

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers**

**TUESDAY
JUNE 5, 2018
6:30 P.M**

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 was called to order at 6:37 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell, Vincent F. Testa, Jr. and Jason Zandri. Councilor Thomas Laffin was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Corporation Counsel Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

- 3a. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the amount of \$40,000 from Health Insurance, Acct. #10012100-55955 to Public Works-Overtime, Acct. #10030000-51400 – Public Works

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3a.

MADE BY:	SHORTELL
SECONDED BY:	LETOURNEAU
VOTE:	ALL AYE
MOTION:	PASSED

4. Discussion and Action regarding amending the 2018-2019 Budget by appropriating an increase in the ECS Grant funding from the State of Connecticut and additional adjustments resulting in the reduction in the amount of revenue to be received from local taxation – Mayor

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AMEND THE 2018-2019 BUDGET BY
APPROPRIATING AN INCREASE IN THE ECS GRANT FUNDING FROM THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS:**

1. **Reduce Current Tax Revenue Line by \$2,918,686**
2. **Increase State Grant-ECS line by \$2,453,417**
3. **Decrease Board of Education Operating budget by \$411,612**
4. **Decrease Health Insurance line by \$58,657**
5. **Increase Social Service Contributions-WCI Façade by \$5,000**

MADE BY:	SHORTELL
SECONDED BY:	ZANDRI

Councilor Marrone stated at the last meeting they made a motion to vote on a different budget and asked if now the Law Department is undoing it because it was illegal. Attorney Small answered yes.

Councilor Marrone is concerned why we did an illegal motion and suggested doing a motion to undo it. Mayor Dickinson indicated the previous motion was null and void so it never took effect. He went on to state we need a motion to move ahead.

Councilor Fishbein stated we have a charter and you could have vetoed this. He asked how we got out of that.

Attorney Small commented to Councilor Fishbein that what he previously did was an illegal act. She stated that we reverted back to the original Mayor's budget so there was nothing to veto.

Councilor Fishbein still doesn't see how we are avoiding the Charter by the Mayor not vetoing our previous vote of the 22nd of May. Attorney Small stated there is nothing in the Charter that says the Mayor or the Council act alone on the budget process. Councilor Fishbein stated he is not in favor of this.

Councilor Testa thinks Councilor Marrone makes a good point and asked what if the Law Department is incorrect and we decide to go to court and challenge this. He stated maybe we should undo this instead of the Law Department nullifying our actions.

Councilor Morgenstein asked when we ended our May 22nd meeting, did we have a mill rate of 28.62? She then asked what five items are different. Mr. Bowes stated nothing has changed. Councilor Morgenstein asked what made the mill rate a litter higher. Mr. Bowes replied Mr. Fishbein's money from CAP was not included which was \$110,000.

Mayor Dickinson does not think we should fund through capital reserve items.

Chairman Cervoni stated the administration is presenting us with a recommendation, a Compromise, the tax bills are getting ready to go out.

Councilor Morgenstein felt that this body was in agreement with the budget presented on the 22nd. Chairman Cervoni stated it was not a unanimous vote it was a 7 to 1 with one absent.

Councilor Shortell doesn't agree with the fact that Councilor Morgenstein wouldn't vote for the budget on May 8th with the \$411,000 from the Board of Education coming back to the town after they publically said they don't need it.

Mayor Dickinson stated we have the highest tax break of surrounding towns.

Councilor Fishbein stated the take away is that we can modify the budget after the date stated in the Charter.

Attorney Small stated that is not so, the new information is the moving factor.

Councilor Zandri stated the prior year's mill rate was 28.55 and asked what is the impact? Mr. Bowes stated \$13.00 per household.

Councilor LeTourneau asked even if the \$110,000 was not added, we would not be at a 0% tax Increase? Mr. Bowes answered yes. Councilor LeTourneau stated he would think the administration could find the \$110,000.

Mayor Dickinson stated this is a good budget and the average tax payer saves over \$100.00 in their pocket.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Hine, 342 South Elm Street, asked what is the authority to amend the mill rate after the budget has been passed. Janis Small stated we looked at all the factors and since the new fiscal year has not started and the facts had changed, the State funding changed and we felt we could do this.

Chairman Cervoni stated he did review the entire case of Tromontino v. New Haven.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	MORGENSTEIN: YES
FISHBEIN: NO	SHORTELL: YES
LAFFIN: ABSENT	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: YES	CERVONI: YES
7-AYE	
1-ABSENT	
1-NAY	
MOTION: PASSED	

5. Adopt a new mill rate reflecting the amendment to the 2018-2019 Budget - Mayor

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT A NEW MILL RATE REFLECTING THE AMENDMENT TO THE 208-2019 BUDGET OF 28.64 MILLS.

**MADE BY: SHORTELL
SECONDED BY: ZANDRI**

ROLL CALL VOTE:	MORGENSTEIN: YES
FISHBEIN: NO	SHORTELL: YES
LAFFIN: ABSENT	TESTA: YES
LETOURNEAU: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MARRONE: YES	CERVONI: YES
7-AYE	
1-ABSENT	
1-NAY	
MOTION: PASSED	

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

The Council adjourned the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded

Vincent Cervoni/BT 6-12-18
Vincent Cervoni, Chairman Date

Barbara Thompson 6-12-18
Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 6-8-18
AT 2:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK