

**REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2013**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Hemmann, Hurley, Kotkin, Manousos, Martino, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri

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

Deputy Mayor Barry led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Steven Randall, 35 Beverly Rd., commented on the Historic District Master Plan dated July 2008 and stated he thought it was a good document and is one of the studies in town we are using and you can see progress against. He added the next item that is coming up which is addressing the four intersections in old historic Wethersfield. Mr. Randall commented that he has witnessed many types of vehicles, including town vehicles, violating the stop signs and cross walks and suggests that as far as traffic calming, we should focus on enforcement.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave., thanked the Town Manager for filling the little trench in front of the High School. He commented that he doesn't understand how the town can deny a stop sign on Morrison Ave. when it is needed and asked how they can justify it.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented on the Metropolitan District's increased prices due to the water project that other people voted for. Charter revision is coming up and we should take a good firm stand on the issue of Referendum for the public as a way to get the people involved. We need to do a tough screening process when selecting a Charter Committee. He urged the new Council to spend our money more wisely and spoke against special interests and nepotism in the town and Board of Education. He also commented the Council should be making decisions that will continue to increase our property values.

Lee Sekas, 117 Wells Rd., reminded people that with the snowfall coming, it is important to keep the sidewalks and corners clear. Mr. Sekas also commented stop signs are needed in town where safety is called for before accidents happen in town. He wished the new Town Council good luck and happy holidays to everybody.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Martino reported that on November 21, he and Gerri were both at the Seniors Citizens Advisory Committee and they are currently working on a Spring Event Fair at the Community Center for next May 19th. They are planning to have people there to discuss the various trails within the State of Connecticut, wine trails, chocolate and antique trails and a few others. They are trying to put something together so our seniors can see all these various things and trips available to people that they can go on.

Councilor Manousos reported this Thursday is the Christmas on Main and it starts at 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Montinieri commented he talked briefly with Nancy Stilwell about the holiday season and those who might be in need at this time of year. He stated how Social and Youth Services as well as Town services were progressing with respect to needs and told her that he would share publicly that there is a need for help for young people. The staff at Social and Youth Services tries to gather support for children throughout the Greater Hartford area who have needs. They have a specific program for it and they are looking for community support with respect to gift cards. If the community is interested in helping in any way, he certainly encourages the public to contact her office which is staffed throughout the day. Also there are several businesses they are talking with about corporate sponsorship as well.

Mayor Montinieri reported Holidays on Main is this Thursday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Main Street through a good section of Old Wethersfield will be closed for events. There will be vendors on the street, with crafts and food; a formal tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. in front of Lucky Lou's and a carol sign. It was very successful last year and expects that it will be equally successful this year. He encourages residents to participate.

Mayor Montinieri reminded people that there is a Salute to Business on December 12th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. which is held on behalf of the community and our businesses. It is open to the public, if interested contact the Chamber of Commerce or the Economic and Development Planning Office for information about attending. He thanked people in advance for their consideration.

Councilor Roberts commented on the great work that the town crew did on the leaf pick-up. She stated this is the last week, she saw crews out over the weekend and from this citizen's point of view it looks like it's gone smoothly and they've done a great job; kudos to the leaf crew and staff.

Mayor Montinieri commented there was a significant fire in town today on Bittersweet. He reported an elderly gentleman was able to get out with the help of a neighbor. The staff from the Fire Department responded, thankfully there were no injuries. It was a pretty significant fire and five towns came out and it was a fully engulfed fire and they protected the neighborhood, the other near-by houses and certainly the residents. Mayor Montinieri thanked Rich and his staff.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges reported at the last meeting there was a question about the size and cost of the Hartford Hospital expansion. The size of the expansion is 12,865 sq. ft. and the estimated cost from the Building Permit [does not include finishes and furniture], was \$1.1 million. He also had a question about the former chocolate railroad station. He stated the screening is in place but we are going to check to make sure it comes back alive in the spring. We had a request to measure the window signage at the pawn shop on Silas Deane, but due to people on vacation, we will get to it before the next Council meeting.

Mr. Bridges stated some Councilors were having a problem making it to the Special meeting scheduled for the 10th. After some discussion, it was decided that Special meeting for the High School bids will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATIONS

Dolores Sassano reported we have an audit this Thursday for three districts for the November 5 election. It is mandated by the State; they put all the voting districts in the State into a revolving barrel. We were lucky to get three districts pulled this time and we have to do three different offices, which are exactly what we happen to have on our ballot this last time. The Registrars of Voters have set it up and it will take place in this Council Chamber this Thursday all day.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Barry moved **“TO APPOINT TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION CHRIS LYONS, 21 WOODLAND STREET FOR THE TERM 12-2-13 THROUGH 6-30-14 AND DAVID DRAKE TO THE BUILDING COMMITTEE, 14 QUAIL HILL FOR THE TERM 12-02-13 TO THE PROJECT COMPLETION”**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Mayor Montinieri said he reached out to Dave who served on the Council and was a liaison to the Building Committee throughout his years on the Council. Shortly after the election he mentioned he really liked David and thought he did a terrific job on Council and was saddened he didn't get through the election process. Mayor Montinieri stated David has been a gentleman to step up and offer his willingness to serve on this Committee. It makes a seamless transition as Steve Barry was sitting on the Building Committee and obviously had to relinquish it.

He believes it is a really good thing that David has offered that up.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT PROPOSAL FOR A FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE TRUCK”**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Mr. Bridges explained we solicited bids for a new fire truck; those bids are in and the Public Safety Committee will be reviewing them with the Fire Department shortly. We have an opportunity to request some grant funds for most of the purchase of the truck. He explained the deadline is December 6th for submission, most of the grant is prepared and we just need authorization to submit it. We will know in February if we get the grant and, if not, we will continue with the purchase plan as we did in the current year budget. We would like to submit the grant and take advantage of it if we can. He stated that Chief Bailey is here if there are any questions.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Kotkin moved to **“ACCEPT THE BID FROM PAWCATUCK ROOFING FOR \$25,559.00 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ROOF C AT THE 206 PROSPECT STREET WETHERSFIELD VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION BUILDING”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

Mr. Bridges explained this is the fourth of three roofs that have already been replaced at some point in time. He explained that this will be a flat roof portion and Mr. Turner has a sample of the material we are proposing to use. He can tell you more about the plan.

Mr. Turner explained this has been on the radar screen for the Capital Improvement Committee when they recommended the funding two years back. He explained they did solicit bids on the basis of some input from the Infrastructure Committee to try a new product. The product is a liquid-applied roofing material. Mr. Turner stated the existing roof is the typical hot tar with tar paper and it is a messy deal. This contractor is proposing to rip up that entire roofing system. He explained there is what's known as the Yankee Gutter System, basically a slot through the roof the water drains actually through the roof and is collected underneath in piping as the gutter system which is the source of numerous leaks. This particular roof is the cause of more roof leak calls to Tremco than all of our other roofs combined to give you a perspective of the dire need for this roof to be done. Our intention is to infill that Yankee Gutter System and put in conventional roof drains on the roof slope it with insulation and this material is actually four coats of liquid-applied roofing and it is the newest thing. Also, it is a white roof and the strength on the roof is phenomenal and we will get definitely the full 20 year warranty. In this particular case the vendor

is well known to Tremco. They helped us vet the bidder list so they are happy with the selected vendor. We are well under our budget.

Councilor Kotkin asked what the budget was on this.

Mr. Turner responded 40.

Councilor Kotkin commented its 40 and it's coming in under at 25; where are they located.

Mr. Turner responded yes and they are based out of the east side of the State but didn't remember the specific location.

Mr. Kotkin asked if the firm has extensive experience using this product.

Mr. Turner responded yes.

Councilor Rell asked if this is one roof of four.

Mr. Turner responded yes.

Councilor Rell asked if we are going to be here two or five years from now with roof letter B. He stated that he knows this was a flat roof.

Mr. Turner responded this is a flat roof and there is one more flat, it has a slight pitch to it but it is around the rear of the building. He stated the others are pitched roofs that have shingles on it and those have already been replaced or repaired so we should be good for quite a while.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None.

MINUTES

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2013"** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Councilor Hemmann commented that on page 7 after the Deputy Mayor commented and asked a question about how they were going to notify the public of the houses that were going to be visited and worked on, she had asked a question after that for more specific information because they gave kind of a general answer and that was not added. Councilor Hemmann asked that the tape be checked because that really narrowed down the response and it was that those people

would be contacted directly. It wasn't just leaving the door hanger and never talking to them again.

Councilor Montinieri responded that he remembered that and thinks he said that he will be back within a week to reach them so it's important that gets in there so we can follow up with it if it doesn't happen. Councilor Hemmann also commented that on page 8 there are several corrections in the 1st, 3rd & 4th paragraphs to change "Mayor Hemmann" to Councilor Hemmann".

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-1. Councilor Hurley abstained.

Councilor Roberts moved "**TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2013**" seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-2. Councilors Kotkin and Manousos abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Cir. asked councilors to speak into the microphones so they could be heard. He commented on the low vote counts and encouraged Council to do whatever they could to change it. He feels there is some room for improvement in the processing of people at the polls on Election Day.

Joel ~~Wagoner~~ *Wagner*, 203 Clearfield Rd., congratulated the new Council members and thanked them all for serving.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Manousos. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by Vote of Council
December 16, 2013

Meeting minutes were changed to reflect a spelling error on page 6. The name Wagoner was changed to Wagner.