

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

**TUESDAY
MARCH 9, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 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 Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Gina Morgenstein, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$19,455.81 (#724-761)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$25,500 from Regular Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Capital-Audio/Video Recording System,
Acct. #10020050-55700-TBD – Police Dept.
 - 3c. Acceptance of donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-
Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10127 – Police Dept.
 - 3d. Acceptance of donation of a Defibtech Lifeline AED, one Alarmed Wall Cabinet and one
Rescue Kit Donation from Michael Papale, In a Heartbeat Organization- Fire Dept.
 - 3e. Acceptance of funds for Fire Watch Services and consider and approve Appropriation of
funds in the amount of \$2,379 to Miscellaneous Revenue,
Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Replacement Pay, Acct. #10020150-51500 – Fire Dept.
 - 3f. Confirmation of Appointment of Patrick Birney to the Public Utilities Commission for a
three year term effective immediately and expiring March 1, 2024 – Mayor
 - 3g. Approve Town Council Minutes of February 23, 2021.

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

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION: PASSED

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, inquired about Item #11 on the agenda. He asked if there will be public comment.

Mr. Morgenstein asked if we are covered by insurance for this settlement. Chairman Cervoni indicated there is insurance being used in this matter.

Mr. Morgenstein asked if the town does reviews for these matters. The Mayor replied internal administrative reviews are done. Mr. Morgenstein asked when resolution is made will it be public. The Mayor responded it will be a public document once parties sign off on it. Mr. Morgenstein asked when town will make it public. The Mayor said to contact the Town Attorney.

6. **COVID 19 Update by Stephen Civitelli, Health Director**

Mr. Civitelli gave a presentation on COVID 19 (attached). He indicated the numbers have declined in February and there have been 25 confirmed cases in March. The trend for hospitalization is dropping and continuing to decline. He noted the state is changing color in a positive direction. He went on to say between February 25th and March 4th there have been over 400 vaccinations.

Chairman Cervoni asked Mr. Civitelli if he has running totals or if he has to add them up. Mr. Civitelli said you can add them up and then went over future clinic dates.

Chairman Cervoni said workers at Pistapaug reached out to applaud how well the vaccination clinic went.

Councilor Fishbein asked where we are with teachers. Mr. Civitelli explained the State of Connecticut sent out a survey and they filled it out requesting the vaccine but they did not receive the quantity they asked for.

Dr. Menzo stated he reached out to Oakdale and 1,000 individuals received their first dose this past weekend.

Councilor Fishbein asked when the rest will be vaccinated. Mr. Civitelli replied we are going to try for March 18th.

Councilor Fishbein said some towns are getting more vaccines and asked if vaccines are being allocated fairly. Mr. Civitelli said his understanding is there were 1,000 vaccines to be had which were more than BOE needed and noted it's hard to tell if we are being shorted.

Councilor Fishbein asked if you can choose to get Johnson & Johnson. Mr. Civitelli stated we just received the first shipment of Johnson and Johnson and we are probably going to be ordering more. He went on to say we have not gotten to the point where we are picking and choosing.

Councilor Fishbein indicated Pfizer and Moderna are two rounds. He asked what accommodations are being made for people who travel. Mr. Civitelli said that has not been worked out and noted they try to fit them into the clinic. He stated we have not missed a second shot yet.

Councilor Zandri inquired about the changes in state guidelines going from requirement to recommendation. Mr. Civitelli stated he has not seen the wording modified yet for the March 19th rollout.

Councilor Zandri remarked people traveled, came back, didn't quarantine and got fined. He stated people want to adhere to rules, but can't if they are ambiguous. Mr. Civitelli said hopefully we will have a finished product soon.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, stated Yale has been posting what vaccine you're getting. He then inquired about masks for workers and visitors of the town hall. Mr. Civitelli said when social distancing is not available, masks must be worn. He went on to explain the CDC indicates two weeks after the second vaccine is administered, masks are not required for indoor activity in small groups.

Councilor Morgenstein asked if it's common practice for employees not to wear masks. Mr. Civitelli said we follow guidelines. He explained masks are required in common areas and if six feet is available, masks are not required.

Mr. Morgenstein asked if he went to a public school, would they be wearing masks. Mr. Civitelli stated Human Resources policy mirrors the executive order where if six feet is not available, masks must be worn. Mr. Morgenstein then asked if all employees have been vaccinated. Mr. Civitelli answered no, and stated it's based on age groupings.

Councilor Zandri asked if we have documentation on our website that mirrors anything or do we default to the state. Mr. Civitelli said we have done updates on rollouts, posting presentations and test data.

Councilor Zandri feels information has been fantastic. He stated that the CDC website can be a challenge and he would rather direct people to our website.

Mr. Gross stated there is potential for less masked people around the town hall and he feels this is the opportunity to make town hall user/online friendly. Mr. Gross stated federal funding will soon be available to help with this. Chairman Cervoni questions that the Federal Government will be sending us money to spend.

- 7. Consider and approve Lease Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and the CT STEM ACADEMY for use of the rear portion of the SCOW building located at 284 Washington Street for a five year term at a rental rate of One Dollar per year – Mayor

In Attendance: Chris Stone, STEM Academy

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE Lease Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and the CT STEM ACADEMY for use of the rear portion of the SCOW building located at 284 Washington Street for a five year term at a rental rate of One Dollar per year.

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

Mr. Stone stated he is happy to answer any questions and noted the Town Council is familiar with the program.

Councilor Laffin asked Mr. Stone if they continue to meet with SCOW and share space. Mr. Stone said they meet almost on a daily basis and have been collaborating with Youth and Social Services for almost 20 years. The program came to be through a teacher grant.

Councilor Tatta asked if there is a current lease and if it is the same terms and same amount. The Mayor replied there isn't a current lease and said the new area is close to being renovated and will be available soon for STEM Academy. He stated the premises can only be used by STEM and noted this is a wonderful opportunity for education.

Councilor Tatta asked Mr. Stone if he is currently in the SCOW building. Mr. Stone replied yes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	TATTA: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
MARRONE: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MORGANSTEIN: YES	CERVONI: ABSTAIN
8 – AYE	
1-ABSTAIN	
MOTION: PASSED	

- 8. Discussion and Possible action regarding including EV charging stations in public parking lots – Councilor Morgenstein and Councilor Tatta

Councilor Morgenstein explained they are here to discuss and to move forward to place chargers into parking lots. She and Councilor Tatta gave a presentation and stated the first slide talks about why we should do this. She feels this will help rebuild for the good and create higher property values. The second slide talks about costs. She indicated the company will give free chargers in exchange for advertisement. The third slide talks about Mechanics and why. She feels this promotes energy conservation. She stated this is not a fad and feels it's time to invest in this.

Chairman Cervoni feels it makes sense to address this while improving parking lots.

Councilor Shortell expressed to Councilor Morgenstein and Councilor Tatta they did a great job.

Councilor Morgenstein said Attorney Small would draft a specific contract.

Councilor Tatta said chargers with advertising is one option, but there are other options.

Chairman Cervoni stated we need to comply with zoning regulations.

Councilor Zandri asked about the concern with advertising. Chairman Cervoni said the concern is about content and remarked you don't get to pick and choose advertisements.

Councilor Zandri feels this would be a magnet for businesses and having chargers available is a win/win all the way around.

Councilor Marrone is supportive of the idea and feels this could be a way of the future. He would like to see chargers on private property. He feels this was a great presentation.

Councilor Morgenstein said most of the information came from Adelaid Koepefer.

Councilor Marrone asked if you can pay to park in the train station and charge all day.

Councilor Shortell remarked about signage on the charger.

Councilor Laffin asked Councilor Zandri if he was able to park and not have to pay to charge. Councilor Zandri stated he has an app to find stations and remarked he is paying less for electric than fuel. Councilor Laffin asked Councilor Zandri if he has a charger at his house. Councilor Zandri answered yes.

Councilor Morgenstein asked what is the cost to us if we provide it free.

Councilor Tatta feels a payment option would create bureaucracy. She does not want to miss this opportunity to do this for free.

Councilor Laffin inquired about the bid process and asked how we go forward. The Mayor suggested putting out the RFP and seeing what companies respond. The Mayor then remarked someone has to pay for the cost of electricity.

Councilor Testa thanked Councilor Morgenstein and Councilor Tatta and stated there seems to be a lot of questions that pop up and conflicting view-points. He then asked why would we do this at all and wonders if this is a legitimate service for the town to provide? He stated it would be foolish not to take this opportunity to do this when we're going to start paving. He went on to say we get bogged down on operational issues and he feels we should move on.

Chairman Cervoni suggested we figure out a way to do this that would cost us nothing and find a way to do this at no cost to the taxpayer. He feels a RFP would be a good way.

Chairman Cervoni asked Mr. Buccheri, General Manager of Electric Division, about the charging station at the railroad station and how they acquire electricity. Mr. Buccheri said they are metered like any other customer.

Councilor Morgenstein stated she appreciates that everyone seems to be in favor. She asked Mr. Buccheri the name of the program. Mr. Buccheri said the name of the program is Home Energy Savings (HES). She then asked how much money is in that program. Mr. Buccheri said they collect money for that program annually and they get the money from the state. He indicated he has not seen money for electric vehicle charging but he will look into it.

Councilor Morgenstein asked Chairman Cervoni what action we should take. Chairman Cervoni said we can get more information on a grant. It may be a vendor that can do this for us.

Public Comment

Mr. O'Connell feels this would be attractive for young members of our community. He stated 15% of ads would be reserved for the town and 85% to Volta.

Adelheid Koepfer, 35 Whiffletree Road, spoke about the Volkswagen grant. She said if we are interested in applying for that grant, we should prepare now and indicated applications are to open in April and May.

Chairman Cervoni stated that BOE is going to replace a school bus.

Councilor Tatta thanked Ms. Koepfer for her extensive research. She then thanked the Mayor for the idea of the RFP. She stated we will choose what's best for Wallingford.

Chairman Cervoni said the Council would participate somewhat in the RFP process.

The Mayor suggested talking to Purchasing as to what would be the best course.

Councilor Morgenstein feels the grant somewhat complicates this. She's not sure how the money from the grant would get to the other other party.

The Mayor stated if the town applies for the grant the town would be committed to installing the charger. He explained we would contact businesses with the expertise in installation and operation to do the work.

Councilor Fishbein agrees with the Mayor the RFP will tell us how to get to the goal.

Councilor Shortell compared this to the community pool project and indicated those projects get stalled.

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
10. Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending matter of *Server v. Town of Wallingford* – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:02 P.M.

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECONDED BY: MORGENSTEIN

VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION: PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 1-225(6)(B) regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending matter of *Server v. Town of Wallingford and (10) and 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 (9)*

Time of Executive Session 9:02 p.m. to 10:20 p.m.

Attendance at Executive Session #10:

FISHBEIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN	TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
MARRONE	ATTORNEY DAVID MONASTERSKY
MORGENSTEIN	JAMES HUTT, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
SHORTELL	
TATTA	
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

Attendance at Executive Session #9:

FISHBEIN	MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.
LAFFIN	TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.
MARRONE	WILLIAM WRIGHT, POLICE CHIEF
MORGENSTEIN	JOHN VENTURA, POLICE DEPUTY CHIEF
SHORTELL	TIM RYAN, EDC
TATTA	
TESTA	
ZANDRI	
CERVONI	

MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:20 P.M.

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

11. Motion to consider and authorize a settlement of the pending matter of *Server v. Town of Wallingford* – Law Dept.

MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE THE SETTLEMENT FOR SERVER V. TOWN OF WALLINGFORD AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTEIVE SESSION.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

24 MAY 2021

Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

3/24/21

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 3-15-21
AT 10:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK



COVID-19 UPDATE WALLINGFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Date of Report: March 9, 2021

Stephen A. Civitelli, RS, MPH

Director of Health



MONTHLY CONFIRMED CASE TOTALS

- Total Cases 3,653
- September – 80 Confirmed Cases
- October – 233 Confirmed Cases
- November – 513 Confirmed Cases
- December – 467 Confirmed Cases
- January – 333 Confirmed Cases
- February – 141
- March - 25

