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RECEIVED
MAYOR'S OFFICE

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
 Tuesday
 APRIL 27, 2016
 6:30 p.m.
ROBERT F. PARISI COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FY 2016 – 2017 BUDGET WORKSHOP
Minutes

16 APR 29 PM 4:37

The Special meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:36 P.M. A moment of silence was observed and The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph Marrone, Christopher K. Shortell and John Sullivan. Councilor Jason Zandri arrived at 6:53 P.M and Councilor Vincent F. Testa Jr. was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor William Dickinson and Comptroller Jim Bowes.

Discussion and possible action regarding a letter of intent concerning the Lendlease Project – Mayor

In Attendance: Janis M. Small, Corporation Counsel

MOTION WAS MADE TO ALLOW THE MAYOR TO MOVE TO EXECUTE THE LETTER OF INTENT CONCERNING THE LENDLEASE PROJECT

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

Councilor Fishbein inquired about the option fee and semiannual payments. Attorney Janis Small stated that both parties agreed in good faith to come to a conclusion about money which we do not have yet.

Mayor Dickinson stated that a letter of intent allows them to go to RFP and once that happens, either party can opt out. Attorney Janis Small added that it binds us to 128 days. Councilor Fishbein asked what the next step would be. Attorney Janis Small replied that DEEP will approve in July. She indicated that they have to win the bid and that we can look into the financial reward.

Councilor LeTourneau stated that he understood the letter of intent and noted that there is a lot of detail in our document. Attorney Janis Small explained that it has to have the same detail for DEEP to approve it.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	SULLIVAN: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: ABSENT
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: ABSENT
MARRONE: YES	CHAIRMAN CERVONI: YES
7-AYE	
MOTION: PASSED	

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

LIBRARY

In attendance: Jane Fisher, Bob Carmody, Beth Brooks

Jane Fisher gave a short presentation. She noted that the Library is always hustling and bustling and that every community room is full. In addition, there is an early reading program, homework help, computer tutoring and also a social corner for teenagers.

Bob Carmody stated that there is a 1.95% budget increase from last year. Councilor Shortell asked about reconciling the budget situation in the children's room. Jane Fisher stated that the insurance issue was not settled yet and the insurance had funded clean up and carpet. She also stated that there were 10,600 books lost and the labor costs are being investigated. She stated that she went and got an outsource quote. She indicated that she was hoping insurance would fully fund but most likely \$260,000 is a total loss. Bob Carmody indicated that their insurance company will not cover them going forward.

Councilor LeTourneau asked how many employees there are and Jane Fisher responded 20 full-time and 33 part-time for a total of 53. Councilor Sullivan stated that there is a 2.5% increase in salaries. Bob Carmody clarified that has been cut back and we are now at 2.0%.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

In attendance: Richard Straub, Board Member, Recording Secretary

Richard Straub stated that they added five new members in the past few years and recruited 18 new volunteers since participating in Celebrate Wallingford. He stated they all have professional backgrounds. He indicated that they started an inventory of what they have and they are trying to keep more of a regular schedule with open houses.

The Town owns Blakeslee property and Royce & Johnson is what the Trust owns. Utility costs are \$7,000 annually and Grounds and Building Maintenance is \$3,000 annually. Councilor Fishbein asked how much is in reserves and Richard Straub responded \$180,000 and most of it is restricted to Royce House.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In attendance: Robert Beaumont and George Adair, Director of Public Utilities

Councilor Fishbein asked why there are only two commissioners attending since August. Mayor Dickinson responded that Mr. Nunn has been ill and still expresses an interest in serving and he is looking into whether he can serve. Councilor Fishbein indicated that he is not comfortable with only two members. Mayor Dickinson replied that Mr. Nunn deserves the courtesy of time to recover and mentioned that he has served the community a long time and that we need to be patient. Councilor Fishbein stated that he has been patient but there shouldn't be only two members making decisions.

Councilor Shortell stated that office expenses are down. He then asked for Town wide data numbers on all departments for transportation allowances.

WATER

In attendance: George Adair, Public Utilities Director, Bill Phelan, Business Manager and Brian Hickey, Interim General Manager

Councilor Fishben spoke about the purchase of water. He noted that we are billed from Meriden for Kohl's plaza and we pay them. He then asked about the status of contaminated wells. George Adair replied that the survey for the wells is completed and the process continues onward. He stated that we are taking a different approach than we originally thought and that water should be hooked up by the end of the year. Bill Phelan stated that they have projects scheduled but no new projects coming up.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

In attendance: George Adair, Public Utilities Director, Rick Hendershot and Tom Sullivan

Tom Sullivan spoke about general spending being \$54,000 and the budget being over a half million dollars. He asked why we are budgeting so much and spending so little. Rick Hendershot replied that the money is for vehicles and vehicles have been ordered but have not been delivered yet and that the money will come out of this budget. He stated that they buy nine line trucks and one car a year.

Councilor Zandri stated that cap items come out of earnings. Councilor Fishbein spoke about street lights. Rick Hendershot stated that they respond to all notices promptly and indicated that they have done a few evening patrols a few times a year. Councilor Fishbein asked how this expense for service is computed. Rick Hendershot answered that it is computed by the existence of plant & energy cost x energy rate. George Adair stated that the lights are on a four year change program to go to LED lights and all that savings will be passed on to the rate payer in savings. He noted that the conversion will start this summer.

Councilor LeTourneau asked about uncollectable accounts. Rick Hendershot stated that they are expecting a modest decrease and indicated that they have reached their maximum ability to collect.

SEWER

In attendance: George Adair, Public Utilities Director, Bill Phelan, Business Manager and Brian Hickey

Councilor Fishbein asked if I&I is funded and George Adair responded yes at line item #673. Bill Phelan stated that they maintained sewer linings at \$450,000 per year. Councilor Fishbein asked if we have engaged properties in I&I. Brian Hickey answered yes and stated that they had about 15-20 inspections and that Rock Hill area is one of our targets. George Adair indicated that they are in the early stages and still need to hire an inspector. He also stated that they had \$3,700 paid out so far. George Adair explained that we have a permit that maintains a schedule of action we need to meet by April 1, 2020. He stated that DEEP has set the timeline that we must adhere to but we will pursue arguments to the cost. Councilor Fishbein asked why the regular capital line doubled. Bill Phelan said because of the classification of the lining of sewer lines. He also stated that they plan to purchase a truck in the Sewer Division for \$120,000, generator for \$60,000 and a forklift. He spoke about reserves stating that Sewer = 3.8 million cash above minimum and water = 1.9 million cash above minimum. Approximately 6 million is cash above minimum.

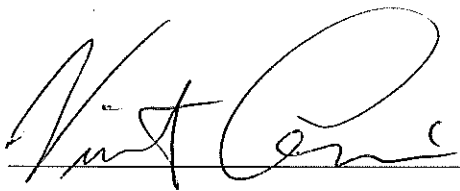
MAYOR

Councilor Fishbein inquired about 56712 negotiations. Mayor Dickinson spoke about payment for mediators and contract negotiations. Councilor Fishbein asked if that was just general Government and Mayor Dickinson responded yes. Councilor Fishbein asked the Mayor why this is in his budget and Mayor Dickinson responded that by law the Mayor is the chief negotiator.

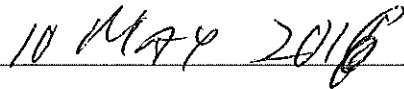
MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: FISHBEIN
SECONDED BY: ZANDRI
ALL AYES
MOTION PASSED

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

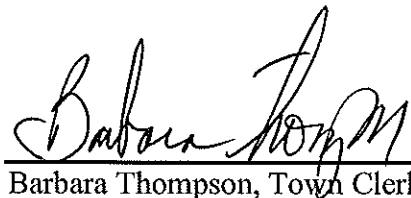
Submitted by: Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk




Vincent Cervoni, Chairman



Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk



Date

*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.*