

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers

TUESDAY
March 13, 2012

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. A Moment of Silence was observed, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilors in attendance were as follows:

Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau
Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. were also in attendance at the meeting. Comptroller James Bowes arrived at the meeting at 7:22 P.M.

2. Correspondence

None

3. Consent Agenda

3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$11,033.25 (#524 - #540)
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector

3b. Consider and Approve the Appointments of the following individuals to the
Public Celebrations Committee for a two-year Term effective immediately
and expiring February 1, 2014 – Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Michelle Bjorkman	Dawn Lindauer
Patricia Combs	Carolyn Massoni
Samuel Carmody	Ruth Palmer
Lorraine Devaney	Joan Ives-Parisi
Roz Gallagher	Jane Rizzo
Barbara Kapi	Raymond Ross

3c. *Consider and Approve a Resolution of endorsement for a proposal to be
submitted by SCCOG for a Regional Performance incentive grant pursuant
to §5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth).
The proposal is for a Regional Web-Based GIS Program – Mayor*

Removed

3d. Approve Minutes of Town Council meeting of February 28, 2012

3e. Approve Minutes of Special Town Council meeting of March 6, 2012

3f. Consider and Approve corrected Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of
February 14, 2012

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA 3a. & 3b.
AND 3d. to 3f.**

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: UNANIMOUS; AYE-9
MOTION PASSED.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 3c. Consider and Approve a Resolution of endorsement for a proposal to be submitted by SCCOG for a Regional Performance incentive grant pursuant to §5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth). The proposal is for a Regional Web-Based GIS Program – Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION of endorsement for a proposal to be submitted by SCCOG for a Regional Performance incentive grant pursuant to §5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth).

The proposal is for a Regional Web-Based GIS Program – Mayor

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

Councilor Fishbein stated that he had this item removed from the Consent Agenda because he would like to know several things about the enactment of this Resolution. He focused on expense versus benefit to the residents. A long discussion ensued between the Town Council members and Mayor Dickinson with regard to participation in this program which would include information on transportation, zoning and land use, primarily pointed to highways, infrastructure and bridges in the region. The Mayor reported that this is primarily a planning tool. They spoke about many aspects of the GIS Program some of which included participation of other towns in the region or not; the Mayor's meetings with department heads with some resistance to participation; all towns on one site for regional view; Cheshire may not be on board; cost of participation and possibility of dues increasing to maintain the GIS program.

VOTE: The vote was individually called our by each Councilor.
Cervoni-Yes; Economopoulos-Yes; Fishbein-No; Laffin-No; LeTourneau-No;
Rascati-Yes; Sullivan-No; Zandri-No; Parisi-Yes

Nay-5; Aye-4

MOTION FAILED.

Ray Ross was sworn in to Public Celebrations Committee by the Town Clerk.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Mike Widen; suggested looking into other systems.

Ed Bradley, 2 Hampton Trail, gave a history of issues with trees on his property.
(A packet of his information will be distributed to the Town Council.)

Resident/Teacher, 556 South Main Street made a request for the town to make direct deposits of employees paychecks.

Wes Lube commented that union contracts do not state that paper checks must be issued.

Ray Ross asked Councilor Economopoulos for evidence of the things he has said. Councilor Economopoulos stated that he had the material with him.

6. Discussion and possible action on posting budget information on the Town of Wallingford website – Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Councilor Cervoni read a memo into the record from the Comptroller to the Mayor dated March 9, 2012 stating that on that date the Comptroller sent a copy of the 2011-12 adopted

budget to the Program Planning Office for placement on the Town's website. It said that he used this information to create the pie charts and show the mill rate allocation for major functions of the general fund. It said that he will include a message on the tax bills that direct taxpayers to the website if they are interested. He expressed the efficiency of this method with no resulting delay in the tax billing process. He believes that this fulfills the Town council desire expressed at the February 28, 2012 Town Council meeting.

Councilor Fishbein acknowledged the step forward in showing where tax dollars are being appropriated. He gave kudos to Councilor LeTourneau. Discussion, which at times was heated, included placement of the proposed budget on the town's website and then following that, placement of the 2012-2013 approved budget online. Timing, cost, how much is enough, planning, allegiance to the taxpayers, transparency, need to know, publishing costs, types of files, no demand for the budget, service versus demand, budget workbook binder online, must meet useful endeavor, duty to the public, and that with current system the public does not see the budget until the night before the Public Hearing.

Mayor Dickinson stated that he will consider this, especially if there is no need to re-format. He said that we need to think about this more and added that he looks for savings, saving dollars, not to keep adding.

Mr. Lubeck acknowledged this bi-partisan discussion. Ray Ross, James McManus, Dana Camp and Bob Gross also offered comments.

7. Consider and Approve request for bid waiver for retaining Gara, Markowski LLC for assistance with Phosphorous Regulation issues in the amount of \$6,000
– George Adair, Director, Public Utilities

MOTION WAS MADE TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE A BID WAIVER FOR RETAINING GARA, MARKOWSKI LLC FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PHOSPHOROUS REGULATION ISSUES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000 AS REQUESTED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES DIRECTOR, GEORGE ADAIR.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

In attendance: George Adair, Director of Public Utilities

Mr. Adair referred to his memo to the PUC, dated March 1, 2012, and began the conversation of new guidelines from the Federal Government and the State of Connecticut with regard to phosphorus discharge from wastewater treatment plants and the severely high cost of complying to these new guidelines, perhaps increasing rates to 32% for Sewer Division customers. This bid waiver is to explore an alternative approach to phosphorus regulation with other Quinnipiac River towns of Southington, Cheshire and Meriden. He said possibly twelve other towns are also joining the search for alternative approached.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION BY CERVONI TO INCREASE THE BID WAIVER TO \$8,000. RASCATI SECONDED.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Unanimous; Aye-9
MOTION PASSED.**

8. *Report out from the Wallingford Housing Authority with questions to Chairman Michael Misiti and Vice-Chairman Robert Wiedenmann, regarding:
- Report on the new management company*

- General operational items
- Councilor Nick Economopoulos
Withdrawn

9. Discussion and Possible Action to recommend the removal of Robert Prentice from the Housing Code Board of Appeals – Councilor Nick Economopoulos
Withdrawn
10. Discussion and possible action on re-formatting our local tax bill(s) to reflect, by major department, anticipated application of those tax dollars - Councilor Craig Fishbein
Withdrawn
11. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor
Withdrawn

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: ALL NINE (9) COUNCILORS VOTED AYE

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date