

OCTOBER 3, 2005 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on October 3, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

Present: Councilors Adil, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

Absent: Councilor Cascio.

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

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

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO ADD TO THE AGENDA THE MONTHLY ECONOMIC UPDATE**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Economic Development Report

In the absence of Town Planner Peter Gillespie, EDIC Chairperson Betty Rosania gave a presentation of the September, 2005 Economic Development Report which included the following:

- 83-86 Wolcott Hill Road - Southside Partners, LLC - temporary certificate of occupancy issued
- 61 Arrow Road LLC - certificates of occupancy issued
- 1260 Silas Deane Highway - Jefferson X-Ray - certificate of occupancy issued
- 1290 Silas Deane Highway - Priority Care - interior renovations are complete
- 200 Silas Deane Highway - Halloween Store - certificate of occupancy issued for temporary retail use
- Ridge Road - Church Homes - special permit application approved for development of thirteen age-restricted apartment style condominiums
- 416 Silas Deane Highway - proposed Dunkin Donuts - plans approved for construction
- 486 Silas Deane Highway - proposed Tim Horton's Restaurant - plans approved for construction
- 1943 Berlin Turnpike - Greenman's Landscaping - occupancy approved by PZC
- 225 Spring Street - State of Connecticut Judicial Branch - building permit issued
- 1380-1420 Berlin Turnpike - Façade Review - new exterior storefront plan approved
- Folly Brook Boulevard - Age Restricted Housing - new application submitted to Inland Wetlands Commission for approval
- Old Reservoir Road/Back Lane - Harris Property Age Restricted Housing - zone change application approved

Ms. Rosania announced that a public meeting of the Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee is planned for October 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Police Department Community Room to review the preliminary work of the consultant. Ms. Rosania reported that at their August meeting, the EDIC reviewed a number of requests for the business beautification loan program which will exhaust all of the available funds. She also reported that the Tourism Commission is reviewing a draft plan and report for a town wide wayfinding sign program and will be presenting the report at a meeting on October 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office. Regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission, Ms. Rosania reported that staff has prepared a draft of a proposed zoning regulation amendment that would cover the regulation of outdoor lighting including athletic field lighting for consideration by the Commission. She said that a hearing is scheduled for November 15. She said that plans have been submitted as a referral from the Newington PZC for the development of the former Hartford Drive-In property on Prospect Street for seventy-four town house units, and that the Wethersfield PZC will review the plans at their October 4 meeting.

Councilor Adil commented that the Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee meeting on October 5 is very important and asked Ms. Rosania to elaborate more on the meeting. Ms. Rosania said that the Committee, after

narrowing down submitted consultant proposals to seven, sent the proposals to representatives from both Wethersfield and Rocky Hill who narrowed that amount down to three who have been interviewed by the Town Manager and joint boards. Ms. Rosania said that Fuss and O'Neil was chosen as the lowest, qualified bidder and she looks forward to their presentation.

Ms. Rosania thanked all of the Council members for their support of economic development in Wethersfield. She said that the fruit of their labors shows around Town.

Proclamation: Fire Prevention Week:

Chairperson Morin recognized the attendance of Fire Marshal Gary Santoro, Fire Chief Chuck Flynn, and Police Chief James Cetran who joined him at the front of the room for the reading of the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation.

Individual Commendations: Thomas Landers, David LaPointe, Clifton Stalph, John Tsombanos

Fire Marshal Gary Santoro read a description of the events that occurred on August 18, 2005 when the efforts of Thomas Landers, David LaPointe, Clifton Stalph, and John Tsombanos were instrumental in possibly saving the life of a resident at 212 Main Street.

Chairperson Morin said that it is a highlight for the Council to be able to recognize members of the community who are so special and do their best to help other people. He said that these men are the best example of what a caring community Wethersfield is. Chairperson Morin read aloud the individual commendations for each of the men.

Melissa Sirick, Acting Director of the Wethersfield Historical Society, thanked Mr. Landers, Mr. LaPointe, Mr. Stalph, and Mr. Tsombanos for their heroic efforts in fighting the fire in Wethersfield's Historic Home. She said that Wethersfield is a truly living, breathing, historic community of concerned neighbors.

Police Chief James Cetran introduced the newest members of the Police Department's Canine Unit. He said that Officer Jenny Keyes is partnered with "Lanie" who is slated to be Wethersfield's foremost narcotics dog. Chief Cetran next introduced "Hunter" who will be a patrol dog who is trained to find missing persons or materials, as well as to protect Police Officers. Chief Cetran thanked the Council for approving the first Police Canine Unit in Wethersfield's history. He also thanked all who contributed to the Wethersfield Police Canine Unit fund which helped to make it possible to obtain the two dogs. He said that almost \$30,000 has been collected to-date from businesses and residents.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION CONCERNING HELP FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FROM THE CAPITAL AREA SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES AND THE AWARD OF FUNDS FROM THE GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Renee Dansereau, 291 Griswold Road, and her husband Michael, spoke in support of the establishment of a dog park behind the swimming pond at Mill Woods Park. She said that she speaks on behalf of over 350 Wethersfield residents who wish to have a fenced-in, off-leash area to socialize and exercise their dogs. She said that a dog park offers a safe, controlled environment for dogs to play and exercise. She said that a dog park encourages responsible dog licensing, current vaccinating, clean-up and training. Ms. Dansereau said that she hopes to obtain the money for the dog park

through various fund raisers; therefore not costing the Town anything and not raising taxes. She had those present who are willing to volunteer stand, and approximately twelve people stood.

Kathy Griswold, 91 Gooseberry Hill, spoke in support of the proposed dog park and provided an overview of the current dog park in Hamden. She encouraged Council members to visit this park to gain a better perspective of what is being proposed.

Tom Fitzpatrick, 40 Whippoorwill Way, spoke about the recent actions of the Planning and Zoning Commission with regard to changing open space near Old Reservoir Road from somewhat restricted zoning. He said that, as a result, this opens up the development of the property to a higher density of housing in that area. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he is concerned that the current and past Councils have been putting money aside for the commitment to open space, and in the meantime, the Planning and Zoning Commission is making it as easy as possible to develop these pieces of property. He said that he understands that there is nothing legally that the Council can do to reverse the decision on this specific piece of property, but he'd like the Council to make the Town's Boards and Commissions aware of what the citizens and Council of Wethersfield are committed to. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that for Boards and Commissions to work in opposition to what the Council is trying to achieve will only cause problems.

Joe Soja, 30 Hedgerow, said that he is a current candidate for the Wethersfield Town Council and retired in May from a career in sales and marketing. He said that he has had the opportunity to visit many communities and in his opinion New England and Wethersfield are among the best places to live. Mr. Soja said that he has recently joined the Wethersfield Senior Center and looks forward to meeting many people through the activities offered there. Mr. Soja spoke of the current concerns expressed to him by members of the Wethersfield Senior Center. He said that he and his party are proposing a tax cap for senior citizens as property taxes are a huge factor for them.

Patti Silva, 24 Hillcrest Avenue, urged the Council to grant the Board of Education's recent request to return \$200,000 to their education budget for much needed textbooks and various other items held off due to budget constraints. She thanked the Councilors for their service and dedication to the Town.

Ken Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, commented on the proposed dog park. He said that it has been said that the proposed park will be supported by other than taxpayer funds, but no mention has been made as to the Town's responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the park. Mr. Sokolowski said that the park proposal is silent as to its ADA compatibility with a wide range of handicapped needs, and there is no indication as to how the rules of the park will be enforced. He said that it appears that the Health District should be part of the deliberations especially with respect to the increased chance of e-coli contamination into Goff Brook. He said that a professional landscape architect will be required to design the park. Mr. Sokolowski recommended that rather than send this item to Planning and Zoning for an 8-24 referral, the Council send it to the Parks and Recreation Department for further deliberation, input from the Tree Warden, and input from the Health District.

Jennifer Holdcraft, 435 Griswold Road, commented that she has lived in many areas of the United States and she and her husband agree that Wethersfield is the most inviting, welcoming Town that she has seen in looking for a home. She said that the possibility of a dog park in Town is very exciting to them. Ms. Holdcraft said that she realizes that there are many specific requirements for a dog park, but compromises can be made. She said that she hopes the Council takes a long look at the proposed dog park since it would be a great thing for many citizens.

Ken Bradley, 74 Whippoorwill Way, agreed with the comments made previously by Mr. Fitzpatrick regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission vote. He stated that he is appalled at the zoning change decision made by the Planning and Zoning Commission and he was disturbed by the lack of recognition of citizen opposition to the change. Mr. Bradley said that the location is one of the most beautiful areas in Town and to see it proposed for development doesn't do the area justice. He said that the Planning and Zoning Commission ought to be more selective when making some of their decisions for projects in Town. He said that it sometimes appears that the main concern of the Commission is what is best for the Grand List.

Paul Meskiewicz, 21 Westmont Road, commented that he agrees with Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Bradley with regard to the recent Planning and Zoning Commission approval vote. He said that there was a major outpouring of neighboring property owners who are completely against this and it appeared that the issue was already a done deal. Mr.

Meskiewicz said that the Town Planning and Zoning Plan includes age-restricted housing and this particular development was passed in a snap. He said that for the benefit of two parties, the land owner and the builder, this land will be cramped in with homes not even half the size of the existing homes. He said that these developments are normally put in places where there is transportation, and local amenities, not an area around a reservoir. Mr. Meskiewicz stated that he is very disappointed with the decision.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented that he is disappointed with the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Young also commented on the CT Coalition for Justice - Class Action Lawsuit and the request for the Town to pay \$5,000 to join in. He said that he doesn't believe that they should receive any money. Mr. Young recommends that the Town totally ignore these people. Mr. Young commented that people should realize that when the Mayor of Hartford says that he's giving \$2 million for a project, that money is really coming from the taxpayers of Connecticut.

Gayle Raducha, 38 Schoolhouse Crossing, spoke in support of the proposed dog park. She said that having a dog park would not be a burden on the taxpayers as there will be enough volunteers to maintain the park.

Michael Dansereau, 291 Griswold Road, spoke in support of the proposed dog park and submitted over two hundred and fifty signatures of support.

Mary Sena, 103 Eastern Drive, spoke in support of the proposed dog park. She said that compromises can be made to work things out and the Town should get going on this.

Susan Gillanders, 66 Sharon Lane, spoke in support of the proposed dog park, stating that it will be an asset to the Town.

Kathy Feltes, 40 Farms Village Road, spoke on behalf of her whole family who is in support of the proposed dog park.

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

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Adil reported that the Registrar of Voters office has relocated to the first floor of the Town Hall as of today, and is currently open there. He said that a tour was given of the lower level of the Town Hall and it is anticipated that the Parks & Recreation office will be moving to the other side of the lower level by the end of this month. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien commented that it may be a little longer than that because there are still a few items that need to be worked on.

Councilor Fortunato reported that the Shared Services Committee met prior to tonight's Council meeting to discuss the parking change at the High School, and the hours of the gate being opened and closed. She said that the parking at the Hanmer School was also discussed as well as the bussing and drop off situation there. Councilor Fortunato said that feedback on the Strategic Plan was received from Board of Education members and the upcoming November 1 Fireside Chat and its agenda were also discussed. Councilor Fortunato requested, through Chairperson Morin, that candidates for the Town Council and Board of Education positions be invited to attend this event. Councilor Fortunato reported that she attended the Library Board meeting and said that the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded the Library a Strategic Planning Grant. Councilor Fortunato said that during her Councilor hours last week she was visited by a resident who requested that more Committee's upcoming agendas be posted on the Town website. He also said that he is in favor of the proposed Technology Director/Coordinator position.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she attended the recent Tourism Commission meeting and that tonight's Council agenda item for the budget transfer for the Tourism Strategic Plan is very important to the Commission in order to proceed with their marketing plan.

Councilor Montinieri announced that the Director of the Historical Society, Doug Shipman, has returned from Iraq. Councilor Montinieri asked if the Town has any responsibility to make residents aware of the additional items that can now be added to recycling bins, per CRRA. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that a press release will be issued

and the information will also be available on Channel 16. She said that she will also be in touch with the owner of Paine's Refuse asking that a flyer be put into residents' recycling bins.

Councilor Adil said that he has spoken with many residents throughout Town recently and one of the suggestions offered to him is that Saturday hours be offered at the Town Hall for those who cannot get there during the week. Councilor Adil suggested that, within the legal parameters, more services be offered on line. He said that another suggestion made to him was that the hours at the Transfer Station be reduced during the winter months and possibly use some of those employee hours during the summer months. Councilor Adil commented that the Town Council is committed to open space and the Town Manager is working on a quarterly basis with all Town committees in a proactive way to maintain open space as much as possible. He said that people have to be sure to listen to both sides of the Planning and Zoning Commission approval issue.

Councilor Czernicki stated that she's received complaints from numerous citizens that they've had a hard time getting through to the Physical Services Department over the last couple of weeks and she has had conversations with Rae Ann Palmer, Assistant to the Town Manager about this. Councilor Czernicki asked why this issue was not included in the recent Weekly Town Manager's Report. She said that it would have been an advantage to the Councilors to have known about the situation and she asked the Town Manager to include these types of situations in the Councilors' packets. Councilor Czernicki commented on Town Engineer Mike Turner's email regarding odors in the Town Hall during renovations and that when there was an issue last week, the Director of the Health District was not reachable. She asked if there is someone who assumes the Health Director's responsibilities in his absence. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that when he is away for any length of time, there is a list of who is in charge to cover for him; usually the Health Director of another Town. Councilor Czernicki asked if this list was not available last week and the Town Manager said that she is unsure, but will check on this. Councilor Czernicki asked if there has been any more mold found in the Town Hall building. The Town Manager said that she is not aware of any, but will verify this. Councilor Czernicki addressed the hierarchy of maintenance of sports fields throughout Town based on usage and asked if there is a way to insure that the fields are free of glass and rocks that pose a safety issue. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has requested that Physical Services check the fields on the morning of a scheduled event. Councilor Czernicki commented that she's aware that the Council cannot overrule the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission, but asked if there is a way that the Council can send a letter to the Commission explaining to them the Council's desire to maintain as much open space as possible. She said that the Town does not have enough funds to make a major purchase and there will probably be a number of years before a major purchase can be made; however, in light of what has occurred, this is the opportune time to get a letter to the Commission reiterating how strongly the Council feels about the preservation of open space in Town. Councilor Czernicki stated that she is very interested in Councilor Adil's comments about residents' request for access to Town services on Saturdays. She said that this has been brought forward several times in the past six to eight years and she said that this request may mean that flex time for employees needs to be made available in order to provide the best service to residents.

Councilor Montinieri asked for clarification that the Harris family sold their property to a developer. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will check on this because there could be options involved. Councilor Montinieri commented on how nice the fire and police presentations were this evening. Councilor Montinieri commented that the Coalition for Justice group is not a lobbyist group for teachers and that the Council has requested that a representative attend the joint Board of Education/Council meeting to provide a better understanding of the group's goal.

Chairperson Morin read from a letter from Matthew Daly of 6 Palamina Way addressing the Planning and Zoning Commission's recent approval and attached are ninety-seven letters containing one hundred and fifty signatures voicing concerns over the approval. Chairperson Morin submitted the letters to the Town Clerk for Council record. Chairperson Morin said that he supports a letter being sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission stating the Council's commitment to preserve open space. He said that the Commission will be meeting tomorrow evening and they can open the issue back up if it is brought back up by a member who voted in favor of the approval.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO ADD TO THE AGENDA AN ITEM RELATING TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION'S RECENT APPROVAL"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"THAT COUNCIL SEND A LETTER INDICATING THEIR SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING AND PRESERVING OPEN SPACE TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Chairperson Morin asked the Town Manager to verify that this is legal to do. She said that she is meeting with the Town Attorney in the morning and she will check this with him.

Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager to provide the attendance record of the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission over the last full year.

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

Chairperson Morin thanked Assistant to the Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer, Fire Chief Chuck Flynn, and Former Deputy Fire Chief Mark Mahder for their work on receiving a \$231,525 grant award for personal protection equipment for the Fire Department. The Town is required to put in a small 10% match. The equipment includes an air pack for every volunteer firefighter.

Chairperson Morin announced various community events and presented a plaque to the Town Manager from CCROG for her high quality of participation and leadership in the organization.

Chairperson Morin announced that there will be an Executive Session following agenda item B.3.d to discuss personnel matters.

Councilor Montinieri left the meeting at this time (8:50 p.m.).

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF GREGORY M. EVEN FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES COLLIN AND LAURIE SLADE TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM OCTOBER 3, 2005 TO JUNE 30, 2008"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING HELP FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FROM THE CAPITAL AREA SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES AND THE AWARD OF FUNDS FROM THE GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Budget Transfer - Tourism Strategic Plan

Councilor Adil moved **"TO TRANSFER \$4,000 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNT T1181121-5220 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAM, TO COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE TOURISM REVIEW AND ANALYSIS", seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Adil commended the Tourism Commission for going forward with this effort.

Councilor Montinieri returned to the meeting at this time (8:55 p.m.).

Councilor Hemmann said that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has had experience in doing this kind of work and they were part of the RFQ that had been sent out and had been interviewed last year when the Tourism Commission made the choice to pursue the Strategic Plan. She said that the current vendor was not paid for the plan as it was unsatisfactory and the money was returned to the General Fund.

Councilor Montinieri said that there is a lot of confidence on the part of the Tourism Commission that this group will be able to do the job.

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

Dog Park - Mill Woods Park

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO REFER THE DOG PARK REQUEST TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR AN 8-24 REVIEW"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Adil said that he was party to a very thorough presentation given by the group appearing at the Council meeting tonight to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He said that, like the skateboard park and the nature center, this will be a wonderful example of the kind of citizen cooperation available in Wethersfield.

Councilor Hemmann said that she laughed when she first saw this item in the Council packet, but she now thinks that the group has done a very creative job in bringing this forward and they have worked very effectively with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She said that she now thinks that it's a good idea and deserves merit.

Councilor Fortunato said that she supports the proposed dog park going forward; however there are valid concerns that were raised earlier this evening that need to be explored; especially as they relate to the disabled. Councilor Fortunato said that she did not hear any mention of the cost and is curious to know what it will be. Chairperson Morin said that he will find this out. Councilor Fortunato asked how the process will proceed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the 8-24 referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission requires that they check that this is in line with the Town's Master Plan. She said that after the 8-24 review, results will be forwarded back to the Council for their review.

Councilor Montinieri said that it was nice to see new faces attending the Town Council meeting.

Councilor Czernicki asked if the building and maintenance of the park will fall in line with the Town's Union Contracts. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will have to sit down and look at this along with what the volunteers have developed.

Chairperson Morin said that he agrees with Councilor Adil that this is another example of members of the community coming forth and working with the Town.

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

Waiver of Fees - Team Towanda Foundation

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO WAIVE FIFTY PERCENT OF THE POLICE SERVICES FEE, \$129.43, FOR THE OCTOBER 14, 2005 TEAM TOWANDA FOUNDATION FUND RAISER AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Team Towanda Foundation will be sponsoring a fund raiser on October 14 and because of the large amount of people they anticipate attending, they will need to have a Police Officer on hand. They are requesting that the Town waive half of the cost of the Officer.

Councilor Montinieri said that her familiarity with Team Towanda is through the Cook Book and she commended them for all they have done for the issue of breast cancer.

Councilor Fortunato reminded women that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Chairperson Morin said that the group did ask the Town to waive the entire fee; however it is the practice of the Town to waive half of the fee.

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

At 9:05 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS**", seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 10:05 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Town Manager's Evaluation

Councilor Adil moved "**TO AWARD A 2.5% INCREASE TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S SALARY AND TO ADD TO THAT A BONUS OF \$2,000**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Adil said that the Budget and Finance Committee met a few times to discuss this and also that he, Councilor Czernicki, Deputy Mayor Karangekis, and Councilor Fortunato did quite a bit of analysis of last year's scores vs. this year's scores as well as averages of reports of key staff. He said that there are areas that need improvement, but overall this year's scores came in higher than last year. He said that the public input on the Manager's performance was very positive, especially given the current budget constraints.

Councilor Czernicki said that after the discussion in the Executive Session, it was decided that the Mayor is in the best position to sit with the Town Manager to discuss her goals and address any issues of concern.

Chairperson Morin stated that he appreciates the work that went into this evaluation. He said that both the Council and the Town Manager were frank with the assessment of her performance. Chairperson Morin said that he will proudly work with the Town Manager to go forward with the comments derived from the Executive Session.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien thanked the Town Council, the Town Staff, and the public for their continued support. She said that she will take very seriously all of the comments made and she will continue to find ways to improve.

Councilor Czernicki announced that Councilors received this evening a letter from Ernestine Attanasio, Secretary of the Friends of the Wethersfield Library, to Greg Curtin, Chairman of the Wethersfield Library Board regarding an incident that occurred at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Wethersfield Library. Councilor Czernicki recommended that Pauline Uchich, who has served as President of the "Friends" for a number of years be invited to the next Council meeting to receive a Proclamation for her service to the Library which includes the "Friends" having contributed over \$36,000 in the last five years and also their decision to contribute over \$44,000 to the Children's Department for furniture and materials upon completion of the renovations.

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

BIDS

None.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE FOR PROPOSED CHAPTER 169 OF THE WETHERSFIELD TOWN CODE, ENFORCEMENT OF ZONING AND WETLAND REGULATIONS

§ 169-1. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish penalties for violations of the Town's zoning regulations and inland and wetland regulations, establish procedures for issuance of citations to violators and for collections of fines and to have the Town's citation hearing procedure (Chapter 168 of the Town Code) apply to citations hereunder issued.

§ 169-2. Enforcement

The Town's Zoning Enforcement Official or agent is authorized to issue cease-and-desist orders or other appropriate orders to a violator of the Town's zoning regulations or the Town's inland wetland and watercourses regulations or of any approval or permit issued by the Town Planning and Zoning Commission or Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. If such violation has not been remedied either immediately or within 10 days of the date of issuance of the cease-and-desist order or other appropriate order, as provided in the order, the Enforcement Official, or such other Town official or employee designated by the Town Manager to issue citations, unless such time has been extended for good cause by the Enforcement Official, shall issue a citation to the violator which shall invoke the Town's citation hearing procedure set forth in Chapter 168 of the Town Code. However, in the case where a violation is found by the Enforcement Official or agent to be willful, penalties may be assessed from the date such violation has been committed.

§ 169-3. Violations and penalties; hearing.

- A. The penalty for each violation of the zoning regulations or approvals or permits issued shall be \$150 for each day that such violation continues beyond the compliance date in the cease-and-desist order. Notwithstanding the preceding, in instances of willful violations and instances where the violation is not corrected within such manner and time period stipulated in the order, fines may be assessed from the date such violation has been committed.
- B. The penalty for each violation of the inland wetlands and watercourses regulations or approvals or permits issued shall be from \$150 to \$1,000 for each day that such violation continues beyond the compliance date in the cease-and-desist order. Notwithstanding the preceding, in instances of willful violations and instances where the violation is not corrected within such manner and time period stipulated in the order, fines may be assessed from the date such violation has been committed. The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, within 10 day of the issuance of an order, shall hold a hearing to provide the alleged violator an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the order should not remain in effect. No fines may be levied against the state or any employee of the state acting within the scope of his employment.

169-4. Procedure.

The procedure to be followed with respect to all citations issued under this chapter shall be the citation hearing procedure set forth in Chapter 168 of the Wethersfield Code.

MINUTES

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2005 AS AMENDED BELOW"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Adil amended the minutes on page 17316 for the vote count of the special meeting of August 22, 2005 to be "5-0-4" rather than 6-0-4.

Councilor Montinieri amended the minutes to read "cooperation" in her comments on page 17313 rather than corroboration.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by vote of Council 10/17/2005