

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

June 22, 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, June 22, 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 and Rosemary Rascati. Councilors John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. were absent from the meeting due to business engagements. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. was present at roll call. Town Attorney Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes arrived at the meeting at 6:42 P.M. and 6:55 P.M. respectfully.

The meeting began with an Opening Prayer, which was observed by Father Jay Cretella of Most Holy Trinity Church. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call was taken.

Waive Rule V:

- A. Distribution of Jackets to the Mark. T. Sheehan High School Boys Basketball Team for winning the State Class M CIAC Championship
- B. Acceptance and Appropriation of funds for Energy Grant, Phase III, Board of Education Lighting retrofit in the amount of \$197,000 to Revenue Acct # 310-1040-050-5000 and to Expenditures Acct # 310-1403-819-7010 – Program Planning
- C. Consider and Approve the Release/Abandonment of Easement – 494 Main Street, Yalesville

MOTION

Mr. Farrell made a motion to Waive Rule V to allow for three items as follows:

- A. Distribution of Jackets to the Mark. T. Sheehan High School Boys Basketball Team for winning the State Class M CIAC Championship
- B. Acceptance and Appropriation of funds for Energy Grant, Phase III, Board of Education Lighting retrofit in the amount of \$197,000 to Revenue Acct # 310-1040-050-5000 and to Expenditures Acct # 310-1403-819-7010 – Program Planning
- C. Consider and Approve the Release/Abandonment of Easement – 494 Main Street, Yalesville

2ND

Mrs. Rascati seconded.

VOTE

All Councilors present (7) voted Aye collectively. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were not at the meeting. The motion passed to Waive Rule V.

Waive Rule V

- A. The Mayor and the Town Council Chairman presented special jackets and offered high praises for the team and its coaches.

The coaching staff includes:

Chris Daily John Janeway
Rich Monocchi Head Coach Joe Gaetano
and Athletic Director V.J. Sarullo

Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

The championship team players:

Kyle Buntin	Justin McDonald
Jeff Biestek	Brian Murphy
A.J. Pascuzzo	Dan Duffy
John Wadatch	Mike Vallone
Christian Collette	Mason Bush
Graham Kelly	Nick Parillo
Brett Biestek	Phil Gaetano

Mayor Dickinson declared that it is a pleasure to be with these players and stated that this team came together and bestowed upon themselves, and this town, a state championship, the State Class M Title Champion basketball team. He welcomed them. He said that when they hit the playoffs, it was truly amazing. He remarked that they were not favored in the final and that they went up 15 to zero, and they never looked back. He said that they are an incredible team with great poise, great focus, and they never lost touch with reality. He said that there was no bumping or ‘high-fiveing’ after other games but it was right back to business, ready to play and to earn a championship. Just by watching this team, the Mayor said that he was inspired. He remarked that they are a very unique group who are appreciated for their expertise and the coaches are appreciated as well for what they have brought. He addressed the players stating that they make everyone very proud for what they have accomplished. He called each player forward to receive his jacket.

Coach Gaetano thanked the Mayor, and the Town Council, and remarked that this is far greater than winning a basketball game. He noted that what went on afterwards was something they will never forget. He stated that what they have experienced in town following this championship has been truly amazing.

Councilor Economopoulos pointed out that it was Coach Gaetano’s birthday, and everyone joined in to sing “Happy Birthday” to the coach.

Waive Rule V

- B.** Acceptance and Appropriation of funds for Energy Grant, Phase III, Board of Education Lighting retrofit in the amount of \$197,000 to Revenue Acct # 310-1040-050-5000 and to Expenditures Acct # 310-1403-819-7010 – Program Planning

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to accept and funds for Energy Grant, Phase III, Board of Education Lighting retrofit in the amount of \$197,000 to Revenue Acct # 310-1040-050-5000 and to Expenditures Acct # 310-1403-819-7010 as requested by Program Planning.

2ND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

Mr. Farrell read the memo, which stated that in June of 2009, the Council authorized the Town to make application to the Department of Energy for stimulus funds to be used for replacement of existing lighting with high efficiency lighting in schools. The re-lamping project is part of a multi-year program of the Board of Education. The following schools will be done: Moran, Moses Y Beach, Parker Farms, Stevens and Pond Hill School.

In attendance: Don Roe, Director, Program Planning Department

Mr. Roe noted that Superintendent Menzo is also in attendance if there are questions for him. He said that the Board of Education is anxious to proceed with the energy grants for improvements.

Mr. Fishbein stated that since it is a Board of Education expenditure, that we really have no control over this. He asked if this was correct. Mr. Roe said that the funds will be in the General Fund so the town will handle the accounting for these particular, project funds. We do exercise some oversight with these funds and make sure that there is grant compliance.

There were no other comments from the Council or from the public.

VOTE All Councilors present (7) collectively voted Aye. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were absent from the meeting. The motion passed.

Waive Rule V

C. Consider and Approve the Release/Abandonment of Easement – 494 Main Street, Yalesville

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to Approve the Release/Abandonment of Easement – 494 Main Street, Yalesville.

2ND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

Mr. Farrell summarized from a memo from the Assistant Town Attorney, Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. to the Town Council. The memo stated that at the June 1, 2010 Public Utilities Commission meeting, the Commission voted to abandon a certain easement as it encumbered property owned by J. Gavin Properties, LLC. Subsequently, the Water and Sewer Division became aware that its right to use the manhole on said property was difficult to access and requested that this same property owner grant to the Town of Wallingford an easement which would facilitate easier access.

Mr. Fishbein referred to the map provided and needed some orientation on the map to identify said properties. He stated we are abandoning an easement in exchange for an access way. He commented that the map doesn't clearly represent the locations.

Chairman Parisi pointed to 3A. Drainage and utility easement on the map.

Town Attorney Janis Small stated that this is the map showing the easement that we are going to be getting. She said that she has Attorney Farrell, Sr.'s file, which has a sketch depicting the easement that is being abandoned. She offered the sketch to the Council for review.

Mr. Farrell, referring to the map, reported that they were having trouble understanding where it is and asked if it is an unplotted easement and that it was from CL & P ages ago which is why there is no real map that shows exactly where this is.

Attorney Small said that she understands that it is very old and that it was never used but that she does not have anymore detail. Attorney Small stated that this is the only thing that was in the file. It is very old, and CL & P had no use for it.

Mr. Farrell recalled that we abandoned other pieces of this easement for someone else perhaps eight years ago. Attorney Small affirmed that statement.

Mayor Dickinson said that it was never used by the town and that the public never had use of this. CL & P purchased it from another party and then transferred it to the town for \$1.

There were no other questions from the Council or from the public.

VOTE All Councilors present (7) voted Aye together. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were absent from the meeting. The motion passed.

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to accept Consent Agenda Items 3a. to 3k.

2ND Chairman Parisi stated that it was seconded subject to Mrs. Rascati's comments.

Mrs. Rascati stated that on page 14 of the minutes of June 8, 2010, there is a motion made for Item 14., and the minutes do not show that it was seconded. She wonders if it was just left out or if it really wasn't seconded. She doesn't recall if she seconded it or not.

REMOVE MOTION Mr. Farrell removed his motion.

REMOVE SECOND Mrs. Rascati removed the second.

Item 3j. of the Consent Agenda was withdrawn.

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda 3a. to 3i. and 3k.

2ND Mrs. Rascati seconded the motion.

VOTE All Councilors present (7) together voted Aye. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were absent from the meeting. The motion passed.

3. Consent Agenda

3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#783 - #793) totaling \$8,325.53
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector

3b. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$3,000 to Regular Salaries and Wages Acct # 6030-101-1000 from Election Materials \$2,935
Acct # 6030-401-4005 and from Overtime \$ 65 Acct # 6030-101-1400
- Town Clerk

3c. Acceptance of a Donation and Appropriation of \$170 Youth & Social Services Special Fund to Donations Account # 213-1042-070-7010 and to Expenditures Account # 213-3070-600-6000 - Youth & Social Services

3d. Acceptance of a Donation and Appropriation of \$380 Youth & Social Services Special Fund to Donations Account # 213-1042-070-7010 and to Expenditures Account # 213-3070-600-6000 - Youth & Social Services

3e. Acceptance of a Donation and Appropriation of \$150 Youth & Social Services Special Fund to Donations Account # 213-1042-070-7010 and to Expenditures Account # 213-3070-600-6000 - Youth & Social Services

- 3f. Acceptance and Appropriation of three (3) Board of Education Grants awarded for an amount greater than included in the original budget – Board of Education
 - 3g. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$40,000 to Highway Guard Rail Acct # 001-5010-999-0005-00 from Contingency-General Purpose Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 - Engineering
 - 3h. Consider and Approve the Appointment of David Parent as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission to fulfill the remainder of an unexpired term, which expires 3/20/13 - Chairman Robert Parisi
 - 3i. Consider and approve 2010-11 Bid Waiver List Request for Recording Secretary Services – Planning & Zoning
 - 3j. Approve Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of June 8, 2010
Withdrawn
 - 3k. Approve Minutes of a Special Town Council Meeting of April 15, 2010
4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

SWEARING IN

The Town Clerk swore in David Parent as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, made comments with regard to the pension plan; the consultant: he enumerated the fees that are paid, and that it needs looking into by a actuary.

Comptroller Jim Bowes said that the Pension Commission is working on it now, and Mayor Dickinson added that there is an obligation to the contractual piece of the story.

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail, feels that the comments made to Mr. Gross missed the mark and made comments with regard to payroll, union contracts and negotiations.

Mayor Dickinson addressed Mr. Lube's comments stating that the Town follows the state law.

Mr. Gross commented on the CRRA funds with respect to debt service.

6. Report from the Economic Development Commission – Richard Nunn, Chairman

*In attendance Don Roe, Program Planning,
Richard Nunn, Chairman, Economic Development Commission
Joseph Mirra, Vice-Chairman, Economic Development Commission*

Commissioners who were also present included: Rosemary Preneta, James Wolfe and Tom Collette. Staff members included: Doreen DeSarro, Business Recruiter; Lynn Wolf, Secretary

Mr. Farrell read Chairman Nunn's correspondence. The memo stated that the Economic Development Commission (EDC) was asked by the Town Council to provide additional information on a regular basis. The EDC receives a monthly report from the staff based on the Marketing Plan. The memo said that the EDC intends to make available monthly reports to the Council that will be more expansive and comprehensive while at the same time be easier to review by using a soon-to-be-developed spreadsheet format. The EDC expects the reports to include, among other things, data about trade shows, ads, companies visited, special projects, business assistance, e-marketing, recruitments, jobs, etc. Work had begun on this new format and will be forthcoming after finalization by the EDC. Staff is expected to bring this to the August EDC meeting.

Mr. Roe handed out a draft version of the spreadsheet which includes categories such as leads, type of leads, business assistance, commission activities, new and expanded businesses, jobs and investment. Each major category had a breakdown of some of the details. (Appendix I)

Mr. Nunn stated that the EDC would like to make a presentation as a follow up to the last meeting. He stated that at the June 8th meeting, the Council requested this information from the EDC.

Mr. Mirra said that the draft of the spreadsheet will change through amendments when the analysis of the visits have been made. He said that this is the format as they see it and that it will be a workable approach and keep everyone informed of what the commission and the staff are doing.

With regard to the development of detail in giving a flavor of any particular category, Mr. Farrell asked if spreadsheet that is being developed would be statistics, or would it be data on a trade show and its location with that data, for example. Mr. Mirra said that this is just the form and that the Council will still be receiving the minutes of their meetings which will have all that detail.

Mr. Fishbein wanted to make it clear that the discussion on June 8 was not an attempt to micromanage the EDC. He expressed faith in the commission and remarked that his take on what he thinks the 'take-away' was from the last meeting is trying to ascertain what the business recruiter does. He said that he reads the EDC minutes. He said that the report tonight indicates commission activities, and in his opinion, they do a great job but if it is the business recruiter doing these things, then the document needs to be more in depth and that numbers are not going to do it for him. He stated that he is looking to see what the business recruiter is doing.

Mr. Mirra stated that he would like to see comments on what the Council is looking for in specifics. He added that when the EDC was before the Council on June 8, they detailed exactly what the recruiter does in the background, and that none of this happens without Ms. DeSarro's involvement. He said that they are expecting 'breaking news' within the next week or two, serious news, and that he would state that 90% of that was part of the business recruiter's involvement. He said that this doesn't happen unless the business recruiter is involved in it. You can't separate the commission from the recruiter and visa versa. He said that without her giving the support with the data and the contacts, which the EDC needs to make something happen, then a lot of this will never happen. He said that if there is a different format that someone could help them with that could separate the two, then he would be happy to look at it and to consider it, keeping in mind where the line is

from the commission to the staff. He remarked that we are all on the same team, and it is exactly how the EDC works, as a team. Knowing the workings of the EDC office, he said that he would be very interested to see how to entertain a different format that would isolate the two.

Mr. Fishbein suggested that a narrative form might address this better rather than a spreadsheet. He added that putting in a number for trade shows doesn't tell him anything but stating the name of the tradeshow, what was done, what the activity was and what might have been handed out is more of what he expects, and it won't fit into the spreadsheet format.

Mr. Mirra said that he has made note of these good comments as some type of a summary.

Mr. Cervoni said that he understands what the EDC is trying to accomplish with the spreadsheet, and he appreciates that they are trying to show the Council measurable achievements. He said that he is looking for innovation, and he doesn't know if it would be in a narrative portion that accompanies the spreadsheet or in the minutes. He observed that we are in challenging times, and we need innovative ways to get noticed by businesses and for this community to become a target location. He said that he is more than happy to attend their meetings and talk about this type of thing.

Mr. LeTourneau commented on how we got to this point because he thinks that things have become confused. He said that they do a great job but that this all came about during budget time. The business recruiter gets X amount of dollars, and one Councilor asked whether it should be a part-time position, or whether it should be a full-time position and that can't be determined without knowing what the business recruiter does. He said that at the last meeting they made it very clear what the EDC does and what role that the business recruiter plays in that. He said that he thinks that they left the last meeting with more questions than they had answers with respect to the business recruiter.

Mr. LeTourneau continued that we are looking for more detail on the recruiter. He added that the EDC has attested to the fact that they work as a team, and then asked that as a team, who is the leader. Is it the business recruiter as the team leader, the captain of the team? He said that if it is, then he would like to know in what capacity does that captain of that team do. If the captain is bringing forward information and leads on talking to brokers, direct contacts, etc., and then the EDC picks up on that and says OK, we'll go talk to these people. He said that this is what the Council is looking at from the business recruiter side of the equation.

Mr. LeTourneau said that after the last meeting, he got many calls, and in being blunt and frank, as it was presented at the last meeting, it was more like that the EDC gathers information, however they gather it, and that the business recruiter is putting the information together. He said that it is more like an administrative assistant position than a recruiter, so what he is looking for is what our business recruiter does; how many successes from the business recruiter, and the business recruiter only, have come to town. Meaning, has the business recruiter gone out and contacted a business and brought that business in, and then the EDC picks up on it. What is the job of the business recruiter?

Mr. LeTourneau thinks that things got fuzzy from the budget meetings to the present day and that in the last meeting that the Council was definitely not on the attack but rather the Council wanted some information on what the business recruiter does, and not what the EDC does.

Mr. Roe, in reflecting on the last meeting, replied that certainly the title is troublesome, and he added that the Council should have a copy of the job description, which really flushes out what this position does and that the general duties read this way, “Develops and implements the marketing, business recruitment, and business retention programs for the Wallingford Economic Development Commission.” He reported that what they attempted to do is reflect some of that, not all of it, in this spreadsheet.

He stated that this position handles the leads that are generated from a variety of sources and does the management of those leads. He said that can mean a variety of different things. He said that in Economic Development his title in most communities is Coordinator and that ‘recruiter’ is not one person going out and collaring Mr. Nunn for relocation purposes. He commented that he gave examples last time of the other big piece of the job, and that is providing direct business assistance to walk-ins and calls in addressing the questions that arise. He added that another piece of this job is basically staff support. He said we have a variety of folks that provide support to commissions – Planning & Zoning, Inland Wetlands, etc. Sometimes this support involves research and report activities. He referred to the bottom of the spreadsheet and stated that they hope to show what actually happens in that space during that quarter in the amount of square footage, jobs and investment.

Mr. Mirra asked to step back from the last meeting to now and said that the title ‘Business Recruiter’ is going to be reviewed by the commission and will perhaps make another presentation to the Council. He added that they will be having a special meeting in August to do the analysis of the visits, and the meeting will give them a comprehensive, strategic market plan for short term and for long term, who is to do what and what is to be done. He said that when he came to Connecticut, they had a chain of 15 finance offices, and shortly after he came, he closed down three of them because they were in towns where town committees couldn’t talk with other town committees. He said that what he is trying to say is, as Bob said, the team is here from the Town Council, the Mayor’s Office and every committee that we have in this town. We have a good town. We have a good product. The product sells and it has been selling. Mr. Mirra commented that he is having trouble wrapping his arms around all this – he understands the concern- but business is coming and that he sat there two weeks ago and told the Council about a 175,000 square foot manufacturing building that is bringing in jobs in every session. The EDC is getting breaking news of another major thing. He said things are happening, and he is sitting here listening to people who are calling you with questions. He said there are no tumbleweeds rolling down our streets. We have a prosperous, cohesive town with a lot of things going for this town. Should things be changed? Sure, he said, this is a good time for both change and possibilities, and we see it and we are working on it. He said this analysis wasn’t just started at the last meeting. It began at the beginning of the year. It’s time for change, and they recognize it, and the times dictate that there will be a new way of doing things. He doesn’t see getting bogged down with one person’s title and/or position as the town is moving forward.

Chairman Parisi said to be very honest that he did not want to be sold. He said he recognizes Mr. Mirra’s passion, and he appreciates it and commends it, but we had a very simple question in the beginning, and this is like a snowball going down hill, and it has gotten bigger and bigger and bigger. We just want to know by title what the position does, and he thinks basically that is what they want to know. He said that we are not trying to whip anybody or anything or be difficult, we just wanted to know what the position did for

the amount of money that is being paid. He said that he thinks that the minutes will back him up that that is all that they wanted to know.

Mr. Mirra said that he thought they explained at the last meeting but he guesses that they didn't. Chairman Parisi said that maybe there is still a little confusion, and maybe we can stand back, and maybe we can try to clarify what we are looking for, and if we can do that, it will perhaps be helpful to you because there is no disagreement here, and he does not want to get to that point that we are banging heads because that is not what we intended and he will not allow it to happen, not in this Council Chamber. Let us approach it again, and let us just go from there. OK? Is that fair? *(Off-mike responses could not be heard.)*

Mr. Nunn said let us make this approach. In listening to the input that they get from the Council, he understands what the Council is looking for and that the emphasis that the Council would like to see is on recruitment. He said that with the staff people that are there and with Don wearing a number of hats and the 19.5 hours paid to the recruiter that in the next budget that they should have to look at where and what they can do with either the current people with more hours, or perhaps another person, so that besides the administrative work that is done and consumes most of the time of their staff person to deal with a broader range of efforts to pursue for the EDC on behalf of the town.

