

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

**TUESDAY
MAY 17, 2023
6:30 P.M.**

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, was called to order at 6:35 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 F. Testa, Jason Zandri, and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W Dickinson, Jr., and Town Attorney Gerald Farrell were also present.

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
3. Discussion and possible action regarding Mayoral Veto of 2023-2024 adopted budget – Councilor Zandri

Chairman Cervoni noted that this meeting was called in response to the Mayor's veto of the 2023-2024 budget as adopted by the Council.

Councilor Zandri stated that this is the fourth year of a Mayoral veto. Last year we were unable to override the Mayor's veto. The original Council amendment came from a lot of good groundwork. Most adjustments were contained in the budget itself. The biggest changes included the use of ARPA funds, which is a one-time opportunity. The major change was the use of designated fund balances. Councilor Tatta had proposed increasing it. A compromise to avoid a veto decreased it by half. There were a lot of compromises in this budget. This means the Mayor's tax increase of \$158 has been slashed to \$57. Similar to other years the budget uses the general fund balance. The budget includes additional services and equipment for the police, fire, and EMS. He noted several items such as a Police ATV, a Fire/EMS Gear Extractor Washer, 2 Set Gear Dryer, UTV with Commercial Insert, and an Accelerant & Hydrocarbon Detector. This budget also adds \$150,000 for uptown/downtown area sidewalk repairs to be prioritized by Engineering and Public Works. It restores some educational spending, including the Pond Hill Elementary gymnasium floor, renovations of the ball fields at Dag as well as the back gym floor. We had six votes to support the amended budget. We need one more vote to override the veto. The only change is the use of ARPA money and taking from designated reserves with the knowledge that we never use all of it. The result is a 1.1% change in the Mill rate. He asked if Council can support that. He stated that this deserves our support.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO OVERRIDE THE MAYORAL VETO OF THE COUNCIL-
ADJUSTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.**

MADE BY: ZANDRI

SECONDED BY: CARMODY

Councilor Tatta noted that she voted no on the budget last week after much deliberation. She recognizes that the amendment was intended to avoid the veto. She is upset that we can't get a zero increase. She appreciates the bipartisan support. The Mayor's budget means higher taxes and fewer services. The Council adjusted budget has lower taxes and more services. She stated that she will support it.

Councilor Carmody stated that it is an honor to serve the Town. He acknowledged that the Council has had some frustrating moments. Yet, this budget was a bipartisan compromise budget. He commended the Mayor and the Comptroller for their work in this process. He gave credit to Councilor Tatta for her hard work and for thinking out of the box to present the adjustments. He gave credit to Councilor Testa for building consensus on the Council. The most important job of the Council is to pass a responsible budget. He hopes we do that tonight. This budget offers increases in funding for education, fire, and police while reducing the proposed tax increase. Let's not burden the taxpayers even more. He supports this motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

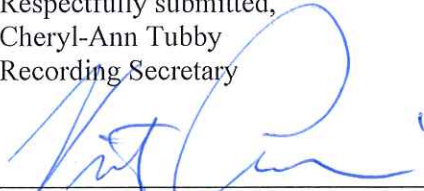
None

ROLL CALL VOTE:		MARRONE:	YES
ALLINSON:	ABSENT	TATTA:	YES
CARMODY:	YES	TESTA:	YES
FISHBEIN:	ABSENT	ZANDRI:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	CERVONI:	YES

7- AYE
0 - NAY
0 - ABSTAIN
2- ABSENT
MOTION: PASSES


ADJOURNMENT
MOTION WAS MADE TO adjourn at 6:47 pm.
MADE BY: ZANDRI
SECONDED BY: MARRONE
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
MOTION: PASSED

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl-Ann Tubby
Recording Secretary



Vincent Cervoni, Chair

23 May 2023
Date



Joan M. Stave, Acting Town Clerk

6/1/23
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5/19/23
AT 9:05 a.m. AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKernan TOWN CLERK
Joan M. Stave, Acting Town Clerk