

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CT

***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING***

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

**6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Vincent Cervoni; Vice-Chair Tom Laffin; Councilors John LeTourneau; Christopher Shortell; Vincent Testa; Joseph Marrone; Jason Zandri; John Sullivan; Mayor William Dickinson.

**NOT PRESENT:** Councilor Craig Fishbein; Town Attorney Gerald Farrell Sr. and Comptroller Jim Bowes.

Chairman Cervoni called the Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The Opening Prayer was given by Father Thomas Walsh, Most Holy Trinity Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Consent Agenda**

3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$4,652.26 (#430-461) Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector.

3b. Acceptance of Donation from Wallingford residents Mr. and Mrs. Revoir and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50 to Revenue Donations – Police, Acct #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations – Police, Acct. #25020050-10127 – Police Dept.

3c. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$540 to Revenue, Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS.

3d. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,350 to Revenue Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS.

3e. Acceptance of Donation from Peer Advocates for the Soldier Program and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$707 to Revenue Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS.

3f. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$130 to Revenue, Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS.

3g. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of funds in the amount of \$1,170 to Revenue, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS.

3h. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of 150 to Revenue, Acct. #2264001-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS.

3i. Acceptance of Donation from Wallingford Energy, LLC and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,500 to Miscellaneous Revenue Donation, Acct. #TBD and to Misc. Grants & Donations – Fire Department, Acct. #TBD – Fire Dept.

3j. Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$27,997 to Distr. Revenue, Acct. #2001002-45000 and to Vehicle -A.C.O., Acct. #Fund 200 TBD – Animal Control.

3k. Acceptance of Donations and Consider and Approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$727 to Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Veterinary, Acct. #10020100-56742 – Animal Control.

3l. Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$35,000 increasing Account #46100925 – Water/Sewer Division

\$14,000 From: Pumping Plant – Other Power Prod. Equip. Acct. #46300323

\$ 2,000 From: Treatment Plant – Structures & Imp. Acct. #46300331

\$12,000 From: Treatment Equipment Acct. #46300332

\$ 5,000 From: General Plant- Structures & Imp. Acct. #46300390

\$ 2,000 From: Power Operated Equipment Acct. #46300396

\$35,000 To: Injuries and Damages Acct. #46100925

3m. Consider and Approve Revised Job Description for Program Planning Administrator – Personnel.

3n. Approve Town Council Minutes of Oct. 25, 2016.

**Motion: Approve Consent Agenda items 3a through 3N**

**Made by: Laffin**

**Seconded by: LeTourneau**

**Vote: 8 ayes**

**4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda – none.**

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD – 6:40 p.m.**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, said two weeks ago he asked about the pension fund and asked if any of the Councilors or the Council Chair had given any thought to the passive versus the fees being paid for active management. Chairman Cervoni noted that Wallingford has a Pension Commission, which according to Mayor Dickinson meets quarterly. Chairman Cervoni said the Council receives Minutes from their meetings and also has the ability to monitor their actions. Mr. Gross said he attends the Pension Commission meetings. He said the Town Council will go through the various department's budgets line by line, but can't remember when the Pension Commission was in front of the Town Council to ask them about their investment philosophy. He said the fees the Town pays are greater than what should be paid. He said the pension fund has to last longer than an average lifespan.

Mr. Gross asked why all this money is being spent and why the Town Council is looking into this and asking the Pension Commission. Mr. Gross said Nevada has a pension fund which is passive and is \$35 billion and if they paid the average fees that a normal Town or State would pay, they would pay \$120 million in fee; passive, they are paying only \$18 million a year on \$35 billion. Mr. Gross said if we could save that amount of money percentage wise, per year, over a 10 to 15 year period, millions of dollars could be saved. Mr. Gross noted that there are very few periods of times when a passive fund is not going to be an active fund. He said there will also be a better return and less money could be put into the fund. He said Wallingford should be looking at this.

Mayor Dickinson said the Pension Commission uses a variety of techniques and noted that everything is not put into one basket. He pointed out there is passivity. He said this goes back and forth all the time. Mr. Gross disagreed.

Mayor Dickinson said if there are disagreements, this is the place for the Pension Commission. He said the Commission has the expertise and has set a course which seems to be successful in terms of interest being earned. Chairman Cervoni asked the Mayor about the makeup of the Pension Commission members. Mayor Dickinson said there are three outside people and the Treasurer and Comptroller. Chairman Cervoni asked the Mayor how people are screened and appointed to the Commission. Mayor Dickinson said they look for people with experience.

Mr. Gross said statistically, it can be proven that passive will be active manager that is why more people are going this way and more money is going into passive funding. He said active can't pick the winners every year out and out. He said the Town must get away from the Wall Street mentality. He said the Chairman should talk to the Pension Commission and see how they are investing and how they are indexing.

**PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD CLOSED – 6:44 p.m.**

Chairman Cervoni noted that Item #6 – Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Wallingford Education Association Contract – BOE and Item #7 – Acceptance of gifts to the

Wallingford Board of Education totaling \$245,585 for FY 2015-2016 – BOE have been WITHDRAWN from this agenda and will be put on the November agenda.

Also, Chairman Cervoni noted there were no items to discuss regarding Item #8 – Executive Session with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.

**Adjournment**

**Motion made by: Shortell**

**Seconded by: Marrone**

**The Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist

Recording Secretary