

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 2023
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 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 Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, Vincent Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson was also present.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$18,242.46 (#582-616)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,000 from Regular Salaries & Wages,
Acct. #10020100-51000 to Other Pay, Acct. #10020100-51900 – Animal Control
- 3c. Acceptance of 2022/2023 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program Grant funds and
consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,030.00 to Revenue
Highway Safety, Acct. #1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime,
Acct. #10020050-51400 - Police Dept.
- 3d. Acceptance of funds related to outside Contractor work and consider and approve
Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200,000 to Outside Contractors,
Acct. #10020050-51600 and to Charges for Current Services, Acct. #1002001-46020 –
Police Dept.
- 3e. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$160,000 from CAP &
NON, Fund 301 to 79 Tyler Mill, Fund 301-TBD – Law Dept.
- 3f. Consider and Confirm Reappointment of Mr. Joel M. Rinebold to the Public Utilities
Commission for a three year term effective March 1, 2023 and expiring March 1, 2026 –
Mayor
- 3g. Approve Town Council Minutes of February 14, 2023.

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**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, inquired about cost of playground repairs versus insurance. Mayor stated he will follow-up with Mr. Sena but noted there is no money coming from town accounts for deductible and insurance is paying. He will have details to Town Council.

Mr. Gross asked if tax appeals affect the Grand List. Mayor stated it will affect Grand List of October 2022 and upcoming budget.

Mr. Gross inquired about bottle recycling money and Mayor stated Administration is reviewing amounts now and will meet with departments on spending.

6. Discussion and action regarding successor Contract with IAFF, Local 1326 for a three year term from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 – Human Resources

*In Attendance: James Hutt, Director, Human Resources
Joseph Czentnar, Fire Chief
Dennis Ciccarillo, Labor Attorney*

Mr. Hutt stated we are seeking approval on a new contract and confirmed bargaining unit voted.

There was discussion regarding details of the contract.

Councilor Fishbein is in support of contract and thanked firefighters in the room for their service. He highlighted that no one is representing the actual firefighters. He referred to Section 1 and remarked if an individual has an issue, they have no right to file a grievance, only the union. He then referred to Section B and asked if the union files, is it the union and not the individual.

Councilor Fishbein talked about female fire chief opportunity.

Councilor Testa stated he cares for each firefighter and is uneasy with wording of “union” in contract vs. individual in regards to rights. He stated language in contract has not changed over time and feels this is not the time to do so. He wants to confirm “union” is meant to be “members”.

Mayor asked if this is considered MERA (Municipal Employee Representation Act). Attorney Ciccarillo answered yes.

Chairman Cervoni asked if an individual has the right to opt out of union and Attorney Ciccarillo answered yes, and explained how bargaining unit worked.

Shock Baitch, President of Local 1326, indicated zero members have opted out. He went on to explain union owns grievances and members are involved every step of the way and at any time a member can choose to opt out and choose their own counsel. He confirms union is the member.

Chairman Cervoni wanted confirmation of timeline if approved. Chief Czentnar stated 44 days from tentative agreement date, March 20th.

7. Discussion and possible action to consider and award the following three non-profit grant requests from their respective ARPA applications – Councilor Zandri - *Withdrawn*

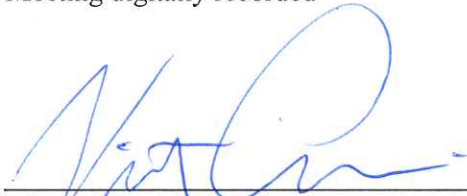
**MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON
VOTE: ALL AYE
MOTION PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff

Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

3/14/2023
Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

3/14/2023
Date

Tiffany Gordon Asst. Town Clerk

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 3-3-23
AT 1:20 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK