



Council Agenda

Council Chambers
Windsor Town Hall
June 17, 2024



Zoom Instructions

Dialing in by Phone Only:

Please call: **646 931 3860** or **646 558 8656**

1. When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: **828 9819 7598** and then press #
2. You will then enter the meeting muted. During 'Public Comment' if you wish to speak press *9 to raise your hand. Please give your name and address prior to voicing your comments.

Joining in by Computer:

Please go to the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82898197598>

When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: **828 9819 7598**

1. 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.
2. During 'Public Comment' if you do not wish to speak you may type your comments into the Q&A feature.

7:20 PM Public Hearing

To hear public comment on ordinances entitled:

- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS
- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION

7:30 PM Regular Council Meeting

1. ROLL CALL
2. PRAYER OR REFLECTION – Councilor Gluck Hoffman
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilor Gluck Hoffman
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) Public Building Commission
 - b) Historic District Commission



8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
10. ORDINANCES
 - a) *Approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS." (Town Manager)
 - b) *Approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION." (Town Manager)
11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) *Approve Fiscal Year 24 year end transfers (Councilor Naeem)
 - b) *Approve Fiscal Year 24 Purchase Orders (Councilor Naeem)
 - c) *Authorize the submittal of a grant application to the Stanton Foundation to support establishing a second police canine unit. (Town Manager)
 - d) *Authorize the submittal of a grant application to the State of Connecticut's Community Investment Fund for improvements to the L.P. Wilson Community Center. (Town Manager)
 - e) Consider settlement of Voya vs Town of Windsor (Town Manager)
13. *RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
14. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS
 - a) *Minutes of the May 20, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting
 - b) *Minutes of the June 3, 2024 Public Hearing
 - c) *Minutes of the June 3, 2024 Special Town Council Meeting (budget)
 - d) *Minutes of the June 3, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting
15. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS
(Three minute limit per speaker)
16. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - a) Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation (Voya vs Town of Windsor)
17. ADJOURNMENT


★Back-up included

Agenda Item Summary

Date: June 17, 2024

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: Property Tax Relief for Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners Ordinance

Background

State law provides a property tax credit for Connecticut homeowners who are elderly or totally disabled and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. In 2006, the Town Council adopted an ordinance that provides additional tax relief via a local tax credit for Windsor homeowners who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits.

Over the years, the Town Council has made adjustments to the ordinance. These changes include increasing the eligible income levels and increasing the benefit amounts, with the last change in 2023 when the local benefit amount was adjusted upward from a match of 40% to 50% and the dollar amount for the flat benefit was increased.

Discussion/Analysis

Property tax credits under the state program can be up to \$1,250 for married couples and \$1,000 for single individuals. Credits are based on a graduated income scale. The town provides an additional benefit with a current match of 50% of this credit for those households eligible under the state program. The town's ordinance also provides for a flat benefit of either \$308 or \$425, dependent on marital status for eligible households with incomes between \$43,800 and \$60,300.

The town income level increases have been proportional to the State income level increases, which themselves are proportional to annual Social Security cost of living increases. Since 2019, the town's local income limit has been automatically raised each year, proportional to the increase in the state's programs maximum income limit.

Currently there are 337 participants under the state program and the local match benefit. There are 86 participants in the flat benefit program.

There was discussion at the May 20th Town Council meeting to explore the cost of the program if the additional local benefit were to double for participants. The attached ordinance amending the benefit schedule was introduced at the June 3rd Town Council meeting.

Below are a set of tables that show the current local benefit dollar amount and match at 50% as well as the proposed local benefit dollar amount and match at 100%. This would provide an increased benefit for local program participants. This would double the local match as well as

increase the flat benefit dependent on marital status for eligible households with incomes between \$43,800 and \$60,300.

