

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD REMOTELY  
at GoToMeeting.com**

**TUESDAY  
MAY 26, 2020  
6:30 P.M.**

**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 was called to order at 6:31 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Comptroller James Bowes were also present **(BY TELECONFERENCE)**.

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$4,954.68 (#910-930)  
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Acceptance of Donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500.00 to Revenue Donations - Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations- Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 - Police Dept.
- 3c. Acceptance of Federal/State Highway Grant 2019/2020 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,931 to Revenue Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3d. Acceptance of Overtime Expenses from U.S. Secret Service and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,402 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Police Overtime, Acct. #10020050-51400 – Police Dept.
- 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,000 from Wage Differentials, Acct. #10020050-51450 to Police Operating Expenses, Acct. #10020050-58735 – Police Dept.
- 3f. Acceptance of Redflex funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,404 to Court Motor Vehicle Fines, Acct. #1002001-45124 and to Police Operating Expense, Acct. #10020050-58735 – Police Dept.
- 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,800 from Wage Differentials, Acct. #10020050-51450 to Capital Network Switch Replacement, Acct. #10020050-57000-00815 – Police Dept.
- 3h. Acceptance of Donation from Roehm America and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.

- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,500 from Promotional Expenses, Acct. #10011050-55405 to Capital-Computers, Acct. #TBD – EDC
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,200 from Office Expenses & Supplies, Acct. #10010200-56100 to Capital-Computers, Acct. #TBD –Program Planning
- 3k. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$11,100 – Fire Dept.
- \$11,100 From: Volunteer Tax Abatement Acct. #10020150-52961
- \$8,570 To: Capital Acct. – AED Acct. #10020150-57000-00826  
\$2,530 To: Operating Expenses Acct. #10020150-58735
- 3l. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$20,000 from Utilities, Acct. #10020150-53010 to Capital Acct.: Turnout Gear, Acct. #10020150-57000-00836 – Fire Dept.
- 3m. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,851- Fire Dept.
- \$ 663 From: Intake Valve Acct. #10020150-57000-00817  
\$ 152 From: Thermal Imaging Camera Acct. #10020150-57000-00825  
\$ 48 From: Scoop Stretcher Acct. #10020150-57000-00828  
\$1,296 From: PPV Fan Acct. #10020150-57000-00829
- \$ 96 From: Stop the Bleed Acct. #10020150-57000-00831  
\$ 484 From: Generator Powered Lights Acct. #10020150-57000-00834  
\$ 735 From: SCBA Acct. #10020150-57000-00835  
\$1,377 From: SCBA Air Compressor Acct. #10020150-57000-00837
- \$4,851 To: Building Improvement/  
Maintenance CFHQ Acct. #10020150-57000-00824
- 3n. Acceptance of Donation from Roehm America and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,000 to Revenue Account, Acct. #250-TBD and to Expense Account, Acct. #25020150-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.
- 3o. Acceptance of Donation from Mr. J. Michael Johnson and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500 to Revenue Account, Acct. #250-TBD and to Continuing Education & Training, Acct. #250-TBD – Fire Dept.
- 3p. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,250 – Fire Dept./ Emergency Management
- \$450 From: Maintenance of Vehicle Acct. #10010800-54320  
\$200 From: Office Expense & Supplies Acct. #10010800-56100  
\$600 From: Operating Expenses Acct. #10010800-58735  
\$1,250 To: Telephone Acct. #10010800-53000

- 3q. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,950 from Contingency, General Purposes, Acct. #10019000-58820 to PBC Contamination, Acct. #10030000-56850 – Public Works
- 3r. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$6,200 from Contingency-General, Acct. #10019000-58820 to Professional Services-Lawyers, Acct. #10010300-56710 – Law Dept.
- 3s. Approve May 5, 2020 Budget Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2020 Budget Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2020 Town Council Meeting Minutes and May 12, 2020 Budget Meeting Minutes.

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

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: TATTA**  
**VOTE: ALL AYE**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

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

- 5. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$54,500 – Fire Dept.

\$ 7,500	From: Overtime	Acct. #10020150-51400
\$24,000	From: Wage Differentials	Acct. #10020150-51450
\$23,000	From: Other Pay	Acct. #10020150-51900
\$54,500	To: Replacement Pay	Acct.#10020150-51500

In Attendance: Chief Heidgerd, Fire Chief

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,500.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: TATTA**

Chief Heidgerd stated this is the second time we are transferring by attrition. We have gotten to our correct payroll numbers. This was a known process that we have been going through.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>9-AYE</b>	
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>	

6. Report from Stephen Civitelli, Health Director, regarding COVID-19 - Chairman Cervoni

Mr. Civitelli reported:

Community based numbers have dropped for new cases. There has been a 50% drop in healthcare and a 60% drop in community based numbers of new cases.

We are more recently working with local businesses. There are 500 licensed businesses trying to get back to some sort of normal.

Still working on mass dispensing of the vaccine for next year.

We are looking to do a flu clinic earlier this year, September or October, to stay away from the next potential COVID wave.

Some good news from CDC indicated that person to person is the most prominent spread of COVID not surfaces or objects.

Councilor Morgenstein asked if there is any accurate data on false negatives. Mr. Civitelli replied no.

Councilor Morgenstein has concerns about distancing and outdoor dining. She asked if there is a way to have pedestrians not walk on the street's sidewalks where there is dining. Mr. Civitelli said she should discuss this with the Police Chief.

Councilor Morgenstein questioned why the Council did not get a copy of the Mayor's letter to barber shops.

Councilor Fishbein thanked Mr. Civitelli for getting rid of the litter and newspapers in the driveways.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about contact tracing. Mr. Civitelli stated it is easier to do with a smaller number and explained you would try to get close contacts and co-workers to do a 14 day quarantine.

Councilor Fishbein asked if the three golf courses in town are open. Mr. Civitelli said he knows that two are open and that you need to keep a six foot distance.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about nursing homes and stated he saw a large number of cases at Regency House. Mr. Civitelli said they have the largest number of cases and they were inspected by the State and the National Guard. Mr. Civitelli went on to say Regency House had 81 positive cases and 39 have passed and Skyview had 57 cases and 5 have passed.

Adelheid Koepfer, 23 Whiffle Tree Road, remarked that we have fewer cases than Meriden but more fatalities.

Mr. Civitelli explained we do not know pre-existing conditions of those in homes. We were focusing on PPE and how they were moving patients around but it is hard to quantify fatalities.

7. Report from EDC regarding economic impact of COVID-19 on the business community in Wallingford – Councilor Tatta

*In Attendance: Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist*

Mr. Ryan stated there are more unknowns than knowns when it comes to the impact COVID-19 will have on Wallingford's economy but he will offer some bullet points.

- Stock markets are rebounding while companies are laying-off a record number of people.
- He expects local turmoil over the next year.
- Over the past 5 to 6 years Wallingford added 50 new businesses per year but in 2021 we will have fewer businesses.
- We will have a hard time attracting new businesses.
- Short-term manufacturing will be okay, not flourishing but just okay. They are more accustomed to ebbs and flows.
- Regarding retail he thinks a long term reconfiguration will take place.
- Hotels are taking an especially hard hit. There are four hotels at 68 and 91 and two more being built. Mr. Ryan does not think they will be built.
- We have struggled for a while with the office market. Cities have become more popular and now it will be adaptive re-use, more supply than demand.
- Businesses growth over the next 20 years will be very slow. Mr. Ryan believes we will be lucky to have any new businesses this year.
- On some positive notes diversity in our tax base will help us weather this storm.
- Unemployment in Wallingford today is 12% and before COVID it was 4%.
- International flights from big cities are happening.
- Proton Beam is still building its 72 million dollar building which is a joint Yale/Hartford Hospital venture and that's good news.
- Chairman Cervoni stated to Mr. Ryan that his report was more in depth than he anticipated, sobering but insightful.

Councilor Tatta thanked Mr. Ryan for his report and stated she wanted everyone to hear this before the budget.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding Town Council Pool Committee – Councilor Shortell

*In Attendance: Michael Savinelli, Pool Committee  
Kenneth Michaels, Parks & Recreation Director*

Councilor Shortell said he was thinking where we do we go from here to keep this focus alive. He mentioned when he re-watched the original meeting with John Gawlak there was talk of forming a committee and then the Council did not form the committee. He stated he sees three things:

1. What it would cost to keep and/or replace the current pool.
2. The new proposed design - The committee that worked on this did a great job but what would it cost to do six lanes, a bigger splash pad and public/private sponsorship.
3. Annual recommendation to the full Council, i.e. this is what we have learned; this is where the economy is, etc.

Councilor Shortell stated this is to build onto what the pool committee has already done, just growing on it, a level of accountability to keep the pool alive.

Mr. Savinelli feels this is a good idea. He's said he's not sure about another committee but maybe just a Councilor like Councilor Shortell joining our existing committee and be a liaison to the Council.

Councilor Marrone is in favor of this idea. He thinks the committee was taken over by the administration so he feels there should be more Council involvement.

Councilor Fishbein agrees. He stated he doesn't know about the existing committee. He feels this is a big project and we could use someone from Electric or Public Works on the committee. He stated the existing committee did a great job but suggested a new committee with existing members on it.

Councilor Laffin feels it's a good idea to keep it alive. He liked the plan and stated maybe not another committee but he also thinks we could use some other departments.

Councilor Testa said he does not want to complicate matters with a new committee. He thinks we should revise a new charge for this committee.

Mr. Michaels agrees with Councilor Testa. He feels the committee is really committed to finishing this through and that they really don't need a committee within a committee.

Councilor Fishbein asked who created the committee. Mr. Michaels stated he cannot speak to that he was not the Director.

**MOTION WAS MADE THAT COUNCILOR SHORTELL SERVE AS LIAISON TO THE POOL COMMITTEE TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**

**SECONDED BY: ZANDRI**

Councilor Tatta asked Councilor Shortell if he wants to be the liaison and if he thinks this will work instead of the way he wanted it.

Councilor Shortell said yes he will do it. He stated he can keep it alive and bring it back to the Council with information and questions back to the committee. He said he's happy to do it.

Councilor Fishbein stated he thinks there should be more than one Councilor.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>		<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>	
<b>FISHBEIN:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>TATTA:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>TESTA:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>MARRONE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>CERVONI:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>9-AYE</b>			
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>			

9. Discussion and possible action regarding re-opening Wallingford, and Outdoor Graduation – Councilor Fishbein

Councilor Fishbein spoke about Mr. Civitelli's report and noted we have not had a lot of direction. He asked when we will see something change.

Councilor Fishbein said he would like to know where we are with outdoor graduation. He stated Dr. Menzo is very good at thinking outside the box. He thinks the Law Department, the Mayor and the Health Director should do a Resolution about doing our own thing with businesses in town.

Councilor Testa stated he is trying to figure out what the point of this is. He stated we can pass a Resolution but you're questioning the Governor's oversight of the state. Councilor Testa feels we should ask the Mayor to draft a letter to express our dissatisfaction. He indicated he does not want the Council put in a position to assist Councilor Fishbein in his duties as a State Representative. He went on to say we cannot ask the Governor to change our town any different than the state. He said as far as graduation, it is not our job, we are removed from that. That is a Board of Education position and of course we care about our students but we cannot get involved.

Councilor Laffin stated we have nine elected Board of Education members and Dr. Menzo is always thinking out of the box. He went on to say we do not get involved in their activities and they are trying to work out the best scenario.

Councilor Fishbein said the Board of Education has the ability to do this but absent the executive branch they would be planning something. He stated he just wants to pass a Resolution to say Wallingford is ready, not to defy the law.

Karen Hlavac, BOE Chair, noted they have had numerous ideas for graduation plans. She stated they must comply with COVID regulations and they are looking for additional guidance. They will wait until the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> to make final plans. She remarked that they have been sensitive to all ideas.

Dr. Menzo stated this is a tough decision and we are meeting with students to make decisions on prom, graduation, etc. He said there is potential to have a traditional graduation on June 20<sup>th</sup> but they just don't know yet. He indicated they are working with the Police Dept., Health and the Law Department.

Chairman Cervoni remarked I do think the Council wants to support graduation not plan it for you.

Councilor Morgenstein said she would be unwilling to sign a Resolution for an opening. She explained as a healthcare provider she sees too many people not doing the right thing. She feels we should see what this partial opening does.

Councilor Fishbein stated he does not want to get political.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO ASK THE LAW DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION DIRECTED TO THE GOVERNOR, ASKING HIM TO PERMIT BUSINESSES IN WALLINGFORD THAT ARE PREPARED TO PUT IN PLACE REQUIREMENTS REQUIRED FOR A JUNE20 RE-OPENING TO OPEN EARLIER THAN JUNE 20 IF THEY HAVE THOSE REQUIREMENTS IN PLACE AND ARE APPROVED BY OUR LOCAL HEALTH DIRECTOR.**

**MADE BY: FISHBEIN  
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**

The Law Department will draft a Resolution to the Governor addressing Wallingford to reopen in a more localized state.

Mr. Civitelli explained in terms of more local control there was not much local representation. He went on to say we asked as Health Directors to be part of it but it didn't happen. Mr. Civitelli stated Public Health in the end has to be protected.

Mr. Ryan stated businesses are furious at the inconsistencies of the Executive Orders.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Wysocki, 352 Grieb Road, supports the town's legal department in taking over more local control.



<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: NO</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>

**8-AYE**  
**1-NAY**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

10. 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*
11. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CGS regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending tax appeal matter of *CREFIII Waramaug Wallingford, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* – Law Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:55 P.M.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**  
**VOTE: ALL AYE**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to Section 1-225(f) and Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CGS regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending tax appeal matter of *CREFIII Waramaug Wallingford, LLC v. Town of Wallingford*.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:22 P.M.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**  
**VOTE: ALL AYE**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

**Time of Executive Session 8:55 p.m. to 9:22 p.m.**

**Attendance at Executive Session:**

<b>FISHBEIN</b>	<b>MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.</b>
<b>LAFFIN</b>	<b>TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.</b>
<b>MARRONE</b>	
<b>MORGENSTEIN</b>	
<b>SHORTELL</b>	
<b>TATTA</b>	
<b>TESTA</b>	
<b>ZANDRI</b>	
<b>CERVONI</b>	

- 12. Discussion and possible action in the pending tax appeal matter of *CREFIII Waramaug Wallingford, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session – Law Dept.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE the pending tax appeal matter of *CREFIII Waramaug Wallingford, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* as discussed in Executive Session**

MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>		<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>		<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>		<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>		<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: YES</b>		<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>9-AYE</b>		
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>		

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded

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Vincent Cervoni, Chairman Date

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Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 6-29-2020  
 AT 4:00 AND RECEIVED BY [Signature]  
[Signature] TOWN CLERK