

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010

The following is an account of the proceedings of the Swearing In Ceremony held on Monday, January 4, 2010, in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and is a record of the minutes of this Town Council Special Meeting. Mayor Dickinson began the meeting at 8:05 P.M. with a special thank you and acknowledgement to the M.T. Sheehan Jazz Band under the direction of David Giardina for their excellent prelude to the evening's ceremony. He also acknowledged the following groups for their participation.

American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post #73
American Legion Siedlicki Post #187
VFW Major Raoul Lufbery #591
VFW Stanley Budleski Post #9965
AMVETS-Post #83
Wallingford Elks Lodge #1365
Knights of Columbus
Sea Cadets

Commander Roy Cannon, American Legion Post #73 Posted Colors.

2. INVOCATION

Reverend Gary Simeone, The Most Holy Trinity Church, presented the invocation.

The Sheehan Jazz Band played the *Star Spangled Banner* and was sung by those in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE

Lorraine Devaney, Public Celebrations Committee, led those present in the Pledge of Alligiance.

4. SWEARING IN OF THE MAYOR

Phillip A. Wright Jr. Judge of Probate, administered the Oath of Office of Mayor to William W. Dickinson, Jr.

5. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Dickinson told the story about an elementary school science classroom about seeds that were distributed to each student and that each seed was to be planted into small pots. In order to make sure that each child experienced success, the teacher secretly planted additional pots herself. After a few weeks the teacher secretly switched a few of those. The next day one of the students shouted, "Teacher, look! I don't believe it! My plant has grown!" The teacher said, "Isn't it amazing. It is so exciting to watch the miracle of plant life." The student said, "No, I ate my seed and it still growing." Mayor Dickinson said that if something looks and sounds to good to be true, it probably is. He continued saying that if we are asked to make decisions for the town, we can all pray for miracles but we also must avoid making decisions that assume a miracle will occur. Given the challenges before us, hard work defines the future.

He told the story of a young man, who after five years of post graduate work, fulfilled his dream of being a archeologist with a job for a museum organizing a dig in a nearby town. The Mayor said that as he worked in a hole under the hot sun, a woman and her son peered down at him and saw him standing in mud, caked with dirt and holding a pickax. The woman said to her son, "See what happens when you don't finish school? You'll be just like him." Mayor Dickinson said that if you want a place to relax, government is not the place to work, regardless of what credentials a person might possess, Ultimately hard work and hot sun are necessary to achieve any success. He asked what we should concentrate on for our community.

He spoke of an elderly woman who was standing in a rest area on an Arizona interstate highway. She asked people nearby if they had seen an elderly gentleman in a green car.

They said that that had seen him and that he drove out of the parking lot a few minutes ago.

She was quite dismayed and knew that her husband had become preoccupied with the schedule of their trip that he had gone on without her. She borrowed a cell phone to call him, and the phone rang inside her handbag. Her husband had given her his phone while he was driving. The woman was exhausted, frustrated, impatient, embarrassed, angry and as time went by, she became worried. No green car pulled into the rest area. A trucker assisted her and someone else offered her something to drink. She could not remember ever feeling so lost and alone and angry and worried. An hour later a green car pulled into the rest area, and the woman's husband got out in a panic. The two saw each other and rushed toward one another, A few feet apart they just looked at one another in silence and the pause lasted a few moments. Tears flowed down the husband's face; he tried to speak and couldn't. They hugged and the wife said that everything was OK. Finally, the husband explained what had happened. She said again that it was OK. All if the anxiety and anger were gone. Something happened during that pause. Everything wrong was forgiven. Everything that was essential was all that mattered.

Mayor Dickinson said, "Let us dedicate ourselves to protect and preserve all that is essential in the good Town of Wallingford.."

6. SWEARING IN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Collectively, Judge Wright administered the Oath of Office to the Town Council.

Vincent Cervoni	Robert F. Parisi
Nick Economopoulos	Rosemary Rascati
Jerry E. Farrell, Jr.	John J. Sullivan
Craig C. Fishbein	Vincent F. Testa, Jr.
John LeTourneau	

7. ROLL CALL

Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Council Secretary Sandra Weekes were Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry E. Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, John LeTourneau Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr.

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8. ELECTION OF TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Mayor Dickinson declared the floor was open for nominations for Town Council Chairman. Mr. Farrell nominated Robert Parisi for Chairman of the Town Council. Ms. Rascati seconded

the nomination. Mayor Dickinson asked if there were any other nominations for Chairman, and hearing none, he called for a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. LeTourneau moved to close the nominations. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. All Councilors voted aye. Mayor Dickinson announced that nominations were closed and asked the Council to say aye if in favor to elect Mr. Parisi as the Chairman. All Councilors voted aye. Mayor Dickinson announced that Mr. Parisi was elected Chairman.

9. REMARKS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Chairman Parisi acknowledged the Sheehan Jazz Band under Mr. David Giardina. He acknowledged all of the veterans groups and the fraternal organizations and stated the
it is always nice to see them taking part in town functions.

He said good evening to those assembled and said that his message is a simple one. He said that their agenda will be to serve the Town of Wallingford to the best of their ability. He said that he will conduct meetings with the dignity that this Council deserves and the respect for out citizens and our department heads that were the hallmarks of the last Republican Council. He asked all of his colleagues to join with him to accomplish this goal. He said that there will be many challenges in the next two years that will best be met with a united Council. He said that he looks forward to working with his colleagues to his right and that it must not be forgotten that all of the Council were elected by the people that the Council serve and that the Council's actions must keep them foremost in the minds of the Council. The Council's actions are for their benefit. He said thank you for their vote of confidence and that he looks forward to working together to continue in the tradition that has made Wallingford the find town that it is an will be. He congratulated everyone. He extended his wishes for success to those Councilors who will not be with the Council this term. He said, "God Bless Us All."

10. *ELECTION OF TOWN COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN*

Newly elected Town Council Chairman declared the floor was open for nominations for Town Council Vice Chairman. Mr. LeTourneau nominated Jerry Farrell, Jr. for Vice Chairman of the Town Council. Mr. Cervoni seconded the nomination. Chairman Parisi asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chairman, and hearing none, he called for a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. LeTourneau moved to close the nominations. Ms. Rascati seconded the motion. All Councilors voted aye. Chairman Parisi announced that nominations were closed and asked the Council to say aye if in favor of electing Mr. Farrell as the Vice Chairman. All Councilors voted aye. Chairman Parisi announced that Farrell was elected Vice Chairman.

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION

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New members of the Board of Education were called forth for the Swearing In to the Board of Education by Judge Wright.

Michael Brooder	Joseph Marrone
Kathy Castelli	Chet Miller
John J. Cei, Jr.	Roxanne M. McKay
Valerie N. Ford	Michael J. Votto, Sr.
Thomas Hennessey	

12. APPOINTMENT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Vice Chairman Farrell declared the floor was open for nominations for Town Clerk. Mr. Fishbein nominated Barbara Thompson for Town Clerk. Chairman Pairis seconded the nomination. Vice Chairman Farrell asked if there were any other nominations for Town Clerk, and seeing none, he called for a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. LeTourneau moved to close the nominations. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. All Councilors voted. Vice Chairman Knight announced that nominations were closed and asked the Council to say aye if in favor of appointing Ms. Thompson as Town Clerk. All Councilors voted aye. Vice Chairman Farrell announced that Ms. Thompson was appointed as Town Clerk.

SWEARING IN OF THE TOWN CLERK

Judge Wright and Ms. Thompson came forward for Swearing In of the Town Clerk.

13. BENEDICTION

Reverend Dean Warburton, First Congregational Church of Wallingford, gave the Benediction.

14. RETIRE COLORS

Commander Roy Cannon, American Legion Post #73, came forward to retire the Colors

15. *God Bless America* sung by Past Commander James Dunn, American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post #73

Mr. Farrell moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. LeTourneau seconded the motion. All Councilors present (9) voted Aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M. with no further business to conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Meeting digitally recorded

4, 2010

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Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date