

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY
September 14, 2021
6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 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 Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Gina Morgenstein, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa (left early), Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. (arrived late) and Tim Sena, Deputy Comptroller

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$24,438.47 (#214-278)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Acceptance of donation from Wallingford Energy LLC for AV equipment and furnishings for classroom at Central Fire Headquarters and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$8,000 from Revenue Account Wallingford Energy LLC – Fire, Acct. #250-TBD to Expense Account Wallingford Energy LLC – Fire, Acct. #25020150-58830-TBD – Fire Dept.
- 3c. Acceptance of donation from Wallingford Rotary Foundation for backpacks and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3d. Acceptance of donations for client assistance and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$10,000 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3e. Acceptance of donations to assist needy children in youth sports programs and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$3,088 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3f. Acceptance of Workforce Alliance Summer Youth Employment funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,097 to Revenue, Acct. #2274002-47010 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22702020-51000 – Y&SS
- 3g. Acceptance of donation from the Wallingford Foundation for Wallingford STEM Academy and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,300 to Revenue, Acct. # 2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS

- 3h. Acceptance of fees and donations for Wallingford STEM Academy and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$158 to Revenue, Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS
- 3i. Re-appropriation of Project Graduation funds into 2021-2022 Project Graduation Contributions Account in the Council on Substance Abuse budget in the amount of \$4,213 to Revenue, Acct. #2324002-49000 and to Expenditures, Acct. #23240150-58252 – Y&SS
- 3j. Consider and approve Appropriation of Holiday for Giving program funds to the Y&SS Special Fund in the amount of \$2,500 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3k. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,400 from Maintenance of Collection System, Acct. #461-00673 to Miscellaneous Engineering Expenses, Acct. #461-00665 – Sewer Division FY 20-21
- 3l. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$9,000 from Maintenance of Services, Acct. #431-00675 to Maintenance of Meters, Acct. #431-00676 – Water Division FY 20-21
- 3m. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$8,000 from Maintenance of Collecting and Impounding Reservoirs, Acct. #431-00612 to Chemicals, Acct. #431-00641 – Water Division FY 20-21
- 3n. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$6,000 from Maintenance of Misc. Water Source Plant, Acct. #431-00617 to Chemicals, Acct. #431-00641- Water Division FY 20-21
- 3o. Consider and approve Transfers – Electric Division FY 20-21
- | | |
|--|------------|
| \$37,000 From: Distribution Plant-Underground Conduit | Acct. #366 |
| \$89,500 From: Distribution Plant-Underground Conductors | Acct. #367 |
| \$41,000 To: Trans Plant-Station Equipment Transmission | Acct. #353 |
| \$48,500 To: Distribution Plant-Poles, Towers, Fixtures | Acct. #364 |
| \$29,300 To: Distribution Plant-Street Lighting & Signal Syst. | Acct. #373 |
| \$ 7,700 To: Distribution Plant-Overhead Conductors | Acct. #365 |
- 3p. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,300 - Electric Division - FY 20-21
- | | |
|---|------------|
| \$1,300 From: Distribution Operations-Underground Line Exp. | Acct. #584 |
| \$1,000 To: Distr. Operations-Street Light & Signal System | Acct. #585 |
| \$ 300 To: Distr. Maint-Maint of Street Light & Signal System | Acct. #596 |
- 3q. Consider and approve Communication/Security Technician Job Description – BOE
- 3r. Acceptance of Gifts to the Wallingford Public Schools totaling \$171,873 FY 20-21 – BOE

- 3s. Consider and approve Bid Waiver for Fuducient to continue as Town's Pension Advisor for FY ending June 30, 2022 at the current yearly fee of \$60,000 – Comptroller
- 3t. Consider and approve Bid Waiver for the 457 Plan Investment Consultant services of the SageView Advisory Group, LLC in the amount of \$18,750, through June 30, 2022 – Human Resources
- 3u. Consider and approve the Appointment of current Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate member Steve Allinson as a regular member to fill an unexpired term due to a resignation. This term is effective immediately and expires January 1, 2022 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3v. Consider and approve Appointment of Ms. Liz Davis to the State Regional Tourism Council for a three year term effective immediately and expiring December 31, 2021 – Mayor
- 3w. Approve Town Council Minutes of August 17, 2021.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3r., 3u., 3v. & 3w.

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

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda :

- 3s. Consider and approve Bid Waiver for Fuducient to continue as Town's Pension Advisor for FY ending June 30, 2022 at the current yearly fee of \$60,000 – Comptroller

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE Bid Waiver for Fuducient to continue as Town's Pension Advisor for FY ending June 30, 2022 at the current yearly fee of \$60,000.

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

In Attendance: Tim Sena, Deputy Comptroller

Mr. Sena indicated Councilor Tatta removed this item because the amount of \$60,000 was high. He went on to say the bid was supposed to be done but slipped through the cracks. He brought this to the Mayor and it was agreed to hold the fee.

Chairman Cervoni asked if this fee comes out of pension funds. Mr. Sena answered yes.

Councilor Testa appreciates the explanation and noted next year he expects to see a full bid.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, expects the bid to go out prior to next fiscal year.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	TATTA: NO
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
MARRONE: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MORGENSTEIN: YES	CERVONI: YES

8-AYE
1-NAY
MOTION: PASSED

- 3t. Consider and approve Bid Waiver for the 457 Plan Investment Consultant services of the SageView Advisory Group, LLC in the amount of \$18,750, through June 30, 2022 – Human Resources

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE Bid Waiver for the 457 Plan Investment Consultant services of the SageView Advisory Group, LLC in the amount of \$18,750, through June 30, 2022.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY SHORTELL

In Attendance: James Hutt, Director, Human Resources

Mr. Hutt stated SageView was the prior advisor and noted there was little cost to the town.

Chairman Cervoni asked if the 457 Plan is similar to the 401K paid by portfolio of all participants. Mr. Hutt answered yes.

Councilor Tatta questioned the wording of the memo which stated this will be in effect until 2022.

Councilor Shortell asked where we are with the replacement of Mr. Bowes. Mr. Hutt explained the list is provided to the Mayor and then Human Resources will schedule interviews.

Councilor Fishbein questioned why when we go out to bid we look for the lowest cost. Mr. Hutt stated we look for the lowest responsible bid.

There was further discussion between Mr. Hutt and Councilor Fishbein.

The Mayor stated if this fails tonight, we are without services and we need this expertise in the interim.

Councilor Fishbein asked if we could save employees this cost. The Mayor said he doesn't think we can. He went on to say we need someone assuring us what is being provided to us by Nationwide.

Mr. Hutt stated we have done everything we can to benefit our employees.

Councilor Tatta and Mr. Hutt discussed staffing in the Comptroller's office.

Councilor Morgenstein and Mr. Hutt discussed the timeline when Mr. Bowes left and the company was hired.

Councilor Testa feels we are overdue for a special meeting regarding how the pension fund is managed.

Councilor Testa, Mr. Hutt and the Mayor discussed the 457 Retirement Plan and the Pension.

Bruce Conroy, 13 Burke Heights Drive, stated the most important job in town government is not filled and everything is left undone until the position is filled. He feels we should go ahead and pass this bid.

ROLL CALL VOTE:		SHORTELL: YES	
FISHBEIN:	NO	TATTA:	NO
LAFFIN:	YES	TESTA:	YES
MARRONE:	YES	ZANDRI:	YES
MORGENSTEIN:	NO	CERVONI:	YES
6-AYE			
3-NAY			
MOTION: PASSED			

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Bill Comerford, Broadview Drive, asked the Mayor if we have a Treasurer. The Mayor replied not as of this time. Mr. Sena stated this position is in the budget and will be filled.

Mr. Comerford asked why air conditioning for the animal shelter is not coming out of Public Works budget and the Mayor stated it could come out of Public Works budget.

Alex Hentz, Winding Brook Road, wants to know who cleans the dog park. The Mayor stated the facility has always been the responsibility of volunteers.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, referenced an article in the paper stating federal funds are not being dispersed until next year. The Mayor said it could happen before then.

MOTION WAS MADE TO WAIVE RULE V TO AMEND AGENDA TO APPROVE A TRANSFER OF FUNDS from regular salaries Acct. #100010600-51000 to Capital Equipment Acct. #10010600-570000 TBD.

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

In Attendance: Bob Avery, Registrar of Voters

Mr. Avery stated they have 28,000 voters and not enough filing cabinets. He is trying to comply with SOTS standards and is requesting funds to purchase three fireproof cabinets. He noted they have more files than cabinets.

Chairman Cervoni asked if this is time sensitive and Mr. Avery answered yes.

There was further discussion with Councilor Morgenstein.

**COUNCILOR SHORTELL CALLS THE QUESTION
COUNCILOR MARRONE SECONDS**

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: NO	TATTA: NO
LAFFIN: NO	TESTA: ABSENT
MARRONE: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MORGENSTEIN: NO	CERVONI: YES
4-AYE	
4-NAY	
1-ABSENT	
MOTION: FAILED	

There was discussion between Mr. Avery and Councilors Morgenstein and Fishbein.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A TRANSFER OF FUNDS from regular salaries Acct. #100010600-51000 to Capital Equipment Acct. #10010600-570000 TBD.

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

6. Update on A/C at the Animal Shelter – Councilors Shortell/Testa/Morgenstein

The Mayor stated Purchasing has the specification of the public bid.

Councilor Morgenstein would like to meet the new Animal Control Officer and see what help he needs.

Alex Hentz asked a question about the new Animal Control Officer.

The Mayor stated Mr. Gibbs has the appropriate credentials and is a licensed Animal Control Officer.

Holly Fontaine, Desmonds Army, Vernon, CT., wants to know if the state says not enough has been done, will the animals have to be moved. The Mayor stated we don't waste time, we are dedicated to doing what is appropriate and work will be completed. Ms. Fontaine hopes this is taken seriously.

7. Discussion regarding Wallingford Police Department Facebook Page – Councilors Zandri/Fishbein

*In Attendance: Police Chief William Wright
Deputy Chief Anthony DeMaio*

Councilor Zandri is supportive of this and stated if it's too much we won't push it.

Chief indicated they have a public information officer for communication with the community.

Councilor Fishbein stated other towns have used this successfully. He feels it's important that the public knows the police are doing something.

Councilor Marrone asked how this would be managed. He then remarked if you commit to the format you have to follow through with it.

Danielle Lutz, 57 North Street, is in support of social media from the Police Department.

Riley O'Connell is fully in support of social media on Facebook.

Mr. Comerford feels this would benefit the community and it does not make sense not to do this.

8. 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: MORGENSTEIN
SECONDED BY: MARRONE
ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded

Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

Date

Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 9-17-21
AT 2:30 AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK