

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**  
**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY**  
**MARCH 21, 2023**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 was called to order at 6:34 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, Christina Tatta, Vincent Testa, Jason Zandri, and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Joseph A. Marrone, III, was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Tim Sena, Comptroller and Corporation Counsel, Janis Small was also present.

3. Consent Agenda
- 3a. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$535,506 from Federal Grants, Acct. #2391002-45200 to Expenditures, Acct. #239-TBD:

Committee Recommended Nonprofit Applications

(i) Columbus House, Inc.	\$36,680
(ii) Lyman Hall Music Parents Association	\$25,000
(iii) Master's Manna	\$25,000
(iv) Wallingford Little League	\$24,829
(v) Wallingford Public Access Association dba WPAA	\$14,144
(vi) Wallingford Public Library	\$99,786
(vii) Wallingford YMCA	\$290,066.31
(Viii) Wallingford Symphony Orchestra	\$20,000

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE**  
**AMOUNT OF \$36,680 FROM FEDERAL**  
**GRANTS ACCOUNT TO EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT FOR COLUMBUS**  
**HOUSE, INC.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

Councilor Tatta asked for all items to be removed from consent to talk specifically to each.

*Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street*

Councilor Fishbein pointed out that order of review is random to avoid first in, first out.

Councilor Allinson believes that addressing as reviews are finished is best. She stated she does not want to hold back and believes its Town Council's duty to approve funds and move forward.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>ALLINSON: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: ABSTAIN</b>
<b>CARMODY: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: ABSENT</b>	

**7-AYE**  
**1-ABSENT**  
**1-ABSTAIN**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

Councilor Carmody inquired about process of final payments.

Councilor Fishbein asked if we require proof of authorization from applicant. Attorney Small answered yes, and noted each circumstance may be different and will be reviewed with each applicant.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FROM FEDEARL GRANTS ACCOUNT TO EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT FOR LYMAN HALL MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT WAS MADE TO MOVE ENTIRE BALANCE AFTER ITEM 3ai TO ONE MOTION.**

**MADE BY: TESTA**  
**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>ALLINSON: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: ABSTAIN</b>
<b>CARMODY: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES ABSTAIN(3a. viii)</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: ABSENT</b>	

**6-AYE**  
**1-ABSENT**  
**2-ABSTAIN**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

- 3b. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$348,736 from Federal Grants, Acct. #2391002-45200 to Expenditures, Acct. #239 - TBD:

Committee Recommended Business Applications:

(i) Academy of Dance and Music	\$25,000
(ii) Alyssa's Cakery	\$25,000
(iii) Banana's Ice Cream (MMK Inc.)	\$25,000
(iv) Baran's Kempo Karate, LLC	\$25,000
(v) Body and Soul Day Spa	\$25,000
(vi) Body Temple Fitness	\$25,000
(vii) Clear Solutions Sewer and Drain Services, LLC	\$24,000
(viii) CMST Construction	\$25,000
(ix) Cobra Automotive	\$25,000
(x) Cody's Barbershop	\$25,000
(xi) John Rozz Sound Spectrum Entertainment, LLC	\$25,000
(xii) Langan Fashion LLC	\$25,000
(xiii) ME Landow	\$25,000
(xiv) Tap and Vine	\$24,736

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM FEDERAL GRANTS ACCOUNT TO EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT FOR ITEMS 3bi – 3biii & 3bv-3bvii, 3bix-3bxiv.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

Councilor Fishbein is comfortable voting in favor of motion but wants to address his concern of one of the entities that was transferred during the pandemic.

Councilor Tatta would like clarification as to why committee chose to be in favor of this applicant. Councilor Fishbein indicated that it was a family transfer, grandfather/father to granddaughter/daughter.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>ALLINSON: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: ABSTAIN</b>
<b>CARMODY: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: ABSENT</b>	

**7-AYE**

**1-ABSENT**

**1-ABSTAIN**

**MOTION: PASSED**

4. Discussion and possible action regarding whether to give further consideration to applications not recommended by the ARPA Committee

Councilor Allinson read from a prepared speech regarding scoring mechanisms and standard deviation model.

**MOTION WAS MADE FOR COUNCIL TO APPROVE ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE AN AVERAGE SCORE PLUS ONE STANDARD DEVIATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL SCORES WHICH WILL VARY BY REQUEST.**

**MADE BY: ALLINSON**

**SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

There was lengthy discussion between Councilors.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO CALL THE QUESTION**

**MADE BY: ZANDRI**

**SECONDED BY: ALLINSON**

<b>ALLINSON: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: NO</b>
<b>CARMODY: NO</b>	<b>TESTA: NO</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: NO</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: ABSENT</b>	

**4-AYE**

**1-ABSENT**

**4-NAY**

**MOTION: FAILED**

Public Comment

Mr. Brodinsky believes results were based on merits of group and each application. He remarked all scores were valued equally.

Ray Ross read a letter from Tammy Raccio regarding Item 3a ii .

Jessie Reynolds, 850 Old Durham Road, stated as an ARPA Review Committee member, he doesn't feel that taking a second look on declined applications is wrong, but believes it should be done after all are finished.

Debbie Gross, Long Hill Road, stated using standard deviation would be adding to a score just to pass it and she feels that is wrong.

Joe Mira feels it wasn't fair to non-profits in October to fill out applications and have amounts changed in November.

Bruce Conroy asked if everything that went to committee is compliant or passed federal guidelines by consultant.

Mr. Gross remarked that all members are there for the best interest of the town.

Councilor Tatta is concerned with federal government guidelines to spend ARPA funds by December 2026 and allocate by December 2024.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO TABLE REVIEW UNTIL ALL APPLICATIONS ARE COMPLETE.**

**MADE BY: CARMODY  
SECONDED BY: TESTA**

<b>ALLINSON: NO</b>	<b>TATTA: NO</b>
<b>CARMODY: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: NO</b>
<b>LAFFIN: NO</b>	<b>CERVONI: NO</b>
<b>MARRONE: ABSENT</b>	

**3-AYE**

**1-ABSENT**

**5-NAY**

**MOTION: FAILED**

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION ON THE TABLE**

<b>ALLINSON: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: NO</b>
<b>CARMODY: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: NO</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES (ABSTAIN FROM WALLINGFORD GRANGE)</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	
<b>MARRONE: ABSENT</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>

**6-AYE**

**1-ABSENT**

**2-NAY**

**MOTION: PASSED**

5. Discussion and possible action regarding applications not forwarded to the ARPA Committee by UHY.

Attorney Small would like to put information together.

Councilor Laffin requested all information submitted.

6. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Attorney Janis Small's memo regarding ARPA, dated March 15, 2023.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO ASK PARTIES WITH MISSING DOCUMENTATION TO BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE.**

**MADE BY: ALLINSON  
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

Attorney Small referenced her memo and explained applications that did not qualify. She also provided 501C8 explanation as "non-profit" under ARPA do not apply.

There was discussion regarding non-profit definitions by treasury with Councilor Testa.

Councilor Laffin believes applicant should have option to get profit and loss stamped/audited by CPA to move forward.

Councilor Testa asked if Town Council can make a request to unapprove something already voted on. He would like to make a request for committee to notate anything that falls into this category.

Councilor Fishbein believes application was scored appropriately for the profit and loss.

Councilor Allinson believes applicant should be given opportunity to provide documentation that may be missing.

Councilor Tatta questioned if this could open up a lawsuit, approving an application that didn't meet criteria. Chairman Cervoni stated Councilor Testa resolved this by allowing others to be considered.

Mr. Brodinsky stated providing tax returns is faster and cheaper than CPA profit and loss.

Councilor Fishbein feels the consultant should be the one to go back and request missing documentation from applicant, then send back to committee.

Councilor Allinson said she would be happy to work with consultant to get missing documentation.

<b>ALLINSON: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: NO</b>
<b>CARMODY: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: ABSENT</b>	
<b>7-AYE</b>	
<b>1-ABSENT</b>	
<b>1-NAY</b>	
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>	

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff

Meeting digitally recorded

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

12 APRIL 2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

4/26/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 3-24-23  
AT 4:00 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY  
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK