

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

*Town Council Chambers*

**April 27, 2010**

The following Minutes are a record of the Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council held in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Clerk Barbara Thompson were Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Janis Small, Town Attorney, was present. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. attended an Induction Ceremony for the National Honor Society at Lyman Hall High School and was not at the meeting. Comptroller James Bowes was excused from the meeting.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call was taken.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#708 - #723) totaling \$10,214.37  
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
- 3b.** Acceptance of Donation and Approval of an Appropriation in the Amount of \$50 Youth & Social Services Special Fund to Donations Acct # 213-1042-070-7010 and to Expenditures Acct # 213-3070-600-6000– Youth and Social Services
- 3c.** Accept a Donation and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$299 Youth and Social Services Special Fund to Donations Acct # 213-1042-070-7010 and to Expenditures Acct # 213-3070-600-6000– Youth and Social Services
- 3d.** Accept a Donation and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$1,360 Youth and Social Services Special Fund to Donations Acct # 213-1042-070-7010 and to Expenditures Acct # 213-3070-600-6000– Youth and Social Services
- 3e.** Request for Consideration of Farmland Lease Properties Program Bid Award – Conservation Commission
- 3f.** Schedule a Public Hearing for May 11, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. to be held in connection with an Ordinance entitled:  

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,180,000 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS MUNICIPAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2010-2011 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,180,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE
- 3g.** Approval of corrections to the Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of March 9, 2010

Mr. Farrell made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda Items 3a. to 3g. Mrs. Rascati seconded. All nine (9) Councilors present by voice voted Aye. The motion passed.

**4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

*None*

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER

### *Law Department budget*

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, referring to a newspaper article, wanted to know if the Law Department's budget included the town's bonding attorney. Attorney Small said that it is in the Finance budget. Mr. Gross compared Wallingford's Law Department to that of other towns and commented that Wallingford's budget is greater than other towns. He wanted to know why. Attorney Small said our expenses are not much greater than other towns, and she took exception to Mr. Gross' statement. She said there is nothing unusual about our town and that it is run fiscally quite well. Mr. Gross stated that Meriden's budget is \$302k, and Hamden is \$326k. He said that they are both 'greater communities' than ours, the size. He said that he thinks in demographics also and that they are \$200k less than Wallingford. He talked about various other towns and their law department attorney staffing. Attorney Small said a lot of those towns' budgets may look like they are lower than another town's budget but they don't necessarily include the expenditures they make during the course of the year for outside counsel. She said that law department structures vary from town to town, not everyone does it the same way. She stated that other towns spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for regular Town Attorney work or especially for labor attorney work. She said that serious money is spent and that Wallingford does pretty good.

### *PUC Computer System*

Mr. Gross asked about the PUC computer system update that will include capability of direct payments from the community if the town would allow them to do that. He said it is a cost savings to the town and to the taxpayers. Chairman Parisi said that the entire Council is looking at these issues and suggestions, and the Council shares the concern.

### *Insurance Commission*

Mr. Gross referred to town ordinance 345, the insurance commission ordinance, which would cost the town nothing. He said it is a voluntary board appointed by the Mayor to look at the town's insurances. He said that maybe the town would like to follow the Charter and appoint a board from the many insurance people in town who could make suggestions on how the town could save money.

### *Public Works*

Mr. Gross asked if Public Works is getting the two trucks. Chairman Parisi said that there is ample time for the Council to do whatever they choose to do. Five votes are needed, he said. Chairman Parisi said that some of the vehicles are under the CRRA money.

### *CRRA money*

Mr. Gross asked what exactly does the Council mean when 'CRRA money' is talked about. Chairman Parisi said it is the money that was refunded to the town, our share of the money that was put into the project. Mr. Gross said it keeps being maintained that it is CRRA's money. Chairman Parisi said that is only for identification. Mr. Gross said that it is actually taxpayer money because of overpayments that we made over a period of 18 to 19 years. He said it's like a tax upon the citizens to fund the general fund of the town. Chairman Parisi said that is a matter of perception and that he sees it as a wonderful savings plan because the money is coming in handy now.

*Wallace Avenue*

Mr. Gross asked if there is still money to take care of Wallace Avenue, also known as 390 Center Street) in the budget. Chairman Parisi said that it is still in there and that it is pending, depending upon what is going to happen over there. He said that it is in Capital and Non-Recurring.

*Ashlar Village*

Mr. Gross said that he is still confused on Ashlar Village. He said Regency House and Skyview and others like them are all taxable, and they pay 100% of their taxes. He said Ashlar only pays 40% of their taxes, the government component. Why doesn't Ashlar pay their fair share on their \$42 million assessed value? He said that it is a net loss \$500k to the town at our mill rate. A lawsuit was mentioned.

*Ethics Board*

Mr. Gross applauded those on the Council who recused themselves from voting at one of the meetings. He said that he hopes that the rest of the Councilors, who potentially have a conflict of interest, would follow the same standards that other Councilors set by recusing themselves from certain votes on certain budgets.

6. 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

Mr. Farrell made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property as requested by the Mayor. Mrs. Rascati seconded.

All Councilors present (9) by voice voted Aye. The motion passed

The Council entered into Executive Session at 6:42 P.M. At 7:18 P.M., Mr. Farrell made a motion to exit Executive Session. Mrs. Rascati seconded. All Councilors present (9) by voice voted Aye. The motion passed.

*Executive Session Attendance:*

*Nine (9) Councilors; Town Attorney Janis Small and Fire Chief, Peter Struble*

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Rascati seconded. All nine (9) Councilors present by voice voted Aye, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes  
Town Council Secretary  
This meeting was digitally recorded.

Wallingford, Connecticut  
April 27, 2010  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Minutes

4

---

Robert F. Parisi, Town Council Chairman

Date

---

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date