

**APPROVED
REGULAR MEETING
September 6, 2016**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on September 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Bello, Hurley, Latina, Martino, Rell, Spinella. Mayor Montinieri arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Absent: Deputy Mayor Barry, Councilor Hemmann.

Also Present: Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services; Derrick Gregor, Town Engineer; Brook Berry, Director of the Library; Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk.

Town Clerk Sassano moved to **“ASK FOR A NOMINATION FOR AN ACTING CHAIR UNTIL THE MAYOR ARRIVES”**.

Councilor Bello moved **“TO NOMINATE COUNCILOR MARTINO”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Councilor Rell.

A moment of silence was observed for M. Peter Barry who died September 5, 2016 and was a six year member of the Wethersfield Town Council where he served two years as the Town’s first Democratic Mayor and father to the current Deputy Mayor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue continued to talk about his stop sign issue.

Martha DiTomaso of 17 Avalon Place commented that for at least 15 to 20 years there has been ongoing bad smells emitting from either the MDC or trash energy plant or both and they have become increasingly more frequent. Councilor Hemmann suggested she come here to ask the town leaders to do something about it.

Gail Stewart of 411 Main Street had attended the Building Committee. They are working diligently on the pool to stay on schedule. The Board of Education said it was the Town Council’s responsibility. She requested some members of the Town Council attend the Finance Committee meeting being held prior to the next Building Committee meeting. They are going to discuss the \$400,000 surplus. Her request is that some of that surplus be designated this year to the pool. Now that it is being renovated, she is requesting the swimmers have new blocks, new diving board, new record board and all the other things they have requested. She understands there are more things that need to be done with that surplus. This is a championship team and the pool is now part of the renovation. All the other teams, when their facilities have all been renovated, they received new equipment. She is asking the same for the swimmers. She would like council’s influence to procure that money this year, so when the pool is closed in March new equipment may be installed for the Barracudas fall start.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road stated that he has asked if we had heard of results from the Governor. They should put a stop sign on Morrison. He hopes they are not exploring regional services.

He doesn't think we should participate with Hartford. It's their problem. There should be penalties to those officials who tell the public one amount and if it costs more, do it anyway. We need more honest and reliable people who do their job correctly. Pace of growth in the United States was slower in July and it is just going to crawl and crawl.

HEARING - NONE

GENERAL COMMENTS

COUNCIL REPORTS - NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hurley indicated driving into Hartford for work that, he believes that the smell is from the MDC because it is right there along Rte. 5/15 that connects up to 91N. He doesn't smell it in his neighborhood. Our commissioners on the MDC should look into it. He asked the Town Manager to look into the Glastonbury land deal with the MDC to make sure the member towns are not getting a raw deal. On regionalization, he does not always agree with the last speaker but he agrees that our taxpayers shouldn't foot the bill for Hartford. He knows our Town Manager is on the CCM Regionalization Committee; and he will be watching out for the taxpayers and giving them a voice. He knows Mayor Montinieri has talked to the Mayor of Hartford. He doesn't know what those issues discussions but would also like to hear them, just to see where the thoughts are on regionalization. Councilor Hurley thinks that Hartford got into a tough spot and now they want to regionalize and us to bail them out. It would have been better if Hartford wasn't in a tough spot and wanted to us both do something together while we both had a healthy economy. Mr. Hurley doesn't want to bail out Hartford.

Councilor Rell shared that the Historical Society is sponsoring a celebration this Saturday, September 10th. The Deming house which is a 350 year old house will be opened for the first time. It is a private house owned by Wethersfield residents. They have graciously agreed to open it up to the Historical Society. People can tour the house for \$15.00 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located at 400 Hartford Avenue. Eleanor Buck once lived in that house and a true preservationist so the house is mainly intact how it was in the 1600's. Please come by and support the Historical Society.

Councilor Latina commented that she noticed the new business on the corner of Nott Street and the Berlin Turnpike. She asked if they knew if it had to go through Planning and Zoning and have they said when they would be open.

Town Manager Bridges indicated there is no date yet because they had to pave and do some site work.

Councilor Martino stated that he had attended two ribbon cutting ceremonies in town along with the Town Manager. The first one was The Russian Academy of Mathematics on the Silas Deane Highway. They moved from Rocky Hill and ran out of space. The Academy is in about fifteen states started up in the Boston area providing children kindergarten through high school with additional help in math. The second was at Emerson Williams School for the new playground for the kindergartners and first graders. The PTO raised all the funds and they did a real nice job on it. He, Councilor Rell and the Mayor were at the first day of school at Charles Wright School. The Governor and Commissioner of Education came by to speak. Charles Wright was noted by the Governor as the grammar school that had the most increase in their scores of reading in the State. Also present was Chairman Granato and John Morris from the Board of Education and State Representative Morin.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges commented as previously stated he is serving on the CCM Regionalization Committee. They have met once. They have formed two committees - one that looks at regional services and one that looks at tax and finance issues, which he serves on both. There really is not a set path but the goal is to have some legislation available by the time the session starts. There is a consultant out of Utah that did work with the tax committee put together by the legislature last year. They are looking at tax issues in the State and overall looking across the country on how local government is funded.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATION

Town Clerk Sassano indicated that they are still waiting for the final ballot to see who is going to be running in the State of Connecticut on November 8th.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Martino moved to **“TABLE THE MOTION TO APPROVE PCO 786 WITH URBAN CONTRACTORS FOR FLOORING IN TWO (2) LOCKER ROOMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,402”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

Councilor Bello moved to **“ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MATTHEW ZAGAJA FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION EFFECTIVE 8-26-16”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved to **“ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN RASCIUS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF 9-6-16 TO 6-30-19”**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

OTHER BUSINESS - NONE

BIDS

Councilor Bello moved to **“AWARD THE SIDEWALK PROJECTS BID TO NUNES CONNECTICUT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$85,000”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Town Manager Bridges stated that they have combined their regular sidewalk work and their ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) work into one project with the expectation that they would get more bidders. They have received more bids.

Town Engineer Gregor explained that historically the town has had two separate contracts for sidewalk work. One contract was for sidewalk repairs and replacements which included doing some sidewalk

ramps. There was also a separate contract that was bid out for exclusively doing sidewalk ramps with ADA tiles. Rather than having two contracts doing similar work, they decided to combine these two. Their effort did attract more interest in the bidding as well as carrying this contract through the rest of 2016 and all of the construction season for 2017. They will get on a cycle where we can bid this in the winter when typically the bidding environment is better for quotes. We had six bids and the low bid came in from Nunes Connecticut at \$94,050. The purpose of the bidding was strictly for unit pricing and it was stipulated that there were limitations on the funds we could spend, not to exceed \$85,000. References were checked and they came highly recommended.

Councilor Hurley asked how much money they saved from getting so many bidders from last year to this year.

Town Engineer Gregor responded that it was all unit price based so he didn't have the specific unit prices but every year they allocate so much funds.

Councilor Martino commented that he went through the bid and he was looking at the tiles he noticed the disparity in the prices but wondered if it was the same exact tile we have been using.

Town Engineer Gregor stated yes.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“APPROVE, PENDING FIRE MARSHAL DIGNOTI RECEIVING INFORMATION REQUIRED, TO PCO 778 WITH DAVIS-ULMER SPRINKLER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,548”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Town Manager Bridges indicated that this is part of the rehab of the pool area. The sprinkler heads and systems need to be adjusted to accommodate the new HVAC and lighting. He asked that there be a provision that they are still waiting on some water calculations from the Fire Marshal so this is contingent upon those being provided. This is what we need to put the fire sprinkler system back in line. With the changes on the agenda this evening the project budget has about \$337,000 left over but we have not tackled the issue of the screening on the roof yet and there are some VE items that may come back into play at the end of the project.

MAYOR MONTINIERI ARRIVED

Councilor Bello asked if this would affect the timeline and were these two items incorporated into the timeline.

Town Manager Bridges responded that yes they were anticipated in the timeline and by approving these tonight we keep to that timeline.

Councilor Latina questioned with the calculations that we are waiting on from the Fire Marshal would that number \$35,000 go up.

Town Manager Bridges replied that they didn't anticipate that but they need those calculations before any work is released.

Councilor Rell asked if the \$337,000 surplus is that part of the \$500,000.

Town Manager Bridges explained no that they put the \$500,000 aside out of the premium just in case we ran into issues. We have not touched it. This \$337,000 is the surplus and what you will see at the next meeting will be a series of budget amendments that will put this back into the contingency line for items that are unforeseen. We have not tackled the roof top screening yet and there may be some items that the Board of Education had originally been anticipated in the project but they had given up for budgetary purposes. These may come back.

Councilor Rell questioned why the epoxy floors were put on hold.

Town Manager Bridges replied that they weren't sure how the benches were to be removed from the floor because they are bolted in and how they would be put back. Because of the nature of the epoxy, it has a very strong odor to it and it takes a while to put down so the available date to do this is really April break. There is no hurry to do it so the Building Committee wanted to make sure they understood what was going to happen in the room before they approved anything.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“APPROVE PCO 784 WITH FERGUSON ELECTRIC FOR \$99,239”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Town Manager Bridges stated that as part of the rehab for the pool this provides for the wiring of all the lights, speakers, exterior, emergency lighting, exposed wiring under the drop ceiling. With approval tonight, they would begin work as soon as clearance from the Fire Marshal and Building official are provided. When the lights are delivered the work would be done so they can just be popped into the ceiling.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION - NONE

MINUTES

Councilor Bello moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2016”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gail Stewart commented now that she understands that there is \$337,000 plus an additional \$500,000 so based upon her request, when will they find out if the equipment is being approved for the pool. She asked what about the process.

Town Manager Bridges apologized that he was not at the Board of Education meeting. To clarify the \$500,000 - this was money taken from the bond premium that we were using for debt service to put aside in case of an extraordinary circumstance and particularly with the roof top screening so using that for other things have not been discussed. The pool issue has never been brought up with the Building Committee and has never been part of a conversation. The Board of Education has not brought that forward to the Capital Improvement Committee and it has never been on their list. The Board of Education is going to have to make that a priority.

Gail Stewart replied that the Board of Education referred her to Council and Mayor Montinieri referred her to the Board of Education and she doesn't want to play who's on first anymore. Personally she doesn't care if it comes from the \$300,000 or the \$500,000 and also getting a reimbursement based upon the asbestos removal of \$200,000 so there is money there.

Town Manager Bridges responded that is not new money. We anticipated a project budget of 84 million dollars of which 50. % comes from the State so it is not new money coming back on a reimbursement. It's not. We anticipated that reimbursement as part of an 84 million dollar project. It is not new money that we can spend otherwise.

Gail Stewart inquired who is going to give her an answer. Every other sports team, like the volley ball team got new nets, the basketball team has like eight new nets and a new gym. When is the pool going to get what it needs?

Mayor Montinieri commented that he thought it was a Capital Improvement project request. It is not a renovation project request.

Town Manager Bridges indicated that's where the rub is. Because Mrs. Stewart, to her credit, is asking that it be done as part of the renovation. We have had a conversation about this that it could a Capital Improvement item for next summer for the Board of Education budget but they have to make that a priority in their budget.

Mayor Montinieri responded then it has to go through the normal process through CIP if we did it that way. But right now the Board of Education has not responded to your request.

Gail Stewart replied that the Board of Education referred her to Council.

Mayor Montinieri indicated that he was sure they were referring it to Council in the event that we determine that it would be a CIP budget item for next year.

Gail Stewart responded that she thinks it's a renovation. Whether we wanted it to or not, the pool became part of the renovation. She understands in the beginning it was not there. That's why parents didn't show up because of reimbursement, etc. but now it is.

Mayor Montinieri informed her that he would reach out to the Superintendent tomorrow to understand what happened at the Board of Education and get some clarification. He would get a response and get back to her because he was not aware it was still up in the air.

Councilor Hurley asked if we could get an estimate so that we could have it in front of us because it would be helpful.

Mayor Montinieri indicated that he would clarify that and make sure he includes a full response from Mr. Emmett to full Council as well to her. He understands this can be frustrating but we want to be careful to respect who makes those decisions and this one falls a little bit in a weird category because it is sort of the renovation, sort of not the renovation. Obviously during the course of the renovation several items got done in other areas of the school that probably fell under Capital but they did it during the course of the renovation. Funds came out of Capital. The work Capital Improvement projects approved for this fiscal year that was inclusive of the renovation itself, as well so it is a little bit of a fuzzy area. He didn't think anybody is trying to avoid the question. He thought it is just a matter of when do we do it and how much is it going to cost.

Gus Colantonio commented on his stop sign issue again. He would like the new Town Engineer to take a look at it and tell him what he really thinks about it. Even though the Mayor, with due respect, asked him to go away because he had all the answers, he will not because he pays over \$7,000 a year in taxes. He doesn't think it is fair.

Councilor Bello moved **"TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION,"** at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION,"** at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Councilor Martino.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m., Councilor Martino moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Bello. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY VOTE OF COUNCIL (6-0-2)
(Deputy Mayor Barry and Councilor Hemmann Abstained)
September 19, 2016