



Council Agenda

Council Chambers
Windsor Town Hall
September 8, 2020



Dialing in by Phone Only:

Please call: **312 626 6799** or **646 558 8656**

1. When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: **873 7291 5893** then press #
2. You will then enter the meeting muted. During Public Comment if you wish to speak press *9 to raise your hand.

Joining in by Computer:

Please go to the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372915893>

1. When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: **873 7291 5893** then press #
2. Only if your computer has a microphone for two way communication, then during Public Comment if you wish to speak press **Raise Hand** in the webinar control. If you do not have a microphone you will need to call in on a phone in order to speak.
3. During Public Comment if you do not wish to speak you may type your comments into the Q&A feature.

7:25 PM Public Hearing

To hear public comment on an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

7:30 PM Regular Council Meeting

1. ROLL CALL
2. PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councilor Govoni
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilor Govoni
4. PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS
5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS
(Three minute limit per speaker)
6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS
7. REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
 - a) Board of Education
 - b) Insurance Commission
 - c) Windsor Housing Authority
8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT



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9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
 10. ORDINANCES
 11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a) *Approve a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION." (Town Manager)
 - b) *Consideration of a request to the State of Connecticut to remove the John Mason statue from the Palisado Green (Councilor Black-Burke)
 - c) *Consideration of recognizing the 2nd Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples Day (Councilor Black-Burke)
 - d) *Approve Electric Vehicle Charging Station User Fee Policy (Town Manager)
 12. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) *Approve job description for Communications and Community Outreach Specialist (Town Manager)
 - b) *Approve an appropriation of \$46,000 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance for a Railroad Quiet Zone Study (Town Manager)
 13. *RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
 14. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS
 - a) *Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting
 - b) *Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting
 - c) *Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Public Hearing
 - d) *Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting
 - e) *Minutes of the August 24, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting
 15. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS
(Three minute limit per speaker)
 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 17. ADJOURNMENT

★Back-up included

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Paul Goldberg, Fire Administrator

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Authorization to Purchase a Fire Department Pumper

Background

The fire department currently uses four first-line pumper vehicles for emergency responses in town, each located in the primary firehouses. These pumpers vary in age from 27 years old to 1 years old. To ensure that response standards are maintained, a regular schedule of replacement is needed for our fire apparatus. Using the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) 1901 guidelines, vehicles older than 15-20 years should be considered second-line apparatus and vehicles older than 25 years are recommended to be taken out of service.

Discussion/Analysis

The pumper vehicle planned to be replaced is currently assigned to the Poqonock Firehouse and is a 1996 Pierce Pumper. This vehicle has a range of equipment with various firefighting capabilities. It also responds to approximately 50% of the fires in town, equalling about 375 responses per year. This creates the need for a dependable, well-equipped and modern piece of apparatus. The equipment on the truck also is aging and is planned on being replaced.

In 2018, the fire department created a committee to develop a town-wide apparatus specification. This specification was used in a bid solicitation recently to purchase a pumper for the Hayden Station Firehouse and the Wilson Firehouse. The result was the submission of a single proposal from Pierce Manufacturing Company. It is proposed to once more acquire this equipment through the nationwide intralocal cooperative purchasing program known as *HGACBuy*. This cooperative purchasing program is geared for use by municipalities, counties and state jurisdictions and has thousands of municipal users. By using this program, we have reduced the cost of the vehicle by \$6,700, saved the time and labor of creating / implementing a bid solicitation process and have stayed consistent with the fire department's standardization of the fleet. The new vehicle would be purchased from the Pierce Manufacturing Company. Delivery of the vehicle is approximately 9-12 months from the time the contract is executed.

Financial Impact

The total purchase cost for a new pumper is \$870,000. Included in this cost is the price of the pumper and the equipment needed to meet both NFPA 1901's guidelines and what historically the fire department has used in the emergencies we respond to.

Proposed funding is a combination of bonding (\$670,000) and 'pay as you go' funding (\$200,000) which is included in the General Fund capital budget portion of the adopted FY 21 operating budget.

Bonding in the amount of \$670,000 is being requested. The average annual debt service based on a 20 year term and a 3.5% interest rate is \$45,800.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motions are recommended for approval:

1) Waiving of the Reading

"RESOLVED, that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the council and copies made available to those persons attending this meeting; and the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

2) Approve Ordinance

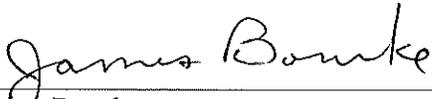
"MOVE to approve a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

Attachments

Bond Ordinance

Certification

I hereby certify that there is \$200,000 in the adopted Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Capital budget to fund the above appropriation.



James Bourke
Finance Director

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED,

Section 1. That the Town of Windsor appropriate EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$870,000) for costs in connection with the replacement of a fire pumper engine through the purchase of a custom designed 2021 fire pumper truck, including necessary fire suppression equipment, forcible entry tools, ventilation equipment and other miscellaneous tools and equipment. The appropriation may be spent for the acquisition and installation of the new equipment and tools, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project and its financing. The Fire Chief is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project and may reduce or modify the project scope, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so reduced or modified. The appropriation shall be funded with \$200,000 included in the General Fund capital appropriation budget for fiscal year 2021, and \$670,000 from the proceeds of bonds and notes authorized pursuant to this Ordinance.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$670,000) to finance, in part, the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes or the receipt of grants for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$670,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes if the notes do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

Section 4. That the Town Manager and either the Treasurer or the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The Director of Finance shall keep a record of the bonds and notes. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and either the Treasurer or the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and either the Treasurer or the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and either the Treasurer or the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or note to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Town Council, the Town Manager, the Treasurer, the Director of Finance, the Director of Public Works and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bond Counsel

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Distributed to Town Council	8/3/20
Public Hearing Advertised	8/21/20
Public Hearing	9/8/20
Adopted	_____
Advertised	_____
Effective Date	_____

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Consideration of Relocating John Mason Statue

Background

Earlier this summer, Councilor Black-Burke raised the topic of requesting the State to relocate the John Mason statue from the Palisado Green. The statue, now standing on Windsor's Palisado Green, was originally erected in Groton in 1889. In 1992, a group petitioned to have the statue removed from what they saw as sacred ground. The State of Connecticut spent several years working to identify and evaluate sites across the state to relocate the statue. In 1996 the State of Connecticut and the town entered into an easement that allowed the 100 year old statue to be relocated to the Palisado Green which is close to John Mason's original 1630's home lot. It was relocated and installed in 1996 by the State of Connecticut.

Discussion/Analysis

The statue is the responsibility of the State of Connecticut. The Town Council approved a 50 year easement with the State of Connecticut in 1996. This easement allows for the placement of the statue and states that the State of Connecticut is responsible for its management, care and maintenance.

Town staff has had discussions with the State of Connecticut relative to the possibility of the statue being moved. The state indicated that they would consider a request to relocate the statue if the Town Council voted as such.

The Windsor Historical Society has communicated their willingness to consider hosting the statue itself if the Town Council and State determine to relocate it. They also stated a strong interest in ensuring that any future interpretation of the statue be as inclusive as possible and that it provide a full and balanced understanding of both past and modern history surrounding the role of John Mason and the statue.

At this time, the Town Council may wish to consider options such as:

- Request the State of Connecticut to remove the statue from town property
- Request the State of Connecticut to relocate the statue and explore options with the Windsor Historical Society to host the statue
- Partner with the State and other stakeholders to add interpretative materials to provide a full and balanced understanding of John Mason and the statue

At the last Town Council meeting, Councilor Jepsen asked if there were any covenants or restrictions relative to where the statue could be located. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is currently researching and preparing a response to that question.

Financial Impact

Preliminary discussions have taken place with the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection concerning the cost of relocating the statue. While no final decision or details have been determined indications are the costs will be borne by the State. The historical society has indicated they would provide funds for interpretative materials and landscaping near the relocated statue.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

At this time, this item is being placed on the Town Council agenda for further Town Council discussion and action relative to a potential request to the State to remove or relocate the statue. Below is a suggested motion for consideration.

“RESOLVED, that the Windsor Town Council respectfully requests the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to relocate the John Mason Statue from the Palisado Green to the Windsor Historical Society and to release the remaining term of the temporary easement with the town.”

Attachments

Communication from Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Easement with State of CT

John Mason's historical significance to the Pequot Massacre is a defining moment in American history, an early example of the hostile and shameful treatment of Tribal nations that has marred the history of the United States. Mason's attack on and burning of the Pequot village at Mystic and its immediate aftermath forever transformed the balance of power and justice on this continent – social, racial, economic, and environmental. The legacy of what colonists called the "Pequot War" saw the first reservations created and policies of human extermination, land expropriation, and indigenous enslavement normalized. Mason's statue is a constant reminder of that bloody morning on May 26, 1637, when Pequot men, women, children and elderly were attacked and murdered while they slept; a genocidal attack meant to annihilate the Pequot nation.

Erected in 1889 during a bygone era when Americans celebrated heinous acts committed by early settlers as heroic, the statue was formerly located in Mystic, Connecticut, on the ruins of the Pequot fort. It was created to commemorate the English victory over the Pequot. A little over a year later, the U.S. Army surrounded a Lakota encampment and concluded what Mason had begun just 250 years earlier with the Wounded Knee Massacre. Although it moved to Windsor in the 1990s, it remains a symbol of Mason and his comrades' attempt to conquer and decimate the original inhabitants of this land.

Despite the attempt to exterminate the Pequots and the centuries of enslavement, displacement, and marginalization that followed, we persisted, nevertheless. Times are changing, and Americans are reckoning with our country's troubled history. A growing number of people no longer support offensive symbols celebrating individuals who committed immoral and detestable acts against other groups of people or those that perpetuate systemic racism. While knowing our country's history is essential, understanding its complexity via public displays of oppressive symbols is unnecessary and cruel.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe supports removing the John Mason statue from public space permanently. Additionally, we encourage Governor Lamont and the General Assembly to support SB-314: An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Native American Studies in the Social Studies Curriculum in the July Special Session. We also recommend the Governor to appoint an ethnically diverse committee with representatives of tribes in Connecticut, educational institutions and museums, to review state-owned statues, monuments, highways, and buildings named after or depicting controversial early explorers and settlers to make recommendations on culturally appropriate alternatives. It is time that our state and country honor the legacy of those who have worked to create a better, more equal, just, and unified nation.

kindest regards,

Lori

Lori A. Potter | Public Affairs Director
MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION
P.O. Box 3060 | Mashantucket CT 06338
O: 860-396-6381 | LPotter@mptn-nsn.gov

TEMPORARY EASEMENT

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

KNOW YE THAT IT, Town of Windsor, a municipal corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and located in the County of Hartford and the State of Connecticut for the consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations received to its full satisfaction of the STATE OF CONNECTICUT, does hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the STATE OF CONNECTICUT, its successors and assigns a temporary easement for the placement and maintenance of the John Mason Monument upon all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Town of Windsor, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut, bounded and described as follows:

A twenty foot by twenty foot square parcel of land shown on a map entitled "John Mason Monument Location on Palisado Green, Windsor, CT, "scale 1'=20', dated August 30, 1995 located within a parcel of land belonging to the Town of Windsor and situated in the Town of Windsor, County of Hartford and the State of Connecticut, known as "Palisado Green" as identified on two maps entitled "Griswold and Fuss, Inc. Windsor CT Community Center Utility, Grading, and Planting Plan", Scale 1 in. = 20 ft. Dated Aug. 28, 1972, sheet 3 of 4 and "State ROW Map, Town of Windsor, Hartford-Springfield from Farmington River Bridge northerly to the Sixth School District Rt. 110", Scale 1'=40 ft., dated Aug. 31, 1928. Said maps are recorded in the Land Records of the Town of Windsor.

Said Palisado Green is bounded on the North, East, and South by North Meadow Road and on the West by Palisado Avenue, Rt. 159, a State Highway.

In addition the Town of Windsor does hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the STATE OF CONNECTICUT a right to pass or repass on foot or in vehicles upon, over and across said "Palisado Green" as shown on the aforesaid map, for the purpose of accessing the aforementioned twenty foot by twenty foot parcel comprising the easement area for the John Mason Monument located in Palisado Green and for the purpose of exercising all rights conferred upon the State through the grant of easement with respect to the twenty by twenty foot parcel.

0
CONVEYANCE TAX RECEIVED
Conveyance Tax received
Hester, R. Dean
TOWN CLERK OF WINDSOR

VOL 1083 PG 412

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 22a-26 of the General Statutes
of Connecticut as revised.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

William B. Gundling

William B. Gundling
Associate Attorney General

Date: 4/29/96

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WINDSOR TOWN CLERK

96 MAY -2 PM 12: 31

VOL 1083 PG 410

BY *William H. Quinn*
TOWN CLERK

001884

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Scott Colby Jr., Assistant Town Manager (on behalf of Councilor Black-Burke)

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day

Background

Within the last few years, states and communities across the country have recognized Indigenous Peoples Day in order to promote the appreciation, tolerance, reconciliation, understanding, friendship, and continued partnerships among all people and the Indigenous Peoples of this land. Councilor Black-Burke has requested the Town Council consider recognizing the 2nd Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Discussion/Analysis

Indigenous people have inhabited the State of Connecticut along with the Town of Windsor since time immemorial. The many contributions made to our community through indigenous peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, and arts have shaped the character of the nation, state and local community.

If the Town Council elects to recognize the 2nd Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples Day, this day would serve as a time to reflect on the experiences of Indigenous Peoples to potentially help facilitate greater access and opportunity.

Financial Impact

None

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

“RESOLVED, that the Town Council recognizes the 2nd Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples Day.”

Attachments

None

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Scott W. Colby Jr., Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations Fee Policy

Background

Over the past several years, both Deputy Mayor McAuliffe and Councilor Wilkos have raised the possibility of the town installing an electric vehicle charging station for public use. Town Council reviewed and approved the appropriation for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station project at the August 3rd Town Council meeting. The charging station is slated to be installed in the town-owned parking lot at the corner of Broad Street and Maple Avenue. The topic of establishing a user fee structure was referred to the Town Improvements Committee for review and recommendation to the full Town Council.

Discussion/Analysis

Staff has reviewed a range of municipal charging stations throughout the state and country and have found that there are three common fee structures.

- No fee
 - *Many municipalities in CT participated in the CT DEEP Pilot program for EV Charging Stations which required they not to have a fee*
- Flat rate per hour(s)
 - Fees range from \$2.00 per two hours - \$4.00 per two hours
 - Average of \$2.74
- Per kWh
 - Fees range from \$0.15 per kWh - \$0.60 per kWh
 - Average of \$0.37 per kWh

Staff is suggesting a flat fee rate structure of \$2.50 for two hours of use. This would provide sufficient time to ensure a vehicle has enough of a charge and will ensure the vehicle will relocate after the two hour period to allow for other vehicles to access the charging station.

Another possibility is to institute a several month-long trial period with no user fee to gauge user activity and utility costs.

Financial Impact

None

Other Board Action

The Town Improvements Committee met on August 19, 2020 and recommended that the Council approve that there be no user fee implemented for the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations through July 1, 2021 as a trial period, of which can be rescinded at any time.

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

“MOVE that there be no user fee implemented for the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations through July 1, 2021 as a trial period, of which can be rescinded at any time.”

Attachments

None

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Amelia Bliss, Human Resources Director
Enita Jubrey, Assistant to the Town Manager

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Approve Communications and Community Outreach Specialist Job Description

Background

The Public Relations Division of the Information Services Department includes the full time position of Assistant to the Town Manager. One of the primary responsibilities of this position is planning and implementing marketing and communications efforts for the town. At the April 22, 2020 Town Council budget meeting, the Assistant to the Town Manager outlined a realignment of staff sparked by the retirement of the Human Services Director, whereby the Assistant to the Town Manager would be assuming oversight of the Human Services Department. During that presentation, it was also noted that the Public Relations budget included 25% funding of a recreation administrative aide who was being mentored on special event planning including Memorial and Veterans Day, production of "There's a lot to do in Windsor," social media and other organization-wide public relations work similar to some of the duties this employee has been performing for the recreation department.

As we move forward to refine and enhance the position of the Administrative Aide, it has become evident that the duties and responsibilities being assigned are above and beyond the scope of an Administrative Aide position.

The proposed Communications and Community Outreach Specialist job description better describes the professional level public information and community engagement work required of this position. The job description was prepared by the Assistant to the Town Manager and the Human Resources Director.

Discussion/Analysis

The main duties of the Communications and Community Outreach Specialist include working with the Town Manager's office and town departments to increase the public's awareness of the town's services, initiatives, accomplishments, special events and emergency communications. This position works independently and as part of a team to develop communications plans and provide consistent and timely messaging.

The Communications and Community Outreach Specialist will be involved in assisting all departments with marketing and public relations programs, strategic initiatives and outreach-related activities. These include but are not limited to the town's website, social media platforms, special events and other print publications.

Staff is not proposing any additional FTE's to staff the position. The duties outlined for the proposed job description of Communications and Community Outreach Specialist is currently being performed under the title of Administrative Aide.

A job analysis questionnaire and point factor evaluation were completed, as well as an external salary survey. The results indicate the Communications and Community Outreach Specialist position should be placed in pay grade 4 of the administrative pay plan. The pay range for this grade is \$51,107 - \$68,994.

Financial Impact

Funds are included in the approved FY 21 Operating Budget.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

“MOVE that the job description for the position of Communications and Community Outreach Specialist be approved and the position be placed in pay grade 4 of the administrative pay plan.”

Attachments

Proposed job description

**DRAFT
TOWN OF WINDSOR
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Job Title: Communications and Community Outreach Specialist
Department: Information Services
Reports To: Assistant To the Town Manager
FLSA Status: Exempt
Prepared By: Human Resources
Prepared Date: August 24, 2020
Approved By: Town Council
Approved Date:

GENERAL PURPOSE:

Performs professional level public information and community engagement work for the town and town departments to increase the public's awareness of the town's services, initiatives, accomplishments and special events. Contributes to team efforts to ensure a cohesive communication approach that includes consistent and timely messaging. Performs work in a manner consistent with the town's vision, values and service excellence expectations.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Assists the town manager's office and departments with developing, planning and implementing marketing and public relations programs, strategic initiatives and outreach-related activities, making appropriate recommendations when necessary.

Independently plans and designs materials, writes speeches and scripts to produce content that develops creative and timely messaging related to marketing, public relations and community engagement.

Coordinates with departments to ensure communications and related materials are consistent with the town's standards of quality and cultural competence and language, including design, content, accuracy and translation when appropriate.

Provides consultation and training to departments on social media use and message development, website development, and answers questions from staff related to these areas.

Uses a variety of media and technology to distribute content including social media, town website, print, newsletters, video productions, Intranet and press releases. Monitors, and when needed, edits user-generated content in line with the town's language, social media policy and the organization's values and mission. Provides consultation and technology support to other departments when needed.

Recommends social media strategy through research, platform determination, audience identification and messaging to effectively meet deadlines and ensure accuracy.

Develops methods to measure the success of social media strategy, website updates, video productions and graphic design projects based on the town's priorities and communications programs.

Provides crisis communication assistance, including performing work during emergency and inclement weather situations

Responds to inquiries about initiatives, services and programs promoted by the town or refers inquirers to appropriate points of contact.

Collaborates with IT department to plan, design and update content on the town's website and Intranet.

Participates in planning special events, activities and media requests.

Participates on task teams and committees and serves as liaison to various committees and community groups as assigned.

Cultivates and maintains effective relationships with town departments, the media and community stakeholders.

COMPETENCIES

To perform the job successfully, an individual should demonstrate the following competencies:

Problem Solving - Identifies and resolves problems in a timely manner; gathers and analyzes information skillfully; exhibits sound and accurate judgment.

Interpersonal Skills - Is respectful with the ability to establish effective working relationships with staff, community, organizations, governmental agencies and the public. Uses a high level of judgment and has the ability to express ideas effectively in oral and written forms. Has the ability to be innovative, creative and receptive to present and receive new ideas. Listens to others without interrupting. Shows respect and sensitivity for cultural differences. Is able to work independently.

Customer Service - Responds promptly to customer needs; Responds to requests for service and assistance with tact, fairness, respect and sensitivity; Meets commitments while paying attention to detail and accuracy.

Organizational Support - Follows policies and procedures; Organizes own work, sets priorities and completes administrative tasks correctly and on time; supports organization's goals and values and is an effective team player.

Attendance/Punctuality - Is consistently at work and on time; Ensures work responsibilities are covered when absent; arrives at meetings and appointments on time.

Quality Management - Demonstrates accuracy and thoroughness.

Quantity - Meets productivity standards; Completes work in timely manner and uses time efficiently.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience

Bachelor's degree from four-year accredited college or university in public administration, communications, journalism, public relations or related field. Two years related experience in public/media relations, marketing and promoting programs and events and/or training; or, any equivalent combination of education and experience which provides a demonstrated ability to perform the duties of the position.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of basic principles and practices of public administration, communications and public relations, ability to learn the function and methods of operation of the town, management staff and departments, basic laws, ordinances and regulations, and communication principles
- Knowledge and skill in the use of various applicable design, email, video and social media management software applications including Adobe, WordPress, and Google Analytics. Skill and ability to work with MS Office applications (Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher) the Internet, social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Skill in listening attentively and actively; communicating information effectively both orally and in writing, making presentations, meeting deadlines, working with a diverse group of people with various educational backgrounds and skills; working in a team environment and gaining cooperation from peers; overseeing projects and all related activities.
- Photography, graphic design, video and video editing skills, some computer programming desirable
- Flexibility, high work ethic and ability to engage and motivate others as part of a dynamic team

Special Requirements

A valid driver's license or ability to obtain one and a good driving record.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

Computer, tablet, audiovisual equipment, copier, phone and automobile.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Must be able to sit and stand at work station for extended periods of time. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to communicate with others in person and over the telephone. Must have ability to travel to various town buildings and other locations. Must be able to operate cameras and other audio and video equipment. Must have ability to bend and reach to retrieve and replace files in filing cabinets. Must be able to enter information accurately into the computer and maintain manual records. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and ability to adjust focus in order to create content, inspect documents, read written instructions, and verify data.

Work is performed in an office setting. The noise level in the work environment is usually quiet with background sounds from customers, coworkers, and office machines. Occasionally required to drive to other town offices under possible adverse weather conditions, including extreme heat and cold. Occasionally required to work outside during special events and programs.

The above description is illustrative of tasks and responsibilities. It is not meant to be all-inclusive of every task or responsibility. The description does not constitute an employment agreement between the Town of Windsor and the employee and is subject to change by the Town as the needs of the Town and requirements of the job change.

Agenda Item Summary

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Adam D. Kessler, PE, Assistant Town Engineer

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Railroad Grade Crossing Quiet Zone Study

Background

The Amtrak railway corridor for the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Line runs through the Town of Windsor from the southern town limit to the northern town limit. There are seven at-grade crossings within the Town of Windsor which see an estimated thirty-five thru trains per day. Under the Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222), locomotive engineers are required to sound train horns 15-20 seconds before entering and no more than a quarter mile in advance of each of these crossings.

Designation as a Railroad Quiet Zone would allow the reduced use of train horns when approaching these crossings if additional safety and warning measures are put in place at rail crossings. Train horns may still be used within a designated Quiet Zone in emergency situations or to comply with other Federal regulations or railroad operating rules.

A community information meeting regarding the Railroad Quiet Zone designation process was held at the town hall on December 19, 2019. During this meeting, a representative of the Federal Railroad Administration presented an overview of the Quiet Zone regulations and requirements and the CT Department of Transportation reviewed rail crossing improvements that have been completed to date.

Discussion/Analysis

As a first step in the possible establishment of a quiet zone at the seven at-grade crossings within the Town of Windsor, staff recommends the completion of a feasibility study. This study would include a review of each crossing to provide updated data to the Federal Railway Administration and identify potential safety improvements. The final report developed through this study would provide recommended improvements to meet the requirements for designation as a Quiet Zone as well as an estimated project budget to complete the improvements.

Staff interviewed several transportation, transit and rail system consulting firms. The preferred firm is SRF Consulting Group, LLC (SRF) from Minneapolis, MN based on their range of experience completing similar projects, project approach, team qualifications and pricing. The firm has completed 58 quiet zone studies across the country since 2005. The feasibility study would be completed within 120 days from the notice to proceed date.

Financial Impact

Five proposals were received with project fees ranging from \$24,150 to \$136,359. Staff is requesting Town Council appropriate \$46,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to fund the study. This amount includes the base consulting fee of \$39,887 as well as a contingency for potential updating of vehicle traffic counts and additional public outreach or informational meetings.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

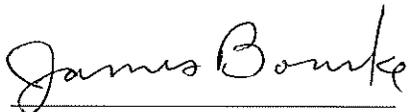
“MOVE to approve an appropriation of \$46,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance for the Railroad Grade Crossing Quiet Zone Study.”

Attachments

None

Certification

I hereby certify that \$46,000 is available in the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to fund the above appropriation.



James Bourke
Finance Director

Town Council
Resignations/Appointments/Reappointments
September 8, 2020

Resignations

None

Appointments / Reappointments (to be acted upon at tonight's meeting)

- A. One Democratic Member
Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities
Three Year Term to expire January 31, 2023 or until a successor is appointed
(Estelle Labarre)

“MOVE to APPOINT Dave Pekarski as a Democratic member to the Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities for a three year term to expire January 31, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.”

- B. One Democratic Member
Conservation Commission
Five Year Unexpired Term to expire November 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed
(Margaret Harvey – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Bradford Robinson as a Democratic member to the Conservation Commission for a five year unexpired term to expire November 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed.”

- C. One Democratic Member
Youth Commission
Three Year Term to expire September 30, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
(Andrea Barton-Reeves - resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Julian Martinez as a Democratic member to the Youth Commission for a three year term to expire September 30, 2021 or until a successor is appointed.”

Names submitted for consideration of appointment

- A. One Democratic Alternate Member
Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities
Two Year Term to expire November 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed
(Linda Rickard – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Charles Copeland as a Democratic Alternate member to the Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities for a two year term to expire November 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed.”

- B. One Democratic Alternate Member
Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities
Two Year Term to expire January 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed
(Donna Grossman – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Sharon Gauthier as a Democratic Alternate member to the Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities for a two year term to expire January 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed.”

- C. One Democratic Member
Conservation Commission
Five Year Unexpired Term to expire November 30, 2024 or until a successor is appointed
(Dominic DeCarlo - resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Tammy Young as a Democratic member to the Conservation Commission for a five year unexpired term to expire November 30, 2024 or until a successor is appointed.”

- D. One Democratic Member
Human Relations Commission
Three Year Term to expire May 31, 2023 or until a successor is appointed
(Pamela Lofton-McGeorge – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Rebecca Jacobsen as a Democratic member to the Human Relations Commission for a three year term to expire May 31, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.”

- E. One Republican Member
Human Relations Commission
Three Year Term to expire May 31, 2023 or until a successor is appointed
(Tracy Green – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Joshua Amaro as a Republican member to the Human Relations Commission for a three year term to expire May 31, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.”

- F. One Democratic Member
Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee
Three Year Term to expire April 30, 2023 or until a successor is appointed
(Janice DuFrend – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Lakisha Hyatt as a Democratic member to the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee for a three year term to expire April 30, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.”

- G. One Democratic Member
Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee
Three Year Term to expire April 30, 2023 or until a successor is appointed
(Dionne Robinson – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Karen Zak as a Democratic member to the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee for a three year term to expire April 30, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.”

- H. One Republican Member
Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee
Three Year Term to expire April 30, 2023 or until a successor is appointed
(Herbert Virgo – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT Kim McCloud as an Unaffiliated member to the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee for a three year term to expire April 30, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.”

- I. One Republican Alternate Member
Zoning Board of Appeals
Two Year Term to expire November 10, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
(Nicolas Dethlefsen – resigned)

“MOVE to APPOINT James Durant as a Republican Alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a two year term to expire November 10, 2021 or until a successor is appointed.”

July 6, 2020

Special Town Council
meeting minutes

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
July 6, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the special meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joe McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, and Councilor Lenworth Walker

Absent: Councilor Kenneth Wilkos

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, to enter into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. for the purpose of Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation (Walgreens).

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joe McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, and Councilor Lenworth Walker

Staff: Peter Souza, Town Manager

Guests: Kevin Deneen, Town Attorney, O'Malley, Deneen, Leary, Messina and Oswecki

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to exit Executive Session and re-enter the Regular Town Council meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert

July 6, 2020

Regular Town Council
meeting minutes



**TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
JULY 6, 2020
Regular Town Council Meeting**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joe McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, and Councilor Lenworth Walker

Absent: Councilor Kenneth Wilkos

2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Councilor Black-Burke led the group in prayer/reflection.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Black-Burke led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS - None

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Sally Grossman, 106 Niles Road, spoke in favor of removing the John Mason statue from the Palisado Green. Ms. Grossman explained that John Mason is known for the acts of murder he committed, the Pequot Mystic Massacre, and bringing slavery to Connecticut. Despite many locations wanting the statue for their museum, Windsor acquired the statue. When the statue was moved, a new plaque was placed with it, ignoring the gruesome points in this man's historical story. Ms. Grossman expressed that it is problematic that the Mayor of Windsor had not yet addressed the savagery this statue stands for and hopes that some remarks made can be clarified by the Mayor himself. Ms. Grossman stated that it is not appropriate to allow this statue to stand in the Town of Windsor any longer.

Leroy Smith, 531 Edgewood, commented in regard to the Town of Windsor declaring racism as a public health crisis. Mr. Smith would like the Town Council and other committees to lead by example. He suggested that the Town start by hiring a more diverse group of people, especially within the Town Council and the various committees. Mr. Smith's second comment referred to the Amazon project and recommended the town adopt a resolution, since Amazon will be

bringing more money to the Town of Windsor. His third point was to reorganize the Economic Development department and use some of the tax dollars from Amazon to hire new professionals to refocus the town's initiatives and shift to focusing on smaller businesses. Mr. Smith made his final point by stating that he believes the Conservation Commission does not give a fair chance for the community to get involved and voice their opinion on matters such as the Amazon project. If there is more of a chance, then their voices will be heard more.

Donna Grossman, 781 Kennedy Road, addressed the change in population after the arrival of Columbus and the Europeans, due to disease and murder. Ms. Grossman told the story of John Mason and his gruesome attacks on the Pequots. She believes that the history of John Mason has not been taught appropriately to the people of Windsor. Ms. Grossman explained that other countries display memorials and statues differently by honoring the fallen, not the leaders who committed heinous murders. Ms. Grossman would like the Town of Windsor to reflect on this, remove the statue, and to rename Columbus Day. These items are the first baby steps to moving forward with the proclamation on racism.

Beckie Jacobson, 50 Lighthouse Hill Road, stated that the statue of John Mason is not supported by her, and the statue was not commissioned by Windsor artists. The monument does not teach history, it is simply a whitewashed statue of a man who killed many indigenous people. She believes the statue should be donated to a museum with a truthful history attached to it, or destroyed, dependent upon what the Native American Pequot people want. Ms. Jacobson does not agree with keeping the statue displayed and honoring a murderer.

Anthony Bowski, 38 Stacy Drive, spoke out in regard to the John Mason statue. While it may have been okay to honor this man in the 1800's, knowing now how he treated the Pequot people, it is no longer appropriate. We should not honor a man who mistreated so many people and should be taught as a lesson of what to avoid. Mr. Bowski stated that what John Mason has done should not be forgotten, but it should not be honored either.

Alan Simon, 49 Ford Crossing, Northampton Massachusetts, former resident of Windsor. He has advocated for removing this statue for years and would like to emphasize the meaning of the statue. The statue goes beyond the murders John Mason committed. It was placed originally in 1889, in mystic where the massacre occurred. The John Mason statue is a final declaration of victory over the indigenous people. The statue was raised at the time of final victory and it is literally a statue to commemorate white supremacy. John Mason fostered the development of African slavery in Connecticut. Mr. Simon asked that the Town of Windsor and the State of Connecticut remove the statue. The John Mason statue should not have a place of honor anywhere. It is time to stand on the right side of history.

Grant Kiehne, 603 Bricklayer Road, made a comment regarding the Amazon deal. He would like to look at the other end of the spectrum regarding small businesses in town. Most residents cherish small businesses such as local coffee shops, car shops, gutter and lawn care services, etc. He would like to urge the Council to sort out and look at things from the bottom up, realizing the impact it may make for the smaller business owners. Mr. Kiehne highlighted that if he can't walk into the town hall for a list of small businesses then there might be a problem with the support provided to the small businesses in Windsor.



Hilary Carpenter, 45 Bradford Drive, spoke in favor of removing the John Mason statue from the Town of Windsor. Mason's claim to fame is the slaughter of the Pequots and Native American genocide. He also introduced slavery to the State of Connecticut. A statue is meant to be a monument to commemorate a person or an event, or to recall or show respect for someone or something. John Mason is not the appropriate person to recall or respect. The statue does not belong to Windsor, it belongs to the State of Connecticut and the state can place the statue somewhere else. Ms. Carpenter stated that this should be an easy choice for the Council to make.

Beth Caruso, 147 Pleasant Street, did some research on John Mason and stated she does not appreciate looking up at Mason for his extensive line of deaths that he is responsible for. Ms. Caruso believes that Mason does not deserve to be on a pedestal. The community needs more education about the Pequot war, and John Mason's role in it. There were unwarranted accusations towards the Pequots, which was then followed by pillaging and destroying natives' villages and murders. Surviving Pequots were enslaved and traded to the Caribbean for African slaves. Ms. Caruso wants a correct history to be told and believes this cannot be done by honoring John Mason with his statue in town.

Beatrice Mathis, 95 Timothy Terrace, stated that many statues have been removed in the past month. She would like to express that the statue of John Mason should be removed, as it is disgraceful to a woman of color and a town to declare racism as a public health crisis to have a statue such as John Mason's present in the town. Ms. Mathis stated that this is one of the first steps in addressing racism as a public health crisis and to consider removing it.

Deacon Art Miller would like to discuss the removal of the John Mason statue in regard to what will replace it. History should not be erased but it should be accompanied with a plaque to show how horrible of a person he was. Mr. Miller stated that the entire community needs to learn about the hatred that existed, the students of Windsor should be educated about him, and there should be a reconciliation of the statue. Mr. Miller believes it is a shame that a statue like this is in the community and should eventually be replaced with a statue of a Native American to commemorate the history of the Pequots.

Naomi Clarke, 56 Timothy Terrace, is a first-generation survivor of the holocaust, and is of Native American descent. While the initial placement of the statue was brought in controversy, the current location represents the epitome of hypocrisy due to Mason's display of racism. Ms. Clarke would like to see a good example set for her children and future generations in the town of Windsor. She does support the teaching of the true history, not the white version that is regularly taught in schools. Ms. Clarke expressed that Columbus Day is referred to as Indigenous People's Day in some locations and she would love to see a shift in town to be a diverse and inclusive community by teaching the true history of the community and by changing the meaning of this day. Ms. Clarke wants to see how Windsor can commit to change by removing the John Mason statue.

Lakisha Hyatt, 104 Benjamin Court, would like to ask after reading the results of the Wilson redevelopment survey, that the committee revisit the results and share it to the community. The larger group that responded does not live in the area and he wanted the Wilson-Deerfield



community to be heard with their concerns and responses. Ms. Hyatt is thankful for the conversation of removing the statue of John Mason, and feels it is necessary. She would like to request that it be a part of a larger process, and she recommends that the Board of Education give an accurate history and that it should be included in the Windsor school system. She also agreed that Native Americans and indigenous individuals have a voice within that history and the establishment of where the statue is relocated. Ms. Hyatt agreed that there should be a plaque or recognition of the history.

Adam Gutcheon, 1121 Windsor Station Drive, has been against the John Mason statue for 25 years. He stated he would have taken it away long ago. For moral reasons, it is a matter for Native Americans to decide what happens to the statue as well as including the Pequot Museum in the decision. It should be up to the Native Americans and the State of Connecticut, not up to the Windsor community itself.

Ryan Parker, 1112 Palisado Avenue, stated that as a Windsor community it would be the epitome of hypocrisy if we allow the statue to remain in town due to Mason's many accounts of racism, and to let the removal of this statue be the spark of change for the community in the name of justice for all.

Liz Dupont, 78 Palisado Avenue, would like to thank the Windsor Council for moving forward with declaring racism as a public health crisis. She agreed that we choose who we honor and how. This statue is deeply offensive to herself and others. She believes that this is a great educational opportunity and we should get high school students and other community members involved in removing the statue and let it be known what happens to it once it is removed.

Timothy Curtis, 20 Kendrick Lane, asked the Town Council to formally consider the removal of the John Mason statue. It does not fit who we are as a town and there is no such thing as a generic statue. John Mason is not depicted with anything that established the start for the State of Connecticut or Windsor. The original plaque commemorates the Pequot Massacre, killing hundreds of Native American men, women, and children. It is a statue of a white colonist who burned a Native American village to the ground, which is a result of an act of racism. The statue was supposed to include Native Americans, but it never happened. The statue itself still glorifies a man who led a massacre of Native Americans. A more appropriate place for this statue would be in a museum. A good replacement for the statue would be Nancy Toney, Connecticut's last enslaved person. She is buried in the Palisado cemetery and there is a portrait of her at the Loomis Chaffe school. Mr. Curtis would like the Council to consider this as an option.

Elizabeth Yetman, 82 Robin Road, supports the removal of the statue as someone who studies history. What a historian would do is consider the importance and the impact of John Mason and why the statue was erected at the turn of the century. It was originally erected to commemorate John Mason's leadership and establish the significance of the massacre. This demonstrates eradicating and removing native peoples whenever there was conflict that could not be easily solved. This is no longer something we as a nation are proud of and for that reason, the statue should be removed.

Doug Shipman, 96 Palisado Avenue, the Director of the Windsor Historical Society, stated that in the past you might have expected someone in his position to say that 'history is complex', that people like John Mason did both good and bad things, and to argue for the preservation of the statue. While some of these things may be true, it is clear that systemic racism is very real in our country and in our town. Windsor Historical Society is working to address its own history in this area. His professional ethic, as leader of a historical organization, and its mission, compel him to argue for the preservation of all artifacts of the town's history. It does not, however, compel him to argue for maintaining this statue in a place of prominence in our town. Windsor Historical Society has, and will continue to offer options that we hope, will result in the preservation of this statue. Whether that is helping to relocate the statue by accepting it into our museum collections, or helping develop and install interpretive panels so people can learn about the history and issues surrounding this statue, including the voice of the Pequot Tribal Nations that were injured by John Mason, or some other option. Windsor Historical Society hopes that the statue can be preserved as an artifact of Windsor history for many of the reasons stated here today, and so that people may remember and learn from our past.

Sally Grossman, wanted to submit testimony via email.

Lauren Shay Warner, 51 Taylor Street, would like to request the removal of the John Mason statue because she is ashamed that there is a statue in her town to honor a man who brought terror to so many. A diverse town should use this time to progress toward a more inclusive place. Her opinion was also directly emailed to the Council.

John Jacobson, 50 Lighthouse Hill Road, felt strongly that the statue should not be in such a prominent place in town and should be removed. It is an atrocity to the town and should not be forgotten but rather be a solid reminder about the history of how the conquering of the United States should be remembered.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Dobler would like to commend the community as well as the state for continuing to wear the face masks and using common sense in order to get past this pandemic of COVID-19.

Councilor Walker hopes that everyone had a peaceful Fourth of July weekend and wants everyone to continue to stay safe and support the small businesses in town. Councilor Walker agreed that it is important to focus more on residential housing rather than the warehouse entities in town and he shares Mr. Leroy Smith's sentiments.

Councilor Govoni spoke directly to a speaker from the public commentary by stating that there is indeed a diverse crowd of individuals who are involved in the Recreation Department, the Department of Public Works, Conservation Committee specifically, as well as other committees in town.

Councilor Black-Burke would like to thank the residents and speakers for their commentary tonight. As a Council, it is our responsibility to add the removal of the statue to the Town Council agenda as well as working on renaming Columbus Day.

Councilor Rampulla Bress would like to express her appreciation for the public's ideas and passionate discussion toward the removal of the statue. Councilor Rampulla Bress concurred with Councilor Black-Burke that this topic be added to the agenda.

Councilor Jepsen agreed with Art Miller and looks forward to the removal of the John Mason statue being addressed at the Town Council meeting in August.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe supports action on all of the topics brought up earlier. Two weeks ago in the *Windsor Journal* a very important topic was brought up by Councilor Walker. It was mentioned to have serious dialogue about race, and that conversations lead to acceptance and understanding. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe has pondered on what white privilege means to him and would also like to mention that not everyone knows what white privilege is, or what it means. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe expressed that it means the color of your skin does not determine many important things such as what kind of job you have, the interaction you've had with authorities and so on. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe would like for people to be more thoughtful and be more honest with themselves.

Mayor Trinks agreed that all of the important topics have been discussed and concurs with the council members.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSION

Mayor Trinks stated that the Board of Education, Public Building Commission and the Metropolitan District Commission have submitted a written report to the Council, and each Councilor has received a copy. The Human Relations Commission does not have a report for tonight's meeting.

- a) Board of Education
- b) Public Building Commission
- c) Human Relations Commission
- d) Metropolitan District Commission

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Absentee Ballots for August 11, 2020 Primary

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Lamont signed an executive order allowing all registered voters in CT to vote absentee in the August 11, 2020 primary. The Secretary of the State mailed each affiliated registered voter in the state an application that they will need to fill out and return in order to obtain an absentee ballot. That application, was sent via USPS and included a postage paid return envelope.

Windsor will also have a secure ballot drop box, located in the Town Hall Parking lot, to allow voters to deliver their absentee ballots in person without close personal contact. For those who

would still like to appear in person to cast their vote, our seven polling locations will be open on August 11th.

Board of Education Summer Food Service Program

The summer food service program through the Board of Education offers free meals for anyone 18 and under with no registration required. The program runs from July 1st to August 21st. Locations include:

- Windsor High School – Monday through Friday from 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM
- Oliver Ellsworth School – Monday through Friday from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Wilson Library – Monday through Friday from 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Windsor - United Way COVID-19 Relief Fund

The Windsor Chamber of Commerce, Town of Windsor and Connecticut United Ways have teamed together to help our Windsor neighbors who are suffering economic distress due to the pandemic. The Windsor COVID-19 Response Fund provides financial assistance for basic needs to families with limited resources. If an individual or family has been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact Windsor Social Services at 860- 285-1839 to determine eligibility.

Pools and Camp Programs at Open

As reported at the last meeting, Welch and Goslee Pools are open. We have limited capacity at each facility and ask that patrons reserve times on-line. Various health and safety measures are in place.

Northwest Park Camp Fox Fire are being offered for children in grades 1 through 8.

Recreation Summer Fun Camps are also operating with safety precautions on place. These camps serve children ages 5 through 13.

The Discovery Center on Palisado Avenue is also offering a summer day programs for children 3 years old to 10 years of age.

More information can be found on the town's website at <https://townofwindsorct.com/recreation/>.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Dobler stated the committee was able to meet last week and it was a very informative meeting. The information of what will happen over the next several years in town was brought up. The committee is waiting to hear about the finalization of placement for the cell tower that is slated to go up between Day Hill and Prospect Hill, in which there is a wait on the formal application for that placement. Councilor Dobler would also like Town Manager Souza to confirm the dates for the EV Charger and would like to have one station with two charging heads. Councilor Dobler's final topic was in relation to the quiet zone study which is looking like it will be finished in July or August and have a report by September. Town Manager Souza confirmed that the dates are within their scheduled time frame, and everything



should be finished by the winter. There is still funding that will be sought after for the Electric Vehicle Charging Unit. The quiet zone study is also waiting for approval, funding and authorization later in the summer and there will be a 90 or 120 day time frame after that is confirmed.

Special Projects Committee – Councilor Dobler – Nothing to discuss.

Health & Safety Committee – Councilor Black-Burke stated the Health and Safety committee met on June 29th and discussed police officer training, implicit bias, and crisis intervention. There is a chart available in the minutes. The chart identified that there are some topics to look into further. What had eluded us is what Windsor would expect for their police officers and to have conversation from the police officers about what their expectations are. Another topic that was discussed at the meeting was the unanimous vote to proclaim racism as a public health crisis and understanding that the committee will continue to work with the Town Manager to create next steps and a plan to put forward. The short list is to continue conversations about the statue and trainings for the Board of Education and other various institutions about dismantling systems and continuing to pursue this proclamation.

Personnel Committee – Councilor Rampulla Bress stated the committee met twice on June 24th and July 1st and had the pleasure of interviewing 25+ candidates for nine available spots. There are people to put forward to review this evening and there will be a lot more people to discuss for second choices they requested at the next meeting.

Finance Committee – Deputy Mayor McAuliffe - Nothing to report.

10) ORDINANCES - None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Approve proposed Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2021-2026

MOVED by Councilor Dobler, seconded by Councilor Jepsen that the proposed FY 2021-FY 2026 Capital Improvements Plan be approved as presented.

Councilor Dobler discussed that the next couple of years have been reviewed for the annual road improvement and nothing was out of the ordinary. It was a very smooth meeting without any surprises. It was a typical annual Capital Improvement Program meeting.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe would like to know how payment would work for the user of the EV charger. Councilor Dobler responded that it is something that would be discussed in a Council meeting to decide what was best for the Town of Windsor and the community.

Councilor Rampulla Bress was wondering if the initiatives could be highlighted in the plan. Town Manager Souza responded that the Town Council has set aside money to allow design for the narrowing of Broad Street from four travel lanes to one travel lane in each direction with on street parking. That project is scheduled for FY 2021 for design and FY 2023 for construction and will

include the process for federal grants. The Town Council will be asked to meet and approve this project in the future.

Councilor Jepsen referred to the projection of the 7% debt service, and if anything is stretched out in order to get there. Town Manager Souza explained that the town is borrowing a little less than what is projected, rather than stretching the project out to abide by the 7% projection. In terms of the debt service, it is the overall General Fund of the operating budget. In the immediate future, expenditures have been adjusted, so that may be part of the factor.

Councilor Rampulla Bress discussed the public's interest regarding the Wilson area and the beautification of that area. Councilor Rampulla Bress wondered if there is any kind of plan for improvements for the Wilson-Deerfield area. Town Manager Souza responded that the town took on the responsibility in terms of the landscape many years ago, and hopefully the condition of the curbs and paved medians will be improved, but that is ultimately determined by the state. This will have to be funded by the state since it is much more than just landscaping.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Authorize acceptance and expenditure of grant funds for the Archer Road Rehabilitation project with the Town Council acting in lieu of a Special Town Meeting per Executive Order 7S

Approve Findings Per Executive Order 7S

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, that per Executive Order 7S, the Windsor Town Council finds that to prevent possible financial loss and permit the orderly operation of the municipality the Town Council, as the town's legislative body, is acting in lieu of the Special Town Meeting, with regard to the First Supplemental Project Authorization Letter for the Archer Road Rehabilitation Project, Project No. L164-0005, under Master Agreement No. 02.28-02 (13)."

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

Motion to Approve Acceptance and Expenditure of Grant Funds

RESOLVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that Peter Souza, Town Manager, be authorized to sign the Project Authorization Letter for the Archer Road Rehabilitation Project, Project No. L164-0006, under Master Agreement No. 02.28-02 (13). and MOVE to accept funds from the State of Connecticut and authorize the expenditure of these funds for the Archer Road Rehabilitation Project.

Bob Jarvis, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer, stated the PAL for the Archer Road Rehabilitation project includes a total estimated construction cost of \$1,940,868, with the construction phase of the project being funded 100% by the state. Upon the receipt of construction bids, the state will transfer money in the amount of the low bid plus an additional 20% to cover incidental construction inspection and administration, material testing, and other

miscellaneous costs. When the project is complete, any remaining funds are to be returned to the state. The project will be bid mid-summer and work is expected to be substantially completed by late-fall.

At this time, staff is respectfully requesting that the Council authorize the Town Manager to sign the PAL and authorize the acceptance of state grant funds and expenditure of the funds for the project.

Councilor Jepsen asked if the Section 8-24 review was handled appropriately since it is usually done before we appropriate the money and whether or not there is a holdup and if there were any extra requirements or if it is mainly state funded. Mr. Jarvis confirmed that there is not a holdup of money and it is just the way everything worked out. Mr. Jarvis also replied that there will be a third-party inspector that gets involved and there will be inspection testing. There will also be an audit months or years down the road as with any Department of Transportation project.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

- b) Introduce a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

RESOLVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, 'AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION' is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to introduce an ordinance entitled, 'AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.'

Town Manager Peter Souza and Bob Jarvis, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer stated that the construction project will include the replacement of the existing gas-fired roof top unit, air zoning distribution VAV boxes, apparatus bay infrared heaters, and existing HVAC controls.

The Public Building Commission has bid and approved this project. If authorized, construction would occur in late summer into the fall. This project is in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the current fiscal year.

Councilor Jepsen would like to know if the utility savings will qualify for any rebates. Whit Przech, Building and Facilities Manager, confirmed that yes it does qualify for a rebate and it is already registered with Eversource. Town Manager Souza stated that the Town of Windsor may qualify for rebates and there are two options. They may not borrow the full amount of money or the rebates could be placed toward the capital outlet fund.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

- c) Set a Public Hearing for August 3, 2020 at 7:25 PM (prevailing time) to hear an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to set a Public Hearing for August 3, 2020 at 7:25 p.m. (prevailing time) on the following ordinance entitled, 'AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to post and publish notice of said Public Hearing.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

- d) Approve an appropriation of \$225,000 for Poquonock Fire Station Roof project

MOVED by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen that \$225,000 be authorized from the FY 2021 General Services budget for the Poquonock Fire Station Roof Replacement Project and that the project is referred to the Public Building Commission.

Bob Jarvis stated that the proposed project will involve the removal of all existing roofing systems and the installation of new roofing systems in their place. The existing flat roof will have additional insulation installed to reduce energy usage, as well as to increase the slope on the roof to the drains.

The asphalt pitched roofs are aged and have signs of deterioration. The flat roof areas are showing signs of failure and are in poor condition. Granules are less than 50% in areas with alligator cracking and other deteriorations.

Included in the project scope is repair of a portion of the fire suppression system piping that services the apparatus bay area. Estimated cost for this work is \$15,000.

In FY 21 town staff will be exploring opportunities to have solar arrays installed on the roof through a potential power purchase arrangement with a private entity.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

- e) Consider amendment to assessment abatement policy to add multi-family housing as eligible use

Peter Souza, Town Manager, and Jim Burke, Economic Development Director, stated that at its May 13th meeting, the Economic Development Commission received and discussed the attached background report which responded to their request for additional information. In general, the key points include:

- New multi-family residential units in Connecticut generate household spending in the community that can range up to \$99,000 per unit based on national statistics
- The 130-unit Windsor Station Apartments is estimated to generate \$3,000,000 in sales for Windsor businesses
- Annual tax revenue from six apartment and condo developments in Windsor range from \$1,770 to \$4,865 per unit
- Public school costs generated from existing multi-family developments can vary widely from one to another based factors such as unit size and age of apartment complex
- Of those towns that have a written abatement policy, a number do include “permanent residential uses” as eligible and many of these include language that directs these projects to targeted areas.
- While there is no specific discussion of the use of tax abatement for housing, or any other use for that matter, in the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development, it does contain a number of references to development of housing, in particular, to mixed-use housing as a component of economic development strategy.

Following its discussion, the Economic Development Commission determined that from an economic development perspective, a general amendment adding multi-unit residential as an eligible use as was requested would not be appropriate. However, they indicated a willingness to consider a more targeted application of eligibility if the Council wishes.

Councilor Jepsen would like to state that this opens a door to a lot of things. Originally the thought was to have a workshop to discuss these issues and he believes that holding a workshop is a good idea.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe and Councilor Rampulla Bress concurred that having a workshop is a good idea and that there are more things to review for the various types of affordable housing or encouraging current buildings to be renovated.

Councilor Rampulla Bress would like to know if those topics could be reviewed at the workshop. Mr. Burke responded by saying that this is all possible, and not only is tax abatement a tool, but finding other tools to use to benefit the community’s need will be important.

Councilor Rampulla Bress wanted confirmation from Mr. Burke that the abatement could be put towards the current living situations in existing buildings. Mr. Burke stated that it would be considered for residential properties that are 25 years or older and if they add 10% to their assessed value it is eligible for a gradual abatement.

Councilor Rampulla Bress confirmed with Mr. Burke that this does include multi-family, but it would have to be 40 years old and considered commercial property. Mr. Burke stated that the key is that they do not go below the existing value in order to avoid going below the tax base. Councilor Rampulla Bress believes that there are many people that would benefit from these improvements.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe wanted clarification whether the qualifications are 25 or 40 years. Mr. Burke confirmed that its 40 years for commercial and for residential property it is up to three units for 25 years. There will be up to a ten percent abatement for residential and fifteen percent for commercial.

Mayor Trinks directed his question to Town Manager Souza and asked if the commission is expecting direction from the Council and if so, when? Town Manager Souza responded the best guidance would be for the objectives to be articulated for the commission to bring back some proposals for the Council to consider. Mayor Trinks believes that there is nothing that definitively has been decided but it would be good to put together a workshop. Councilor Govoni responded that it would be important to delve into the conservation of development and how zoning might change in order to decide what needs to be accomplished as far as a workshop is concerned. Mayor Trinks would like to confirm putting together a workshop in the future will happen.

This item was referred to the Finance Committee for further review.

f) Receive report on Wilson Redevelopment Survey

Town Manager Souza stated following Council direction, town staff contracted for a detailed site survey and hazardous materials inspection of the Wolcott School property. The A-2 survey was completed in October and is now available to assist the town and any potential developers of the property with up-to-date site information.

A hazardous building materials inspection of the school building was conducted in December 2019 and January 2020. The inspection report identified the presence of asbestos and limited areas of lead-based paint. The estimated cost for hazardous materials removal is \$119,350.

Jim Burke provided an overview of the survey results. To address the Council's desire for added neighborhood input, town staff had planned to facilitate an interactive public meeting(s) this spring. However, the arrival of the coronavirus required a different approach. As a result, staff designed and implemented an online survey that was heavily marketed to the Wilson-Deerfield neighborhood. A copy of the summary report of the survey results is attached. Over 570 persons responded to the survey with 35% having a connection to the Wilson-Deerfield area either as a resident, business owner or property owner. Briefly, the survey found that among those who participated, a mixed use redevelopment was the preferred option for the Wolcott School site. For the redevelopment parcel, mixed use development and maintaining open space were the preferred options.

Councilor Dobler is very prepared to take this topic on.



Councilor Black-Burke wondered about including the Wilson-Deerfield community and what the procedure is to make it happen. The Wilson-Deerfield community should be involved in this important conversation.

Councilor Walker agreed with Councilor Black-Burke and that the Wilson-Deerfield Committee is having trouble meeting because they are unable to meet at the community center due to conflicting time and availability. Councilor Walker mentioned that there is a strong desire for open space. If the Council is in agreement, it is important to involve the community to get more input.

Councilor Govoni agreed that the Wilson-Deerfield committee should be involved in the community input.

Councilor Rampulla Bress concurred with her fellow councilors that the community should be involved in giving input to the committee. The Personnel Committee is working on replacing people that have resigned from a board and commission and replacing them with new interested parties. Councilor Rampulla Bress questioned Mr. Burke's data, and wondered if the data had been teased out to only represent the people from the Wilson-Deerfield area versus that whole town's perspective. Mr. Burke confirmed that the chart does determine which communities are represented, including the Wilson-Deerfield community.

Mayor Trinks wondered if there are any issues to commend and solicit input from another Council committee. Councilor Jepsen confirmed that it is fine to invite another commission to their meeting to discuss the topic.

- g) Consider settlement of Walgreens vs. Town of Windsor

Moved by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Dobler to accept the settlement for Walgreens vs Town of Windsor as discussed during Executive Session.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS – None

Moved by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Councilor Black Burke to accept the resignations of Linda Rickard from the Commission on Aging and Persons with Disabilities and to accept the resignation of Dominic DeCarlo from the Conservation Commission.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the June 15, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting



MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the June 15, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Sally Grossman, 106 Niles Road, asked for clarification about removing the circle of statues and the direct quotes from the Mayor. She questioned whether or not the Mayor stands by the direct quotes. Mayor Trinks responded by stating that he will read the article and respond at a future date.

Coral Lee Jones, 1171 Matianuck Avenue, does not see the statue as one of honor but as a person who has a story to tell. She does not understand the meaning of wanting to remove and destroy statues. The Council needs to work with the Historical Society in order to determine what happens to the statue. It is important to teach and tell John Mason's story and not pay too much time to this topic as there are more important items to address. Ms. Jones also does not agree with renaming Columbus Day, as it is a piece of history that has its own story and purpose.

Leroy Smith, 531 Edgewood, commented on the Walgreens issue and thinks that Amazon will not pay the true tax assessment, but he is taking a leap of faith that this is the issue, and that is why he is opposed to these tax abatements for large corporations.

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Wilkos absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Brisebois
Recording Secretary

August 3, 2020

Public Hearing
meeting minutes

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2020
PUBLIC HEARING**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe.

Present were: Mayor Donald Trinks (technical difficulties), Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Peter Souza, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Rampulla Bress, Councilor Len Walker and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe read aloud the notice of the public hearing to hear public comment on:

“AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.”

2) PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trinks declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Brisebois
Clerk of the Town Council

August 3, 2020

Regular Town Council
meeting minutes



**TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2020
Regular Town Council Meeting**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 7:40p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joe McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Lenworth Walker, and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos

2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Councilor Dobler led the group in prayer/reflection.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Dobler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS - None

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Sally Grossman, 106 Niles Road, spoke about the removal of the John Mason statue and the renaming of Columbus Day. Ms. Grossman noted that John Mason is most known for the dreadful Mystic massacre and trading for slaves in the Caribbean. Renaming Columbus Day is just as relative to removing the John Mason statue because both men are responsible for heinous acts on the Native Americans. Ms. Grossman also commented on the Mayor's comments toward John Mason, the savagery of the Pequots and his decision of the removal of the statue in his interview for the newspaper as well as his interview comments on NBC. She furthered her comment by stating she wanted a response from the Mayor about these comments. Ms. Grossman hopes that the Mayor and the Council will allow for ample opportunities for the community to help make this decision for the statue.

Rebecca Jacobson is in strong support of the removal of the John Mason statue. The statue does not belong to Windsor and has been controversial since its arrival in Windsor. Ms. Jacobson also mentioned that funding for maintenance of the statue was ceased in the past due to its \$10,000 cost. She then went on to explain the countless deaths of the Pequots that John Mason was responsible for. The John Mason statue should be given to the state or given to a museum as the history of John Mason should be authentically told. Not removing the statue

goes against the proclamation of racism being a public health crisis. If the statue is not removed, then it would be difficult to see systemic change for the future in Windsor. Ms. Jacobson then stated that the statue does not belong in an area as beautiful and diverse as Windsor.

Jill Jenkins, 867 Delilah Drive, greeted the Council in her native Algonquin language and spoke as a surviving descendant of the indigenous population. She views John Mason's statue as a man who tortured and murdered her ancestors. He also shaped the racist culture that America still struggles with today. Ms. Jenkins gave a very detailed history of the Pequot's and John Mason's actions and read an excerpt from the real story of the first Thanksgiving written by Tony Gosling. John Mason's actions set off a killing frenzy that went on for decades and became part of a cultural norm. Ms. Jenkins exclaimed that present day America is built on two original sins, the killing of the natives and exploitation of black and brown people for free labor. In 2016 Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Al Simon had brought up the removal of the statue to the Council and now four years later she is asking for the Council to follow through. Ms. Jenkins wants everyone in town to ask themselves what the statue truly means to them or if it has any meaning at all in the Town of Windsor. Ms. Jenkins finished by stating "peace and thank you for your time" in her native language.

Jennifer Bodelin, 537 Park Avenue, spoke in favor of removing the John Mason statue and renaming Columbus Day. Ms. Bodelin stated that it is important that his history is shared but the statue does not need to be on display in town to do so. Columbus never set foot in North America and the holiday name should be replaced with someone more deserving.

Patty Govach, 382 Rainbow Road, called in support of the removal of the John Mason statue and the renaming of Columbus Day. Ms. Govach stated that now that racism is known as a public health crisis in the town of Windsor, it is important to make the necessary steps to change and making any steps toward change would include removing the John Mason Statue. If these small steps toward change are not made, then declaring racism as a public health crisis is irrelevant.

Hillary Carpenter, 45 Bradford Drive, was in support of the removal of the John Mason statue. She stated that the last thing to do is to erase history regarding the comments made from others that by removing the statue is removing history. She also mentioned the town of Windsor tried to erase history by placing a plaque at the statue that did not have any mention of the mass murder that this man was responsible for. Ms. Carpenter went on to say that the removal of the statue should remind everyone about the raw history of this man and then use the wonderful resources of the Historical Society to continue to tell the true story of John Mason. Many historians would agree that this is one of the earliest accounts of Native American genocide. A lot of history is told through the prism of the white experience, and not the truth through other's experiences including the Native Americans. Ms. Carpenter stated that this is a byproduct of white supremacy and racism. There is an opportunity to fix that and she urged the Council to approve the removal of the John Mason statue, and to allow the Historical Society and educators to tell his story. The renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day should also be approved as other communities have done in years past. It would be another simple way to acknowledge the damage done to the Native Americans during colonization.

Donna Grossman, 781 Kennedy Road, stated that one of the arguments going around for keeping that statue is so that history is not erased. She stated that we do not want to forget history. Ms. Grossman brought up the numerous accounts in history such as the falling of the twin towers on September 11, 2001. After this tragedy, New York City built a memorial for the fallen and the heroes who attempted to save lives. They did not build a statue of Osama Bin Laden who was the leader in this act of terror on our country. The John Mason statue honors someone who is responsible for genocide and should not have a statue that honors him and his leadership. Instead, if we want to remember the history of our state and town, the Historical Society will do an excellent job of telling the true history of John Mason. However, if we honor anyone, it should not be someone who stole this land. Ms. Grossman made a statement regarding the renaming of Columbus Day by saying that no one person discovered America and that this hemisphere had been populated by many different natives prior to Columbus' arrival. Columbus only enslaved native inhabitants and subjected them to brutal violence. It is unnecessary to honor him simply because he was Italian.

Ed Dembowski, 38 Stacey Drive, spoke in favor of the removal of the John Mason statue. He explained that there is nothing less controversial than taking down a statue of a man who introduced slavery in the state of Connecticut. Keeping the statue would be honoring a man who committed genocide and honoring the introduction of slavery into the state of Connecticut. Mr. Dembowski urged that people ask how the town of Windsor can declare racism as a public health crisis while also supporting genocide by continuing to honor the John Mason statue. Mr. Dembowski wishes to have the statue moved from the town green to the Historical Society and to show the true history of John Mason and the Pequot massacre. This is not erasing the past but considering how honoring this man can affect the community in the future.

William Arnold, 336 Palisado Avenue, addressed the opposition to the removal of the John Mason Statue because it would be "erasing history". Mr. Arnold then went on to state that history is not a static thing. History is a continuing dialogue between the present and the past. Interpretations of the past are subject to change as new discoveries are made. There is not anything in history that is a fact or pure truth, only assumptions which constantly evolve over time. Mr. Arnold believes that the statue does not need to be destroyed, but rather relocated to an appropriate place where it can be contextualized with the genocide of the Pequots. Windsor should get rid of the statue just as Mystic did.

Al Simon, former Deputy Mayor of Windsor, now residing in Northampton Massachusetts, said the John Mason statue is a monument to white supremacy because of where and when it was erected and what local white people called a site of victory, but what we now understand it as a site of genocide. The reason this statue stands for racism is because it is what its creators wanted. The John Mason statue was not commissioned in Windsor or for Windsor. People have attached themselves to a past that is not theirs or their town's. Mr. Simon is not asking for history to be erased but rather understood. He stated that there is one thing that should be erased and that should be the celebration of genocide, which is what the statue of John Mason stands for. Your vote tonight to remove the statue from its place of prominence would be to acknowledge the severe consequences of racism, and failing to do that, will render the vote meaningless.

John Drennen, 12 Laurel Avenue, supports the removal of the John Mason statue, but mainly he wanted to comment on a HVAC problem within the town. There is a defect in the HVAC systems in most of the public buildings, such as the town hall, grocery stores, schools, libraries, etc. Mr. Drennen studied engineering and has been working in the town of Windsor for many years. His specialty area was dust and gas flow in a combustion engineering project. Since April he had been researching the airborne transmission of viruses. There was a publication sent to him by a colleague that appeared in the health section of *The Atlantic*. The article described references to airborne spread during COVID 19. Exposure extends out past the recommended distance of one meter or three feet without being masked. This letter is advocating protective measures of airborne transmission. Mayor Trinks ended Mr. Drennen's commentary due to the three-minute time frame and urged him to speak at the end of the meeting, but Mayor Trinks is very fascinated about this topic.

Bryan Bosch, 34 Buckland Way, is in support of keeping the statue in the town of Windsor and is on the Board of Education in Windsor. He does support the renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. The Statue of John Mason stands for the state of Connecticut's first war and he would like to see more of an audio tour about the good, the bad and the ugly, and there is a lot more to the story. Mr. Bosch believes that there could be better signage. Windsor was settled at the request of the native tribes. Mr. Bosch thinks that the history connected to John Mason is considered an atrocity, but there should be more education about this topic and Windsor and the history during the time of John Mason, rather than just a removal.

Beatrice Mathis, 99 Timothy Terrace, called in favor of the removal of the statue of John Mason. Ms. Mathis also addressed the comment that was made at the last meeting about how there are not many people of color working for the town of Windsor. She viewed this as a cry for attention toward correcting the fact that we are only able to name a few people of color working for the town, as opposed to having so many people that there can't just be a few named. Ms. Mathis explained that she understands it takes time, but it is necessary to take the first small steps in this matter in order to correct it. The people who work for the town should fit in with Windsor's demographic according to Ms. Mathis.

Samantha Gove, 61 Hartford Avenue, spoke in favor of the removal of the John Mason statue, giving a brief history of John Mason. She is a member of the Pequot nation. Ms. Gove stated that history can be learned without honoring a statue of a brutal soldier who killed so many. This event should be represented by the victims and the beautiful culture that was lost. The statue represents racism, abuse, and pain. Rich and valued history can be learned without statues. The origin of the John Mason statue was to honor a victory. History is most often written by the winners, rather than the people who suffered and Ms. Gove would like the history of the Pequots to be honored and told in it's appropriate context by allowing the statue to be moved to a museum such as the Historical Society in Windsor.

Kathleen Tracey, 4 on the Green, is in favor of removing the John Mason statue. When we honor war heroes, it signifies that we are living in a culture of war. By removing it, maybe we can move toward a culture of peace, by replacing it with a hero of peace, in order to reestablish what we value as a community. Ms. Tracey also agrees that Columbus Day should be renamed to Indigenous People's Day.

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, a resident of Windsor for over forty years, believes that it is wrong to change the Columbus Day holiday and would like the statue to remain on the green. As Columbus is the only Italian holiday on the calendar, he believes it is a direct insult to the Italian culture. Since the George Floyd tragedy, over 200 statues and monuments have been senselessly destroyed by angry mobs, including statues of Jesus Christ, Frederick Douglas, Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, the 9/11 Firefighters monument, World War II monuments, to name a few. He has put together a petition of almost two hundred signatures and he is still receiving signatures. Mr. Bacigalupo is submitting the petition to the Council and urges the Council to review each signature and comment as it is their duty to do so. Mr. Bacigalupo checked with the town historian, Doug Shipman, to fact check the history. He believes that John Mason had nothing to do with African slave trading. He also addressed the vandalism to the statue that has not been discussed yet during the meeting comments. Mr. Bacigalupo would like to see an installation of a camera to protect the statue as it would be more cost effective than removing the statue which will cost thousands of dollars. Instead he would like to see a statue constructed to compromise with the people who are against the John Mason statue and suggested that a person of color be the artist to create something based on Windsor's rich musical history.

David Fury, 37 Lighthouse Hill Road, thanked the Council for approving the resolution stating that racism is a public health crisis. Mr. Fury spoke in favor of the removal of the John Mason statue. Confederate generals and other leaders' statues such as John Mason should be taken down due to their contribution to racism in this country. The statue itself commemorates John Mason's role in defeating the Pequots. It has been said that it was taken from the original site of the statue specifically because of John Mason's role in the attack of the Pequots. Mr. Fury believes that the state should know that the statue does not belong on the Palisado Green. He would also like to see and get input from the Pequot tribe about what they would like done with the statue. Removing the statue does not remove history. Mr. Fury also supports changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Marissa Greene, 1233 Matianuck Avenue, spoke out about removing the John Mason statue and is in favor of moving the statue to the Historical Society. By moving the statue, and explaining the factual evidence, it will acknowledge the history in its truest form. Having the John Mason statue on the Palisado Green erases the history of the Pequots and the struggles that they have gone through. Ms. Greene believes that there is an opportunity to teach every child in Windsor about the sad history of Indigenous Peoples. The first step to accomplishing this is by acting and removing the statue. Ms. Greene is also in favor of renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. Even the warrior mascot of the high school is something that should be reconsidered, because it is not honoring Native Americans at all. Approving all these things would benefit the town greatly to move in a positive direction.

Mitchell Ray, current Eastern Pequot counselor, stated that the statue of John Mason is a symbol of hatred and genocide. John Mason's actions caused mass murder, slavery, and today native peoples being placed on a reservation seeking to be acknowledged. He is in favor of the removal of the statue and it being moved to the Historical Society, which is a more appropriate place to learn about the massacre.

Tim Curtis, 20 Kendrick Lane, spoke in support of the relocation of the statue of John Mason to a more appropriate location. The statue requires a place where a detailed narrative can be given such as a museum. An example is the Nathan Hale statue which is brought to life and his history is effectively narrated to visitors at the museum. Today he is honored as a hero in the state of Connecticut. There are many others represented in museums and their contribution to Connecticut's history. The John Mason statue, however, does not have any contextual pieces of history. His updated plaque still only reminds people of a bloody event. The Palisado Green is not an appropriate place to effectively tell the history of John Mason. Mr. Curtis believes that it would be better located in Windsor's Historical Society.

Mary Ann Overbaugh stated that she is Italian and her and her sons have been privileged to live in the very historical town of Windsor. She stated that she believes the Black Lives Matter is a group of individuals that are trying to overturn the government and culture. Black Lives Matter activists mission is not to save black lives. All lives matter and blue lives matter is racist according to the activists. It is not logical thinking to remove statues and changing the names of holidays. These methods are being used all over the country and the world. She does not support removing the statue.

Coralee Jones, 1171 Matianuck Avenue, stated that we cannot change what happened in the past. The good should be celebrated and the bad should be acknowledged and explained. Practicing censorship by destroying property and demanding removal of property shows lack of tolerance for another point of view. Many of these statues show how leaders took action and responded to events in the context of their time. Initially Ms. Jones supported moving the statue to the Historical Society but is now worried about future vandalism at the museum. Vandalism should not be the accepted tactic. Ms. Jones would like to know if there has been an investigation of who is responsible for the vandalism. Ms. Jones believes that Columbus Day should not be renamed, because it is a holiday that acknowledges the history of the Italian culture entering north America. Indigenous People should be studied separately and recognized in another way. Ms. Jones hopes that someone on the Council will be willing to speak out about this censorship. Almost three hundred people signed the petition to keep the statue on the Palisado Green, but there were many people, particularly seniors, who were concerned about signing the petition because they did not want to be harassed or their property to be vandalized. The way this situation has been handled has created division and intimidation and this is the real crisis in the town of Windsor. Ms. Jones also addressed that only current residents and people who pay taxes to Windsor are the only ones who should be allowed to speak on these matters.

Clint Thornton, 85 Farmstead Lane, stated removing the statue as a public trophy and erasing history is not a good idea, but in order to celebrate history it needs to be celebrated in its entirety. Mr. Thornton urged people who are not supporting the removal of the statue to rethink about being honest of doing away with racial injustice. If you are not a person of color, you really don't understand how it feels to be stopped for absolutely nothing. Many people have stated that it is important to get the dialogue started. The statue represents some bad things that happened in history. Mr. Thornton explained that the idea of removing the statue is not to erase history, but rather to ensure that it is not celebrated. The Historical Society would be a good location for the statue and would create a good balance in education by transferring it to a proper location.

Linda Alexander, 155 Fieldstone Drive, stated that in July of 2020 a group of people who declared themselves the lawless liberals of Windsor became self-righteous about the history that took place four hundred years ago. Ms. Alexander recommends that they read the history. The name lawless is appropriate because they seem to feel it was appropriate to desecrate a statue and proceed to demand its removal. On a public Facebook page it was written that they are removing the statue and changing the name of Columbus Day as the beginning of dismantling the government. This is not the first time people have declared wanting to dismantle the government and replace it with something they believe is better. Ms. Alexander then referred to historical events of similar actions in the past. She then stated that she has many people of color in her neighborhood and none of them have expressed wanting the statue removed, but rather more important topics like getting their kids back in school and paying their bills.

Lauren Shea-Werner, 51 Taylor Street, called in favor of the removal of the John Mason statue. It is not to erase history but to show that the people of Windsor are not supporting a man responsible for mass genocide. She is also in favor of renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. As the first town in Connecticut to declare racism as a public health crisis, she believes it is right to follow the six states and 130 cities and towns who have renamed this holiday.

Kim Reed, 35 Last Leaf Circle, is in support of changing the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day and supports the removal of the John Mason statue. Ms. Reed questioned that if Windsor declared racism being a public health crisis and if we proudly cannot do this one simple step forward, how will we be able to do all of the harder work that is to come?

Liz Dupont Diehl, 78 Palisado Avenue, is in support of renaming the statue and renaming Columbus Day because this is an important public statement about who the town of Windsor is and what we value as a community.

Cari Turek, 248 Poquonock Avenue, stated the statue of John Mason has been a controversial issue in the town of Windsor for the last several weeks. Ms. Turek gave a brief historical description of John Mason and his being an accomplished military man and his being one of the original founders of Windsor. The controversy at heart is the fact that he is responsible for the attack on the Pequots that resulted in the death of several hundred Pequots. Ms. Turek stated that there have been numerous claims of John Mason being responsible for introducing slavery to the state and that cannot be backed up with facts. John Mason's existence contributed to the founding of Windsor and to the history of the United States. While some may not like the history, it is important that the history is recognized as a major role in how towns in the state of Connecticut came to be. Ms. Turek would like the statue to remain in the public's view in its current location, as it has an important story to tell. She handed in a petition of 105 signatures representing the opinion of leaving the statue on the Palisado Green. There was also an electronic petition with 177 signatures that should have also been received on the night of the meeting.

Lakisha Hyatt, 104 Benjamin Court, stated that there is a difficult decision to be made with the John Mason statue and asked that there be serious thought given to this topic. The decision to remove the statue is a decision to manifest the representation of change. The statue does not

represent the complete history of the state. This is not censorship because censorship is the removal of voice. Ms. Hyatt asked to give the people their voice by removing the statue and giving it to the historical society. Vandalism is wrong and this should not be tied to the decision of removing the statue. It is time slow down and think about what lies before us; to take action and remove the statue. Ms. Hyatt also stated that renaming Christopher Columbus Day goes without saying, it should be renamed, because there were Indigenous people present long before he arrived. This is an opportunity to make some change.

Beth Caruso, 147 Pleasant Street, supports changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day and moving the statue to a more appropriate place such as a museum or the Historical Society to give a fuller depiction of John Mason and his history. Columbus is responsible for wiping out entire populations and other heinous acts. John Mason's history was given again by Ms. Caruso, and she urged that John Mason does not deserve honor in this town.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Dobler wanted to thank the public for coming to speak on the subject of John Mason statue and stated that this is what democracy is all about. Councilor Dobler addressed that the statement on social media about the removal of the statue already being decided which is far from the truth. It was not discussed by the council at the last meeting because there needed to be more discussion with the state and the tribal nation. Tonight the different options will be discussed. Councilor Dobler stressed that we need to get back to a sense of civility with everyone, because we as a community are better than that. Disagreeing on topics is okay, but that does not mean that the disagreements should carry on past discussion.

Councilor Walker stated that he has listened intently and did research looking at the history of the massacre, and that Captain John Mason had help from various Native tribes. This story is a part of history. There is a part of history that is factual and many times there is a spinoff. Councilor Walker was also surprised that social media stated that the decision was made. Councilor Walker is concerned about the elderly who say they are scared to sign the petition. There are currently 288 names on the petition to leave the statue right where it is. All of that will help the Council decide what to do. As always, stay safe and support the small businesses in Windsor.

Councilor Govoni thanked everyone for calling in about the John Mason statue. On June 11th there was an article about John Mason in the Windsor, Connecticut bulletin and on July 3rd the statue was vandalized. On July 9th there was a mention of the removal of the statue and this is creating issues because it was brought to the public before it was brought to the Council to discuss. The statue does not belong to the town of Windsor, and it is important to get input from anyone who might have a concern about this statue and has ownership over it already. Windsor just leases the land to house the statue. Councilor Govoni then turned a question over to Town Manager Souza about a weekly paper delivery. Town Manager Souza responded that this year there was not a summer calendar of "There's a lot to do in Windsor" magazine because of all of the uncertainty for the programming for the summer. Councilor Govoni reiterated that there was a person from the public who asked why it was coming weekly, every couple of weeks and now not at all. Town Manager Souza stated that he will ask around and find out what the current

status is of this particular paper distribution. Councilor Govoni wanted confirmation of Joseph Lane being open to the public. Town Manager Souza confirmed that it is a town public right of way and will take a look at the status of it being blocked off.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked everyone who came out to speak during the public comment. It is important for everyone to have a space to share their thoughts and opinions. Councilor Black-Burke quoted James Baldwin by saying, "Not everything that is faced can be changed but nothing can be changed until it is faced." What is great about history is that the whole series includes past events that is connected with someone or something. The stories in history are made to help us understand our past. Major John Mason did many great things, but he is also notably known for the Mystic Massacre. At the end of the day, it is still Windsor's history. Having this celebration of a statue in a public place does give angst and other strong feelings from the community. There has been information received from the state and the tribal nations, because everyone should have an opportunity to speak. No one wants to see harm come to the statue, but history must be told in its full context and that is the missing piece to this statue. Councilor Black-Burke also addressed the comment made earlier of referring to Native American's as "Indians", and requested that it is important to refer to them as Native Americans or Indigenous People from this point forward from an educational standpoint.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that this has been a very educational, tense, and interesting experience and discussion. Councilor Bress is concerned about the animosity that she is seeing and said that moving forward she hopes people understand that this is a process and that it is important for people to be heard, no matter their opinion, but it is also important to be civil without marginalizing people. Councilor Bress truly feels that moving the statue to the Historical Society is not going to minimize the impact of John Mason and it will not minimize the ability to teach and learn about and from the statue. Moving it from a place of prominence to having a place where people can learn from it and in its true context is not a detriment to the town but rather a benefit to the town. Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Scott Colby, Paul Norris, and Town Manager Peter Souza for helping the seniors and their feelings of safety at the town pool. Responding to their concerns and helping them enjoy the services from the community are commended.

Councilor Wilkos wanted to express his concern for the disagreements and discussion of decisions made on social media, because it is causing a division and misunderstanding in the town. These groups' sole purpose seems to be to create separation in the town. Councilor Wilkos stated that particular organization is irrelevant, and it is unfortunate the outcome that is wanted is negative. Councilor Wilkos agreed with one of the public comments from earlier, stating that it is important to slow down and take more time to look at this topic. There will be significant impacts one way or another. Councilor Wilkos also directed a comment toward Town Manager Souza and the Department of Public Works about the excessive litter in Windsor. He knows it is being worked on and must continue to be taken care of. Councilor Wilkos wants the state roads and the entrances to the highway to be focused on more. COVID cannot be used as an excuse for the state. Councilor Wilkos urged Town Manager Souza to reach out to the state and other organizations involved to be more diligent about this because it is becoming a bigger issue in these areas. Lastly Councilor Wilkos addressed the Windsor Housing Authority and stated that the delay in construction and upkeep of the grounds is unacceptable for the people who are

living there. Councilor Wilkos would like this to be investigated further as well. Town Manager Souza stated that all plans are done by the Windsor Housing Authority and he would have to get in contact with them. Councilor Wilkos stated that he supports that all councilors should be present in the chambers during the meeting in order to effectively govern the town.

Councilor Jepsen commented that this has been one of the longest comment sections that we have ever seen on the Council and he believes that there are some concerns about different facts and opinions brought up. Councilor Jepsen stated that he has also done some research on the topic of the John Mason statue. Councilor Jepsen has concerns about the boat launches on the rivers, because there is no policing on the river and there is no speed control. Town Manager Souza stated that there is not currently any involvement with the Windsor Police and the river watch. Councilor Jepsen is concerned for future accidents that may occur based on the lack of control of speed around this particular part of the river.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe thanked everyone who commented during the meeting and would like to say that the people can entrust the Council to make the right decision for this town. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe confirmed with Councilor Wilkos that there are intentions to have everyone present in the September meeting.

Mayor Trinks stated that he will discuss the John Mason statue when that part of the agenda is reached. Mayor Trinks also stated that he disagrees with the opinions of him having to be at the meeting in person as he would have the same amount of control over the public comment whether it is virtual or in person. The precautions are being taken based off of what the governor and Dr. Fauci are encouraging. Mayor Trinks believes that the town is not less served because of his absence from the Town Hall building. Current meetings and future virtual meetings have been and will be run effectively. Mayor Trinks congratulated Mathew Marmino on graduating as Eagle Scout and commended everyone who attended for following the guidelines during COVID 19.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSION

Mayor Trinks stated that the Board of Education, Public Building Commission and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission submitted a written report to the Council and each Councilor has received a copy.

a) Board of Education

Ayana Taylor spoke on behalf of the Board of Education. Ms. Taylor gave a thank you to the town of Windsor's health department for being a wonderful resource for planning during this time of planning to return to school. This is a constant revolving situation. Plans are constantly changing. The governor has shared what districts have to have in place in order to have the kids back in school. There is not an official plan yet, but a call has gone out to all parents to let them know that information will be out soon. Being flexible and patient during this time will be the best way to handle the processing of this information being received during the month of August as we approach going back to school.

Councilor Govoni commented on the parents' concern about going back to school and whether school is open. Does the school system in Windsor use the phone system to give an automatic electronic update? Ms. Taylor confirmed that the way the schools reach out to families is digitally via email and robocalls. She confirmed that there is not a set date yet and to wait until someone reaches out to them.

Councilor Wilkos thanked Ms. Taylor for the update and asked if the Board of Education had received funds for proper preparedness such as PPE and other items. Ms. Taylor did not have a direct answer, but she believes that they have received something and can report back about the actual dollar amount. Councilor Wilkos then asked if the school board has to approve reopening or if it is determined by state mandate. Ms. Taylor stated that now there are three different options and they are prepared to respond to all three of the options accordingly. Then it is technically up to each district for what they want to offer to their families. It is a collaborative effort. Lastly, Councilor Wilkos addressed the topic of resignations, and what the result was of all of those happenings. Ms. Taylor said that she is aware of one situation, and another is relocating. Her guess is that they are all due to life happenings and knows of one person who decided to not take a position she had formally committed to.

Councilor Black-Burke followed up with the COVID relief funds and wanted to confirm if it is related to the Cares Act, and what the actual amount was, and also what other funds amounts are that will be put toward COVID relief. Ms. Taylor confirmed that they received funding of over \$4,000, and it all comes down to determining where those funds went to regarding to COVID.

b) Public Building Commission

Rusty Peck represented the Public Building Commission and their agenda items.

The Police Station construction project.

The CO has been granted and office furniture is in the process of being delivered. The final shipment is expected next week. Construction will be completed by the end of August, but all of the parking lot and curbing is complete as well. The plans for relocation are now scheduled to start this week and will transpire over the next two weeks. Information technology and infrastructure has been moved to August 12th. Dispatchers plan to be in place on August 21st, and the new radio station will be running by August 24th. The commission will be doing a walk-through next Tuesday, August 11th.

Fire and EMS design project

The project was awarded to the general contractor and will commence on September 8th and will last 12-14 months.

Sage Park Middle for the roof design

Bidding of the project will happen in January 2021 and will start in Summer of 2021.

DPW renovation design and the abatement of asbestos by hazmat

This is now complete and four office staff are temporarily relocated to 100 Addison Road. Building renovation design will be completed in October.

Northwest park nature center addition

This project is complete.

The Wilson Fire department HVAC replacement project

This project is expected to begin in August and to be completed by the end of October.

Poquonock station roof design

Roofing has been replaced. The work on this will be done by the end of August.

Sage Park Middle School

Upgrades will be bid in January 2021 and will start in May 2021. This process will take a year.

Northwest Park barn renovations

Renovations are coming along, and three out of the seven barns are complete. Work on the four other barns have started and are expected to be completed by the end of August.

Councilor Wilkos stated that there was an opportunity to discuss the appreciation to Town Manager Souza and others for the completion of the police department. The building is phenomenal and for it to come out on budget and ongoing construction during the pandemic was impressive. He thanked Mr. Peck for the update.

Councilor Jepsen asked about the Sage Park HVAC and if it is necessary to wait until May if the project is going to take a year. Mr. Peck is not sure but guessed that the work may have to start during a time when school may be in session. However, preparation to get it fully up and running while the students are not there as well as thinking about having the funding in place before the project is actually started.

c) Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Town Manager Souza stated that there has been a written report sent to the council in regard to these topics.

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

COVID 19 Update - Recreation – Aquatics Division

Traditionally Welch & Goslee pools are open through the Labor Day weekend. This summer will be a challenge as many colleges and universities are requiring students to return to campus earlier than usual in order to self-quarantine for up to 14 days prior to the start of the fall semester. This situation may not allow for the appropriate number of lifeguards to staff the outdoor pools. In a typical summer, the pool hours during the week of August 17-21 are Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. - 7:45 p.m. Beginning Monday, August 24, the pools are closed on weekdays and only open on weekends 11:00 a.m. – 7:45 p.m. through Labor Day.

A number of other area municipalities have already decided to close their pools before Labor Day weekend. Recreation staff is working to maintain adequate staffing levels so that the pools can be opened as many hours as possible.

COVID 19 Update - Senior Center

The Senior Center is planning on beginning an incremental phased-in approach to re-opening beginning in mid-August. There will be no large events such as BINGO or the early bird dinners.

They will look to host a few in person *outdoor* events at first. In early September they are looking at beginning to host several in person programs that would be held *indoors*. Staff is in the process of developing a plan to ensure the health and safety of the public and staff.

Dial – A – Ride Transportation services are expected to resume in mid-August. The capacity limits on the buses will be modified to ensure staff and the public are able to be socially distanced.

COVID 19 Update - Discovery Center and Montessori School

The summer program has been running since 6/22/20. The enrollment has doubled since the first week. For the week ending 7/31/20, there were 45 children in attendance.

Fall registration is slowly increasing as the public schools develop and share their plans. Current registration for the fall includes:

- Infant/Toddlers - 5 of 8 spaces are filled
- Montessori toddlers - 12 of 16 spaces are filled
- Primary Montessori - 27 of 42 spaces are filled

Staff is conducting tours for interested families and refining the distance learning plan if it is necessary to suspend in person classes this fall or winter.

COVID 19 Update - Caring Connection

The Caring Connection Adult Day Health Center is planning on beginning a phased-in approach to re-opening beginning August 10th. The first week maximum attendance will be seven per day increasing incrementally throughout the month.

Staff has been in regular contact with clients and their families during their closure with meal deliveries and most recently in-person meetings. Staff has also reached out to several other programs that have begun to reopen, including Hebrew Senior Care Senior Day Center in West Hartford, Day-Break at Hartford and Senior Moments, LLC in Tolland.

Client families have expressed an interest in returning their loved ones to the program as they are returning to work, or are experiencing an increased need for respite. In addition, the coordinator has also been receiving inquiries for new clients.

Staff has coordinated this phase-in opening with the guidance of the Windsor Health Department and in accordance with CDC guidelines. We are fortunate that the Caring Connection facility located at 330 Windsor Avenue is a large open space that is optimal for staff to implement the necessary safety and social distancing guidelines. They have also met with the senior transportation staff to develop a plan whereby safe bus transport will include Caring Connection clients only and not a mix with other senior center transport customers.

Hypertension Workshop Series

Our Health Department is hosting a series of workshops aimed at educating residents about the risk of hypertension and the importance of maintaining a healthy heart. There are four virtual sessions remaining that will be held on August 4th, August 18th, August 25th and September 1st. Sessions are from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To provide these workshops in a safe and responsible manner, they will be available remotely via ZOOM. Please register for the workshop you are interested in at <https://townofwindsorct.com/health/> and we will send you the ZOOM meeting information.

The workshops will be recorded and available for viewing through the town's website.

2020 Pavement Management Program

The first phase of this year's pavement rehabilitation projects were recently completed. The next phase of the program includes milling and overlay of all, or a portion of the following streets:

- Kennedy Road
- Mayflower Road
- Pilgrim Road
- Alden Road
- Standish Road
- Bradford Drive
- Priscilla Road

The drainage structures are being replaced by town staff and the work is expected to be completed by August 7th. The roadway surface is scheduled to be milled during the weeks of August 17-28. Paving will commence on August 24th and is expected to be wrapped up by September 4th.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Dobler stated that the committee has plans to meet on Wednesday, August 19th.

Special Projects Committee – Councilor Dobler - None

Health & Safety Committee – Councilor Black-Burke stated that the next meeting has not been set yet.

Personnel Committee – Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that the Personnel Committee has accomplished a great deal, meeting virtually, and there are more people to appoint in this meeting as well as there being another virtual meeting planned for September 2nd.

Finance Committee – Deputy Mayor McAuliffe stated there is not currently a scheduled meeting, but the committee is working toward having a public workshop in August or September to discuss the tax abatement policies.

10) ORDINANCES – None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Approve a bond ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.”

RESOLVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, ‘AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION’ is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve an ordinance entitled, ‘AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WILSON FIRE STATION HVAC IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$340,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.’

The construction project will include the replacement of the existing gas-fired roof top unit, air zoning distribution VAV boxes, and existing HVAC controls.

An existing interior storage room is available and will be used as a mechanical room to house the new equipment. Energy efficient gas-fired low-condensing boilers and a new air handler with digital controls will be installed. The new HVAC systems will be easier to service and will achieve higher energy efficiencies.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to refer the project to the public building commission for oversight.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Approve an appropriation of \$24,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to fund the installation of electric vehicle charging station

MOVED by Councilor Wilkos, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve an appropriation of \$24,000 from the Capital Projects Assigned Fund Balance for the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station project and that the Town Improvements Committee review and present a proposed user fee structure for Town Council consideration.

Councilor Wilkos stated that for many years they have been discussing installing the charging stations for the townspeople who have been passionate about the ownership of their electric vehicles. Councilor Wilkos became very interested in these vehicles as well and because everyone including Deputy Mayor McAuliffe and Town Manager Souza, saw this as an opportunity to work together in coming up with a plan to add these charging stations into the plan, they believe that this will bring more people into the town of Windsor and create more opportunities for businesses to thrive from the electric car community. Councilor Wilkos made a special appreciation statement toward the Town Manager Peter Souza for making this possible and bringing it to fruition.

Town Manager Souza introduced Adam Kessler and Scott Colby as the main persons responsible for working on this project for the last six months.

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager, gave an overview of the project. Over the past several years, both Deputy Mayor McAuliffe and Councilor Wilkos have raised the possibility of the town installing an electric vehicle charging station for public use. The FY 2020 Capital Improvement Program allocated \$28,100 for the purchase and installation of the charging station at the town-owned parking lot at the corner of Broad Street and Maple Ave. At this time staff is requesting the Town Council authorize and appropriate funding for the project to proceed to construction this fall.

Staff has reviewed a range of municipal charging stations throughout the state and country and have found that there is a myriad of fee structures. Some communities do not charge a fee, some utilize a flat per hour fee while others charge on a per KWh basis. Staff's preliminary recommendation is to utilize a flat fee per hour of use in order to help ensure that vehicles that use the station will relocate after a maximum time period to allow for others vehicles to access the charging station. It is suggested that the topic of user fee structure be referred to the Town Improvements Committee so they may review and present a proposed fee structure for full Town Council review this fall.

Councilor Govoni stated that he is in support of the charger stations but he does not agree with the planned placement of the charging stations. This specific location will affect the convenience for most other people who use the parking lot to access the train as well as parking for the local restaurants.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- b) Introduce a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000

FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.”

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the council and copies made available to those persons attending this meeting; and the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to introduce an ordinance entitled, 'AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.”

Town Manager Souza gave a brief overview of the item and introduced Fire Chief Bill Lewis who spoke about the apparatus replacement. Town Manager Souza mentioned that they are looking to have the Town Council authorize the full projects amount of \$870,000 and this will be a combination of \$670,000 in bonding and pay as you go for \$200,000, which is included in the FY 2021 budget. The annual debt service will be \$46,000 per year.

Chief Bill Lewis addressed the council by stating that in 2018 a committee was put in place to discuss a town wide apparatus specification. This will be the third pumper that is being purchased. Chief Lewis discussed the new vehicle pumper and its purpose. This will ensure that all firefighters will be familiar with the vehicle no matter what building they are working in, and this one will be going to the Poquonock Fire Department.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe thanked Chief Lewis and his group for creating a standard for efficiencies.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- c) Set a public hearing for September 8, 2020 at 7:25 p.m. for a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.”

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that a public hearing be held on September 8, 2020 at 7:25 p.m. for a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE

PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town clerk is authorized and directed to post and publish notice of said Public Hearing.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- d) Consideration of a request to the State of Connecticut to remove the John Mason Statue from the Palisado Green

Mayor Trinks stated the statue is the responsibility of the State of Connecticut. The Town Council approved a 50 year easement with the State of Connecticut in 1996. This easement allows for the placement of the statue and states that the State of Connecticut is responsible for its management, care and maintenance.

Town staff has had discussions with the State of Connecticut relative to the possibility of the statue being moved. The state indicated that they would consider a request to relocate the statue if the Town Council voted as such.

At this time, the Town Council may wish to consider options such as:

- Request the State of Connecticut to remove the statue from town property
- Request the State of Connecticut to relocate the statue and explore options with the Windsor Historical Society to host the statue
- Partner with the State and other stakeholders to add interpretative materials to provide a full and balanced understanding of John Mason and the statue

Mayor Trinks spoke about how his newspaper conversation a couple of weeks ago sparked some emotion and a divide with the community. Mayor Trinks explained that his main goal was to come up with a compromise for the statue, mainly to remove it from its current location to protect it from being damaged and to get it out of sight so that if someone did not want to see the statue, they did not have to. Mayor Trinks wanted to merely start the process and have it moved to the Historical Society. The choice to move it to the historical society seemed to be the best decision because he has been assured that there will be a true historical representation of John Mason.

Mayor Trinks stated that he was one of nine people to put together a compromise, but never intended that the removal was happening at that point in time. Mayor Trinks explained that the educational piece to this is far more important than any of the other variables. The solution is not to just put it into storage. The state of Connecticut owns the statue and Mayor Trinks has been in touch with them to determine its next placement. The Council has reached out to the Pequot tribe and their decision was not to speak out about the statue but rather to submit a written statement to the Council. The historical Society has voted as a board they would accept the statue and find a way to have the community to come in and learn about the statue and John Mason's history while not being displayed in a prestigious way. Mayor Trinks stressed that it was only an attempt to appease people's wishes for the statue to be moved to another location.

Councilor Dobler stated that he wants to hear from a few different entities, including the townspeople, the state, and most importantly the tribal nation. The tribal nation gave a statement that they would rather the statue not be out in the public. Councilor Dobler agrees that the best new location will be with the Historical Society and it would be the best compromise.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe stated that statues are erected to honor someone at a given time, but statues aren't supposed to be honored forever. Most of the time they get moved and redisplayed in many locations as time goes on. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe stated that he does not equate a statue as history and history does not change if a statue is moved around. He believes that moving the statue will allow the honest history of John Mason to be told. History will not be lost, it will be correctly taught as we know it in the year 2020.

Councilor Jepsen said that the statement from the Pequots was not shared with him and he does not know what they think. Another item that has bothered him is that the best documentations of this topic have been found on the Pequot Museum website and hearing the comments from the public shows that there is a lot of misinformation. Councilor Jepsen stated that John Mason was not directly responsible for the slavery piece that has been brought up by so many and there were a lot of other people from the Windsor area involved in the battle that are not mentioned. Councilor Jepsen read an excerpt from a paper written on the Pequot Museum website which stated that the battle is basically made up mostly of assumptions. Councilor Jepsen stated that he thinks it would be appropriate to leave the statue there, build a palisade around it, and setting fire to it on the anniversary for a demonstration, or having some kind of ceremony to explain the true history of what happened back then. The history of the Dutch and the English and the various tribes all plays a significant part in history and should be conveyed in the details of the moving of this statue and to the Windsor community.

Councilor Wilkos agreed with Councilor Jepsen as far as not seeing anything from the Pequots and what conversations have been had with the state of Connecticut, other than knowing that the statue is a state piece of property and it is an easement. It will not be under the town of Windsor's cost, because it does not belong to the town of Windsor. Councilor Wilkos also stated that there is a lot of misinformation on this topic and there needs to be more time put into this decision, especially since there have been petitions received with about 300 signatures. This decision should be made by the people who live in this town and it is important to listen to both points of view in order to determine a proper decision. It is also important to not act on emotion, especially since it has just been brought up. Councilor Wilkos expressed that he wants more information on the history of the statue itself, before a decision is made, because this requires more time and attention.

