

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

**HELD REMOTELY
At GoToMeeting.com**

**TUESDAY
JANUARY 26, 2021
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, was called to order at 6:32 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were, Craig 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., 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 \$25,228.60 (#399-485)
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and Approve Merit Review Committee step increase – Human Resources
 - 3c. Acceptance of Overtime Reimbursement Funds from U.S. Secret Service in the Amount of \$8,535.53 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$8,535.53 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and \$2,951.69 to Police Overtime, Acct. 10020050-51400 and \$5,583.84 to Capital-Computers, Acct. #10020050 57000 00914 - Police Department
 - 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,100 from Regular Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Specialty Weapons, Acct. #TBD – Police Department
 - 3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$519 from Office Supplies, Acct. #10050050-56100 to Capital Acct. #TBD – Recreation Department
 - 3f. Acceptance of State Elections Grant in the amount of \$22,365 and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds to State Grants-Misc. Acct. #Fund (G/F) and \$18,765 to Reg. of Voters-Wages, Acct. #10010600-51000, \$600 to Reg. of Voters-Telephone Acct. #10010600-53000 and \$3,000 to Reg. of Voters-Office Supply, Acct. #10010600-56100
- Register of Voters
 - 3g. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,375 from Adm. & General Salaries, Acct. #43100920 to Outside Services Employed, Acct. #43100923 – Water Division
 - 3h. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$4,375 from Adm. & General Salaries, Acct. #46100920 to Outside Services Employed, Acct. #46100923 – Sewer Division
 - 3i. Approve Amended Town Council Minutes of December 8, 2020

3j. Approve Town Council Minutes of January 12, 2021

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, stated Government Executive Orders are not suggestions, they are binding orders. He stated he has read Executive Orders 7B, HH, and asked if Council could review it. Mr. Gross said the Order states you cannot overturn what has happened previous to this while the Executive Order is in effect. Chairman Cervoni stated he does not believe that the Executive Order addresses this situation.

Attorney Farrell questioned the timing of Mr. Gross' inquiry to the state. He then indicated he hasn't reviewed that Executive Order and it cannot be reviewed during the Public Question and Answer Period.

Mr. Comerford asked the Mayor if the Council chooses to separate projects, one being Simpson Court and one being Wooding Caplan would he support that. Mr. Comerford asked the Mayor for a yes or no answer. The Mayor stated he kindly does not accept yes or no choices when dealing with subject matter not on the agenda.

Chairman Cervoni indicated the question is not appropriate.

Mr. Gross stated he sent the actual question that was on the ballot in 2011 to everyone and he read the question aloud.

6. COVID-19 Update from Stephen Civitelli, Health Director

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

Mr. Civitelli gave a presentation on COVID-19 update. He stated that positivity rates are dropping and hospitalizations remained flat. There have been 144 fatalities in town to date. Mr. Civitelli stated there have been 8 Connecticut cases of the B.1.1.7 variant and we are not testing regularly for that. Mr. Civitelli stated Wallingford has a user friendly telephone based system for vaccine scheduling. He went on to say we are fortunate to have partnered with Masonicare, Gaylord Hospital and Choate.

Councilor Morgenstein asked about double masking with the new variant. Mr. Civitelli stated he has not heard official word on that from the state.

Mr. Civitelli stated the town will go mobile at some point with the vaccine.

Councilor Laffin inquired how the Health Department is doing with supplies and overtime. Mr. Civitelli stated we are going to have to come back and talk about that in the not too distant future.

7. Consider and Approve Simpson Court Rear Parking Lot Leases for a 25 year term with: Barnes Homestead, LLC, 36-40 North Main Street; F&M Bank Wallingford LLC, 2 North Main Street; Masonic Temple Corporation of Wallingford, 50 North Main Street; 60 North Main street LLC, 60 North Main Street.

The Mayor spoke about a question that was raised at the last meeting regarding what the cost of maintenance would be. The estimate from Mr. Baltramaitis is \$3,400 currently and would increase to \$5,500 upon the completion of the project. The Mayor stated the plan of conservation and development is of sound importance to the community. It will be a real benefit to everyone for this project to move ahead.

Chairman Cervoni stated in the past two weeks he had the opportunity to meet with members of Wallingford Center Inc. and asked Mr. Knight to present a power point presentation. Mr. Knight, 289 Ivy Street, explained there will be four speakers. He would present last.

