

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 17, 2010**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Manousos, McAlister, Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console, and Chairperson Hemmann. Absent: Councilor Kotkin.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor McAlister led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PROCLAMATIONS

2009 U12 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SOCCER TEAM

Councilor Manousos introduced the young soccer players to the audience and Chairperson Hemmann presented Danny Griffin and Justin Jensen with a proclamation for winning the U12 3v3 World Championship Soccer Tournament.

FIELDS METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY, ATTRIBUTES OF WINTERGREEN WOODS

Chairperson Hemmann presented students the students in Dr. Charles E. Buttons, geography class at Central Connecticut State University a proclamation for their work in assessing the environmental and cultural attributes of the Wintergreen Woods in Wethersfield.

TED SCHROLL – CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTER’S ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Chairperson Hemmann presented Ted Schroll with a proclamation for his induction in the Connecticut State Firefighter’s Association Hall of Fame.

JOHN MCAULIFFE – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

Chairperson Hemmann presented John McAuliffe with a proclamation for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Volunteer Fire Council.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE AWARDS

Councilor Hurley, Chairperson of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade announced that Wethersfield received five awards for the Hartford St. Patrick’s Day Parade: Award for Town Participation, Best Police, Best Float, Griffin Academy won an award and the Colonel John Chester Fife &

Drum Corp won an award. Councilor Hurley congratulated everyone for their participation.

CT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE WILKUS PROPERTY

David Stygar from the CT Department of Environmental Protection explained the use of the Wilkus property. He explained that the property needs to stay open and cannot be used for commercial use. The property has to remain accessible to the public and can be used for passive, non motorized trail use. As defined in the Conservation Easement, David Stygar explained it can be used for athletic fields that do not require a delineating playing field, environmental education, hunting or fishing and agriculture that is not commercial and the Town can be use it for community gardens. It can also be used for haying and silage.

Councilor Hurley asked if the Town wants to use hire a farmer to hay the property can the funds pay for by the farmer be used to pay down the bond.

David Stygar responded that what most towns will do is advertise that there is so many acres of land to hay and put it out to bid and usually do a contract for 3-5 years. He also stated that money collected can be used to pay down the bond.

Councilor McAlister asked if money is collected, would that be considered commercial use.

David Stygar responded silage is considered managing the resources. Commercial means leasing the property out for commercial use for someone to farm and sell the produce. What they would like to see is for the Town to keep the agricultural heritage intact. The Town would also be creating a habitat for grassland birds.

Councilor Drake asked what constitutes non-motorized use.

David Stygar noted that ATVs, snowmobiles and 2-wheel trail bikes are considered motorized vehicles. With regards to ATVs, there is no legal place in Connecticut to ride ATVs except for your own property.

David Stygar encouraged the Town that if there is no ordinance for hunting, to keep the hunting option open. The reason would be that if there is an overpopulation of deer, the town can issue a certain number of permits with rules and regulations.

Councilor Drake inquired about parking for people.

David Stygar responded that the Town would be allowed to develop off street parking.

Deputy Mayor Console wanted to clarify that the open land was for passive use and is open to everyone in the State of Connecticut.

David Stygar responded that the land was for passive use only.

Councilor Roberts asked about the community gardens and if the Town could charge for the garden plots.

David Stygar stated that it has been his experience that there could be a seasonal fees for the sale of garden plots.

Councilor McAlister asked if Ultimate Frisbee was considered a recreational sport.

David Stygar stated that it was, as would kite flying contests. He also suggested to not install permanent backstops or field goals.

Councilor McAlister asked about Paint Ball hunting.

David Stygar stated that it may not be the best idea.

Councilor Drake asked if people can camp on the property and if so, how can that be controlled.

Davis Stygar responded that permits could be issued for camping, if the Council decides to do so.

Deputy Mayor Console wanted to clarify that because state money was used to purchase the property, restrictions cannot be put on the land.

David Stygar stated that certain restrictions can be used as a management tool rather than to make a profit.

Deputy Mayor Console stated that with state funds involved with the Wilkus property, the Town cannot stop bus loads of people coming on the weekends.

David Stygar responded that if there are ordinances regarding open fire or drinking, those restrictions can be used for that property. He also stated that a sign for "Wethersfield Residents Only" cannot be put up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmond Place, asked if the Parks Departments would be managing the Wilkus Property, and if not, who then. He also commented that he had wanted to attend the

budget meeting but watched it on television instead. Mr. Tooker also commented on the new Council and how well they are working together.

Rick Garry, 35 Harding Street, announced that as of May 17, Wethersfield television can be seen on ATT, channel 99.

Bob Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on what David Stygar from the CT Department of Environmental Protection had to say and he stated that towns should only own property that is needed. Bob Young commented on the newspaper article about Wethersfield taxes, the \$1.3 million loan, shared services, monitoring the spending and issues with the Superintendent of Schools.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Hurley reported on Shared Services and noted that the Town Manager and the Superintendent will be meeting to review IT, Financial and Human Resources shared services. There was also discussion regarding handicap parking closer to the High School football field.

Councilor Drake reported for the Energy Committee who has put together a feasibility study and will be coming to the Council to fund some of their studies. They would like clarification about whether they can use money that was saved and also having the Town endorse an energy plan.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hurley asked Town Manager Jeff Bridges about the ordinance regarding parking on front lawns.

Jeff Bridges responded that an ordinance has been drafted and is at the Town Attorney's office right now for review.

Councilor Manousos reported that he attended the Chamber of Commerce dinner where volunteers and businesses were honored.

Deputy Mayor Console also reported that he has heard from Town residents who have received a \$25 parking ticket for overnight on street parking.

Councilor Drake inquired whether the Planning and Zoning Commission should be involved with the parking issues.

Councilor Roberts reported that a blog on Middletown [CT] commented on the Wethersfield Shop Local program.

Councilor Montinieri expressed his appreciation for Jeff Bridges' negotiations that were done and the work done on the budget.

Jeff Bridges stated that he would share Councilor Montinieri's comments with his staff.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that Council members would be receiving a letter in their packet outlining what she talked about at the budget adoption meeting regarding each finance committee mapping out a plan for June and monitoring the current budget. She also stated that she would like to see the Board of Education, Library Board, and the Town Council start in July to meet monthly to discuss their status and the planning process. Chairperson Hemmann also reported that the Dollar for Scholars Scholarship Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. She also reported that the MDC will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday, June 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wethersfield High School. Chairperson Hemmann also reported that the Wethersfield Police Department is holding their annual Special Olympics Motorcycle Rally on Sunday, July 25th starting in East Hartford at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. in Wethersfield. She also reported that she attended the Opening Ceremony for the Special Olympics at the University of Hartford and commented on how enthusiastic the athletes were.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges stated that he had nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO REJECT ALL BIDS FOR PRINTER TONER AND PRINTER REPAIR"** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that after additional analysis staff is recommending that this bid be rejected. Staff will rework the bid specifications to receive bids that are just for toner and as an alternative for toner and printer service. The new bids will come back to the Town Council for action when the process is complete.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor McAlister moved **"TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE XXVII (10-98) SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 12 OF THE WETHERSFIELD CODE TO CREATE AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY"** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that this had been tabled several weeks ago for further review. Staff feels confident now to move forward with this matter.

Councilor Montinieri commented that there are still issues that remain unresolved and is concerned with going forward.

Councilor Drake commented on the contract also.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Montinieri abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

OTHER BUSINESS

NAMING OF WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PRESS BOX

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO NAME THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PRESS BOX THE ‘HUGHES-ESPOSITO’ PRESS BOX”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that on April 23, 2010 the Board of Education passed a motion requesting that the Town Council authorize the naming of the Wethersfield High School Baseball Press Box the “Hughes-Esposito Press Box.” The letter from the Board of Education provides the reason for the request.

Deputy Mayor Console commented on the work the Hughes and Esposito families have done for the Town of Wethersfield over the years.

Chairperson Hemmann summarized the correspondence received from the President of the Baseball Boosters Club regarding the organization’s support of the decision to name the press box “Hughes-Esposito Press Box.”

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Montinieri abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

RE-ADOPTION OF THE SMALL CITIES/CDBG GRANT POLICY STATEMENT

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO RE-ADOPT THE TOWN’S FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT; THE TOWN’S COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY; TO AFFIRM COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) AND TO GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ADA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, explained that the Town is required to annually adopt a Fair Housing Policy and to give notice of compliance with the American Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and to make public the Town’s ADA’s Grievance Procedure.

Councilor Drake commented on the affirmative marketing program and asked if the Town has a marketing program.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT TO THE DEMAND RESPONSE AGREEMENT WITH CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that this is a renewal of a contract between the Town and CL&P for the Demand Response Program. The Demand Response Program assists CL&P in reducing the demand on the power grid during the summer months.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AWARD THE BID FOR MARSH STREET GATEWAY IMPROVEMETNS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BID SPECIATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO TOTAL FENCE LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84,297”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager explained that the Capital Improvement Program includes \$40,000 in funding for the replacement of wooden guardrails and enhancements to the gateway on Marsh Street. The Town has also received a State grant of \$115,000 for the project. The lowest bid was received from Total Fence LLC of New Haven for a bid of \$84,297.

Councilor Montinieri inquired about the discrepancy of Total Fence LLC’s bid against the other two bids and if their bid included the cost of cleaning and demolishing the existing fence.

Jeff Bridges responded that he will look into it before the contract is signed.

Councilor Roberts asked if this clean up includes the brush from the cemetery.

Jeff Bridges responded that it does not but there have been separate talks with the cemetery staff about the clean up but the issue is getting access to the area that needs to be cleaned up.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO TABLE THE AWARD FOR THE BID FOR MARSH STREET GATEWAY IMPROVEMETNS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BID**

SPECIATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO TOTAL FENCE LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84,297” seconded by Councilor Hurley.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES, AS NEEDED, TO SUBURBAN STATIONER AND W.B. MASON CO. INC.”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, explained that the staff solicited bids for the contract to purchase office supplies. The staff recommended the award to Suburban Stationers and W.B. Mason, the two lowest responsible bidders.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN WITH BARTRAM AND COCHRAN FOR 976-1060 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY CONTINGENT UPON PARTICIPATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNER”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, explained that the Redevelopment Committee has been working with various property owners from the larger vacant buildings seeking willing partners for the preparation of a redevelopment plan for these parcels.

Councilor Hurley asked about access to see the property.

A representative from Bartram and Cochran stated that there are aerial photos available and the property can also be viewed from Mila Fabrics.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None.

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2010”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-2.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2010”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-2.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2010”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 5-0-2.

Councilor Drake moved **“TO APPROVE THE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2010”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 5-0-2.

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2010”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the Town spending money, residents parking on the streets, commercial vehicles parked in driveways, and the budget.

Colleen Sheridan, 31 State Street, asked if all town meeting agendas can be posted on the Town website.

Chairperson Hemmann stated that the Town Council agendas are posted online and will ask Town staff to work on having other Boards and Commissions post their agendas.

George Wallace, 22 Chesterfield Road, talked about the hiring of a new school superintendent and the State budget.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:59 p.m., Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Roberts. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
*Approve by vote of Council
June 7, 2010*