

SEPTEMBER 6, 2005 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on September 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

Present: Councilors Adil, Czernicki (8:17), Forrest, Fortunato, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

Absent: Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Chairperson Morin requested that a moment of silence be held for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. He also requested a moment of silence for Councilor Cascio whose mother passed away earlier today. He expressed condolences to the Cascio family for their loss.

Chairperson Morin announced that there will be an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss pending litigation.

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

Economic Development Monthly Report

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien gave a presentation of the August, 2005 Economic Development Report. The report included the following changes for August:

- 1855 Berlin Turnpike, construction complete on Cumberland Farms
- 672 Silas Deane Highway, Treasure Rug Gallery opened
- 1281 Silas Deane Highway, Household Finance Corp. - co has been issued
- Jordan Lane Shopping Center, Eblens - co has been issued
- 1130 Silas Deane Highway, Marshall's - co has been issued to remodel and rebrand as Marshall's Home Goods
- 1088 Silas Deane Highway, Cingular - co issued
- Ridge Road, Church Homes - special permit application
- 13 Wells Road, Ocean State Job Lot - building permit application submitted
- Folly Brook Boulevard, Age Restricted Housing - Inland Wetlands Commission voted to disapprove the application for zone change. It is expected that the developer will reapply.
- Old Reservoir Road/Back Lane, Harris Property Age Restricted Housing - zone change application filed.
- 253 Main Street, Comstock Ferre - application approved for baked goods and coffee shop
- 416 Silas Deane Highway, plans submitted for proposed Dunkin Donuts
- 486 Silas Deane Highway, application submitted for proposed Tim Horton's Restaurant
- Silas Deane Highway/Fun Zone, Raymour and Flanagan - preliminary discussions held for renovation of the building

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO REMOVE ITEM B.2.a FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD REGARDING OPPOSITION TO THE LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS FACILITY PROPOSED BY BROADWATER ENERGY

Peter Gardow, 60 Griswold Road, commented that he does not think Wethersfield should become involved in this matter.

No one else wished to speak and the Chairperson declared the Hearing segment closed.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Mike Orsini, 149 Two Brook Road, spoke as President of the Wethersfield Youth Football and Cheerleading program, commented on the proposed Cottone Field Usage Policy. Mr. Orsini said that the travel games need to begin at 9:00 a.m. and there needs to be refs and EMT's present. He said that there will be only four games played in Wethersfield this year as compared to last year's nine games and the reservations will be tough if the games cannot begin until 10:00 a.m. as proposed in the Cottone Field Usage Policy. Mr. Orsini said that weigh in would start at 8:15 a.m., but could be held at the south part of the field away from residences. He asked that the Council review this restriction in the proposed Cottone Field Usage Policy.

No one else wished to speak and the Chairperson declared the General Comments segment closed.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Adil reported that he attended the Budget and Finance Committee meeting along with Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Councilor Fortunato. He said that upcoming personnel matters were discussed regarding the process for the evaluation of the Town Manager and Town Clerk. Councilor Adil reviewed the proposed process which will be similar to that of last year for the Town Manager; however they are uncomfortable with the evaluation for the Town Clerk and a new process is being looked into. Councilor Adil said that he attended the Town Hall/Library Building Committee meeting last week and they have asked that the Building Committee and Town Council expedite any change orders so as to keep things going smoothly with the project.

Councilor Montinieri said that Board of Education Chairperson Gerri Roberts asked her to announce that the Webb building open house for tomorrow evening has been cancelled and will be rescheduled. Councilor Montinieri announced that the Historical Society will hold their annual Craft Fair on October 1. Councilor Montinieri commented on the demolition of the steel structure at the Puritan Furniture location and also commented on the job well done by the Tax Office on last year's 99.3% tax collection.

Councilor Adil said that he spoke with the Town Manager regarding the possibility of opening up housing space for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien reported that she spoke with the Executive Director of the Housing Authority who said that there is a long waiting list for housing in Town and the wait list is currently closed. The Town Manager said that the Housing Authority Board of Directors will include this item on their September 12 meeting agenda and will report back to her.

Chairperson Morin announced that the Wethersfield Fire Department's "Fill A Boot" campaign to be held on September 11 at the intersection of Main and Marsh Streets and at the stoplight at Hooters on the Berlin Turnpike. Chairperson Morin said that all donations received will be sent to the Red Cross for disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Chairperson Morin thanked Police Chief Cetran for making the Police Facility available for Hurricane Katrina relief donations. Chairperson Morin announced that the 21st Annual Wethersfield Cornfest will be held on the Green on September 17.

Chairperson Morin asked the Town Manager to provide an update of the Skate Board Park. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Parks & Recreation Director Kathy Bagley and some of her staff spoke with the contractor regarding the specs of the concrete since some of it has had to be dug up and replaced. She said that the Town does not pay for any concrete not meeting the proper specifications. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the architect and the contractor are meeting with the vendor tomorrow to insure that specifications are met. She said that the situation has caused the project to be approximately two weeks behind schedule and it is anticipated that the Park will open on October 15 rather than October 1.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF GEORGE BOTINI FROM THE TOURISM COMMISSION"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT ELLEN G. SPRATLIN TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS FOR THE TERM 9-6-05 TO 6-30-08"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT PHIL SANTOPIETRO TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION FOR THE TERM 9-6-05 TO 6-30-06"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT TO THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANDREA L. BOYLE FOR THE TERM 9-6-05 TO 1-01-07 AND ANTONIO L. MARGIOTTA AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER FOR THE TERM 9-6-05 TO 6-30-08"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD REGARDING OPPOSITION TO THE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FACILITY PROPOSED BY BROADWATER ENERGY"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Adil commented that everyone has the duty and obligation to protect all waters of the State of Connecticut and he, therefore, agrees with the resolution.

Chairperson Morin said that Long Island Sound is a very small and fragile body of water and although the State has a role to model and Wethersfield's acceptance will not break the bank either way; however he supports the resolution.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Infrastructure Standards Policy - Technology Committee

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO ADOPT THE BICSI NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE BEST PRACTICES AS GUIDELINES FOR TOWN BUILDING RENOVATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO WAIVE THE GUIDELINES IF NECESSARY"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Adil commented that the motion uses the term guidelines rather than standards and asked if the term should be changed. Chairperson Morin said that it should be changed to standards.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO CHANGE BOTH USES OF THE TERM 'GUIDELINES' TO 'STANDARDS'"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Adil asked the Town Manager if she is comfortable with the proposed standards and she said that she is.

Councilor Montinieri said that she appreciates the information provided by the Technology Committee and that as long as the Town Manager, at her discretion, can make exceptions to the guidelines, she is comfortable with the Policy.

Chairperson Morin agreed that the Technology Committee has worked very hard on the proposed Policy and he feels that the term "standards" will be taken more seriously than "guidelines".

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Document

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO THANK THE STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING AN UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN AND TO ACCEPT THE DOCUMENT FOR FINAL REVIEW AND REVISION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Strategic Plan Committee completed their final draft of an updated strategic plan for the Town and the document has been forwarded to staff to share with all Boards and Commissions for review and comment. She said that she received very few comments back and that the next step in the process is for the Council to accept the document, and then revise and prepare the final document for adoption.

Chairperson Morin commented that this is a good document and he appreciates the work of the Strategic Plan Committee.

Councilor Adil agreed with Chairperson Morin's comments and said that the Strategic Plan can be used as a tool for the Town.

Councilor Fortunato suggested that the Plan be referred back to the Town Manager to review/update some of the items' language since some projects are already in process. She said that the Board of Education will be providing input as well regarding Council and Board relations.

Councilor Montinieri said that she also appreciates the work of the Strategic Plan Committee in developing a succinct plan for specific strategies.

Chairperson Morin said that this is a very good way to start looking through the Plan and that perhaps some of the language will need adjusting. He asked the Town Manager to get as many Town Staff on board with the Plan as soon as possible.

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

Interpreting America's Historic Places: Consultation Grant - Tourism Commission

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR \$15,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES AND TO ACCEPT THE FUNDS IF SO AWARDED"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that Grants Manager Rae Ann Palmer came across this National Endowment for the Humanities grant which will allow the Tourism Commission to put together a very significant strategic plan. She said that, due to a lack of performance, the contract with the current strategic planning consultant was terminated and none of the \$4,000 of budgeted funds was expended. She said that the \$15,000 grant funding would provide the opportunity to put together a much better strategic plan for tourism in Wethersfield.

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

Cancellation of November 7 Meeting

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO CANCEL THE NOVEMBER 7, 2005 MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Chairperson Morin said that Council meetings held the night before Election Day have been cancelled in the past.

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

Cottone Field Usage Policy

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE THE COTTONE FIELD USAGE POLICIES"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the policy has been reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee as well as the Board of Education Attorney and the Town Attorney. She said it is suggested that a waiver be included in either item #6 specific to the time, or item #10 which addresses the appeals process. She said that a recommendation was made that the Town Manager be present during appeals and she would make the final decision as to whether the waiver is granted.

Chairperson Morin asked which item she feels would be more appropriate and she said that a general appeals process would fall under item #10 and an appeal specific just to the Town would fall under item #6.

Councilor Forrest commented that the waiver should appear under item #10.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE POLICIES FOR THE USE OF COTTONE FIELD TO ALLOW FOR A WAIVER PROCEDURE THRU THE TOWN MANAGER UNDER ITEM #10"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Adil asked if the decision to grant a waiver would ultimately be made by the Town Manager or the Town Council. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the recommendation of the Board of Education is that the Town Manager will make the decision. She said that the language could include that the final appeal go to the Council.

Councilor Fortunato asked what the role is that the Park & Recreation plays under the current process. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that currently appeals go to the Park & Recreation staff. Councilor Fortunato commented that it may make sense to have the appeals first go to the Park & Recreation Department and then on to the Town Manager. Councilor Fortunato said that her only reservation is that the Town Manager already deals with so many things to do with the Town and a decision may not be able to be provided in a timely manner.

Councilor Montinieri said that her only reluctance in including the waiver procedure in item #10 is that this item addresses damage to the field and item #6 addresses the times. She suggested, perhaps, that item #7 include language pertaining to a waiver. Councilor Montinieri said that she feels that the Town Manager should be the person to grant the waiver since she is more central and more neutral to waive any issues.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis stated that he agrees with Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Forrest agreed with Councilor Montinieri that item #10 does not appear to be the best place to place the waiver wording and that a new item #27 is more appropriate to address this.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO WITHDRAW HIS MOTION TO AMEND"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"WITHDREW HIS SECOND TO THE MOTION TO AMEND"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE POLICIES FOR THE USE OF COTTONE FIELD TO ALLOW FOR A WAIVER PROCEDURE THRU THE TOWN MANAGER UNDER ADDED ITEM #27"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Adil said that he agrees with Councilor Fortunato that the waiver be granted by the Director of Parks & Recreation and that any appeal to the waiver could then go to the Town Manager for a final decision.

Chairperson Morin said that he would like to see the Town Manager deal with all of the waivers so as to simplify the process. He said that he doesn't expect a mass up-swelling of groups appealing the policies. He said that most groups

using the field have to sign up in advance and will know the time requirements of their event. He said that he agrees that the Town Manager has a lot to do, yet she has her finger on the pulse of the community, especially as it relates to Cottone Field. Chairperson Morin said that he agrees with the addition of item #27 to address the waiver procedure.

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

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

BIDS

Hurst Tools - Fire Department

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF HURST TOOL EQUIPMENT FROM FIREMATIC SUPPLY, INC., UTILIZING THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT BID, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,762"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the 2005-2006 Capital Budget includes \$40,000 to replace two old Hurst Tools for the Fire Department and it has been decided to go with the State of Connecticut Bid of \$41,762. She said that the additional \$1,762 will come from the Fire Department's Equipment Account.

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

Bid Process Waiver - Library Phone System

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO WAIVE THE BID PROCESS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE LIBRARY'S PHONE SYSTEM AND TO AUTORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH SBC TO PROVIDE THE LIBRARY'S PHONE SYSTEM AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$25,334"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that Council has budgeted \$30,000 in the 2005-2005 budget for the upgrading of the Library's phone system to separate it from the Town's phone system. She said that SBC is the current Town of Wethersfield vendor and going with them for the Library will provide for much more efficient maintenance contracts.

Councilor Fortunato stated that two of the Library phones will be available for public use, possibly one in the Children's area and one at the Central Desk. She said that blocks will be installed on the phones so that no long distance or directory assistance calls can be made. She said that phones will also be provided in the Library meeting rooms to provide for greater public safety.

Councilor Forrest asked if the new phone system will improve or change the current internet speed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there will be no affect. Councilor Forrest asked what the time frame is for the implementation. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she expects it to be approximately six to seven months as there are still some renovations that need to be completed before the phone system can be worked on.

Councilor Adil asked how many total phones there will be. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there will be fifty phones, two of which will be cordless. She said that there are currently no phones near any of the meeting rooms in case of emergency and the Library Director feels very strongly that these phones are necessary.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None.

MINUTES

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP OF AUGUST 15, 2005"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Forrest stated that he arrived late to the meeting as he was attending another meeting, but would still like to vote on the minutes.

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

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2005"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MINUTES BY CHANGING THE NUMBER OF COMPUTERS ON PAGE 17260 TO FOURTEEN INSTEAD OF EIGHTEEN"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion to amend passed 6-0-0.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:05 p.m., Councilor Adil moved **"TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Present: Councilors Adil, Czernicki (8:17), Forrest, Fortunato, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis, Chairperson Morin, and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien.

At 8:38 p.m., Councilor Adil moved **"TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

At 8:40 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk