

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

ROBERT F. PARISI COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MONDAY

April 24, 2017

6:30 P.M.

FY 2017 – 2018 BUDGET WORKSHOP

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council on Monday, April 24, 2017 was called to order at 6:32 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin (arrived at 6:37 p.m.), John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, Christopher K. Shortell, John J. Sullivan (arrived at 6:42 p.m.) and Jason Zandri. Councilor F. Vincent Testa, Jr. was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller, James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
3. **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

HISTORIC PROGRAM MATCHING

*In Attendance: Bob Beaumont, Historical Society
Richard Straub, Historic Preservation Trust*

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Beaumont if there is a reason why we didn't get a budget from him. Mr. Beaumont responded that they don't do a budget. Councilor Fishbein then asked Mr. Beaumont what his expenditures were last year. Mr. Beaumont replied \$22, 000 last year and \$25,000 the year before. He went on to say they are doing an accessory building this year as we speak, and that they have \$950,000 in the bank. Councilor Fishbein asked why then do you need money from the town? Mr. Beaumont says that the Mayor called a few years back and asked if they would be interested in a matching program, and we said yes. So this year the town will give us \$5,000 and we will spend \$5,000 on a program.

Mayor responded that that is not accurate. He explained that the Preservation Trust came to the Town and needed money. He felt if we were going to do a matching program with one of the groups, we needed to do it with both. He went on to say that part of the agreement is they must raise their amount of matching funds.

Councilor Fishbein, moving onto the Trust, asks Mr. Straub to explain his budget. Mr. Straub says we only have the gift of the Royce house which is not part of this budget. We have no money, and our operating budget is roughly \$40,000 a year.

Councilor LeTourneau thanks Mr. Straub for his time and all that he does for the Trust. He then confirms that most of the silver is silver plated and not pure silver. Mr. Straub replied yes silver plated.

Councilor Sullivan asked Mr. Straub if the Trust is moving money around within the budget to make ends meet. Mr. Straub responded yes.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSON

*In Attendance: Bob Beaumont, PUC Chairman
George Adair, Director Public Utilities*

Councilor Fishbein asked when the last time an appointment was made to the PUC. Mr. Beaumont responded that Joel Reinbold was reappointed to a full term in March. Councilor Fishbein then asked what the line item for \$40,000 was for and Mr. Beaumont responded it is for an Executive search for a new Director to the Utilities Department.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

*In Attendance: George Adair, Director Public Utilities
Rick Hendershot, General Manager
Tom Sullivan, Office Manager*

Councilor Fishbein asked what their projection of sales is and then commented that they are down 2 million residential and 4 million commercial. He asked if they are seeing the same thing. Mr. Sullivan responded that they have seen a shift in revenue and it shows an adjustment in the pricing. Councilor Fishbein inquired about the purchase power line item and noted it is a 6 million dollar increase. Mr. Adair indicated it is an unusual increase and that it is a spike in the market and an unprecedented amount of money.

Councilor Zandri wants to follow up on the sales number and confirms it is a six month number. Mr. Bowes answered yes. Councilor Zandri indicated that they are down one meter reader position and asked if they plan to fill that position. Mr. Hendershot responded no.

Councilor Sullivan asked about the street lights and signals and questioned if we will be seeing them transition into LED lights. Mr. Hendershot replied yes and noted you will start to see LED lights going up around town as the lights gets replaced. Councilor Sullivan wants to know if they have any labor agreements coming up this year. Mr. Hendershot said yes, all of them are expiring this year, which is not reflected in this budget.

WATER DIVISION

*In Attendance: George Adair, Director Public Utilities
Neil Amwake, General Manager
Bill Phelan, Office Manager*

Councilor Fishbein inquired about the private fire protection income line item. Mr. Amwake explains that it is charges for private hydrants on larger private parcels. Councilor Fishbein then asks about the \$643,000 expenditure line item. Mr. Amwake replied it is for the Pond Hill interconnection project.

Councilor Zandri inquired about the miscellaneous expenses line item #665. Mr. Phelan stated that there are two components in that account. He explained there is the software expense and then the labor and materials expense and they have all gone up. Mr. Amwake mentions that we have a 15 year meter phase out cycle for 15 fiscal years.

SEWER DIVISION

*In Attendance: George Adair, Director Public Utilities
Neil Amwake, General Manager
Bill Phelan, Office Manager*

Councilor Zandri remarks that it's a large jump in chemical expenses. Mr. Amwake responds that it was a conscious decision to go up an increase of \$10,000 for aluminum sulfate utilized for phosphorus treatment. He then stated this line item includes a buffer for such a price increase.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MADE BY: LETOURNEAU


SECONDED BY: MARRONE

ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

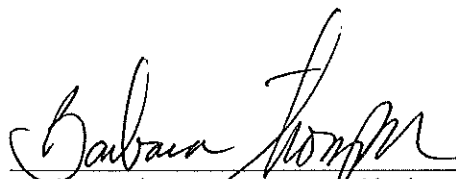
Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

10 MAY 2017
Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

5-9-17
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5-1-17
AT 4:15 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act- Individuals in need of auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Wallingford are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator at 203-294-2070 five days prior to meeting date.