



**TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 24, 2019
APPROVED MINUTES**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Joseph McAuliffe, Councilor Richard O'Reilly, Deputy Mayor Jody Terranova, Councilor Michael Tustin, and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Tracy, 4 On the Green, thanked everyone for their service to the town. She spoke in support of the budget, and as a former educator, she especially supported the education budget. She stated that the education budget could be even richer than what's being proposed as the student population has increased and the children should have rich experiences as they are our future.

Eric Weiner, 2308 Windsor Station Drive, thanked everyone for their hard work and noted that it was nice to see this process move along smoothly. He would love to see the council hold a bipartisan get out and vote campaign that all nine members can participate in rather than leave it as a partisan activity.

Susan Miller, 10 Ethan Drive, thanked the Council for their hard work. She came in support of the budget because Windsor is worth it. She spoke highly about her son's experience at Windsor High School and believes that the budget really makes a difference for each and every child.

John Dunn, 15 Strawberry Hill, highlighted that in the FY 20 proposed budget, debt service is the third largest expense in the General Fund. We are continuously paying for what has already been spent. He also read a newspaper article where it spoke about other towns working to spend less money as state aid has become more uncertain. The article noted that the average proposed property tax increase for next fiscal year is 1.9%. Mr. Dunn stated that Windsor is looking at about double that.

Coralee Jones, 1171 Matianuck Avenue, stated that meeting the needs of residents will be increasingly difficult as the state looks to implement numerous new taxes. Windsor

taxpayers made a commitment to various new buildings and making major needed upgrades to schools, but she asked the Council to look carefully for ways to reduce expenses. The Board of Education has the largest budget and therefore, the greatest opportunity for savings.

Paul Panos, 48 Brookview Road, spoke about the mill rate and how when it slides up, it gets towns into trouble. When it gets into the upper 30's, it effects the grand list and certain towns may be able to sustain something higher, but Windsor may really struggle. He asked councilors to have some forethought before getting into higher territory and believes that the time to lower it is now. He feels that the mill rate sliding up is scary and hopes we can work on a reduction in the budget this year, ideally to below 30.

Leonard Lockhart, 57 Columbia Road, came as a citizen to thank the Council for their services to the town, especially social services, public safety, and public works as these are critical areas to a great town atmosphere. He also came to speak as a Board of Education (BOE) President and thanked the Council for their support of Windsor public schools. He noted that the buildings could use improvements and is afraid that 'kicking the can down the road' may lead to building failure in the future. He stated that the BOE has been responsible, open to the public, let everyone have a say during the process, and through bipartisanship, the BOE passed the budget 9-0. He noted that the budget maintains what we have, but he would like to see us do better than maintain. Lastly, he stated that there is nothing to be cut and feels that cuts would be cutting from the bone.

Linda Alexander, 155 Fieldstone Drive, came to support the taxpayers; people who struggle to pay their taxes, utilities, and other expenses. There is never any shortage of things people would like to have or spend money on, but taxpayers have the same needs on an individual level. Houses go without painting, things go unrepaired because people don't have the money left. It is likely that the town will have to take on teacher pensions and this money has to come from the BOE. They have to find the money just as any other business would have to do. She is speaking in favor of fiscal responsibility and spending wisely. She asked the Council to produce something that people can afford to vote for.

Adam Gutcheon, 1121 Windsor Station Drive, strongly supports the proposed budget and the value of services that are provided by that taxation. As the economy has recovered and has come out of the period of deflation, he is concerned that the budget is too low. The three areas he feels need a boost are the economic development office, an assistant town manager that could have downstream effects, and most importantly the school system. He is very surprised to find that enrollment has been growing in terms of both kindergarten and students returning from magnet schools. The Board of Education recommended a data analyst position in the superintendent's office. Mr. Gutcheon supports that and said that it could provide a lot of value and more focused programming. He thanked the Council for keeping the attitude to one of stewardship.

3) APPROVE RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR CLOVER STREET SCHOOL PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for school construction grant – partial roof replacement at Clover Street School, to appoint a Building Committee to oversee the Partial Roof Replacement project at Clover School and to authorize the town to prepare schematic drawings and specifications for the Partial Roof Replacement project at Clover Street School.

Town Manager Souza thanked the Council for adding this item to the agenda as this reimbursement grant has the potential to return approximately 48% of the estimated \$150,000 to replace this section of the roof.

Councilor Jepsen asked if it needs to be specified that the building committee will be the Public Building Commission. Town Manager Souza responded that under the current requirements of the grant application, it doesn't have to be named specifically.

Motions Passed 9-0-0

4) CAPITAL SPENDING

Town Manager Souza stated that the FY 20 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is proposing to use \$2,430,000 from the General Fund, a \$30,000 increase over FY 19. It covers ongoing projects such as pavement management, sidewalk and curb replacement, and public safety fleet equipment, where inflation has caused a \$30,000 increase. \$100,000 will be used for technology upgrades in the schools. An underground oil tank at Roger Wolcott is reaching the end of its useful life and \$100,000 will be coming from the General Fund reserve to remove the tank and convert the boiler to natural gas. The Capital Improvement Program has been referred to the Town Improvements Committee for oversight.

Mayor Trinks asked about the tree replacement program. Town Manager Souza responded that they do it on alternating years.

Councilor Jepsen noted that there will be opportunities to speak about bonding projects over the next year so specifics can be discussed then. As far as the oil tank, he doesn't like to see General Fund money being used, but it has to happen, so he will go along with that as well.

5) PRICE GUIDE

Town Manager Souza stated that there is no formal presentation as the price guide has been discussed during other budget sessions. However, this time can be used as an opportunity for additional questions.

Councilor Jepsen noted that this year, it was helpful to go over these during each individual section and he appreciated that change.

6) PRELIMINARY DELIBERATIONS

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to take a five minute recess.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

FINAL MOTIONS:

Board of Education

MOVED by Councilor O'Reilly, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to accept the Board of Education's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$70,913,360.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Town Support for Education

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to reduce the Town Support for Education's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$5,547,480 by \$100,000 to \$5,447,480.

Councilor Jepsen noted that they are reducing the budget allotted for the teachers' pension funds as the town still does not know whether or not they will have to pay it this year, but are leaving \$90,000 in there just in case.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Safety Services

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to accept the Safety Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$10,764,580.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Tustin abstained)

Recreation and Leisure Services

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to accept the Recreation and Leisure Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,600,390.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Human Services

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the Human Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$898,800.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Health Services

MOVED by Councilor Tustin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the Health Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$508,150.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Library Services

MOVED by Councilor Govoni, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the Library Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,717,780.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Development Services

MOVED by Councilor Wilkos, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the Development Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,344,760.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Community Development

MOVED by Councilor O'Reilly, seconded by Councilor Tustin to accept the Community Development's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$103,800.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Public Works and Engineering

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to reduce the Public Works and Engineering's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$6,456,640 by \$8,000 to \$6,448,640.

Councilor Black-Burke noted that this motion reduces the energy and utility expenditures for public works by \$8,000 due to favorable pricing received from the Capitol Region Council of Governments' procurement process.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Information Services

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to accept the Information Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$540,080.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Administrative Services

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to accept the Administrative Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$2,403,970.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

General Government

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the General Government's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,036,260.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

General Services

MOVED by Councilor Tustin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to reduce the General Services' FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$15,027,990 by \$37,000 to \$14,990,990 and furthermore increase the use of the debt service fund balance stated on page Q-2 from \$394,290 to \$570,000 to accommodate the revised debt financing structure for the Spring 2019 bond note issue.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Expenditures

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to reduce the proposed total General Fund expenditures for the FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$118,864,040 by \$145,000 to \$118,719,040.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Revenues

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to increase the Charge Current Services line item number 52517 Special Education Tuition from Other Towns by \$60,000.

Deputy Mayor Terranova noted that this adjustment is being made because over the past few years, we've underestimated this revenue and we're looking to make it align closer to what we've been able to recover from other towns.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to reduce the total revenue amount for the FY 20 proposed budget of \$118,864,040 by \$145,000 to \$118,719,040.

Deputy Mayor Terranova noted that the current levy is changing by \$205,000 from \$98,688,350 to \$98,483,350.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Tax Collection Rate

MOVED by Councilor Wilkos, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the FY 20 proposed tax collection rate of 98.80%.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Senior Tax Relief

MOVED by Councilor Govoni, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the Senior Tax Relief's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$130,000.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Landfill Enterprise Fund

MOVED by Councilor O'Reilly, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe to accept the Landfill Enterprise Fund's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$2,017,770.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Resident Transfer Enterprise Fund

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to accept the Resident Transfer Station Enterprise Fund's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$306,940.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Caring Connection Adult Day Care Center Enterprise Fund

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the Caring Connection Adult Day Care Center Enterprise fund's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$477,070.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Child Development Center

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Councilor Jepsen to accept the Windsor Child Development Enterprise fund's FY 20 proposed budget in the amount of \$1,197,860.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Price Guide

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Terranova to accept the FY 20 Price Guide as presented in appendix G of the proposed budget document.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

7) ADOPT FY 20 PROPOSED BUDGET

See 'Final Motions' under item 6

8) SET DATE FOR ANNUAL VOTE ON BUDGET REFERENDUM

MOVED by Councilor Tustin, seconded by Councilor McAuliffe that the annual vote on the budget be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at all 7 polling locations.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Councilor Jepsen asked what rate they ended up at. Town Manager Souza responded that in terms of the budgetary tax impact, FY 20 is 1.88% higher than FY 19 and on an expenditure basis, it is 3.04% greater than FY19.

Councilor O'Reilly asked if citizens could obtain absentee ballots for the referendum and Town Manager Souza responded that absentee ballots can be requested beginning this Friday.

On behalf of the entire Town Council, Mayor Trinks thanked the town staff and Town Manager Souza for the time, effort, and energy put into making this budget. He also thanked citizens for participating and asked that they also participate in the referendum.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that, as suggested in public comment, it would be great for all nine council members to support the budget in whatever way they can.

Deputy Mayor stated that there are still opportunities to gain information on the budget such as the community forums hosted by the League of Women Voters and CT Votes.

9) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Govoni, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Motion passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Rand
Clerk of the Council