Councilor Black-Burke asked Town Manager Souza if it is possible to provide the Council what the position is of the Council on individuals making statements as well as the town making decisions based on petitions coming to the Council. Councilor Black-Burke stated that everything needs to be clearly laid out and to leave no room for interpretation for anyone, as to who can make public comment and petitions. Councilor Black-Burke would like to know if this is something that formally needs to be addressed and how it should correctly be handled. Councilor Black-Burke gave her opinion regarding the statue, stating that she keeps hearing that it is emotionally driven, but there was an opportunity to remove the statue twenty years ago, which

has given plenty of time to decide on something such as this. She then stated that she has heard from both sides that the history and the statue need to be preserved but could easily be moved to the Windsor Historical Society so the history can be accurately told. Regarding funds, the town of Windsor spends money on other things of importance, and this can be considered as another compromise for funding to remove the statue from its current location with the state of Connecticut. Councilor Black-Burke commented again that statues were erected to commemorate something in a particular place or time and it is important to remember, but it is different than celebrating. This topic is reckoning with the racist past, and what the real purpose is because it speaks to injustice to a race of indigenous people in Windsor Connecticut and other places. She does not want this piece to be left out.

Councilor Govoni discussed the recreation of the Mayflower and its taking a voyage for its anniversary up to Plymouth. This will be a great example of preserving history. It is not right to take away a statue instead of preserving the history and something like this should be done for the statue as well.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that she has a degree in the arts and three degrees in education to show that she is very passionate about the arts and education. She stated that she sees the John Mason statue as an asset to both art and education, but there are more important things about learning history. A majority of the time there has been educational field trips to a museum or a historical building that holds artifacts from history. There has not been a time when students have traveled for a field trip to stand in front of a statue. Councilor Rampulla Bress explained that the full picture needs to be painted about John Mason. There is not a reason to keep John Mason in a place of prominence, especially regarding the educational piece. There is nothing on site at this point to educate the public to paint the full picture. Right now it is in a place of honor, and it is not fair to have the statue there, but should rather be moved to the Historical Society in order to provide more opportunities for correctly educating all learners passionate about the history of this state and the John Mason statue. Councilor Rampulla Bress also stated that all documentation from the state, historical society, and the Native Pequot tribes should be shared with the public so everyone can be included on this journey.

A motion to extend the meeting for 30 more minutes at 11:00 p.m. was made by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke.

Motion Failed due to not reaching a 2/3 majority vote. Vote was 5-4-0.

e) Consideration of recognizing the 2nd Monday of each October as Indigenous People Day
Item was tabled until the next meeting.

f) Discussion of Racism as a Public Health Crisis
Item was tabled until the next meeting.

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS – None

Item was tabled until next meeting.

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Special Town Council meeting

Item was tabled until the next meeting.

- b) Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting

Item was tabled until the next meeting

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item was tabled until the next meeting.

17) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Brisebois
Recording Secretary

August 24, 2020

Special Town Council
meeting minutes



**TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joe McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, and Councilor Donald Jepsen

Absent: Councilors James Govoni, Lenworth Walker and Kenneth Wilkos

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Dembowski, 38 Stacy Drive, spoke in favor of removing the John Mason statue and relocating it to the Historical Society so it may be viewed in the proper historical context. Mr. Dembowski stated that honoring Columbus for discovering America doesn't make sense, since Columbus never even set foot upon it. Mr. Dembowski is asking the Council to change the day's name.

Rosie Miskavitch, 20 Coach Circle, a former Board of Education President, spoke of the fate of the John Mason statue. Ms. Miskavitch said that this item warrants discussion and consideration from all points of view. Ms. Miskavitch stated that no one can attend this meeting in person, since there is only virtual attendance. Making this decision without actual public attendance and involvement is an act of irresponsibility by the Town Council and speaks to a political agenda rather than a decision that speaks for the town's citizens. Ms. Miskavitch respectfully requests any action be postponed until full in person participation is allowed.

Andrea Walden, 38 Stacy Drive, spoke in favor of moving the John Mason statue to the Historical Society with updated and accurate context being added to the display. This way, the town can learn the history of John Mason and the atrocities he committed.

Stacy Grossman, 106 Niles Road, spoke in favor of the removal of the John Mason statue and the renaming of Columbus Day. Ms. Grossman expressed her concern for the abrupt ending to the last Town Council meeting which was extremely disappointing, considering the votes to extend meetings had always been approved in the past. Ms. Grossman stated that it seems to be a deliberate attempt from the Republicans to avoid a vote on this matter, despite significant community interest. The most troubling thing for Ms. Grossman were comments made by Councilor Wilkos, where he stated he was willing to overlook comments made by almost every person who spoke in favor of removing the John Mason statue. Ms. Grossman feels that these comments are the opposite of what an elected official is supposed to do. Ms. Grossman said that perhaps Councilor Wilkos does not want to do his job and should resign. It is a choice and a privilege to serve the community. Ms. Grossman stated that there is almost 1,000 people who have signed a petition to relocate the John Mason statue to the Historical Society. Also, the



Windsor Public school system needs an answer about renaming Columbus Day as soon as possible. Ms. Grossman feels that this should be voted on tonight and then move on to more pressing issues.

Donna Grossman, 781 Kennedy Road, stated that Christopher Columbus did not discover America. One of his first acts in the hemisphere was to take six indigenous persons as slaves. Ms. Grossman feels that it is well past time to be honoring a day in Columbus' name. Ms. Grossman expressed that it is time to address racism now and not wait.

Lauren Shea-Warren, 51 Taylor Street, thanked the Town Council for having this special meeting tonight to discuss these important topics. Ms. Shea-Warren is in favor of relocating the John Mason statue to the Windsor Historical Society and the renaming of Columbus Day. Ms. Shea-Warren expressed her concern for the way this proposal has been handled by several of the elected officials. It saddens her to think that the topic of relocating a statue of a murderer has turned into a game of politics. Ms. Shea-Warren said that she implores those elected officials who have refused to attend tonight without good cause to reconsider what their oath truly means for this town.

Susan Miller, 10 Ethan Drive, spoke in favor of relocating the John Mason statue and renaming Columbus Day. Ms. Miller said that we see things that need change and we find ways to change them to make life better. Ms. Miller feels that we should start seriously focusing on the climate crisis lens more. Ms. Miller hopes that the Town can make continuous change for the better.

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, spoke of Mayor Trinks and how he indicated that the Pequot Tribe would be offering a written statement. Mr. Slate feels that the statement is the only thing that really matters. Mr. Slate stated that Thanksgiving Day applies to Columbus and might need renaming. He said that the Windsor High School Warrior mascot needs to be renamed. Mr. Slate said don't stop at the black and the brown people, you are forgetting the red and yellow people. He doesn't know why there is such a rush with the easement and a rush to judgment.

Jennifer Beaudoin, 537 Park Avenue, spoke of the Pequot nation making their feelings clear and it's time to move the John Mason statue to the Historical Society.

John Dunn, 15 Strawberry Hill, spoke in favor of leaving the John Mason statue where it is now located and adding additional descriptive plaques to explain John Mason's history. He feels the best way to bring this to a conclusion is to put it on the November voting ballot and let the town vote on it.

Dr. Jody Terranova, 52 Cobblestone Way, former Deputy Mayor of the Town Council, commended the Council for starting these conversations on race, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dr. Terranova thanked Councilor Black-Burke for leading the charge and wanted to let her know that there are many people supporting her. Dr. Terranova expressed her concern about the last Council meeting, although it was wonderful to see so many residents participating in local government, she was disappointed that residents had to wait for hours to speak and then



were never given the time to participate. She felt the perception of some members of the Council were either unwilling, uninterested, or uncomfortable having these difficult conversations on race and inequality. Dr. Terranova said that perception is persisting tonight with three Councilors not participating in this meeting. Every single Council member voted in favor of the resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis, which means not just voting, signing a piece of paper, or patting yourself on the back, but doing real work to make a real change. Dr. Terranova explained that the John Mason statue is a symbol of something that is hurtful and cruel to some people. She expressed that the statue is a symbol and to grow as a town, we need to correct some mistakes of the past. The Council needs to be willing to hear the uncomfortable things, show some empathy and make some steps to change. Moving the statue would not be a rush, but an easy first step to show that we meant what we said when we declared racism as a public health crisis.

Gary Woodruff, 72 Toby Avenue, spoke in favor of relocating the John Mason statue to the Historical Society and the creation of Indigenous People's day as a holiday.

Hilary Carpenter, 45 Bradford Drive, spoke about the remarkable job the Town has done to keep business going through the pandemic. She stated that the Town has done a great job allowing citizens to be heard. Ms. Carpenter is favor of relocating the statue off the green and if she had her way, the statue would be moved from the Town of Windsor. The Green is a place of honor, not a place where a statue of a murderer should be put on a pedestal.

Liz Dupont-Diehl, 78 Palisado Avenue, spoke in favor of relocating the John Mason statue and renaming Columbus Day. Personally she feels the statue should be moved out of town, but moving it to the Historical Society and allowing the full story to be told would be fine.

Bill Arnold, 336 Palisado Avenue, spoke in favor of relocating the John Mason statue to the Historical Society and establishing Indigenous People's Day.

Becky Jacobsen, 50 Lighthouse Road, spoke in favor of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's day since Columbus never set foot in North America. She doesn't feel like it's against Italian Americans. Ms. Jacobsen is in favor of relocating the John Mason statue to the Windsor Historical Society in order to give it the correct context and right place. She indicated that if we as a town are going to recognize racism as a public health crisis, then it's time to actually do something about it.

Cecilia Caride, 43 Poquonock Avenue, spoke in favor of the Windsor Historical Society giving the statue more context and a more inclusive display. Ms. Caride said that she understands why John Mason was a great founder of Windsor, but the other side of the story hasn't been told. She feels the town is telling the Pequot Tribe that they can't tell their story.



Joe Waterhouse, 9 Water Street, said he agreed with John Dunn's comments, but the Town of Windsor should donate the plot of land the statue sits on to the Windsor Historical Society. Then the statue would be on their property and not have to be removed.

Cari Turek, 248 Poquonock Avenue, spoke of the John Mason statue being moved to the Windsor in 1996 to no longer glorify Major Mason for his role in the Pequot War, but rather to acknowledge his many other contributions to the Town and State. Ms. Turek stated that the original plaque was removed from the statue's granite base at the request of the Pequots and a new plaque was created. The state failed to follow through on the recommendation to create three additional plaques to provide more information on John Mason's legacy. Ms. Turek said that this is not white washing history as seeking its removal claimed, however the group for the removal of the statue failed to provide any history in their petition. Ms. Turek stated that the residents only know a fraction of the complex history of what John Mason as a public servant did. Ms. Turek feels that from the July 6th meeting, some members of the Democratic side have displayed a lot of transparency in this process and aligned themselves with a group of extremist in their party. She indicated that according to the Windsor Journal article, the historical integrity of the statue will be compromised if moved to the Historical Society as their plan is to remove the two granite pieces that it sits on. She feels the statue will be unsafe if out of public view for vandalism. Ms. Turek stated that she is submitting a total of 942 petitioned signatures requesting the John Mason statue remain on the Palisado Green. She stated that for the record she was not allowed to post her electronic petition on the Windsor Bulletin Board as the administrator is a member of the Democratic town committee and only allowed the opposing group's petition to be posted there. Ms. Turek is not in favor of changing the name of Columbus Day, but rather to just pick another day for Indigenous People's Day.

Kathleen Tracy, 4 On the Green, spoke in favor of the removal of the John Mason statue and support of renaming Columbus Day. Ms. Tracy said that we need to create a new history of a culture of peace.

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, spoke of the July 4th vandalism of the statue with red paint. Mr. Bacigalupo stated that Major John Mason was asked by the Mohegans and other tribes to establish the trading post in Windsor in 1633. Mr. Bacigalupo gave a history of John Mason and the tribes. He feels this issue should be put on the next budget meeting in May so the town may know the exact cost to relocate the statue.

Grant Kiehne, 603 Bricklayer Road, thanked the Town Council for letting everyone speak on these issues. Mr. Kiehne feels the town needs to take a step back at some point and figure out how to address these types of issues. He said that these types of issues will never end. There is a never ending list of potential candidates. Mr. Kiehne said that John F. Kennedy was not a perfect person and eventually we may come to the point where we need to change the name of one of our grade schools. Mr. Kiehne expressed that there are many pressing priorities that need addressing in the town. We are in the middle of a national health crisis and have an economic crisis where small businesses are failing.



Gregory Stiles, 132 Capen Street, spoke of his recommendation of taking the historic Palisado Green, closing off the roadway on the south side, extending the entire green to the Historical Society property and incorporating more exhibits. Mr. Stiles feels that this will enhance the education for this museum.

Tim Curtis, 20 Kendrick Lane, spoke in favor of the relocation of the statue. Mr. Curtis stated that moving the statue doesn't erase the history of John Mason. Mr. Curtis feels that Columbus Day should be changed to Indigenous People's Day since the tribes were here first.

Lakisha Hyatt, 104 Benjamin Court, spoke in favor of the John Mason statue being moved. Ms. Hyatt stated that the idea is that the statue that reflects what is important to some in history, is going to move to a historical location to give it its full historical context. Ms. Hyatt doesn't understand the magnitude of the rage between residents and groups. Since Windsor declared racism a public health emergency, we should act now and make an action to remove something from limited description to receiving its full context in history. Ms. Hyatt asked the Council is this how we disagree? She feels the Town needs to learn how to disagree so she can have confidence in the Town Council.

David Furie, 37 Lighthouse Hill Rd., spoke in favor of moving of the statue to the Historical Society. He is also in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day. The Board of Education will take cue from what the Council does on this situation. Both of these issues go into actions in connection with the declaration in the unanimous decision of the Town Council declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Alan Simon, North Hampton, MA, a former Deputy Mayor, spoke in favor of moving the statue. Mr. Simon feels the public discourse that has developed with the attacks and name calling is uncalled for. He congratulated the Council for having a special meeting, but it's a meeting that should have never been needed. Mr. Simon hoped that there will be a free vote in the end. He feels the little parliamentary tactics to shut down a debate are beyond the way a small Town Council should be operating. Mr. Simon stated that Councilors who can't show up for a legal meeting should really reconsider if they should be on the Town Council.

Katherine Ellis, 97 Poquonock Avenue, spoke in favor of moving the statue to the Windsor Historical Society so it is meant to teach history in its whole context. Ms. Ellis supports the move to declare the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day. Ms. Ellis believes that if our Town wants to truly recognize racism as a public health crisis, that actions need to actually happen to reflect that.

Marcus Mason Marron, Old Lyme, spoke that this issue is not about numbers, it's about principles and perception. When the John Mason statue was relocated to Windsor, it was rebirthed to represent his entire career as a public servant and founder of Windsor. Windsor just declared racism as a public health crisis and intends to develop a plan of action. Mr. Marron feels that the first step needs to be the John Mason statue. He feels the only fair thing would be



to leave the historic statue right where it is and add interpretive materials to provide a full understanding. Mr. Marron has a question for Mitchell Rey, the Eastern Tribal Council member and Councilor Black-Burke. He would like them to explain why they approve of the statue moving to the Historical Society and cannot accept it where it is. It makes no sense to incur the expense and hassles to move it across the street and hide it. History matters, whether you agree with it or not.

Marissa Greene, 1233 Matianuck Avenue, spoke in favor of moving the statue. Ms. Greene said that the Palisado Green is a place for reverence and the statue doesn't convey that. She feels the Historical Society will be better suited to explain the history of John Mason's past. Ms. Greene stated that we value all people and all lives, not just the victors in history.

Paul Panos, 48 Brookview Road, disagreed with changing the name of Columbus Day and moving the John Mason statue. Mr. Panos gave a brief overview of John Mason's history.

Charles Windsor Jackson III, 26 Wilson Avenue, spoke of being neither for nor against the removal of the statue. He feels it makes no fiscal sense to move this statue 150 feet. He said that if you add an informative plaque to it, it would be better.

Kim Reed, 35 Last Leaf Circle, spoke in favor of moving the statue. Ms. Reed agreed with Dr. Terranova's comments. She is also in favor of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day.

Coralee Jones, 1171 Matianuck Avenue, declared the issues of removing the statue and changing Columbus Day is an issue of concern for people who are against these proposals. She stated that especially seniors are afraid to sign petitions for fear of retaliation. A great divide has been created in our Town over a statue. There are more important things to focus on right now than a statue. Ms. Jones feels that if the statue should be removed, the people who want it moved should raise the money to do so. The State doesn't have the money for this and the town has other important issues to spend its money on. She doesn't understand how this statue has become a symbol of racism since John Mason fought with other tribes against the Pequot War. Ms. Jones said that new plaques should be installed that describe the complete story of John Mason. This has gotten ridiculous and let's concentrate on the survival of people today.

Mayor Trinks said that it is not his intention to vote this evening. Mayor Trinks stated that he would like to have the whole Council present to hear all their comments and then vote. He knows that it may come as a disappointment to the audience, but September 8th is not that far away. The Special meeting was supposed to happen earlier than tonight, but the tropical storm made that impossible. Mayor Trinks thanked everyone that spoke publicly tonight.

3) CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO REMOVE THE JOHN MASON STATUE FROM THE PALISADO GREEN



Mayor Trinks stated town staff has had discussions with the State of Connecticut relative to the possibility of the statue being moved. The state indicated that they would consider a request to relocate the statue if the Town Council voted as such.

The Windsor Historical Society has communicated their willingness to consider hosting the statue if the Town Council and State determine to relocate it. They also stated a strong interest in ensuring that any future interpretation of the statue be as inclusive as possible and that it provide a full and balanced understanding of both past and modern history surrounding the role of John Mason and the statue.

Councilor Dobler wanted to thank everyone for their opinions tonight. He feels that over the past few months there has been a lot of misinformation on both sides. Councilor Dobler feels that the Tribal Nation's opinion should be the last say. The Tribal Nation has said that they would like to have the statue removed. Councilor Dobler explained that he liked the idea of the Historical Society procuring the statue. He personally knows four direct descendants of John Mason and he has asked them and they said they could care less where the statue is located. Councilor Dobler stated that he has had a difference of opinion with many of the other Councilors on both sides, yet he is always open to communicate with them. He feels we have lost that as a town and hopefully after September, we can move on as a town.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked everyone who took the time this evening to share their comments. It's very important to do so and no one should ever be afraid to share their views or ideas. Councilor Black-Burke said that as a country, we evolve and as we evolve, we have to be willing to understand that others see things from a different vantage point. Councilor Black-Burke feels that as a Town Council member, if a citizen comes forward and shares a concern with her, it is her responsibility to address it. This is not about political agenda and whether it be just a statue, it still has to be addressed. Councilor Black-Burke said that the people we need to hear from regarding the statue are the descendants of Major Mason, as well as the Tribal Nation. The statement from the Tribal Nation was very clear that they are in favor of removing the John Mason statue from public space permanently. Additionally, she encouraged Governor Lamont and the assembly to consider a committee that looks at representation of tribes in Connecticut, where there can review the state statutes and culturally appropriate alternatives. Councilor Black-Burke said that it is disheartening to hear the abuse of anyone no matter which side they are on. She feels we need to pride ourselves as a town. She explained that yes we are diverse, but what about the inclusion part. Everyone needs to feel included. Councilor Black-Burke wanted to ensure that when everyone speaks, they speak from a place of facts, and speak with the understanding that everyone is entitled to their opinion.

Councilor Rampulla Bress agreed with everything Councilor Black-Burke just said. She is saddened by the hurtful comments and hopes in the future the conversation will remain civil and not personal. Councilor Rampulla Bress wanted to ensure the community that the Town Council is still conducting business on a regular basis and people can communicate with all of the Councilors, whether by phone, email, or letter, even though we are doing our meeting virtually right now. Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that as an educator and an artist, the John Mason



statue is valuable to her for the lessons that can be learned from it. She feels moving the statue to the Historical Society will adequately represent it and explain it regarding the greatness and the horrific acts that transpired.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe thanked everyone for coming out and voicing their opinions tonight. It's a very important part of our democratic process and he appreciates it. In regards to adding this item to the November ballot, Deputy Mayor McAuliffe doesn't think that would be possible. He will check into that before the next meeting. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe is saddened by some the comments and people need to be more empathetic to all other citizens of the town.

Councilor Jepsen stated that he would like to publicly apologize to Mayor Trinks for something that happened at the last meeting. Councilor Jepsen said that he felt that former Councilman Simon second opportunity to speak was a violation of the rules and at that time the Mayor implied and Councilor Jepsen inferred that he had allowed it by mistake. He later learned from the Assistant Town Manager that the Mayor does not have the ability to monitor the public comments. The public microphones came on without the monitor turning them on and the staff is now investigating how that happened. Councilor Jepsen apologized to the Mayor. Mayor Trinks accepted Councilor Jepsen's apology.

Councilor Jepsen stated that given the way these issues have evolved, he wished to offer a much needed perspective. The Hartford Courant reported that the Mayor said the statue was going to be removed and this happened before the discussion was started. Councilor Jepsen said that the Mayor explained at the August meeting what had happened. Councilor Jepsen felt that at the August meeting, as very Democratic Councilors spoke, there was important information that the Republican Councilors did not share with them. Councilor Jepsen stated that Councilor Dobler said that the Pequot Nation submitted a letter and the State of Connecticut had been contacted, both of which they were not aware of. He felt that the Republicans were being shut out of the process and disrespected for the second time. When the motion came to extend the meeting past eleven o'clock, ending the meeting felt appropriate and necessary. Then came condemnation. The Windsor Democratic Town Committee condemned Councilor Jepsen and his republican counterparts for their actions. He felt that not only was he disrespected, but condemned also. The Democratic Town Chairman Adam Gutcheon accused the Republicans of bringing Trump style politics to Windsor.

Councilor Jepsen gave a brief summary of a Board of Education meeting five years ago which was approaching the eleventh hour for the Board of Education budget. The Republicans made a motion to extend the meeting, but was voted down by the Democrats. There were upset with Republicans in that meeting, but no one was condemned after. Councilor Jepsen feels these issues are causing a bigger wedge between the two parties. He stated that personally he does not favor the removal or continuing of the statue, as long as the town is not responsible to pay to move it since the town does not own it. Councilor Jepsen asked the Town Council for a formal inquiry to the State of Connecticut with a written response stating their stand on the statue and research on any conveyance or any other legal issue regarding the statue. Twenty-five years ago, when the state



was looking to place the statue somewhere it was looking for it to be on public land. Councilor Jepsen would like the town staff to investigate these two items and get back to the Town Council.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked Councilor Jepsen for his comments and she truly respects the public apology. Councilor Black-Burke stated that at the August 3rd meeting, that as a caucus we were put upon by a statement from the other side of the table eluding to a fact that we were not in the Council Chambers. She was hoping tonight that something was said to that affect, but some piece was missing. Councilor Black-Burke said that just like Councilor Rampulla Bress stated, we are all still doing good work even though we are all not in the chambers. Councilor Black-Burke felt like she was attacked since a comment like that can be made and it minimizes the hard work that all the Councilors have done.

Councilor Jepsen said that he appreciated Councilor Black-Burke's remarks and it was never their intention to say people were not doing their job. Councilor Jepsen stated that Councilors do more than just meet for meetings. After meetings we have a get together and talk together where we further develop bonds. Over the years, this has forged working relationships that are very important to the smooth operation of the Council. He feels that is missing now and has helped to create division where there should not be. Councilor Jepsen stated that the Council functions better if we are together more than on a Zoom meeting.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked Councilor Jepsen again and appreciated his response. She stated that the phones still work and emails are always answered.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that she appreciated the apology to Mayor Trinks and feels it was well deserved. She appreciated Councilor Jepsen's responses and know that he missed the rest of the Council. Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that facts are important and when Councilors share their facts, the public believes what they are saying. The town staff and Town Manager have been working tirelessly and diligently to complete tasks for business, whether the Council is in the building or not. She wanted the public to understand the facts that the Council and town's performance is in no way diminished while COVID has overtaken us. Please pick up the phone, call us, and email us, because we want to hear from you.

Mayor Trinks stated that his comments were not to make it look like the Council is going in any certain direction. He was merely trying to put a compromise together. Mayor Trinks thanked the Historical Society, who voted to accept the statue. Mayor Trinks stated that Councilor Jepsen is correct and we should make sure there is no conveyance that might prevent the Historical Society from having it. He is concerned at the expense of moving the statue and doesn't foresee the town paying for moving it since the statue is not the towns. The scare tactics that are being used need to stop. Mayor Trinks is in favor of the Historical Society giving the statue a more educational value. He thanked Deputy Mayor McAuliffe for the research he is going to do. Mayor Trinks assured everyone that not one single group is guiding the Council in their decision. The discussion needs to be civil and it needs to be proper because that is the only way it is going to get done. Mayor Trinks hoped that all the information will be obtained and a decision to be made



on September 8th, so we can move on to more pressing issues. Mayor Trinks stated that Councilor Jepsen's two questions will be researched and hopes to get a response from the State.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that Councilor Jepsen brought up the *Windsor Journal* and she saw something that disturbed her from the Republican chair. She found it very objectionable for someone to mention the agenda items were not very important since they didn't involve money.

Councilor Rampulla Bress explained that her job as a Councilor is not only about money and feels that kind of comment was very disrespectful and diminished the importance of the items that were on the agenda.

4) CONSIDERATION OF RECOGNIZING THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Councilor Black-Burke stated that this change is to promote tolerance, atonement and understanding as it relates to indigenous people. In Windsor this is an effort to be inclusive for all. The definition of the word inclusion is about respecting, appreciating, and welcoming others to feel and be a part of something. Councilor Black-Burke agreed with Mayor Trinks that the entire Council should vote on this together. She said that in Windsor we are diverse, but in regards to inclusivity we are still working on it.

Councilor Dobler said that the Town does not recognize Columbus Day as a holiday.

Councilor Jepsen stated that he agreed with Councilor Dobler. Most don't realize that the Town is open on Columbus Day. The Board of Education is closed that day. Councilor Jepsen is not in favor of creating a holiday, but rather is in favor of recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Councilors Jepsen and Dobler for explaining the facts about Columbus Day. Indigenous Peoples Day will honor the past, the present, and the future of native peoples throughout the United States. It recognizes the legacy, the impact of colonialism of native communities, and celebrates the culture, contributions, and resilience of contemporary native peoples. Councilor Rampulla Bress believed that as an educator, we need to hear more about cultures that are not represented. She would love to support our Town with a proclamation to rename the day.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe agreed with Councilor Rampulla Bress and fully supports renaming the day to make people more aware of native peoples.

5) DISCUSSION OF RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Town Manager Souza stated while a broader, multi-faceted framework for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy Plan is being developed, town staff has initiated several efforts to begin addressing objectives within the resolution. Below is a recap of some of the activities to date.



For example, the police department has outlined a four point approach which includes:

- employee training
- community outreach and engagement
- policy and data information sharing
- implementing body worn camera system

Action items will include offering ongoing training sessions related to topics such as cultural diversity, implicit bias and de-escalation; conducting several community outreach and listening sessions during the month of August; offering citizen police academies; and posting key department policies as well as annual reports on use of force and calls for service data.

Human Resources is in the process of developing additional training resources to build upon implicit bias training offered to full-time employees in the past two years.

The Health Department and Town Manager's Office staff have continued to research a variety of sources that may be able to provide an array of data sets to help guide and measure future action steps.

Councilor Black-Burke quoted James Baldwin by saying, "Not everything that is faced can be changed but nothing can be changed until it is faced." On June 15th when the Council passed the resolution, she believed nine individuals intended to work toward ensuring that there are concrete next steps. Councilor Black-Burke said that this is not going to happen overnight and it takes time to dismantle. Here in town we have folks who are from Indigenous decent and from listening to the conversations over the last month, they are probably not wanting to share with anyone that they are from Indigenous decent. Racism is a public health issue as it has been shown to create high blood pressure and anxiety in people. Race has become a social construct that has become a system of oppression in this country. The work ahead of us is to ensure that the health issue is addressed through looking at data, the mental health states of those in our community and walking towards ensuring that racism in Windsor is addressed. Racism is real and it will survive. She is a mother of a fourteen year old son who is afraid to go outside and play at the park. You don't know unless you have walked a mile in my shoes. Visit the American Public Health Association to go and read about racism as a public health crisis. Health Equity in Hartford can offer insight on how to become antiracist.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Councilor Black-Burke for her painful personal comments of racism to educate the community. She thanked Town Manager Souza and the town staff in their willingness to approach this situation. Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Councilor Black-Burke for taking the lead and sending the Council on this journey. Education is still needed to learn about each other's experiences.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe stated that we are all in this together, not just the black and brown people, but all of us work towards solving this together.



Councilor Jepsen said that with all the data collection, it has reminded him of years ago of the equity study that was taken at the Board of Education. Maybe we can ask the Board of Education to roll out something similar to help collect new data as we go down this path.

Town Manager Souza said that he has had a preliminary conversation with the Superintendent to see what kind of data they have. Town Manager Souza stated that they did not talk specifically about data collection.

Councilor Jepsen said that this might be something we could look into as we go down this path.

Councilor Black-Burke said that she agreed with Councilor Jepsen and the study could be a great baseline.

Mayor Trinks said that he appreciated the work the Town Manager is doing for the town. This item will be a continuous item on our agenda that we keep coming back to and discussing.

6) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

MOVED by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to accept the resignation of Brian Canoni from the Conservation Commission.

Motion Passed 6-0-0 (Councilors Govoni, Walker and Wilkos absent)

MOVED by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke to:

- REAPPOINT Patricia Bruhn as a Democratic member to the Hartford Area Cable Television Advisory Council for a two year term to expire June 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed
- REAPPOINT Paul St. Amand as a Republican member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a four year term to expire March 31, 2024 or until a successor is appointed
- REAPPOINT Bruce McCormick as a Democratic member to the Youth Commission for a three year term to expire September 30, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
- REAPPOINT Max Kuziak as a Democratic member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a four year term to expire November 10, 2023 or until a successor is appointed
- APPOINT Charles Button as a Democratic member to the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee for a two year term to expire August 3, 2022 or until a successor is appointed
- APPOINT Jennifer Filer as an Unaffiliated Alternate member to the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee for a two year term to expire August 3, 2022 or until a successor is appointed



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- APPOINT Neil Chaudhary as a Democratic member to the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy for a one year term to expire August 3, 2021 or until a successor is appointed

- APPOINT Jeffrey Dyreson as a Democratic member to the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy for a one year term to expire August 3, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
- APPOINT Barbara Peyton as a Republican member to the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy for a one year term to expire August 3, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
- APPOINT George Slate as a Republican member to the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy for a one year term to expire August 3, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
- APPOINT Pamela Stratton as a Republican member to the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy for a one year term to expire August 3, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
- APPOINT Eric Weiner as a Democratic member to the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy for a one year term to expire August 3, 2021 or until a successor is appointed
- APPOINT Elizabeth Yetman as a Democratic member to the Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy for a one year term to expire August 3, 2021 or until a successor is appointed

Motion Passed 6-0-0 (Councilors Govoni, Walker and Wilkos absent)

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked the committee members and citizens who waited patiently for these appointments. She looks so forward to their serving our town.

7) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Jepsen stated that traditionally we approve minutes at a regular meeting not a special meeting. Would it better to hold off for the whole Council to be together?

Mayor Trinks said that he had no problem with that.

- a) Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Special Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress to table the minutes of the July 6, 2020 Special Town Council meeting to September 8, 2020.

Motion Passed 6-0-0 (Councilors Govoni, Walker and Wilkos absent)

- b) Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting



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August 24, 2020

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress to table the minutes of the July 6, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting to September 8, 2020.

Motion Passed 6-0-0 (Councilors Govoni, Walker and Wilkos absent)

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to enter into Executive Session at 9:48 p.m. for the purpose of strategy and negotiations in respect to collective bargaining (Teamsters)

Motion Passed 6-0-0 (Councilors Govoni, Walker and Wilkos absent)

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joe McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, and Councilor Donald Jepsen,

Staff: Peter Souza, Town Manager; Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, to re-enter the Special Town Council meeting session at 10:12 p.m.

Motion Passed 6-0-0 (Councilors Govoni, Walker and Wilkos absent)

9) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m.

Motion Passed 6-0-0 (Councilors Govoni, Walker and Wilkos absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Ozaki
Recording Secretary