

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD REMOTELY
at GoToMeeting.com

TUESDAY
April 13, 2021
6:30 P.M.
FY 2021-2022 BUDGET

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Special Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 was called to order at 8:08 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, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilor Morgenstein was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Comptroller James Bowes and Corporation Counsel Janis Small were also present (BY TELECONFERENCE).

AGENDA

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

LAW DEPARTMENT

In Attendance: Janis Small, Corporation Counsel

Attorney Small indicated the same budget.

Attorney Small said there was a question asking if it makes sense to hire an additional attorney in the Professional Services Accounts to put all services together. She explained the different accounts and what they were used for. She stated we cannot combine those positions together and she does not feel we would save any money by doing that.

MAYOR

The Mayor said there is a question about the purchase of services negotiation line and stated that is money paid to arbitrators. He said we have three that are coming up in the next year.

Councilor Shortell remarked that 311 Board of Education employees and 45 town and Public Utility employees make more money than the Mayor. He feels the Mayor deserves a raise. He hopes the Council will think about this.

TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman Cervoni stated there was a request to make Wi-Fi available in the Council Chambers. Chairman Cervoni explained they put money in one line to pay for monthly service and then the rest of the money in the other line is for hardware and installation.

Councilor Testa asked if that would be available to anyone in the Chambers. Chairman Cervoni said no that is secured only to Council.

Councilor Tatta stated she put the request in because we have digital agenda now and she had an issue with downloading it, she thought if it was relatively inexpensive we could put that in the budget.

TOWN CLERK

Councilor Shortell inquired about the Revenue Section - Town Clerk Fees projected revenue of 900,000. He wants to know if we are watching revenue coming in and is that influencing what we are spending or is that separate.

The Mayor stated that is separate. Mr. Bowes agrees with the Mayor they are separate.

GOVERNMENT TV

Mr. Gross, Long Hill Road, asked if the position as Director will be filled. The Mayor stated he does not have an answer for that. It is still something that has to be determined.

The Mayor read a question asking if there is a plan to deal with all three channels. He stated there is no plan to be dealing with Public Access, the Education channel which is separate and Government Access. He went on to state we have no plans to incorporate 18, 19 & 20 all under one roof.

The Mayor stated there was a question about uploading PUC meetings to the website. The Mayor said there is nothing in the budget for that.

Councilor Laffin asked if there is a possibility to shift responsibilities to one another or to take on hours remotely. He asked if that is something we can think about in order to save money and be a more effective use of time. The Mayor responded everything is under review and we have not come to a conclusion yet but that is certainly possible.

PROGRAM PLANNING

The Mayor read a question asking about decrease in staffing.

The Mayor explained we went from 4 to 3 because one high school student was not budgeted due to Covid.

The Mayor stated there was a question about the secretarial position. He explained the secretarial position is paid with an adjustment for out of class and that is a stipend.

The Mayor stated there was a question about an ad that was put in the paper about a small cities block grant for the housing authority. He explained small city block grant funds are extremely complicated and we typically hire an outside consultant and they only get paid if they get the grant.

The Mayor read a question asking if there are any plans to replace Mr. Roe. The Mayor said we are working well with the person that is in the job now. She is on top of things and we are well served by her work.

The Mayor said there was a question about the secretary position that went from 42,000 to \$34,000 to \$29,000. The Mayor explained the person just retired. \$42,000 was too high and we adjusted that then we hired someone who could not continue and now we have a new person that came in at the minimum step.

Chairman Cervoni adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

13 May 2021

Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

May 13, 2021

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4.19.21
AT 5:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK