

SPECIAL WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016

8:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Swearing-In Ceremony of the Wallingford Town Council and the Wallingford Board of Education took place on Monday, January 4, 2016 in the Robert F. Parisi Town Council Chambers in Town Hall, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. called the Ceremony to order at 8:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

1. The Call to Post the Colors was made by Roy Cannon, Post Commander, American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post #73.

Posting the Colors were Color Guards: American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post #73; American Legion Sledlicki Post #187; VFW Major Raoul Lulbery #591; VFW Stanley Budleski Post #9965; AMVETS –Post #83; Wallingford Elks Lodge #1365 Knights of Columbus; Edison Division Sea Cadet Corps.

The Sheehan High School Jazz Ensemble under the Direction of David Giardina performed the National Anthem.

2. Invocation:

The Invocation was made by the Rev. Dean Warburton, First Congregational Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Lorraine Devaney of the Public Celebrations Committee. Commander Cannon Retired the Colors.

4. Swearing in of Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. was sworn in by Judge of Probate Philip A. Wright, Jr.

5. Remarks by Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.

Mayor Dickinson, in his remarks, congratulated all elected officials and noted they were entrusted with the management of the affairs of the Town which is an important task. He said tonight was a solemn, humbling and joyous occasion. He said there is no simple answer to the

challenges to ahead, and noted the people of Wallingford have entrusted us with this responsibility.

6. Swearing in of the Town Council by Judge Wright

Vincent Cervoni; Craig Fishbein; Thomas Laffin; John LeTourneau; Joseph Marrone; Christopher Shortell; John Sullivan; Vincent F. Testa, Jr.; Jason Zandri

7. Roll Call by the Town Clerk

Vincent Cervoni; Craig Fishbein; Thomas Laffin; John LeTourneau; Joseph Marrone; Christopher Shortell; John Sullivan; Vincent F. Testa, Jr. and Jason Zandri. All Council Members were accounted for.

8. Mayor Dickinson Presiding at Election of Town Council Chairman

Mayor Dickinson opened the floor for election of the Town Council Chairman.

Thomas Laffin nominated Vincent Cervoni for another term as Chairman of the Town Council. Mr. Laffin said Mr. Cervoni has served as Chairman with incredible dignity and a calm which he admires. Councilor Laffin said Chairman Cervoni has had tremendous shoes to fill, and noted he previously served as Council Vice-Chairman. Councilor Laffin said Chairman Cervoni's strength lies in two areas: his dedication to Wallingford and dedication to do what is right and avoid pettiness, just wanting the best for Wallingford. Councilor Laffin said Chairman Cervoni has the ability to be a strong teammate, partner, and at the same time, a strong leader, and doesn't set himself above us on the Council. Councilor Laffin said Chairman Cervoni brings everyone together as a harmony of nine partners, teammates and public servants, together for the same reason, a better Wallingford.

Councilor LeTourneau seconded the nomination. He said he has watched Chairman Cervoni grow in his position from Vice-Chairman to Chairman and has done a great job and he sees this job and his patience and leadership continuing.

There were no other nominations for Town Council Chair.

Mayor Dickinson entertained a motion to close nominations for Town Council Chair.

Made by: Laffin

Seconded by: Fishbein

Vote: 9 ayes-(unanimous)

Mayor Dickinson called for a vote to endorse Vincent Cervoni as Chairman of the Town Council.

Vote: 8 ayes (unanimous).

9. Remarks by Town Council Chairman

Chairman Cervoni thanked his fellow Councilors. He said while honored, this is an obligation he doesn't take lightly and noted this term begins with many concerns; a global economy and challenges imposed by the State and Federal governments. He said he remains hopeful, noting that Wallingford is a great town with a great future. He made reference to a thriving business economy in town and a great school system. He spoke about the Incentive Housing Zone which he said will enhance the area surrounding the new train station. He said he hopes the Council is able to turn this opportunity into another jewel in the crown of Wallingford. He said the Council will have to work together, work through disagreements and "color outside the lines" and reach compromises and has confidence this Council will accomplish much in the next two years.

10. Election of Vice-Chair of the Town Council

Chairman Cervoni entertained nominations.

Motion to nominate Councilor Laffin as Vice-Chairman of the Town Council

Made by: Shortell

Councilor Shortell said Vice-Chair Laffin is a leader and a problem solver and is approaching decade of service.

Seconded by: Marrone

Councilor Marrone said Vice-Chair Laffin is responsible and his calm demeanor, rational mind and quick wit has been an asset to the Council and would like to see this continue.

No other nominations for Vice-Chair.

Chairman Cervoni entertained a motion to close nominations for Vice-Chair

Made by: Shortell

Seconded by: Marrone

Vote: 8 ayes (unanimous)

Motion passes

Chairman Cervoni called for a vote to endorse Tom Laffin as Vice-Chair of the Town Council

Vote: 7 ayes – 1 nay (Fishbein)

11. Swearing in of the Board of Education by Judge Wright

Michael Brooder; Kathy Castelli; John J. Cej, Jr.; Amanda Doerr; Shauna Glidden; Karen Hlavac; Roxane M. McKay; Patrick Reynolds; Michael J. Votto.

12. Appointment of the Town Clerk and Swearing in by Judge Wright

Nomination to Appoint Barbara Thompson made by:

Chairman Cervoni, exercising the privilege of the Chair.

He said it makes perfect sense to nominate Ms. Thompson once again after serving for eight years, the last six consecutive. He said Ms. Thompson is President of the New Haven County Town Clerk's Association, and is on the Executive Board of the CT Town Clerk's Association and that Association's Legislative Committee. Chairman Cervoni noted that Ms. Thompson has been a CT Certified Town Clerk since 2011 and pointed out that before she became a Town Clerk, Ms. Thompson was a certified Real Estate Agent for 20 years and during that time period became Chair of the CT. Real Estate Commission.

Second by: Councilor Fishbein

Councilor Fishbein read a poem honoring Ms. Thompson.

There were no other nominations.

Chairman Cervoni entertained a motion to close nominations.

Made by: Fishbein

Seconded by: Laffin

Vote: 9 ayes (Unanimous)

Chairman Cervoni called for a vote to appoint Barbara Thompson as Town Clerk

Vote: 9 ayes (Unanimous)

Judge Wright swore in Barbara Thompson as Town Clerk.

Mayor Dickinson thanked his staff for their assistance

13. Benediction - Reverend Dean Warburton, First Congregational Church

14. God Bless America – David Giardina and the Sheehan High School Jazz Ensemble

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Laffin made a motion to adjourn the Ceremony at 8:40 p.m. Councilor Shortell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist

Acting-Recording Secretary