

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
Town Council Chambers

3f.

**HELD REMOTELY  
at GoToMeeting.com**

**TUESDAY  
April 28, 2020  
6:30 P.M.**

**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr., and Comptroller James Bowes were also present (**BY TELECONFERENCE**).

**AGENDA**

Moment of Silence

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Cervoni thanked everyone involved in setting up this meeting.

2. Roll Call

3. Consent Agenda

3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$2,483.95 (#880-893)  
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector

3b. Acceptance of donations and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$200 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS

3c. Acceptance from Nucor Corporation battery powered equipment to be used in rescue incidents valued at an estimated \$20,000 – Fire Chief

3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$14,006 – Fire Dept.

\$7,028 From: Extrication Equipment Acct. #10020150-57000-00830

\$1,185 From: Life-Pak Modem Acct. #10020150-57000-00820

\$3,820 From: Video Laryngoscopes Acct. #10020150-57000-00827

\$1,973 From: Maxiforce Air Bags Acct. #10020150-57000-00833

\$14,006 To: Operating Expenses Acct. #10020150-58735

- 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$51,145 – Fire Dept.  
\$51,145 From: Contingency-Accrued Exps. Acct. #10019000-58821
- |          |     |                      |                       |
|----------|-----|----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$ 9,600 | To: | Contractual Clothing | Acct. #10020150-56190 |
| \$32,400 | To: | Regular Wages        | Acct. #10020150-51000 |
| \$ 9,145 | To: | Other Pay            | Acct. #10020150-51900 |
- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,500 from Overtime Wages, Acct. #10020050-51400 to Prof. Svcs. – Police Facility Project, Acct. #10020050- TBD – Police Dept.
- 3g. Consider and approve revisions to Accountant I job description – Human Resources
- 3h. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$31,700 from Administrative & General Salaries, Acct. #920 to Maintenance of General Plant, Acct. #932 – Electric Div.
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,800 from Outside Services Employed, Acct. #43100923 to Miscellaneous General Expenses, Acct. #43100930 – Water Div.
- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$21,750 from Chemicals, Acct. #46100641 to Maintenance of Treatment Equipment, Acct. #46100652 – Sewer Div.
- 3k. Consider and approve appointment of Timothy Wall, Patricia DeRenzo and Joseph DaCunto as Constables for a two year term effective immediately and expiring January 3, 2022 - Chairman Cervoni
- 3l. Approve Town Council Minutes of April 14, 2020.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3l.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**  
**SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**  
**VOTE: ALL AYE**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda - None**
6. 6:30 p.m. Public Hearing regarding funding for new Community Pool

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$625,000 FOR COMMUNITY POOL PARK DESIGN SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$625,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

(The purpose of the amendment is to increase the appropriation and bond authorization therein by \$6,845,000, from \$625,000 to \$7,470,000 to provide for the construction of the pool, and to ratify, confirm and adopt all prior authorizations and ordinances in connection therewith.)

**EXCERPT FOR MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING  
AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD  
HELD APRIL 28, 2020**

Chairman Cervoni hereby convenes the public hearing for the \$7,470,000 appropriation and bond authorization for the Wallingford Community Pool Park Project consisting of an amendment to the existing \$625,000 ordinance. The ordinance which is the subject of this public hearing is available to the public and may be obtained at this meeting from the Town Clerk.

Councilor Laffin moved and the motion was seconded by Councilor Shortell to read the title of the ordinance and to waive the reading of the remainder of the ordinance, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting.

**VOTE: ALL AYE**

**MOTION: PASSED**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$625,000 FOR COMMUNITY POOL PARK DESIGN SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$625,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ali McKeen, 13 Brook Heights Drive, supports going forward with the project.

Chairman Cervoni closed Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

**MOTION WAS MADE THAT THE AMENDING COMMUNITY POOL PARK ORDINANCE BE ADOPTED.**

**MADE BY: SHORTELL**

**SECONDED BY: TESTA**

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

There were no questions for the bonding attorney.

Councilor Shortell thanked Mr. Savenelli and the Park & Recreation Commission. He also thanked the Mayor for getting it this far. He then pointed out some pros and cons. He stated we are bonding \$6.8 million and the rest is contingency. He remarked we are bonding this, not using rainy day funds. This is about \$17 dollars a year for the average tax payer.

Councilor Shortell disagrees with a comment he heard about Government not spending money on a pool and said we have had a pool for 50 years. He also disagrees with the second letter from the Mayor stating that this is not a good time because of COVID.

Councilor Zandri would like to echo all of Councilor Shortell's thoughts. He would like to work at a 0% increase this year or no cost increase in taxes. He feels \$17 a year is not a huge cost. He hopes the park that encompasses the pool will be open on different and longer days than the pool. He thinks now is a good time with the rates low.

Councilor Testa asked Mr. Savenelli if the pool design is concrete. Mr. Savenelli answered yes.

Councilor Testa asked Mr. Savenelli if there is a percentage of usage of revenue for the pool that would help contribute to the cost of the bond fund. Mr. Savenelli said they came up with a cost revenue projection and then noted it's not supposed to be a pool for profit.

Kenny Michaels, Parks & Recreation, stated with the pandemic, he thinks a year from now this will be something for families to look forward to.

Councilor Tatta feels the timing is terrible with the pandemic going on. In looking at the existing pool and the proposed pool, she pointed out that the new pool is 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the size of the existing pool, has two less lap lanes and a smaller bath house. The plus is the splash pad, less staffing and 18 more parking spaces. The cost came to \$9.4 million after length of bonding that is only used by 5% of the town population.

Mr. Savenelli stated in our initial research, we had the largest muni pool in the northeast and we wanted something realistic.

Mr. Michaels said the splash pad gives us a longer time period to be open – April through October. He then stated the cost for the sand volleyball court of \$80,000 is much higher than anticipated.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO POSTPONE THE VOTE ON BONDING FOR 60 DAYS,  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING AND ISSUING AN RFP TO RENOVATE  
THE EXISTING COMMUNITY POOL INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF A SPLASH  
PAD.**

**MADE BY: TATTA**

**SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

Councilor Marrone questioned Point of Order and then asked isn't there a motion on the table?

Councilor Laffin stated Motion to Postpone is not out of order.

Councilor Testa does not believe you can make a Motion to Table and put conditions on it. Mr. Bowes stated the 60 day period started on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, so you have until June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilor Tatta explained the reason she did postpone instead of table is she did not want to kill the project. She said maybe we could save millions of dollars. She then asked if this was the only option.

Councilor Morgenstein feels families could really use this now. It will be a destination and investment in Wallingford. She commended the Pool Committee and stated she supports this.

Councilor Shortell remarked quick reactions. He noted when he made the Motion it was to do all of it. The numbers are correct. The \$9 million is \$19.00 per year per household.

Councilor Fishbein is concerned with the sand volleyball court middle bid of \$80,000. He thinks this seems high. He has problems with spending \$9 million in 30 days. He remarked he doesn't know any seniors that are going to use the splash pad and now the pool is smaller and there is no exercise area for seniors. He stated he has had a problem with this from the beginning.

Councilor Marrone stated Councilor Fishbein raised interesting options for the pool but noted he won't vote for it anyway. He feels this issue is about the haves and have nots and he doesn't think it makes sense to not have this pool. He stated if we have to have layoff's to pay for it then let's do it.

Michelle Bjorkman, Parks and Recreation, gave some statistics on seniors. She stated there are 236 seniors ages 63 and up that were sold pool tags. She then went on to state there were 1,000 pool tags sold for ages of 18 – 62. She stated we really do cater to the seniors.

Councilor Zandri stated to Mr. Bowes that he's heard \$9 million mentioned but asked are we are bonding \$7 million? Mr. Bowes stated we are bonding \$7.41 million. Councilor Zandri then asked the rate of interest at 20 years. Mr. Bowes answered right now 2 – 2 ¾%. He stated we are highly rated but it will vary.

Councilor Zandri stated the costs to do the project are at a great point right now.

Councilor Morgenstein stated the current pool is in violation of leaking and parking so if it's delayed, it's an eyesore. She feels it should not be postponed.

Mayor Dickinson wants to clarify costs to taxpayers and went on to say these costs will include a cost to the business owner plus reevaluation happening as well. He feels the money side of this cannot be underestimated.

**MOTION TO POSTPONE VOTE ON BONDING:**

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: NO</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: NO</b>
<b>MARRONE: NO</b>	<b>ZANDRI: NO</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: NO</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>

**4-AYE**

**5-NAY**

**MOTION: FAILED**

**MOTION TO ADOPT AMENDING ORDINANCE:**

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: NO</b>	<b>TATTA: NO</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: NO</b>

**6-AYE**

**3-NAY**

**MOTION: PASSED**

Chairman Cervoni declared the Ordinance adopted.

5. Consider and approve Bid Waiver request for Vancord, Division of TBNG, Inc. to conduct a Network Vulnerability Assessment of the Fire Department's software network at a total cost of \$7,385 – Fire Dept.

*In Attendance: Richard Heidgerd, Fire Chief*

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE BID WAIVER request for Vancord, Division of TBNG, Inc. to conduct a Network Vulnerability Assessment of the Fire Department's software network at a total cost of \$7,385.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN**

**SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**

Chief Heidgerd explained there are 21 work laptop stations running through one server to accomplish this task. He stated it would be cost prohibited to have a new vendor do this and we do not want to pose a risk to the Police Department.

Councilor Tatta stated to Chief Heidgerd that his letter references a new equipment install and asked is that in the new upcoming budget? Chief Heidgerd answered yes.

Councilor Zandri asked technical questions of the Chief on the new computer software network.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>	<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>9-AYE</b>	
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>	

8. Report from Stephen Civitelli, Director of Health, regarding COVID-19.

Mr. Civitelli stated Wallingford confirmed 220 positive cases of COVID, 18 deaths and 43% fatalities from nursing homes statewide. He went on to say we requested an inspection from the Department of Public Health to a nursing facility which improved the facility.

Update from Mr. Civitelli:

There are 32 cases of COVID at Quinnipiac Valley. The new unit is still not functional and may never be used.

The Department of Public Health will be using the National Guard to inspect the nursing homes.

Every Tuesday for the past three weeks we have been picking up supplies for caregivers, etc.

The Water Division has been making hand sanitizer.

We have distributed masks to employees.

We are providing updates on the town website in two places.

We are working on swab testing for all town employees.

Councilor Morgenstein remarked that no one is enforcing the mask wearing. She asked to please enforce it and keep the six foot distance as well. She then asked if we got anywhere with taking temperatures for town workers. Mr. Civitelli stated we have been trying to enforce mask wearing and we have been unable to implement temperature taking but we recommend town employees to do it themselves.

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Civitelli if he is aware of the guidance of DDS at hospitals. He indicated concerns were raised that autistic children could not be accompanied by parents or adults into hospitals or clinics and he finds this troubling. Mr. Civitelli said he was not aware, but he agrees it's troubling.

Councilor Shortell asked if any of those cases are town employees. Mr. Civitelli stated we have not yet had any Town Hall employees test positive but we have had some positives in employees in other buildings.

9. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor

**Time of Executive Session 9:05 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.**

**Attendance at Executive Session:**

<b>FISHBEIN</b>	<b>MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.</b>
<b>LAFFIN</b>	<b>TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD FARRELL, SR.</b>
<b>MARRONE</b>	<b>JAMES BOWES, COMPTROLLER</b>
<b>MORGENSTEIN</b>	
<b>SHORTELL</b>	
<b>TATTA</b>	
<b>TESTA</b>	
<b>ZANDRI</b>	
<b>CERVONI</b>	

Chairman Cervoni adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5-1-2020  
AT 4:30 AND RECEIVED BY  
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK