

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

JANUARY 24, 2012

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Town Council meeting called to order at 6:35 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING:

Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin John LeTourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Corporation Counsel Janis Small and Assistant Comptroller Timothy Sena were also at the meeting. Mayor William W. Dickinson Jr. arrived at the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

An Opening Prayer was offered by the Reverend Margaret Jay of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the roll call was taken.

2. Correspondence

Vice Chairman Vincent Cervoni read a short letter from the Mayor to the Council that after his discussion with the Engineering Department, they believe that information including estimates and drawings, regarding improvements to the Caplan/Wooding property, will be completed by March 20 this year.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$858.27 (#441 - #451)
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
- 3b.** Acceptance of WECARE Donation and Appropriation in the Amount of \$200 *Youth & Social Services Special Fund* to Revenue-Donations Acct #2134002-47010 and to Expenditures Acct # 21340100-58830 – Youth & Social Services
- 3c.** Acceptance of Donation and Appropriation in the Amount of \$25 *Youth & Social Services Special Fund* to Donations Acct #2134002-47010 and to Expenditures Acct # 21340100-58830 – Youth & Social Services
- 3d.** Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$25,000 to Purchase Professional Services – Tree Contract Acct # 10030000-56756 from Contingency-General Purposes Acct # 10019000-58820 – Public Works
- 3e.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$382 to Computers Acct # 10020200-57000-00019 from fire Operating Expense Acct # 10020200-58735 - Fire Marshal
- 3f.** *Consider and Approve a new Farm Land Lease Properties Program lease area and award a Bid for use of the new area off Anderson Road within the Tyler Mill/Muddy River Preserve, Field 7G, for maple sugaring – Conservation Commission WITHDRAWN*
- 3g.** Resolution endorsing a proposal submitted by the South Central Regional Council of Governments for a Regional Performance Incentive Grant pursuant to Section 5 of Public Act 11-61. This proposal is for an inter-municipal Shared Services Study
- Mayor

- 3h. Resolution endorsing a proposal submitted by the South Central Regional Council of Governments for a Regional Performance Incentive Grant pursuant to Section 5 of Public Act 11-61. This proposal is for a regional web-based GIS Program - Mayor REMOVED, an then WITHDRAWN
- 3i. Consider and Approve minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of January 10, 2012
- 3j. Consider and Approve the Reappointment of Constables Robert Jacques, Sr., John LeTourneau, Armand Menard and Chester Miller for a two-year term expiring January 7, 2014 – Chairman Robert F. Parisi
- 3k. Consider and Approve the Appointment of Michael Glidden to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a five-year term effective immediately and expiring on January 7, 2017– Chairman Robert F. Parisi
- 3l. Consider and Approve the Appointment of Patrick Birney to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five-year term effective immediately and expiring on January 7, 2017– Chairman Robert F. Parisi

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a. – 3e., 3g. and 3i. – 3l.

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: ALL AYE (9)
MOTION PASSED

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 3h. Resolution endorsing a proposal submitted by the South Central Regional Council of Governments for a Regional Performance Incentive Grant pursuant to Section 5 of Public Act 11-61. This proposal is for a regional web-based GIS Program - Mayor

WITHDRAWN

Town Clerk, Barbara Thompson, swore in Constables Robert Jacques, Sr., John LeTourneau, Armand Menard, and Michael Glidden to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked when was the last time the Mayor’s salary had been raised.

Bill Cumerford, 5 Broadview Drive, asked what is the value of the service, including trucks, gas and linemen to hang banners, such as the ones across South and North Main Street. George Adair, Director Public Utilities said that he would look into it.

- 6. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$20,000 to Center Street Cemetery Acct # 10040150-58224 from Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 - Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE an Appropriation in the Amount of \$20,000 to Center Street Cemetery Acct # 10040150-58224 from Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 as requested by the Mayor

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

In attendance: Robert Devaney, Jr., 1683 Center Street Cemetery Caretaker

Mr. Bob Devaney appeared before the Council to request the funds for partial payment of a new John Deere backhoe for improved efficiency at the cemetery through the use. He answered questions from the Council with regard to the average number of 21 graves per year that are now being hand done; the \$900 cost of a normal site; the funds to help purchase the new equipment will also assist in general maintenance of the old town cemetery such as snow clearing and leaf cleanup in the fall; the righting of toppled gravestones; warranty on new equipment. He said that there is no problem with housing the new equipment. Mr. Bob Devaney, Sr. highlighted some of the hard work that is performed at the cemetery. Several Councilors acknowledged Mr. Devaney for all that he does for the cemetery and for the town.

CALLED OUT VOTE: AYE (9)
MOTION PASSED

7. Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$136,208 to cover costs of Nucor Steel arbitration and provide funds for anticipated legal expenses for review of contracts for extension of power supply contracts and development of RFP for long-term power supply services. Appropriation to Outside Services Acct # 923 from Retained Earnings – Director Public Utilities

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$136,208 to cover costs of Nucor Steel arbitration and provide funds for anticipated legal expenses for review of contracts for extension of power supply contracts and development of RFP long-term power supply services. Appropriation to Outside Services Acct # 923 from Retained Earnings as requested by Director Public Utilities

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

In attendance: George Adair, Director, Public Utilities
David Gessert, Public Utilities Commission

In addressing some of the questions from the Council, it was explained that Account 923-Outside Services currently contains \$19,738 and the budget amendment will provide \$84,660 in a final invoice to Miller, Bails and O’Neill for representing the Wallingford Electric Division in the matter of Nucor Steel Connecticut v. Town of Wallingford. The budget amendment would also provide \$71,280 for anticipated legal work by Miller, Bails and O’Neill on a number of tasks related to the Wallingford Electric Division’s wholesale power supply and the Wallingford Electric Division’s Market-Priced Power Supply Agreements with two of its customers. Councilor Fishbein stated that he would like to have seen these two separate requests presented separately and not on one budget amendment, even though they are adjustments to the same account. Mr. Adair explained that all of it is for legal services.

CALLED OUT VOTE: AYE (9)
MOTION PASSED

8. Conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. to act on Repealing or Amending Ordinance #345, "Article V, Insurance Commission."

The Town Council repeals Ordinance No. 345, "Article V. Insurance Commission", adopted on August 7, 1986, as stated in §8-10 through §8-13 of Chapter 8, Boards, Commissions and Committees, of the Code of the Town of Wallingford

or

The Town Council amends Ordinance No. 345, "Article V. Insurance Commission", adopted on August 7, 1986, as stated in §8-10 through §8-13 of Chapter 8, Boards, Commissions and Committees, of the Code of the Town of Wallingford, limited to an amendment of §8-12A as follows:

The Wallingford Insurance Commission shall be comprised of five members appointed by the Town Council

Councilor Cervoni read the item. Chairman Parisi opened the Public Hearing at 7:16 P.M.

The meeting began with comments from Councilor Economopoulos who acknowledged that he had distributed a packet of information before the meeting to the Town Council. He then introduced a video. (*The packet are part of the record of the meeting.*)

Following the video, the public made comments and asked questions.

Robert Gross, Long Hill Road, and the Mayor discussed health insurance and collective bargaining; Richard Harkawik, Mansion Road, spoke about his experiences as a negotiator with the Wallingford Education Association; Wes Lube, Montowese Trail, read a list of all of the insurances the town has and made comments that because there are so many different insurances, there is a lack of expertise at the administrative level. He stated his opinion of legal cases to which he referred; Bob Gross said that TPA (Third party Administrator) has not gone out to bid to which the Mayor responded that it has. Bill Cumerford spoke about AON, which has been purchased by The Segal Company, the town's consultant. Mayor Dickinson stated that some towns do indeed have Insurance Commissions. You are always looking for expertise and you always have to pay for experts. It is dealing with complicated subjects. The Self-Insurance reserve was discussed in relation to the amount that was needed in the reserve, and when and how it was established and how proper timing in beginning a self insurance program was determined. Vincent Avallone spoke about the reserve and 2008. Wes Lube commented on the creation of the Insurance Commission and referred to the history of it. Mayor Dickinson said that the Council adopted the Commission, and subsequent to that adoption, a position description for a Risk Manager was approved by the Council. This was followed by the hiring of a Risk Manager. It was at this point that an Insurance Commission was no longer necessary. Barbara Kapi stated that Insurance Commission comments may be favorable and asked how can it hurt the town?

The Council made comments. Councilor Fishbein spoke about concerns with a commission. He was interested in the non-town employees insured by the town. Those groups include the Wallingford Public Library, SCOW and the Senior Center. In the past the VNA was covered but that relationship ended. After some discussion with regard to the Segal Company, it was agreed with the Mayor that the town will ask Segal if they receive funds from Anthem. Councilor Sullivan stated that he needs to read the material; that he fears cronism on a commission and that the town through an open process might find a consultant other than The Segal Company. He said that he thinks the Council and the Mayor do their best for the town. He acknowledged

Councilor Economopoulos for the work he has done and that he needs time to digest all of the information discussed tonight and the information in the packet.

In response to a question as to the proper time to make a motion, Corporation Counsel, Janis Small said that a motion should be made within the Public Hearing time so as to give the public opportunity to respond. She said if the motion is to table the item that a date should be stated with regard to when it will be taken up again.

MOTION WAS MADE TO TABLE THE ITEM.

MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: SULLIVAN
CALLED OUT VOTE: AYE (7); NAY (2)
Nay votes: Cervoni and Parisi

MOTION PASSED

9. 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: LETOURNEAU
VOTE: UNANIMOUS; AYE (9)
MOTION PASSED

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date