

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD REMOTELY
at GoToMeeting.com

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 8, 2020
6:30 P.M.

AMENDED RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were, Thomas Laffin, Gina Morgenstein, Joseph A. Marrone, III (arrived late), Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilor Craig Fishbein was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Corporation Counsel Janis Small and Comptroller, James Bowes were also present (BY TELECONFERENCE).

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$19,568.98 (#268-335) Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of donation from the Schweikert family and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$620 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to P.S. – Vet Account, Acct. #10020100-56742 – Animal Control
 - 3c. Acceptance of donations from “Wag, Walk, Love with Amyra” and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,042 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to P.S. Vet, Acct. #10020100-56742 – Animal Control
 - 3d. Acceptance of State of Connecticut Reimbursement for Dispatcher 911 training overtime costs and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$529– Police Dept.

\$320	To: Revenue	Acct. #1009052-47040
\$320	To: Police Overtime	Acct. #10020050-51400
\$209	From: Revenue	Acct. #1009052-47040
\$209	To: Continuing Education & Training	Acct. #10020050-55700
 - 3e. Acceptance of donation from Ms. D. Fitzsimmons and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100 to Revenue Donations - Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donation-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.

- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,700 from Regular Salaries/Wages, Acct. #10010400-51000 to Purchased Services- Accounting, Acct. #10010400-56724 – Comptroller
- 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$2,000 – Fire Dept.
- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$300 | From: Maintenance of Building | Acct. #10010800-54315 |
| \$200 | From: Maintenance of Vehicle | Acct. #10010800-54320 |
| \$500 | From: Maintenance of Equipment | Acct. #10010800-54325 |
| \$250 | From: Office Expenses & Supplies | Acct. #10010800-56100 |
| \$650 | From: Operating Expenses | Acct. #10010800-58735 |
| \$100 | From: Badge Printer | Acct. #10010800-57000-00937 |
- \$2,000 To: Telephone Acct. #10010800-53000
- 3h. Acceptance of fire watch services reimbursement from Trail of Terror and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,387 to Miscellaneous Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Replacement Pay, Acct. #10020150-51500 – Fire Dept.
- 3i. Consider and approve Revised Job Description for Secretary – Program Planning/Human Resources
- 3j. Consider and approve reappointment of Gina M. Varano to the Personnel and Pensions Appeals Board for a five year tem effective immediately and expiring December 31, 2025 - Mayor
- 3k. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,053 from Office Supplies, Acct. #10010150-56100 to PC & Accessories, Acct. #10010150-TBD – Mayor
- 3l. Approve Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule 2021.
- 3m. Approval of Amended Town Council Minutes of November 10, 2020 and Town Council Minutes of November 24, 2020.

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

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: SHORTELL

VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION: PASSED

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD**

Bill Comerford, 5 Broadview, stated he has asked the Mayor the location of the 44 unmarked graves and the town has not helped in identifying the locations. Mr. Comerford wants to know if the state can provide ground penetrating radar to help locate the graves. Mayor Dickinson referred Mr. Comerford to the Cemetery Association.

6. COVID Update – Stephen Civitelli, Health Director/Chairman Cervoni

Mr. Civitelli gave a presentation on COVID-19 (attached).

Chairman Cervoni asked how many cases the town gets on a 14 day average. Mr. Civitelli replied 26 cases per day on average.

Councilor Shortell is struck by the fact that people are doubting COVID and he is worried about people not taking the vaccine.

Councilor Morgenstein questioned the R Factor – R Value. Mr. Civitelli explained we want it below 1 and it is 2-3 now. He went on to say the state is struggling with testing.

Councilor Zandri stated to Mr. Civitelli that he appreciates the thoroughness of his report. Councilor Zandri supports rapid and repeated cleaning and he feels distancing and mask wearing is working.

Councilor Morgenstein inquired about extra cleaning and a fogging process. Mr. Civitelli said they do not fog offices.

Ben Martin, 329 Ward Street, stated we cannot close gyms. He asked if we have authority to impose tighter restrictions than the state does. Chairman Cervoni said the town has the authority and makes emergency orders.

7. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of 167,263 – Fire Dept.

\$100,000	From: Contingency-Misc./General	Acct.#10019000-58820
\$ 59,000	From: Contingency-Accrued	Acct. #10019000-58821
\$ 8,263	From: Fire-Tax Abatement	Acct. #10020150-52961
\$167,263	To: Fire-Replacement Pay	Acct. #10020150-51500

In Attendance: Richard Heidgerd, Fire Chief

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve a Transfer in the amount of 167,263.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: SHORTELL

Chief Heidgerd stated there is a substantial shortfall for many reasons including COVID, vacation time, sick/quarantining and four long term injuries which has impacted this account hard.

Councilor Laffin stated this transfer is not related to the last one and Chief Heidgerd said that is correct.

Councilor Laffin inquired about the timeline and Chief indicated early February.

Mayor Dickinson said he does not want to use up general contingency and remarked we haven't even started winter yet, referring to snow/ice removal.

Councilor Laffin asked if we run over, can we use the rainy day fund. The Mayor said that is the absolute last thing we should do and stated starting April 1st we can move the money from other places.

Mr. Civitelli, Chief Heidgerd, Councilor Laffin and Mr. Bowes discussed the budget.

Mr. Bowes explained that federal funds are for overtime related to provable COVID-19 cases, PPE cleaning and things of that nature.

Councilor Testa asked if people that are being replaced are also being paid. Chief answered yes.

Mr. Bowes explained that overtime to cover someone is not reimbursed unless it is related to a COVID-19 call.

Mr. Bowes and Councilor Testa discussed overtime.

Councilor Shortell would like clarification of accounts. He asked if the contingency account is accrued. Mr. Bowes answered yes.

Councilor Shortell asked how much money has been saved thorough open positions and how many open positions there are. Mr. Bowes said he is not sure and that this is part of post April 1st transfer.

Councilor Tatta asked Mr. Bowes if there is any other spot he can get this from. Chief stated they have looked at this and there are no other options.

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

8. Consider and approve renewal of Real Property Tax Incentive for the Incentive Housing Zone for a three year term effective December 12, 2020 – December 12, 2023 – EDC

*In Attendance: Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist
Alison Kapushinski, Town Engineer*

MOTION WAS MADE TO approve renewal of Real Property Tax Incentive for the Incentive Housing Zone for a three year term effective December 12, 2020.

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

Chairman Cervoni asked Mr. Ryan to provide a summary of the program Incentive.

Mr. Ryan stated this is the most generous tax incentive. He explained the schedule of benefits indicating the first two years would be zero taxes due, the second two years would be 25% of the new taxable rate due and the fifth year would be 50% of taxes collected on the assessment. Mr. Ryan went on to give a summary of the program.

Chairman Cervoni thanked Mr. Ryan and said he needed to be convinced.

Councilor Tatta asked if this is for a new purchase only or an existing purchase or a \$1 million investment. Mr. Ryan stated a \$1million investment would qualify.

Councilor Testa discussed properties and possibilities with Mr. Ryan.

Ben Martin, 329 Ward Street, asked if a comparison was done of tax revenue to see if the town would benefit more from 10 small businesses versus one large business. Mr. Ryan answered no.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, stated this has been a concern for a long time. He asked Ms. Kapushinski how big the parking lot footprint is. Ms. Kapushinski replied 1.3 acres.

Mr. Ryan stated we need a place for parking.

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

9. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$293,205 regarding Brothers Parking Lot – Engineering

\$165,000	To: Use of Fund Balance (CNR Fund)	Fund #301
\$128,205	To: State Grant- STEAP	Fund #301
\$293,205	To: Exp. – Brothers Parking Lot	Fund #301

In Attendance: Alison Kapushinski, Town Engineer

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$293,205 regarding Brothers Parking Lot.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL

Ms. Kapushinski provided a power-point presentation. She named the three lots owned by the town; Hall Avenue, Quinnipiac Street and North Cherry Street.

Councilor Morgenstein stated any changes would have to be approved. She feels green areas should not be maintained by volunteers. She would like to see bike racks, more green spaces and electric charging stations.

Councilor Testa feels we can wait to do this. He stated the plan is beautiful but there are more innovative ways to use this property. He supports charging stations and bike racks.

Councilor Tatta said Public Works will be doing work on this and she asked if they will be getting money for expenses. Ms. Kapushinski stated Engineering covers the materials. Councilor Tatta then asked this fiscal year? Ms. Kapushinski stated in the Spring.

Councilor Tatta supports putting conduit in. She asked if there are any stipulations in the grant preventing us from using the parking lot as something else or selling it. The Mayor said he is not aware of any stipulation. He went on to say we are trying to improve it for a foreseeable future and we can move in another direction as the future unfolds.

Councilor Zandri remarked why run the conduit and not go ahead with it. The Mayor stated the cost is \$15,000 - \$20,000 per station and we cannot add money at this point.

Councilor Laffin feels we need the parking lot to accommodate future developments. He likes green space on the border and he thinks this is a good plan.

Councilor Shortell stated the money is already appropriated so this is not going to burden tax payers. He remarked there are six parks within a two minute drive and stated we do not need another park.

Joe Mirra, 7 Summerwood Drive, feels it would be a disadvantage to do something else with this property.

Mr. Martin inquired about putting utilities underground. Ms. Kapushinski said that it would be too costly. Mr. Martin feels extending the green area would increase foot traffic. He then stated a parking lot would cost more for snow removal and he believes it would be more efficient to develop natural spaces.

Mr. Bowes stated you can't move money once it is appropriated.

James Hine, 342 South Elm Street, is confused as to why we are doing this. He mentioned that two experts recommend this parcel for development.

James Wolfe, 396 Church Street, feels right now the best opportunity for the community atmosphere would be repurpose of the railroad station.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked if we would be paving the entire lot. Ms. Kapushinski answered yes, all three town lots.

Mr. Gross asked if we have considered purchasing other lots. Mr. Ryan said serious effort was made but the price was above the professional appraised number.

Adelheid Koepfer, 23 Whiffle Tree Road, feels conflicted with this project. She stated she is happy to hear about charging stations.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, inquired about the current utilization of the parking lot. The Mayor explained since COVID there has been reduced traffic and parking but prior to COVID the parking lot was filled. Mr. Morgenstein wonders if we are doing our due diligence and asked if we have done our homework. He remarked there is no such thing as a beautiful parking lot.

Mr. Ryan stated that EDC has not marketed the property and noted this is not the role of EDC. He said the property was for sale and we purchased it.

ROLL CALL VOTE:		SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: ABSENT		TATTA: YES
LAFFIN: YES		TESTA: YES
MARRONE: YES		ZANDRI: YES
MORGENSTEIN: NO		CERVONI: YES
7-AYE		
1-ABSENT		
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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:41 P.M.

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

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO Section 1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:18 P.M.

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

Time of Executive Session 10:41 p.m. to 11:18 p.m.

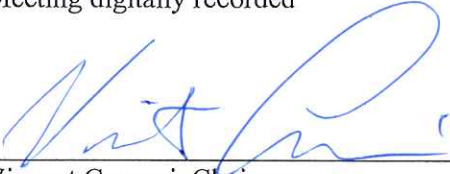
Attendance at Executive Session:

LAFFIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
MARRONE	CORPORATION COUNSEL JANIS SMALL
MORGENSTEIN	TOWN ATTY. GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
SHORTELL	
TATTA	
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

8 FEB. 2021

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk
Deborah McKiernan

2.8.2021

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 12-11-20
AT 4:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK



COVID-19 UPDATE **WALLINGFORD HEALTH** **DEPARTMENT**

Date of Report: December 7, 2020

Stephen A. Civitelli, RS, MPH

Director of Health



MONTHLY CONFIRMED CASE TOTALS

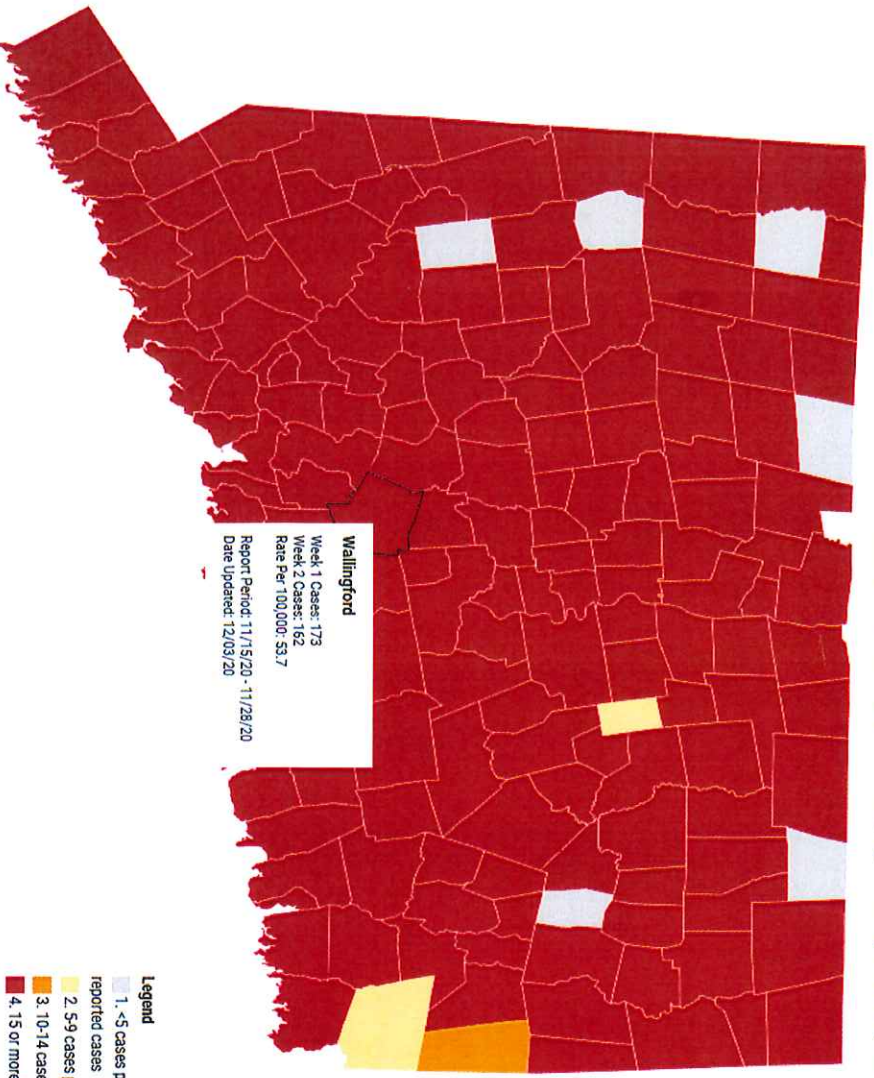
- Total Cases 1656
- 1565 Confirmed
- 91 Probable
- A person meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.
- June - 24 Confirmed Cases (23 Community) (1 Nursing Home)
- July - 18 Confirmed Cases (18 Community)
- August – 24 Confirmed Cases – (24 Community)
- September – 80 Confirmed Cases (68 Community 1 Nursing Home)
- October – 233 Confirmed Cases (215 Community 2 Nursing Home)
- November – 513 Confirmed Cases (506 Community 7 Nursing Home/cases pending)



HOSPITALIZATIONS/FATALITIES

- Hospitalizations Statewide - 1150 (12/7)
- 108 total fatalities as of (12/3)
 - Confirmed 98
 - Probable 10
- Community - 5
- Long Term Care Fatalities – 103
- Total # of tests - 56,647

Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases Among Persons Living in Community Settings per 100,000 Population By Town



This map shows the average daily rate of new cases of COVID-19 by town during the past two weeks. Only cases among persons living in community settings are included in this map; the map does not include cases among people who reside in nursing home, assisted living, or correctional facilities.
Map Ver: 12.1.2020 • Source: CT Department of Public Health • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper





COVID-19 UPDATE

- Town Alert CT DPH 14 day rolling average
- Meriden – 76.1
- Wallingford – 53.7 (11% reduction in case rates over previous week)
- Cheshire – 32.1
- Middlefield – 35.9
- Durham – 30.8
- North Haven - 45.5
- North Branford – 37.3



CONTACT TRACING

- Contact Tracing conducted monitoring 42 individuals for a 10-day window as of December 7th.
- Utilizing Contact CT Microsoft System.
- Most common sources of transmission Private Gatherings and Familial Spread

VACCINE/DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

- Health Department obtained CoVP designation for vaccine distribution from CT DPH Immunization Program
 - Moderna vaccine to be distributed to local health
 - Partnering with Masonicare for vaccine distribution of critical workforce
- Health Department tasked with Phase 1b Critical Infrastructure Workers.