

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers
FY 2018-2019 BUDGET WORKSHOP

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TUESDAY
April 17, 2018
6:30 P.M

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 was called to order at 6:33 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, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone (arrived at 6:40 P.M.), III, Gina Morgenstein (arrived at 7:55 P.M.), Christopher K. Shortell (left at 6:45 P.M.) and Jason Zandri. Vincent F. Testa 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

EDC

*In Attendance: Tim Ryan, Economic Development Commission
Mark Gingrass
Patricia Cymbala*

Mr. Ryan stated he received directive from the Mayor to level fund the budget and indicated they did the best they could.

Mr. Gingrass explained that their marketing strategy is to market in state, not out of state and that they rely on CERC for out of state and out of country work for us. He mentioned a second strategy which is to engage Wallingford to talk about itself, business owners talking about how great the town is. He went on to state the Wallingford Magazine/Brochure helps and they also engage the brokers.

Ms. Cymbala stated they have a print campaign in the Hartford and Fairfield Business Journal plus the three billboards.

Councilor Fishbein asked why transportation expenses were doubled. Mr. Ryan explained in order for him to travel around the state to visit companies. Councilor Fishbein then asked if dues and fees were added. Mr. Ryan stated they joined more groups so they can be closer to them.

YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

In Attendance: Craig Turner, Director, Youth & Social Services

Mr. Turner stated it has been a challenging few years with the opioid crisis and it has been difficult.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about line item 58272. He remarked that out of \$122,000 only \$59,000 has been spent in seven months. Mr. Turner stated that most of it will be spent in June at project graduation. Councilor Fishbein then asked how much is spent on project graduation. Mr. Turner replied about \$8,000.

FINANCE DEPT.

In Attendance: James Bowes, Comptroller

Councilor Fishbein asked why Financial Information Systems is not paid for in this budget. Mr. Bowes stated this wasn't the year to do it.

CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS RESERVE – No Questions

CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT/OTHER

In Attendance: James Bowes, Comptroller

Councilor Marrone asked Mr. Bowes for help in understanding the difference of the funds. Mr. Bowes explained that last year's contingency was \$360,000 and was operational like a balance sheet item. He noted the larger contingency is \$4 million.

DEBT SERVICE

In Attendance: James Bowes, Comptroller

Councilor Fishbein asked why last year's money in debt service had not been spent. Mr. Bowes replied we are going out to bond next month.

Councilor LeTourneau questioned if we are going out to bond this year and asked if we still have our Triple A rating. Mr. Bowes stated once we go to bond, Wall Street looks at our record to determine that we keep our rating.

Councilor LeTourneau wants to know what would be the rate for a Triple A bond compared to a regular A bond and asked Mr. Bowes if he could get that information to the Council. Mr. Bowes answered yes.

ENGINEERING

*In Attendance: Robert Baltramaitis, Town Engineer
Henry McCully, Director, Public Works*

Councilor Zandri mentioned that John Street Bridge has a new fence and then asked if we ever figured out who owns the bridge. Mr. Baltramaitis replied that it is an orphan bridge. Amtrak and DOT own a portion and Wallingford maintains the asphalt curbing and fencing.

Councilor Zandri asked if there is any update on the Center Street Bridge. Mr. Baltramaitis will follow up with the Project Manager.

Councilor Zandri commented that Constitution Street is a disaster. Mr. Baltramaitis stated it is all due to the utility work and it has wintered over and it should be milled early this year by utilities.

Councilor LeTourneau stated it would be great if we could have updates on our website as to when the different streets will be repaired or paved, especially North Main Street.

Councilor Morgenstein commented that John Street Bridge is an orphan bridge and asked how we go about repairing roads.

Mayor Dickinson stated we decide on which roads need repairs each year and then we repair them. He mentioned that the Locip money and grant money from the State has been cut.

PUBLIC WORKS

*In Attendance: Henry McCully, Director, Public Works
Cathy Johns, Administrative Aide, Public Works
Steven Palermo, Foreman, Public Works*

Mr. McCully stated they are starting to pave 14 streets and they are working on the parks. He commented that we had a tough winter.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about Linear Trail fencing. Mr. McCully stated it's in the Engineering budget now. Mr. Bowes stated Engineering is taking the lead on the Linear Trail.

Councilor Zandri asked if we have a cleaning program for catch basins. Mr. McCully replied if its 50% full or less, we do not have to clean it and we have three years to clean it. The waste is considered a special waste.

Councilor Morgenstein asked how much we are getting for our recycling and if we are monitoring this? Mr. McCully answered yes. He stated that they are installing a new scale and the recycling and garbage is going smoothly. Councilor Morgenstein then asked if the price is staying steady. Mr. McCully stated it's the third year of a three year bid so yes.

Councilor Morgenstein inquired about parks and the trash bins. She wants to know if we can do recycle bins and also asked if the trash bins are sorted from the parks? Mr. Palermo stated at Celebrate Wallingford, we put out recycle bins and they put in all sorts of garbage and he said it just would not work.

Councilor Morgenstein inquired about the \$90,000 in trees. Mr. McCully stated he requested an increase because the Electric Division will no longer do pruning and he needs to hire a contractor. Councilor Morgenstein then asked are you continuing your tree removal. Mr. McCully answered yes and stated it will cover pruning, tree removal and outside contracting.

CAP & NON RECURRING – No Questions

SIX YEAR CAPITAL

*In Attendance: Henry McCully, Director, Public Works
Robert Baltramaitis, Town Engineer*

Mr. Baltramaitis explained that Pragemann Park lights are \$200,000 plus the \$155,000 grant (off set) and another \$110,000 is needed to finish the project and that is from previous years carry forward.

Councilor Fishbein questioned if the \$250,000 for general Government security is for our buildings. Mayor Dickinson responded right now it's just for Town Hall. He went on to state we don't know how much we are spending on all our town owned buildings. The Police Department is involved in helping with this.

Councilor Fishbein asked what the Bridge Safety Project is. Mr. Baltramaitis explained his department receives reports from the State on our bridges and overpasses and this will help in identifying these problem spots.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about town wide paving and asked if we have a list of streets. Mr. McCully responded that we did not have a list last year or now. Councilor Fishbein then asked when North Main Street will be done and Mr. Baltramaitis answered most likely in June.

Councilor Fishbein asked about guardrails. Mr. Baltramaitis stated that he typically has \$5,000 for guardrails and we need to systematically have a repair plan for guardrails in town.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: MARRONE
MOTION: PASSED**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

5 MAY 2018

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

5-8-18

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-19-18
AT 4:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK