



**TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
May 17, 2021
Regular Town Council Meeting**

APPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joseph 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

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe led the group in prayer/reflection.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

- a) Proclamation designating May 16-22 as National Public Works Week

Councilor Black-Burke read the proclamation designating May 2021 as National Public Works week.

- b) Proclamation declaring May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month

Councilor Rampulla Bress read the proclamation declaring May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness month.

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, spoke of the concerts that are presented through the town. Mr. Bacigalupo said that First Town Downtown told him he would not be able to volunteer with them. Their president told him the only way he could be involved was to start a music series by himself. Mr. Bacigalupo said he approached the Town Council to start a Music Commission but it did not gain much traction. At the last meeting, the idea of an Arts Commission was processed forward without a vote. If music is going to fall under the Art Commission, he would be happy to apply and work on it. Mr. Bacigalupo would like to follow up on his application to join the Windsor Housing Authority (WHA). Mr. Bacigalupo believes that his application has been thrown into the

trash. He would like to represent the republicans in town and attend the next WHA. Mr. Bacigalupo feels like something is going on at the WHA.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Dobler said he had nothing to report.

Councilor Walker wanted to remind people to support Windsor businesses, not just in the center of town, but throughout. Councilor Walker encouraged everyone to stay safe since we are crossing a milestone at this point. Councilor Walker thanked Mayor Trinks for his support for providing space at Bart's for the Police Cadets. Councilor Walker explained his continuing support for the Police Cadets. The Police Cadets have an academic standard where they have to maintain certain grades in school. Education is key.

Councilor Black-Burke wanted to remind everyone that we are crossing a milestone, and to please do your best so we can continue to reopen in stages. The vaccination range has changed, so if parents are interested in getting their children vaccinated, you can check various websites to schedule an appointment. Councilor Black-Burke said congratulations to all the graduates she is seeing on Facebook. Councilor Black-Burke said that Mayor Trinks did an amazing job on Twenty Towns in Twenty Days which can be seen on the Town website. Councilor Black-Burke stated that they are continuing conversations with Amazon and that the town will not stand for that type of behavior. The NWPCA is also involved with us. She added that the town is continuing to do their part to ensure those responsible are brought to justice.

Councilor Govoni said that he had nothing to report.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Councilor Black-Burke for congratulating her on her son's graduation with a master's degree. Councilor Rampulla Bress is very proud of all the Windsor graduates. Councilor Rampulla Bress recognized that May 9-15 was National Police Week. Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked the caller that is very interested in the board & commission. She clarified the misinformation and stated that no applications have been discarded and the Personnel Committee would be meeting on June 2nd. Mr. Bacigalupo's application is in the pipeline and will be scheduled for an interview. Councilor Rampulla Bress said that anyone is able to apply. Councilor Rampulla Bress explained how committees are formed by the Council.

Councilor Wilkos had nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe had nothing to report.

Councilor Jepsen said that everyone has less than four hours to file their taxes.

Mayor Trinks had nothing to report.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

a) Public Building Commission

A hard copy of the report was distributed to all councilors prior to the meeting.

b) Fair Rent Commission

A hard copy of the report was distributed to all councilors prior to the meeting.

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town of Windsor Memorial Day Observances

Memorial Day observances will be held on Monday, May 31st. An observance only (no parade) will be held at the Elm Grove Cemetery located in Poquonock beginning at 8:00 AM followed by a ceremony at Veteran's Cemetery at 9:00 AM. Following the ceremony at Veteran's Cemetery, the Memorial Day Parade will proceed to Windsor Town Hall via Poquonock Avenue. The parade usually arrives in the center of town between 9:45 AM and 10:00 AM. The 10:00 AM ceremony at town hall will include a special flag ceremony performed by members of Boy Scout Troop 149. Those attending these outdoor events are encouraged to keep social distance and wear masks when warranted.

This year's Parade Marshal is retired 3-star General Reynold Hoover. Hoover is a Windsor native having attended Windsor Public Schools. He is the former Deputy Commander of the U.S. Northern Command. Prior to that assignment General Hoover served at the Defense Intelligence Agency and as the National Guard Bureau's Director of Intelligence and Chief Information Officer. He was the Commanding General of the Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan with lead responsibility for military logistics in Afghanistan. During his 35-year military career, General Hoover commanded at every level up to and including a two-star Theater Sustainment Command.

There is much, much more. Enjoy reading General Hoover's complete bio on the town website.

Also of note is that General Hoover's father, Reynold L. Hoover Hoover served on the Windsor Town Council from 1967 – 1979.

Traditionally in case of rain, one single ceremony is held at 10:00 AM in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Stay tuned for details as we gather more information from the Governor's Office in the coming days regarding large indoor gatherings. Further details on Windsor's Memorial Day observances can be found on the town's website at www.townofwindsorct.com. Contact Enita Jubrey at 860-285-1835 with any other questions.

MDC HazWaste Program

Each spring and fall, the MDC conducts a regional household hazardous waste collection program. This year, the MDC will be holding this program in Windsor on May 22, 2021 from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The program including which items can be brought, current COVID-19 procedures being followed and other pertinent information can be found at <https://themdc.org/>. Once there, click on the "Household HazWaste Collection" square.

Dog License Renewals

Renewal Period: JUNE 1 -30, 2021

The Town Clerk's office encourages all dog owners to renew their dog's license online or through the mail. For your convenience, you may also drop off your dog's license renewal payment in the Tax Collector's drop box conveniently located in our town hall parking lot. Dog licenses are required by state law for dogs six months or older. Newly obtained dogs must be licensed within 30 days of new ownership. There is a late fee for licenses renewed after June 30th.

Online Renewals - Online renewals will be available on our website www.townofwindsorct.com beginning on June 1st.

Renew by mail or drop box - Enclose a check payable to the Town of Windsor and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Dog tags will be mailed to the owner in the self-address stamped envelope. Rabies vaccination certificates are required for any dog that had its rabies vaccination updated since last June.

COVID-19 update

As of May 12, 2021, 43% of our total estimated population was fully vaccinated. This is up from 39% as of April 28th.

56.2% of town residents, 16 years old and above, have been fully vaccinated.

The following clinics are available in Windsor for those who have not yet been vaccinated:

- Tuesday, May 18, 10:00am – 12:00noon – Windsor Community Center, 330 Windsor Ave, Windsor, CT
- Wednesday, May 19, 11:30am – 1:30pm – The Ranch House, 27 Windsor Ave, Windsor, CT
- Tuesday, May 25, 10:00am – 12:00noon - Windsor Community Center, 330 Windsor Ave, Windsor, CT
- Wednesday, May 26, 10:00am – 12:00noon – Islamic Center of CT, 140 White Rock Drive, Windsor, CT

In light of the recent CDC guidance concerning masks and face coverings, we are awaiting new business regulations from the CT Department of Public Health.

National Public Works Week

I'd like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of my colleagues in the public works and engineering departments for all that they do to keep us safe, maintain our facilities and infrastructure, as well as work to beautify the community.

The men and women of these departments are on call 24 hours a day - year in and year out - no matter what the weather conditions.

They are responsible for a wide array of activities and services that touch our lives each and every day. Not only do they maintain well over 150 miles of roads ways, they also take care of:

- 87 miles of sidewalks
- 95 acres of grass turf
- 27 athletic fields and hundreds of acres of open space
- over 3,000 storm drains and 100 miles of drainage pipes

Our dedicated employees help support multitudes of community events such as setting up polling locations and maintaining community centers and buildings that range in age from 150 years old to newly renovated ones.

Thank you to each member of our public works and engineering team for working in partnership with all of our fellow departments – with you we are a much stronger and vibrant community.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Dobler will be meeting next week.

Special Projects Committee – Councilor Dobler had nothing to report.

Health & Safety Committee – Councilor Black-Burke had nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Councilor Rampulla Bress said the committee will be meeting on Wednesday, June 2nd.

Finance Committee – Deputy Mayor McAuliffe had nothing to report.

10) ORDINANCES – None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Set mill rate for FY 22 budget

MOVED by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen, that the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 be set at 33.27 mills which reflects the October 2020 property valuation with a total estimated taxable grand list for FY 2022 of \$3,190,015,000.

Town Manager Souza stated the voters adopted the FY 2022 General Fund budget of \$125,787,620 on May 11, 2021. The mill rate needed to fund this budget is 33.27 mills, which is a 0.48% increase over the current mill rate of 33.11.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked the town staff, Councilor Jepsen, and Town Manager Souza for working on the budget. Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked everyone for coming out to vote.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Approve Tax Suspense List

MOVED by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Jepsen that \$174,170.17 motor vehicle, supplemental, and personal property taxes be transferred to the Suspense Tax Book from the following respective Grand List years: October 1, 2015 - \$634.81 and October 1, 2017 - \$173,535.36.

Cathy Elliot, Tax Collector, stated that the Suspense List must be submitted annually to the Town Council. Various methods of collection have been pursued and all vehicle registrations have been reported to the Motor Vehicle Department. Transferring these bills to the Suspense Book does not mean we cannot collect if the taxpayer appears or is found through further efforts. However, this transfer presents a more accurate picture of the town's accounts receivable at this time.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

c) Accept COVID-19 Community Outreach and Vaccination Grants from the State Department of Public Health and the Hartford Area Foundation for Public Giving

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to authorize the acceptance of the grants outlined in Exhibit "A".

Exhibit "A"
COVID-19 Grants

Grantor	Grant	Amount
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving	Vaccine Equity & Outreach Efforts	\$34,962
State of Connecticut Department of Public Health	Vaccine Equity Partnership	\$32,983
Total		<u>\$67,945</u>

Dr. Michael Pepe, Director of Public Health, gave an overview of the grants to the Town Council.

Councilor Rampulla Bress asked if Dr. Pepe knows what we could do to raise the vaccination numbers and would the grants help with that. Dr. Pepe stated that he is formulating a strategy to come up with a plan to reach those populations that are resistant or not able to get

vaccinations. Councilor Rampulla-Bress stated that she saw some restaurants were giving out food for getting vaccinated. She believes anything anyone could do to encourage people to get the vaccine is a good thing and appreciated Dr. Pepe for looking into it.

Councilor Jepsen asked if it was fair to say if someone does not want to get a vaccine, they don't have to. Dr. Pepe said that is correct.

Councilor Rampulla Bress said that she thought Councilor Jepsen asked a great question regarding what we can do as a town to at least focus on access. No matter how much access we have, there are those who may still feel uncomfortable to get it. Access might still be a problem, but there would be some people who we might not reach either.

Councilor Wilkos asked if at home services are being offered at this time. Dr. Pepe stated that yes home service is available. Councilor Wilkos asked if that was being promoted. Dr. Pepe stated that it is being promoted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Councilor Wilkos said that maybe we can focus more on that. Councilor Wilkos feels if the public hears from a directed consumer ad, that you can use it as an option with the grant money. Town Manager Souza said that the Senior Center is making that available to those we know that are homebound. He added that they are looking at having clinics in off hours and Saturday vaccinations will be happening soon in early June. Councilor Wilkos informed anyone from the public to contact the Windsor Health Department for COVID-19 vaccinations at home.

Councilor Govoni said that Governor Lamont had a good press conference today about opening up and taking baby steps.

Councilor Rampulla Bress said that she agreed with all her fellow Councilors comments. She said that people might not all be homebound, but have no transportation to vaccination sites. In all the CDC guidelines, when everything opens up, we all need to remember that there are people in the community that are immunocompromised. Please be accepting of everyone's choices and understand that there are those out there that will still have to protect themselves.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- d) Approve Purchase and Sale Agreement for 451 Windsor Avenue with the Capitol Region Educational Council (CREC)

MOVED by Councilor Dobler, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the attached Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Capitol Region Education Council for the sale and transfer of 451 Windsor Avenue.

Town Manager Souza stated in the past several months, staff has been engaged in discussions and negotiations with CREC regarding their interest in acquiring the property at 451 Windsor Avenue for educational related purposes. The present condition of the building calls for substantial investment in items such as the roof, replacements of heating, ventilation and air conditions systems, removal of underground fuel tanks, updating restrooms and classrooms as well as repairing or replacing the gym floor.

Primary terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement were reviewed.

By transferring the property, the town would no longer have annual utility, maintenance and repair costs. Staff time associated with property oversight, snow removal and exterior maintenance would also be eliminated. Cost of the substantial deferred and future capital investments in the property would also be avoided. The current and near term reinvestment is estimated to be approximately \$5M. The avoided cost of future debt service on \$5M is approximately \$415,000 annually over a 15 year period.

Councilor Jepsen said that this day has been a long time coming. Councilor Jepsen thanked the Town Manager and town staff for their work on this. It's an end of an era. He stated that his family went to Wolcott School and his Great-Aunt worked there. The present building on this site is the fifth building to be there. Councilor Jepsen said that he is very glad that the name will be maintained and it's time to move on to the next thing.

Councilor Wilkos said that this is an absolute win for the community. Councilor Wilkos thanked Town Manager Souza for doing this and it's been eight years in the making. Councilor Wilkos agreed about maintaining the name. It's a great thing that the land is protected should something happen down the road. As the years go on, hopefully the town government will maintain the integrity of that property for future use.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked Town Manager Souza and his team. Councilor Black-Burke said that tonight is very difficult for her since she was very torn. She would have much preferred about eight years ago that our own Early Childhood Facility took over the school and the land. During her time on the Board of Education, she worked so hard to bring students back to Windsor Public Schools. She does see some of the benefits. She is grateful that they are keeping the name. She had a family member who taught and also who went there.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked Town Manager Souza. Councilor Rampulla Bress agreed with Councilor Black-Burke that it would have been wonderful to have our own early childhood development in Windsor. The most important things at this time is the opportunities it provides for our families in our community and surrounding communities with early childhood development. Councilor Rampulla Bress said that she is happy that we do have the opportunity to take the building back at some time.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS – None

Councilor Rampulla Bress said that the Committee was emailed a list of proposed appointments. Councilors Rampulla Bress, Black-Burke and Walker met last Thursday and the Council would be voting on these names next week.

Councilor Jepsen asked about this list and noted there were two candidates for one position. Councilor Jepsen was curious why one was chosen over the other. He did not need an answer right now since it should not be discussed in public.

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the May 3, 2021 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the May 3, 2021 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- b) Minutes of the May 10, 2021 Special Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the May 10, 2021 Special Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, said that it was brought to his attention that there are no republicans on the Windsor Housing Authority Commission. There are just three democrats running wild and doing whatever they want. That is not how a town should be run in his opinion. He is very enthusiastic about the Art Commission, but not sure who brought the idea forward. He did not hear anything crying out at the Town Council about a need for the Arts Commission. Mr. Bacigalupo would love to work with the Commission. Mr. Bacigalupo thinks that some of the democrats are a little wiser to the ways on how to get grant money that the President is throwing away. There is a ton of money that is earmarked for music and he would love to see that money come to Windsor. He would like to apply for the Arts Commission. Mr. Bacigalupo said that the Town Council is constantly talking about their favorite subject, the plague, the China virus. He said that Eric Clapton took the first dose of the vaccine and his hands went numb and couldn't play the guitar for a month. Then the second dose made him violently ill for ten days. Is this what the Council wants for Windsor? Mr. Bacigalupo said that Texas has not had a single COVID-19 case since the mask mandate was lifted in March. The hysteria has to end. It's mental torture you are putting people through.

Susan Miller, 130 Palisado Avenue, stated that her understanding is the Housing Authority is working their tails off for the residents of this town. Mrs. Miller said that it would be good for the town to give a status report for Amazon from the Mayor and the Town Manager.

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Bress to enter Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. for the purpose of:

- a) Strategy and negotiations in respect to collective bargaining (WPDEA & UPSEU – Dispatchers)

Motion Passed 9-0-0

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joseph 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

Staff: Peter Souza, Town Manager; Amelia Bliss, Director of Human Resources; Don Melanson, Police Chief

Guests: Kevin Deneen, Town Attorney

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Councilor Bress to exit Executive Session and re-enter the Regular Town Council meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Bress, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Ozaki
Recording Secretary