

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

TUESDAY
APRIL 11, 2023
6:30 P.M.

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES
FY 2023-2024 BUDGET

The Special Town Council Budget Meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, was called to order at 9:20 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, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christina Tatta, Jason Zandri, and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, and Controller Timothy Sena were also present.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. FY2023-2024 BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING

Probate

In attendance was Judge Patrick Birney

No questions

Law Dept.

In attendance was Janis Small, Corporation Counsel

Councilor Fishbein referred to page 18, line 57902 regarding the request for a capital expenditure of \$5,000 that has not been approved by the Mayor. Atty. Small stated that it was approved in tonight's Consent Agenda because it was determined that we need the new copier now. So it is removed from the 23/24 budget.

Coalition For A Better Wallingford

In attendance was Ken Welch, Acting Executive

Councilor Tatta asked if line 58201 of the Youth & Social Services budget is for the Coalition. The request was for \$50,000 but the Mayor approved \$30,000. She asked for more information. Mr. Welch explained that over the years costs such as salary, rent, and utilities have increased. He stated that their funds come mostly from grants, donations, and fundraisers. The cost of their awareness campaign has increased. He is stepping down and the Coalition is looking for an Executive Director so will need funds for that salary. They are looking into the federal Drug-Free Community Grant that was designed for Coalitions, including the Executive Director's salary. He agreed to provide a copy of their current budget.

Youth & Social Services

In attendance was Amanda Miranda, Director

Councilor Tatta asked about the increase in staffing on page 42. Ms. Miranda replied that it is for two part-time staff to work more hours due to caseloads. There are also two seasonal positions. Ms. Miranda noted that they used to have four funded seasonal positions but only used two. Now they need all four.

They will be looking for more counseling in the future as they have a lot of people on the waitlist. She also stated they would like to look for more space. They need office space and don't have space for two full-time counselors to work.

Councilor Carmody asked about the \$4000 increase in youth projects. Ms. Miranda outlined the ongoing and proposed programs.

Councilor Fishbein stated concern with the lack of enough social workers/Counselors. Would it be helpful to have a counselor at Sheehan? Ms. Miranda stated that they use the library, the Coalition space, and the schools. So what she really needs is office space and maybe two full-time counselors. She added that they would like to get a part-time licensed drug and alcohol counselor with the Opioid Settlement grant. Councilor Fishbein asked about the Juvenile Review Board. Ms. Miranda explained that they are waiting to see how it will work for Wallingford. They will use classroom space at the Police Department along with Police and YSS staff. The plan is that the youth take ownership. Councilor Fishbein stated concern with the number of counselors/social workers available.

Mayor

Councilor Carmody commended the Mayor on being consistent with his frugality, but the salary should be commensurate with the job. His current salary is not competitive. The salary needs to be raised to at least \$130,000. He stated that he will do more research on comparable salaries.

Councilor Zandri echoed that thought and stated that an increase should be considered.

Town Council

Councilor Fishbein asked about the Clerk line and if the position will be filled in this budget. Chairman Cervoni replied that it was not budgeted because we pivoted to archiving minutes (line 56601). He reported that a vendor was selected and the archiving is currently being done. It should be available online soon. Councilor Fishbein asked about the indexes. The prior Clerk created indexes by topic to make it easy to find minutes. Councilor Cervoni stated that the documents will be searchable. He will check with the archiving vendor to see if they can also scan the indexes. He's now aware of a plan for indexing going forward.

Councilor Marrone supported the ability to search more than one document at a time for a topic. He asked if there is an annual cost. Chairman Cervoni replied that it is several thousand dollars for the first year and comes from the Clerk's salary. He doesn't know what the cost will be going forward.

Councilor Fishbein asked about the budget for internet. Chairman Cervoni replied that we have a dedicated WiFi line, but he doesn't know where it is in the budget. Mayor Dickinson thought it might be in the Town Clerk's Office Expenses. Councilor Fishbein asked for the amount. Chairman Cervoni will check and report back.

Town Clerk

Councilor Fishbein referred to page 56 and asked about the server expense. Mr. Sena explained that this is the dedicated Land Record server that people can use to run their searches. The funds lapsed last year before the software was purchased, so a transfer was done to finish the project. Councilor Fishbein asked where the revenue from the printing fee goes. Mr. Sena stated that he will check. Mayor Dickinson added that the Town may not get that revenue because we don't host it, COT does. Our records are not actually online.

GOV/TV

Councilor Fishbein asked what the field cameras are used for. Chairman Cervoni gave examples.

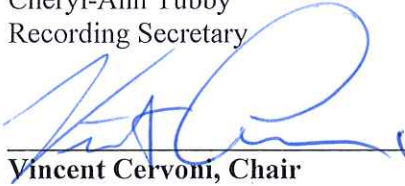
Program Planning

Councilor Fishbein asked about the increase in the hourly staffing line. Mr. Sena reported that a part-time secretary went full time so there is no longer a part-time position. Councilor Fishbein asked where Mr. Ryan's salary falls. Mr. Sena replied it is in the Economic Development Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cervoni declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl-Ann Tubby
Recording Secretary



Vincent Cervoni, Chair

27 APRIL 2023

Date



Joan M. Stave, Acting Town Clerk

4/28/23

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-16-23
AT 2:20 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKernan TOWN CLERK