Mr. Gingras, 154 Cheshire Road, stated he is a member of Wallingford Town Center Collaborative. He believes uptown and downtown centers are the heart of the town. Every town center depends on good customer parking nearby. This proposal offers numerous benefits. This concept is not a new process. He discusses benefits in other municipalities.

Chairman Cervoni stated if leases don't pass, improvements are useless.

Councilor Fishbein disagrees and stated improvements can be done without leases.

8. Discussion and Action regarding Appropriation of \$375,000 to Capital & Non Recurring Fund for reconstruction and/or surfacing of three public parking lot areas including Simpson Court rear parking, Wallace Avenue parking (east) and Wallace Avenue parking (west).

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Baltramaitis what the actual numbers are. There was discussion between Mr. Baltramaitis and Councilor Fishbein.

8a. (Wallace Avenue)

Councilor Tatta referred to the Police Union letter and asked Administration if we are able to add this on to the project. The Mayor said we are not prepared tonight to take this on.

Councilor Shortell is against paving for the Police Department. He went on to state the Police Department has outgrown that building. He agrees with the Mayor.

Councilor Testa noted from a procedural point of view, the Police Chief has not asked for this lot to be paved. He also feels any improvements to lots should include electric charging stations. The Mayor stated he inquired with the Electric Division and the cost would be \$15,000 per charging station and noted it is not an inexpensive thing to do.

Councilor Fishbein agrees with Councilor Testa. He then brought up the issue of bike racks and asked if we are finally getting them. The Mayor said we can look at that and noted it is a nominal cost.

Councilor Morgenstein thanks Councilor Testa for bringing up charging stations. She agrees with getting bike racks and would like to add some greenery as well.

Councilor Zandri said if we are talking about bringing in people then this is a no-brainer. He feels we should strongly consider this even if it becomes an add-on to this project.

Councilor Tatta asked if there is going to be lighting in the Wallace Avenue lot. Ms. Kapushinski said it will be left as is as far as lighting. Councilor Tatta asked if it could be added later and Ms. Kapushinski stated that lighting would have to seek P&Z approval.

Councilor Fishbein questioned Ms. Kapushinski about additional lighting. He stated he's having a problem with this. He asked what it would cost to do period lighting.

Mr. Baltramaitis explained the intent would be to do flood lighting on existing utility poles. He feels we could do additional lighting without Planning and Zoning. Mr. Baltramaitis then stated to do period lighting, you are looking at \$7,000 to \$8,000 a pole.

The Mayor stated we are not putting in period lighting and noted we need to be as cautious as possible when spending public money.

Public Comment

Mr. Comerford asked the Mayor why we haven't paved Wooding Caplan in the past year and a half. The Mayor said there was effort to get proposals for that area. He went on to say there was discussion and we hired an architect.

Adelheid Koepfer, 35 Whiffle Tree Road, said she called the town of North Haven and found out the cost to put in a charging station in their town was \$9,000. She feels there can be a lot more research done. She has a procedural question as to if we can approve this tonight with some sort of amendment.

Ms. Gross asked if the Wallace Avenue project includes the Caplan, DiNatale and Mike Tiscia property. Chairman Cervoni answered no. She then asked if the town has a lease on the thruway from Caplan onto North Main Street. The Mayor said not to his knowledge and he believes that is private property. Ms. Gross feels the Town Council should think about tabling this.

The Mayor stated Council does not have the authority to appropriate money and noted it has to be recommended by the Administration.

Councilor Zandri is in full support of this and just wants enough lighting so it's attractive and safe.

Councilor Shortell asked if this project were to pass tonight the way it was presented on the agenda, when would ground be broken. Mr. Baltramaitis said they could commit to do Wallace lots this construction season.

Councilor Morgenstein questions if we are at an impasse and thinks maybe we should just start tabling things.

Councilor Testa stated we cannot dictate that the Administration do anything. If we don't like the proposal before us, we need to deny it. He stated making changes to this Motion is not the way to do it.

Lucille Casagrande, resident, stated Wallingford never goes all the way when doing things. She's hardly in favor of improvements on the Wallace Avenue lots.

Councilor Fishbein asked the Mayor if this item gets defeated and the Simpson Court project get approved, does that mean that Simpson Court project would not proceed. The Mayor stated that's pretty much what I said. He went on to say it's all one project.

James Wolfe, 396 Church Street, Economic Development Commission, feels we need to support merchants.

Councilor Zandri asked if we approve both and do not want to get into new leases, will the repairs, upgrades and developing of the new lot take place. The Mayor answered no and said he cannot support that.

Councilor Shortell explained the POCD is done every ten years then an Implementation Committee came out of that to track progress. The Implementation Committee has met five times.

8b (Simpson Court)

Councilor Zandri does not agree that we have to commit ourselves for 25 more years of an area that we use 5% of the time. He feels this is a big decision and he understands where the Mayor is coming from.

Councilor Testa stated he has consistently supported this but he has concerns. He wants clarification. He feels the Council has a responsibility to complete these repairs if they sign the lease. He is supportive of us spending money to do this project.

Councilor Fishbein referred to the map in the agenda packet and asked Ms. Kapushinski why we are not proposing to maintain all of the parking lot. Ms. Kapushinski said that question is not for her to answer. The Mayor stated those spaces are not in the leased area.

There was discussion between Mr. Baltramaitis and Councilor Fishbein.

Councilor Morgenstein remarked Administration tells us it's my way or the highway. She doesn't disagree that improvements need to be done.

Councilor Shortell defends Chairman Cervoni. He thought it was a good presentation. He appreciates Councilor Zandri's comments. He respects both sides and he is a supporter of this project.

Councilor Marrone feels we have a plan, it's not a perfect plan but it's better than anything he's seen in the time he's been on the Council. He stated he is not thrilled but there has to be a little give and take. He will support the plan as presented.

Attorney Small pointed out if you fund this but do not sign the lease, you're approving far more than what is included under the existing lease and it would include the bank property which we have no current lease for.

Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist, feels this is a worthy investment to make and this should pass as presented so we can move forward.

Councilor Zandri stated he was all set to vote yes on this but now he can no longer vote yes to expend the additional money on the section we did not rent before, for a new lease that he had indicated prior he did not want to get into.

9. Discussion regarding the CAFR extension – Councilor Tatta and Councilor Marrone

Councilor Marrone wants an explanation as to what happened to get us to this point. He asked why CAFR has been delayed and if we have any idea of when we can expect to get it. Mr. Bowes stated he is hoping it comes tomorrow but it may not come in its complete form until Thursday.

Councilor Marrone then asked if the firm is selected by the town. Mr. Bowes explained it is a vendor selected by the Human Resources Department.

Councilor Marrone asked if other clients were affected by the same type of issue and Mr. Bowes answered yes.

Councilor Marrone asked how this will affect planning for the budget process. Mr. Bowes stated as far as the budget, this will not affect the Council at all.

Councilor Tatta questioned the timeframe of the extension. She went on to say most towns in Connecticut had theirs on time. Mr. Bowes stated that is not accurate.

Councilor Tatta wanted to confirm that there were not two firms. Mr. Bowes said that is correct.

Councilor Marrone asked Mr. Bowes why Council wasn't notified sooner if he knew there was going to be a delay. Mr. Bowes said it was an oversight on his part and he will accept full responsibility.


Councilor Shortell asked if we are still looking at the budget meeting for the 2nd Tuesday in May.

- 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*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Recording Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

11 MARCH 20 21

Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

2/10/2021

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1-29-21
AT 4:30 AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK



COVID-19 UPDATE WALLINGFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Date of Report: January 26, 2021

Stephen A. Civitelli, RS, MPH

Director of Health



MONTHLY CONFIRMED CASE TOTALS

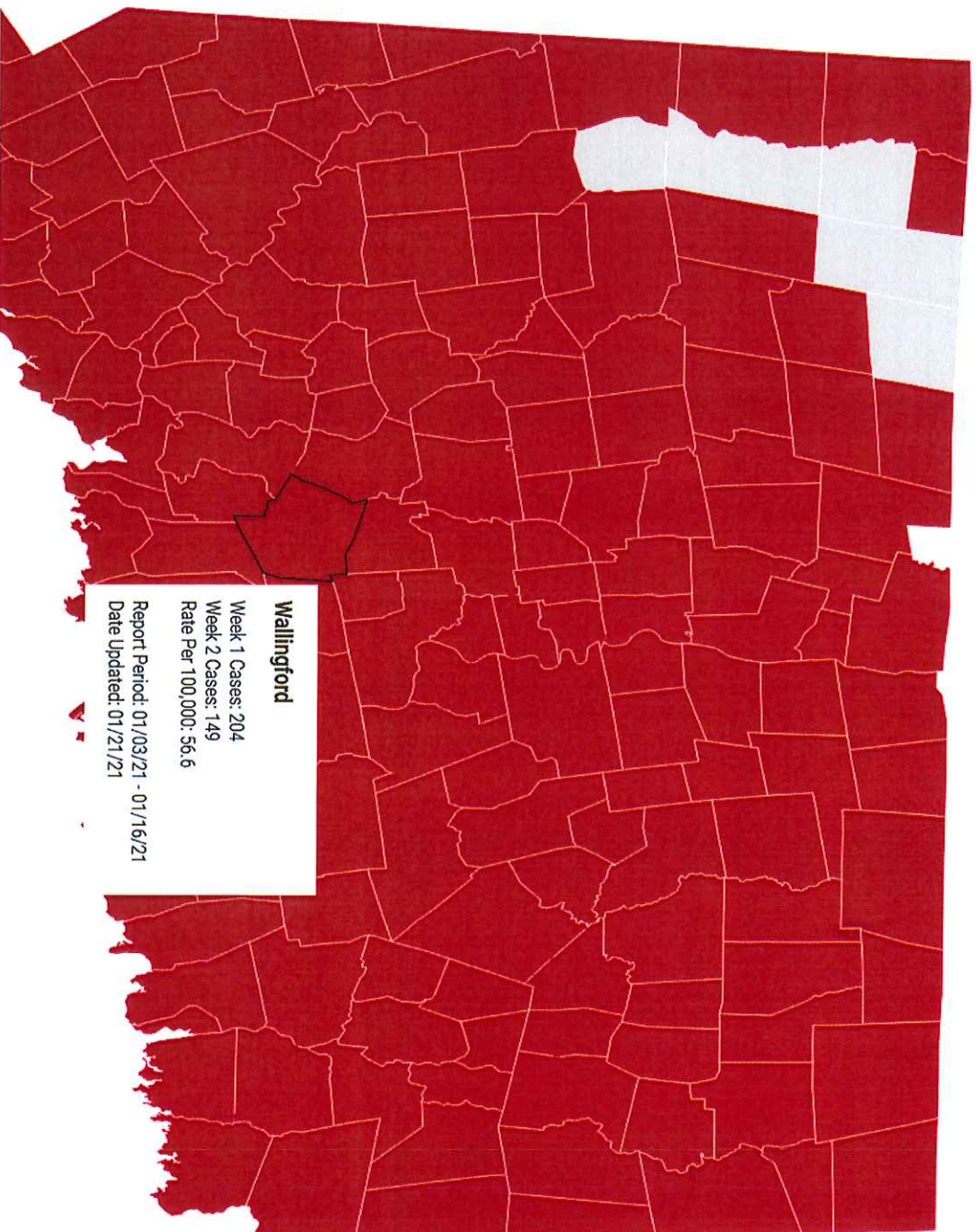
- Total Cases 3,098
- September – 80 Confirmed Cases
- October – 233 Confirmed Cases
- November – 513 Confirmed Cases
- December – 467 Confirmed Cases
- January – 238 Confirmed Cases



HOSPITALIZATIONS/FATALITIES

- Hospitalizations Statewide - 1068 (1/26)
 - Remained relatively flat
- 144 total fatalities as of (1/26/21)
- Total # of tests conducted – 90,591

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



NEW VARIANT B.1.1.7

Originated in the United Kingdom.

8 cases identified in CT is estimated to be twice as infectious/efficient as it binds easier to human cells.

New information about the virology, epidemiology, and clinical characteristics of these variants are rapidly emerging.



CONTACT TRACING

- Contact Tracing conducted monitoring 61 individuals for a 10-day window as of January 26, 2021.
- Utilizing Contact CT Microsoft System.

VACCINE/DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

Clinic on January 16, 2021 completed 226 vaccinations

Clinic scheduled:

- January 28 – 1st dose clinic Phase 1A and individuals 75+
- January 29 - 2nd dose clinic for medical first responders
- February 1 - 2nd dose clinic for medical first responders
- February 4 - 1st dose clinic for 75+
- February 13 - 2nd dose clinics for medical first responders and 75+
- February 18 - 2nd dose clinic 75+

Masonicare/Gaylord Hospital partnering in vaccination of residents and critical workforce

The 1b grouping is estimated @ 1.4 million individuals

CLINIC LOCATION WALLINGFORD SENIOR CENTER VAMS THIRD PARTY SYSTEM



CLINIC LOCATION WALLINGFORD SENIOR CENTER