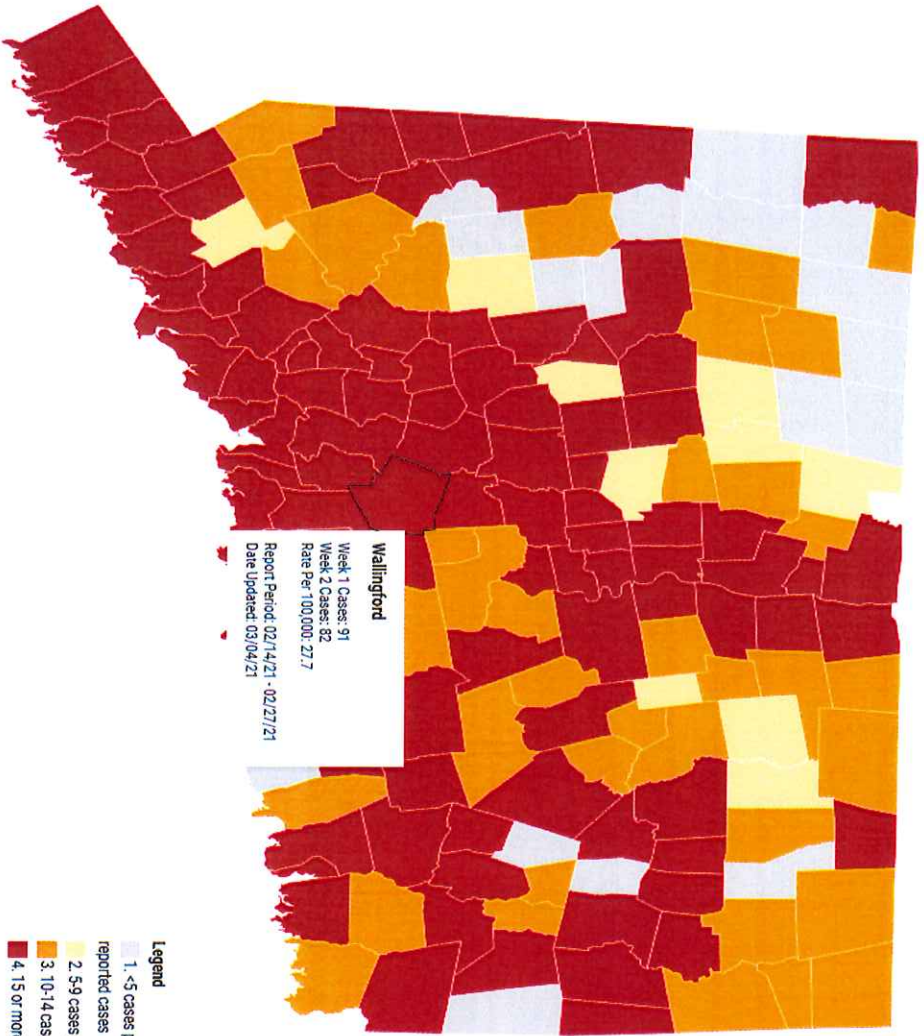


HOSPITALIZATIONS/FATALITIES

- Hospitalizations Statewide – 428 as of (3/8)
- 20% Decline in Hospitalizations from 2/23/21 report
- 165 total fatalities as of (3/8/21)
- Total # of tests conducted – 110,078

Town Map

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



- Legend**
- 1. <5 cases per 100,000 or <5 reported cases
 - 2. 5-9 cases per 100,000
 - 3. 10-14 cases per 100,000
 - 4. 15 or more cases per 100,000

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 15 1 2021. Source: CT Department of Public Health. Get the data. Contact with Dataowner.



CONTACT TRACING

- Contact Tracing conducted monitoring 32 individuals for a 10-day window as of March 8, 2021.
- Utilizing Contact CT Microsoft System.

CLINICS COMPLETED

January 16 – 1st dose 75+ (226 vaccinations)
January 28 – 1st dose 75+ (220 vaccinations)
January 29 - 2nd dose clinic medical 1st responders (20 vaccinations)
February 1 – 2nd dose clinic medical first responders (60 vaccinations)
February 4 - 1st dose clinic for 75+ (210 vaccinations)
February 11 – 1st dose 75+ (276)
February 13 - 2nd dose clinics for medical first responders and 75+ (70)
February 18 - 2nd dose clinic 75+ (251)
February 20 – 1st dose clinic 65+ (204)
February 25 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic (437)
March 4 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic (420)

CLINICS SCHEDULED

March 11 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic
March 12 – 1st dose J and J clinic
March 18 - 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic
March 20 – 2nd dose clinic
March 25 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic
April 1 - 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

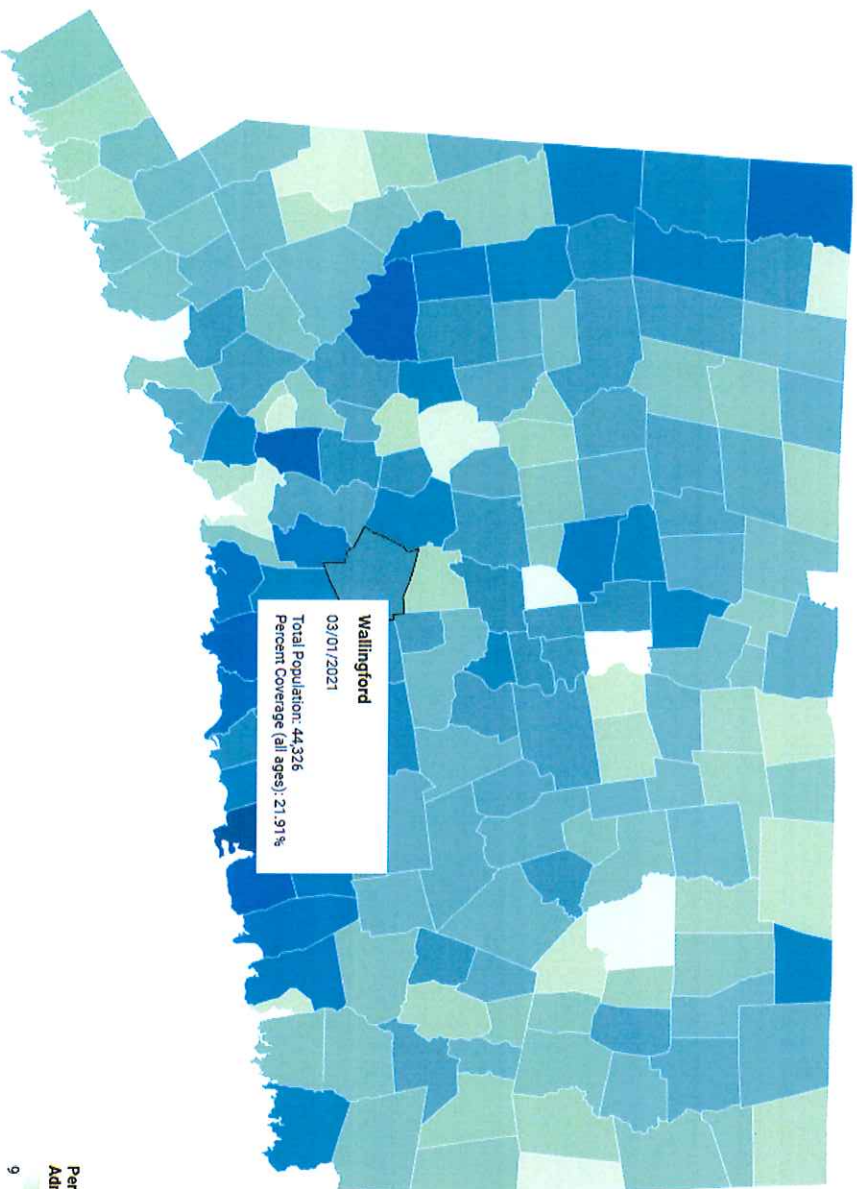
Masonicare/Gaylord Hospital/Choate/Allnex/Wallingford Fire
Department/BOE Nurses partnering in vaccination of residents and critical
workforce

as additional records are received and as duplicate records or other errors are corrected.

Total town-level population is based on the July 1, 2019 annual estimates, available [here](#).

Percent of Population Who Initiated COVID-19 Vaccination

As reported to the CT Immunization Registry (CT WIZ)



Data are preliminary and are subject to change.

Map View 03/01/2021 - Connecticut Department of Public Health - Connecticut Public Health

NEXT PHASE OF CT REOPENING

- Starting March 19, capacity limits will be lifted at all restaurants, retail stores, personal services facilities, houses of worship, museums, aquariums, zoos, office buildings and other similar businesses.
- Commercial gatherings, wedding halls will be limited to 100 people indoors and 200 outside. Private residential gatherings will be limited to 25 people inside and 100 outside.
- Indoor theaters will remain at 50 percent capacity and bars that do not serve food will remain closed.