be able to drive through and patrol.

Joe Mirra, 7 Sunwood Drive, thanked the Committee. He believes this plan is terrific and stated this will be great interaction for children.

Paul Ciardullo, 2 Bayberry Drive, commended the Committee. He stated he is a big supporter of the pool and feels it is very good for the community. He thinks we should put the pool proposal on the ballot in November.

Mayor Dickinson spoke about usage and repairs and stated we can't go on with the pool as it is. He stated we either have to build a pool or close the existing pool. It is not an option to repair the existing pool.

Jaime Hine, 342 South Elm Street, thanked the Committee for their work. He asked if there has been any discussion of offering day passes. He suggested offering concessions or food trucks.

Mr. Savenelli said food trucks are in the plan and day passes are \$8 per day and may be purchased online.

Anthony Matias, 32 Parkview, stated he would love to see this happen.

Jeff Kohan commented great job and feels that the extra lap lane is necessary.

John Walworth, 28 Laurelwood Drive, feels this meets the needs of the young and the seniors. He doesn't feel we should get crazy over two more lanes. He supports this project.

Alida Cella is excited for food trucks. She asked if there is enough space for two. Mr. Michaels stated they would go out to bid. She then inquired about a bus stop for a camp bus and Mr. Michaels said they could accommodate a camp bus or city bus.

Chairman Cervoni thanked the Committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	MORGENSTEIN: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	SHORTELL: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: ABSENT	CERVONI: YES
8-AYE	
1-ABSENT	
MOTION: PASSED	

There was a 10 minute recess at 10:05 p.m.

8. Discussion regarding CMEEC Arbitration and settlement – Councilors Zandri, Testa and Morgenstein

*In Attendance: Richard Hendershot, Director, Public Utilities
Janis Small, Corporation Counsel
Bob Beaumont, Chair, PUC Commission
Gerald Farrell, Sr., Town Attorney*

Attorney Farrell stated we had to do nothing to get out of the contract. He went on to say we felt that from what we learned in arbitration, it was best to get out.

Councilor Zandri stated this is an opportunity to flush out answers with us getting out of the CMEEC Agreement. He appreciates that everyone is here at this late hour.

Councilor Zandi felt we could have gotten savings going forward had we stayed.

Mr. Beaumont stated that we got out January 1, 2014 and we stopped being a customer January 1, 2018.

Councilor Zandri said we had \$2.8 million in legal fees and asked what we got.

Mr. Beaumont stated that we got \$3,670,000.

Attorney Farrell stated that Wallingford buys energy in the marketplace.

Councilor Morgenstein asked, as we move forward, are there things with review of contracts that we've learned to not get ourselves in this position again.

Mr. Hendershot stated every contract that has come since has had no arbitration.

Attorney Small stated we could not trust CMEEC.

Councilor Fishbein wanted to know whose job description it was to review documents on a monthly basis. The Mayor stated the responsibility is with PUC and staff.

Jaime Hine, 342 South Elm Street, commented.

Jeff Kohan thanked Jason, Gina and Craig for getting this on the Agenda.

There was lengthy discussion with regard to the contract and the settlement.

- 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 – Mayor - *Withdrawn*

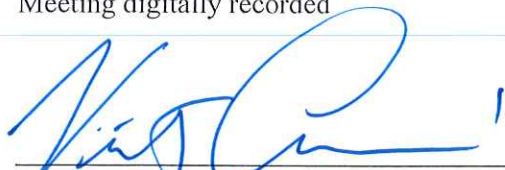
MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: SHORTELL
SECONDED BY: MORGENSTEIN
ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

The Council adjourned the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
 Council Staff
 Meeting digitally recorded


RECEIVED FOR RECORD 9-13-19
 AT 12:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK



 Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

24 SEPT. 2019

 Date



 Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

9-25-19

 Date