Chairman Parisi said that could be a piece of the puzzle in the myriad of viewpoints on this issue. They should be reconsidered and boiled down and put forward and maybe we can have some kind of consensus that we will all agree on covers everything that we are looking for. And then we can move forward.

Mr. Fishbein looked at the qualifications referred to earlier and asked if Ms. DeSarro possesses a 'certified economic developer' certificate. Mr. Roe said that she does. He wanted to know about the data to be reviewed in August and was it the 18 business visits. Mr. Mirra confirmed this data review and also added that it will be a re-organization as well. He thinks that they will see information from leading businesses that will cause change. Mr. Fishbein referred to Mr. Lube's comments about things that we might need in town and then targeting that. Mr. Fishbein said that there are seven (7) vacancies on Center Street, and he sees tumbleweeds in the future. He also referred to a tattoo parlor, a bar and a rehab facility on Quinnipiac Street. He said that he is concerned.

Vice-Chairman Farrell asked Mr. Nunn if there was an understanding at this point. Mr. Nunn responded that he thinks we do have an understanding and thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and that they have learned.

7. Conduct a Public Hearing for June 22, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. regarding Neighborhood Assistance List of Projects – Program Planning

Mr. Farrell stated that the Council has a list of projects:

- Gaylord Hospital – Patient programs and services with a tax credit of \$150,000
- Meriden & Wallingford Substance Abuse Council – Early childhood drug prevention with a tax credit in the amount of \$2,000
- Mid-state Medical Center – 2010 Annual Appeal with a tax credit of \$150,000
- Multi-Cultural Leadership Institute-
Diversity education & training services with a tax credit of \$150,000 and
Energy and Conservation with a tax credit of \$150,000
- Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club- Youth Development with a tax credit of \$150,000

The Public Hearing was convened at 7:35 P.M.

Mr. Farrell said that this is a Public Hearing and asked if the Program Planner would explain that this is not dollars out from the Town of Wallingford.

In attendance:
Don Roe, Program Planner

Mr. Roe explained that this is a program that was enacted by the State of Connecticut legislature almost twenty years ago, whereby, if businesses were willing to make payments to not-for-profits, they received a certain tax credits under state business tax. The bill involved municipalities in three ways – there had to be a point of contact that would handle the application solicitation process; the legislative body had to have a public hearing; and finally, in the event that one of these applications was to find a benefactor that would provide the maximum amount, \$150,000, that the town would need to make sure that an audit was done and forwarded to the State of Connecticut but that Wallingford has never had that happen. He stated that agencies have always identified, for the most part, the maximum amount that they are eligible to identify.

Mr. Farrell responded that if this is correct that the Town of Wallingford is just a vehicle to bring businesses and the state together and that there are no town dollars, nothing from the town going out.

Mr. Roe said that other than the staff time that is committed to make it happen and the time spent here, that is correct.

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail, asked if the Wallingford Housing Authority has applied for any of the state assistance this year. Mr. Roe said that they have in the past made Neighborhood Assistance applications but that they did not receive one from them this year.

Mr. Lube asked why? Mr. Roe said he did not know why. Mr. Lube asked if all of the money was used in the past or did we have to return some of the funds. Mr. Roe reported that we do not receive any of these funds. These are not monies that come to the town but are contributions that businesses decide to make to these not-for-profits, and in exchange, they get a tax benefit from the state. He added that these are not funds that we in any way receive.

Mr. Farrell recalled that the discussion, which has gotten off-topic, is about what has been proposed for the four or five distinct projects. He asked that comments be limited to what is actually in front of the Town Council. He said that there are lots of groups that used to be on this list that now are not on the list and that most charities have not found this to be helpful.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, reviewed how the program works... as example, Gaylord solicits donations of \$150 and ABC Corporation gives \$75, and then ABC Corporation gets a \$75 tax write-off. Mr. Roe added that the business receives a percentage in write-off for the contribution; it is not dollar-for-dollar.

There were no other comments.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:45 P.M.

Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

8. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to submit the approved list of programs eligible for investment by business firms and to provide such additional information; to execute such other documents as may be required by the Department to accept on behalf of the Town any funds available for those municipal programs on the list; to execute any amendments, rescissions and revisions thereto and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Wallingford - Program Planning

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to submit the approved list of programs eligible for investment by business firms and to provide such additional information; to execute such other documents as may be required by the Department to accept on behalf of the Town any funds available for those municipal programs on the list; to execute any amendments, rescissions and revisions thereto and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Wallingford as requested by Program Planning

2ND Chairman Parisi seconded.

Mr. Fishbein expressed his concern with regard to Mid-State's appearance on the list, since the town has a contract with Mid-State. Mr. Roe said that all we are doing is putting them on an approved list that then gets forwarded to the state for their review and their approval. That is the extent of it. Mr. Fishbein stated that there is no incentive for us; there is no benefit to the town for us to do this; in fact, as a taxpayer, it would increase our tax bill by giving a business a tax break. Mr. Roe said that is a state question. Mayor Dickinson said that it is not a local property tax. Mr. Fishbein stated that if we say no, there is no effect; if we say yes, there is no effect to this municipality. He asked why would we want to do this.

It was established that there is no benefit to the town, and as the Mayor pointed out, it is a state program to allow private parties to assist in fund-raising for charitable or other organizations. The state has set it up this way, and they want the local government to be part of the hearing process and approve the list. It is meant to benefit those who need funds, and it is a way of providing those funds without having the taxpayers directly provide them. This is money coming directly from businesses. Mr. Fishbein said that he is hearing that it is an incentive by the municipality for these businesses to actively engage in charitable giving.

Mayor Dickinson said that it is a State of Connecticut program looking for us to approve these businesses and the fundraising effort with the hearing process to make sure that the public is aware of what is being pursued in the community. He stated that he does not know of any direct benefit to the government in the financial sense. Mr. Fishbein asked, according to the Mayor's knowledge, if Mid-State itself doesn't get a benefit as a business. Mayor Dickinson said that Mid-State gets a benefit because if they have private donors who provide funds for a project of theirs, then they receive the benefit, and they can pursue their project. Mayor Dickinson said that we have never refused to put anyone on.

Mr. Fishbein said that we have never had this situation before and remarked that we have recently entered into contractual relations with regard to Mid-State. He noted that Mid-State is the only one he is questioning. He commented that it seems a little funky and asked the Mayor if he saw any problem.

Mayor Dickinson responded that he did not and said again that it is not our program. It's a state program, and we play a role in it. If they receive donations, their tax burden is reduced at the state level. We play a part that allows it to happen.

Mr. LeTourneau asked how much staff time is spent on the program. Mr. Roe approximated eight to ten hours total over the year. He stated that most of the work is done by an office secretary. Most of the time spent is in seeing that the applications are complete and that is where time can mount up. Mr. LeTourneau wanted to know if the state would reimburse the town time spent on this program. Mr. Roe said they would not but that we could bill them.

There were no other comments or questions.

Six (6) Councilors present voted Aye together. Mr. Fishbein voted Nay. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were absent.

6 Aye; 1 Nay; 2 Absent

The 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

MOTION 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 – Mayor

2ND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

VOTE All Councilors present (7) voted Aye collectively. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were absent from the meeting. The motion passed. The Council entered into Executive Session at 7:54 P.M.

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to come out of Executive Session.

2ND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

VOTE All Councilors present (7) voted Aye collectively. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were absent from the meeting. The motion passed. The Council exited from Executive Session at 8:20 P.M.

Executive Session Attendance:

Seven (7) Councilors, Mayor Dickinson and Town Attorney Janis Small. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were absent from the meeting.

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn from the meeting.

2ND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

VOTE All Councilors present (7) voted Aye collectively. Councilors Sullivan and Testa were not at the meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Town Council Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date