

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

Special Town Council Meeting

APRIL 27, 2011

FY 2011 – 2012 BUDGET WORKSHOP

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:P.M. There was a Moment of Silence and the Pledge to the Flag was said.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Library –

*In attendance: Leslie Scherer, Library Director
Library Board of Managers
Cynara McPhail, 1st Vice President
Robert Carmody, Treasurer*

Discussion included materials budget line and e-books, childrens' book collection, licensing; upcoming Forum as beginning of study as to the disposition of the Yalesville Library which has slightly decreased usage; staff; copier costs and income; cost of opening 14 Sundays and the related cut to that line.

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT THE LIBRARY BUDGET OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET \$2,702,968

MADE BY: FISHBEIN

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cervoni - Yes Economopoulos -Yes Farrell- Yes Fishbein - Yes LeTourneau – Yes

Rascati - Yes Sullivan -Yes Testa - Yes Chairman Parisi - Yes

9 –Aye

MOTION PASSED.

There was a point of information raised with regard to motions of budgets.

Economic Development Commission –

*In attendance: Richard Nunn, Chairman;
Joseph Mirra, Vice Chairman
Thomas Collette, Commissioner
James P. Wolfe, Commissioner and
Staff Member-Don Roe, Coordinator*

The EDC made a presentation to the Council with regard to marketing activities; recruitment; projects; new businesses in Wallingford; EDC Business Plan; enewsletter; meeting with realtors; recruiter and her pivotal role in the whole picture; Chamber of Commerce; Google ads;

development in I-5 and IX Zones; lack of vibrancy on website; grand list; why Wallingford and the towns attractive assets, electric rates, etc. Councilors complimented the EDC on what is accomplished on the small budget within which they work.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$65,537.

MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

ROLL CALL VOTE

**Cervoni - Yes Economopoulos -Yes Farrell- Yes Fishbein - Yes LeTourneau – Yes
Rascati - Yes Sullivan -Yes Testa - Yes Chairman Parisi - Yes
9 –Aye**

MOTION PASSED.

Social Services - Mayor

Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) –

*In attendance: Maria Harlow, Executive Director
Stephen Knight, Treasurer*

SCOW discussed with the Town Council their revenue; staffing numbers; programs offered; 90 % of clientele come from Wallingford; existence of SCOW relies on two state of Connecticut grants and that their successful fund raiser could help offset any cuts from those grants; their fully used building.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE SPANISH COMMUNITY OF WALLINGFORD BUDGET OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET.

MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: FARRELL

ROLL CALL VOTE

**Cervoni - Yes Economopoulos -Yes Farrell- Yes Fishbein - Yes LeTourneau –
Yes Rascati - Yes Sullivan -Yes Testa - Yes Chairman Parisi - Yes
9 –Aye**

MOTION PASSED.

Wallingford Center Inc. (WCI) –

Councilors Rascati and LeTourneau recused themselves from the discussion and vote as they are Board members.

*In attendance: Elizabeth Landow, Executive Director
Steven Lazaris, President
Stephen Knight, Vice-President
Joan Parisi, Treasurer*

Discussion included programs such as the façade improvement program; holiday decorations; location of Celebrate Wallingford to bring business and to showcase businesses in the commercial center of the town; the WCI financial recovery after losing a major sponsor for Celebrate Wallingford.

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT LINES 6851 & 6852 WITH REGARD TO THE WCI SOCIAL SERVICE BUDGET OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: FARRELL

ROLL CALL VOTE

**Cervoni - Yes Economopoulos -Yes Farrell- Yes Fishbein - Yes LeTourneau – Abstain Rascati - Abstain Sullivan - Testa - Yes Chairman Parisi - Yes
7 –Aye; 2 Abstain
MOTION PASSED.**

Senior Center – Excused, no questions

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT LINE 6750 WITH REGARD TO THE SENIOR CENTER OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

ROLL CALL VOTE

**Cervoni - Yes Economopoulos -Yes Farrell- Yes Fishbein - Yes LeTourneau – Yes Rascati - Yes Sullivan -Out of room Testa - Yes Chairman Parisi - Yes
8 –Aye; 1 Absent
MOTION PASSED.**

Master's Manna –

*In attendance: Cheryl Bedore, President & Chief Executive Officer
Jasmine Manzelas, Director
Robert Taylor, Chairman
Robert Cuneen, Director*

In a review of the Masters Manna budget the following areas were of interest to the Council: Restricted funds; outside contracting; property maintenance; donations to other charities; Compassionate Ministries; Salaries; clientele communities- 40% from Wallingford with the remaining 60% from Meriden, Cheshire, North Haven, Durham, East Haven, Southington, and others; private contributions; funding requests from other communities-currently Wallingford is the only municipality to contribute; Masters Manna filled the gap when the Red Cross closed their food bank; Kenneth Weiner suggested a budget line item that could be removed (Senior Center mini-bus line) to allow more funds to flow to Masters Manna; Job Fair plans for near future;

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT THE ENTIRE SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRIBUTION BUDGET AS PROPOSED BY THE MAYOR OF APRIL 1, 2011

MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

Mayor Dickinson spoke to Mr. Weiner's suggestion with regard to the mini-bus stating that the Senior Center provides transportation to their members getting them to medical appointments and shopping, etc. It includes drivers, gas, repairs and that they are fully scheduled ; they briefly discussed the capital appropriations reserve for American Legion building demolition

MOTION WAS MADE TO AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO INCREASE THE CONTRIBUTION TO LINE 6886-MASTERS MANNA BY AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000.

MADE BY: TESTA
SECONDED BY: ECONOMOPOULOS

Mr. Testa said that technically it's a motion to increase the Mayor's budget by \$10,000 and that during the course of the rest of the deliberations, if he finds \$10,000 somewhere else in the budget that he can recommend cutting that would be the tit-for-tat; otherwise take it out of reserves. They spoke about the two motions. There was discussion with regard to PILOT funds and the varying concerns surrounding those funds; that the amendment is without consideration of where the funds will come from and this is what is going on in this country; an inconsistency present when looked at with the budget of Wallingford Center Inc.

The Mayor and the Comptroller made statements with regard to the PILOT funds and the likelihood of the town receiving them or not. Councilor Testa stated that this is recognition that we can't give them too much and that it is not a budget balancing act; more towards tax increase; some Councilors not in support of the amendment. Councilor LeTourneau supports the amendment and acknowledged that this is \$10,000 out of a multi-million dollar budget. He said whoever is hungry, feed them. Chairman Parisi passionately offered \$1,000 and hoped others would follow.

ROLL CALL VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT

**Cervoni - No Economopoulos - Yes Farrell - Yes Fishbein - - No
LeTourneau - Yes Rascati - No Sullivan - Yes Testa - Yes
Chairman Parisi - No
5 -Aye; 4 - Nay
MOTION PASSED.**

THE AMENDED MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT THE ENTIRE SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRIBUTION BUDGET AS PROPOSED BY THE MAYOR WITH AN ADDITION TO LINE ITEM 6886-MASTERS MANNA, OF AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT

**Cervoni - Yes Economopoulos - Yes Farrell - Yes Fishbein - - No
LeTourneau - Yes Rascati - No Sullivan - Yes Testa - Yes
Chairman Parisi - No
6 -Aye; 3 - Nay
MOTION PASSED.**

Other - none

Police Department –

*In attendance: Douglas Dortenzio, Police Chief;
Thomas Curran, Deputy Chief;
Beth Dighello, Administrative Assistant*

Discussion included staffing of the Police Department; training of officers; capital budget air conditioner for the computer room; cruisers and cruiser replacement program and its setback; cruiser disposal methods; canine force; cruiser computer capabilities; technology specific to the operation of Police Services; crime statistics; budget risks and variables including especially with regard to fuel-diesel and gasoline costs; growth of town with ratio of officers.

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

MADE BY: FARRELL

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

ROLL CALL VOTE

**Cervoni - Yes Economopoulos -Yes Farrell- Yes Fishbein - Yes LeTourneau –
Yes Rascati - Yes Sullivan -Yes Testa - Yes Chairman Parisi - Yes
9 –Aye**

MOTION PASSED.

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN

MADE BY: FARRELL

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: UNANIMOUS - ALL AYE/9

MOTION PASSED

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date