50% Match

Income Limit		Married				Unmarried			
Over	Under	State	Local: 50%	Local > \$53,400	Total	State	Local: 50%	Local > \$43,800	Total
\$0	\$22,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 625		\$ 1,875	\$ 1,000	\$ 500		\$ 1,500
\$22,000	\$29,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500		\$ 1,500	\$ 750	\$ 375		\$ 1,125
\$29,500	\$36,700	\$ 750	\$ 375		\$ 1,125	\$ 500	\$ 250		\$ 750
\$36,700	\$43,800	\$ 500	\$ 250		\$ 750	* \$ 250	\$ 225		* \$ 475
\$43,800	\$53,400	* \$ 250	\$ 225		* \$ 475			\$ 308	* \$ 308
\$53,400	\$60,300			\$ 425	\$ 425			\$ 308	* \$ 308

100% Match

Income Limit		Married				Unmarried			
Over	Under	State	Local: 100%	Local > \$53,400	Total	State	Local: 100%	Local > \$43,800	Total
\$0	\$22,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250		\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		\$ 2,000
\$22,000	\$29,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 750	\$ 750		\$ 1,500
\$29,500	\$36,700	\$ 750	\$ 750		\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ 500		\$ 1,000
\$36,700	\$43,800	\$ 500	\$ 500		\$ 1,000	* \$ 250	\$ 350		* \$ 600
\$43,800	\$53,400	* \$ 250	\$ 350		* \$ 600			\$ 415	* \$ 415
\$53,400	\$60,300			\$ 550	\$ 550			\$ 415	* \$ 415

* The local match does not reflect the percentage of the state benefit for these income limits to allow for increased benefit for the local program participants

Financial Impact

The State of Connecticut no longer reimburses municipalities for the state program. The program as a whole has a current cost of \$305,000.

Based on the same number of participants as in FY 24, the estimated cost of the additional benefits related to this proposed amendment is \$129,475 in FY 25. Total program benefits would then be approximately \$434,475.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendation

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 AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS” 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 the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.”

2) Approve an Ordinance

“MOVE to approve an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS.”

Attachments

Proposed amended ordinance

Red-lined version of current ordinance

Ordinance Amending
Property Tax Relief for
Elderly and/or Disabled
Homeowners

**CHAPTER 5
ARTICLE XVII**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR:

Chapter 5, Article XVII, of the *Windsor Code* is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Property tax relief for elderly and/or disabled homeowners.

Section 5-17 (b)(2)(i) is amended to read as follows:

For the October 1, 2023 Grand List, local tax credits shall be provided by the town in accordance with the following income and credit guidelines:

Qualifying Income		Marital Status	Local Tax Credit = % of State Benefit
Over	To		
\$0	\$22,000	Married	100%
\$0	\$22,000	Single	100%
\$22,000	\$29,500	Married	100%
\$22,000	\$29,500	Single	100%
\$29,500	\$36,700	Married	100%
\$29,500	\$36,700	Single	100%
\$36,700	\$43,800	Married	100%
\$36,700	\$43,800	Single	100% + \$100*
\$43,800	\$53,400	Married	100% + \$100*
\$43,800	\$53,400	Single	\$415
\$53,400	\$60,300	Married	\$550
\$53,400	\$60,300	Single	\$415

*Supplement to local match to allow increased benefit for local program participants

Section 5-17 (7) is amended to read as follows:

This article shall be applicable to the Grand List of October 1, 2023 and all subsequent Grand Lists thereafter.

Section 2. Savings Clause. The enactment of this Ordinance shall not operate as an abatement of any action or proceeding previously taken, now pending, or taken prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. All said actions and proceedings are hereby ratified to be continued.

Section 3. Severability. All provisions of the Town Code in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and that if for any reason, any word, clause, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be held to make the same unconstitutional, this Ordinance shall not hereby be invalidated and the remainder of the Ordinance shall continue in effect. Any provision herein which is in conflict with the Connecticut General Statutes is hereby repealed, it being understood that said statute shall take precedence over this Ordinance.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Town Attorney

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Distributed to Town Council

Public Hearing Advertised

Public Hearing

Adopted

Advertised

Effective Date

Red-Lined Version

Property Tax Relief for Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners ordinance

CHAPTER 5
ARTICLE XV11

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-129n TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS.

Sec. 5-17. Property tax relief for elderly and/or disabled homeowners.

(a) Pursuant to the authority granted under Connecticut General Statutes section 12-129n, as amended, the tax relief for elderly and/or disabled homeowners provided under said statute is hereby adopted, extended and supplemented by the town council as follows.

(b) The qualifications for the property tax relief provided by this section shall be as follows:

(1) Applicants must be a resident of the town who are:

(i) Sixty-five years of age or over or whose spouse, living with them, is 65 years of age or over, or 50 years of age and the surviving spouse of a taxpayer who has qualified under this section at the time of their death, and with respect to real property in which such resident or their spouse is liable for taxes under Connecticut General Statutes section 12-48.

(ii) Applicants under age 65 must be eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security, or have not been engaged in employment covered by Social Security and accordingly have not qualified for benefits thereunder, but have become qualified for permanent total disability benefits under any federal, state or local government retirement or disability plan, including the Railroad Retirement Act and any government-related teacher's retirement plan, in which requirements with respect to qualifications for such permanent total disability benefits are comparable to such requirement under Social Security.

(iii) Applicants must have been a taxpayer of the town for one year immediately preceding their receipt of tax benefits under this section.

(iv) Applicants must own and occupy the dwelling of the property subject to tax relief for at least 183 days per year for the property to qualify as the taxpayer's principal residence.

(v) Applicants and/or their spouses shall have individually, if unmarried, or jointly, if married, adjusted gross income, as shown on Internal Revenue Service Form 1040, (if filed) Social Security benefits, and all other forms of income including but not limited to interest, dividends, annuities, pensions, retirement allowances hereinafter called "qualifying income", during the calendar year preceding the filing of their application in accordance with the guidelines set forth below.

(vi) Such other conditions, qualifications, standards and procedures as set forth in the Connecticut General Statutes, as may be amended and this section.

(2) (i) For the October 1, ~~2022~~ 2023 Grand List, local tax credits shall be provided by the Town in accordance with the following income and credit guidelines:

<i>Qualifying Income</i>		Marital Status	Local Tax Credit = % of State Benefit
<i>Over</i>	<i>To</i>		
\$0	\$20,200 <u>\$22,000</u>	Married	50 <u>100</u> %
\$0	\$20,200 <u>\$22,000</u>	Single	50 <u>100</u> %
\$20,200 <u>\$22,000</u>	\$27,100 <u>\$29,500</u>	Married	50 <u>100</u> %
\$20,200 <u>\$22,000</u>	\$27,100 <u>\$29,500</u>	Single	50 <u>100</u> %
\$27,100 <u>\$29,500</u>	\$33,800 <u>\$36,700</u>	Married	50 <u>100</u> %
\$27,100 <u>\$29,500</u>	\$33,800 <u>\$36,700</u>	Single	50 <u>100</u> %
\$33,800 <u>\$36,700</u>	\$40,300 <u>\$43,800</u>	Married	50 <u>100</u> %
\$33,800 <u>\$36,700</u>	\$40,300 <u>\$43,800</u>	Single	50 <u>100</u> % + \$100*
\$40,300 <u>\$43,800</u>	\$49,100 <u>\$53,400</u>	Married	50 <u>100</u> % + \$100*
\$40,300 <u>\$43,800</u>	\$49,100 <u>\$53,400</u>	Single	\$308 <u>\$415</u>
\$49,100 <u>\$53,400</u>	\$55,400 <u>\$60,300</u>	Married	\$425 <u>\$550</u>
\$49,100 <u>\$53,400</u>	\$55,400 <u>\$60,300</u>	Single	\$308 <u>\$415</u>

*Supplement to local match to allow increased benefit for local program participants

(ii) The qualifying income levels described in paragraph (2)(i) above shall be as set forth therein or equal to the qualifying income for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief program as published annually by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management, whichever is greater.

(iii) The local property tax credits provided by this article shall be in addition to and not dependent upon those benefits available to qualified taxpayers under any Connecticut General Statute, Sections 12-129b to 12-129d, inclusive, Sections 12-129h and 12-170aa, provided that the Town and state benefits in any one year shall not exceed

75% of the normal tax which would have been imposed on a qualified taxpayer in the absence of such state statute and this article.

(3) Except for the "qualifying income" standard as set forth in this article, if the state denies the eligibility of an applicant for the portion of tax relief granted under one of the state programs, the Assessor must deny the applicant the local share of tax relief, remove the applicant from the benefit records and bill them for the full real estate tax due.

(4) Upon the transfer of the property, the benefit is not transferable to the new owner and the new owner shall lose the benefit. Additionally, the Assessor shall prorate the increased tax liability from the date of transfer and notify the tax collector of such increase who will bill the new owner within a reasonable time period.

(5) The assessor and the tax collector shall prescribe, with regard to their respective duties under this article, such forms and procedures as may be necessary to implement this article. The Assessor shall, in addition, satisfy himself or herself as to the qualifying income of an applicant for benefits under this article by requesting and reviewing such evidence of qualifying income as may be pertinent. All applications, federal income tax returns, and any additional evidence of qualifying income which the Assessor may require shall be kept confidential and not open to public inspection to the extent permitted under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.

(6) Applications for benefits under this article shall be filed bi-annually with the assessor between February 1 and May 15.

(7) This article shall be applicable to the Grand List of October 1, ~~2022~~2023 and all subsequent Grand Lists thereafter.

(8) All provisions of the town code in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and that if for any reason, any word, clause, paragraph, or section of this article shall be held to make the same unconstitutional, this article shall not hereby be invalidated and the remainder of the article shall continue in effect. Any provision herein which is in conflict with the *Connecticut General Statutes* is hereby repealed, it being understood that said statutes shall take precedence over this article. In the event of any conflict between this article and *Connecticut General Statutes* Section 12-129n as it may be amended, the provisions of the statute shall control.

(9) The local tax credits available pursuant to this article shall be reduced if the total cost of the program exceeds the annual amount appropriated by the Town Council. The re-adjusted tax credits shall be calculated by reducing the tax credit in a pro rata amount until the total cost of the annual appropriation is reached. If in any year the Town Council fails to appropriate any funds for this program, the tax credits will be suspended for that fiscal year only.

(Ord. No. 06-01, 6-5-06)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Town Attorney

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Distributed to Town Council

Public Hearing Advertised

Public Hearing

Adopted

Advertised

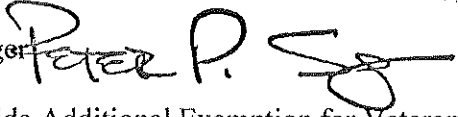
Effective Date

Agenda Item Summary

Date: June 17, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared by: Joshua Gaston, Town Assessor
Scott W. Colby Jr, Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Municipal Option to Provide Additional Exemption for Veterans

Background

Connecticut State law provides a property tax exemption to US Veterans whose military service meet certain eligibility requirements. The law also provides an additional Veteran Exemption to those already qualified veterans whose income meets certain eligibility requirements. In addition to these statewide veteran exemptions, the law also allows for the municipal option to provide a local veteran exemption. In 1998 the Windsor Town Council adopted an ordinance that provided this local exemption to income qualified veterans. In 2015 the Windsor Town Council amended the ordinance to also allow for a specific additional local option providing an exemption to veterans who have received VA assistance for specially adapted housing.

Discussion/Analysis

Currently there are 867 individuals who participate in or receive the state benefit. Veterans who qualify for the state benefit receive an exemption on their property assessment ranging from \$3,000 to \$21,000 depending upon varying factors (i.e level of disability, age, income).

Below is a table that outlines the state program benefit schedule.

State Benefit Schedule		
Description	Veteran Exemption	Veteran Exemption for Income Qualified (* under \$43,800 if they are unmarried or \$53,400 if they are married)
Vet Regular	3,000	6,000
Vet Disability 10-25%	6,000	12,000
Vet Disability 26-50%	7,500	15,000
Vet Disability 51-75%	9,000	18,000
Vet Disability 76-100%	10,500	21,000
Vet Disability 65+ Yrs.	10,500	21,000
Vet Surviving Spouse	3,000	6,000
Vet Act Duty Death	9,000	18,000

Based upon the income limits, 63 individuals out of the total 867 currently participating receive the additional local benefit. The so called local option benefit is presently an \$11,000 exemption on their assessment if their income is under \$43,800, if they are unmarried or at \$53,400 if they are married, regardless of VA qualifying status. The current local exemption amount offers a benefit of approximately \$334 and results in approximately \$23,100 of forgone tax revenue.

If the Town Council increases the local benefit to a \$20,000 exemption level, this would provide an individual benefit of approximately \$607. By increasing the exemption, the total program cost would be approximately \$38,270 or an overall increase of \$15,170.

Since being initially adopted by the Town Council in 1998, the language of the relevant Connecticut State Statute 12-81f has changed from allowing only a \$2,000 exemption to allowing up to a \$20,000 exemption. However, the local option continues to require an income limit that must not be less than the maximum which is provided annually by the CT Office of Policy and Management for the statewide Additional Veteran Exemption (these limits are the same as the maximum income limits of the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program.)

We have also added a section reinstating the state’s enabling legislation which was not included in the spring of 2023 ordinance codification. This is the ordinance language that existed prior to the 2023 amendment. This has not had an impact on implementation of the program.

Financial Impact

Presently, with a total of 63 local veteran exemptions, each in the amount of \$11,000, this has an annual program cost of approximately \$23,100.

Below is a table showing the approximate total cost to the town of the local veteran option if the exemption amount was increased from \$11,000 to \$20,000.

Local Veteran Application Count	Local Veteran Exemption Amount	Individual Tax Benefit	Total Town Wide Local Veteran Exemptions	Total Program Cost	Total Town Cost Increase
63	11,000*	\$334.00	693,000	\$23,100	\$0*
63	20,000	\$607.00	1,260,000	\$38,270	\$15,170

**Current benefit amount*

Based on the same number of FY 24 participants, if the local veteran exemption amount were increased to \$20,000 then this would provide an individual tax benefit of approximately \$607. The total program cost for the proposed budget would be approximately \$38,270 or an overall increase of \$15,170.

Recommendation

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 AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS’ EXEMPTION’ 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.”

- 2) Approve an Ordinance

“MOVE to approve an ordinance entitled, ‘AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS’ EXEMPTION.”

Attachments

Proposed amended ordinance

Red-lined version of current ordinance

Ordinance Amending Veterans' Exemption

**CHAPTER 5
ARTICLE XIV**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS'
EXEMPTION.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR:

Chapter 5, Article XIV, of the *Windsor Code* is amended as follows:

Section 1. Article is amended to read as follows:

The Town of Windsor adopts the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes sections 12-81(21)(C) and 12-81f to provide a total or an additional property tax exemption for veterans or spouses eligible under *Connecticut General Statutes* section 12-81. Such exemption per 12-81(21)(C) shall take effect upon qualification as determined by the Assessor and shall terminate at such time as the veteran ceases to make such house his or her principal residence or ceases to maintain an ownership interest therein.

For the October 1, 2023 Grand List and all subsequent Grand Lists thereafter, a local tax exemption shall be provided by the town in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes section 12-81f with the following income and exemption guidelines:

Qualifying Income	Marital Status	Local Veteran Exemption Amount
\$0 - \$43,800	Single	20,000
\$0 - \$53,400	Married	20,000

The qualifying income levels described above shall be set forth therein or equal to the qualifying income for the Additional Veterans' exemption as published annually by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management, whichever is greater.

Section 2. Savings Clause. The enactment of this Ordinance shall not operate as an abatement of any action or proceeding previously taken, now pending, or taken prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. All said actions and proceedings are hereby ratified to be continued.

Section 3. Severability. All provisions of the *Town Code* in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and that if for any reason, any word, clause, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be held to make the same unconstitutional, this Ordinance shall not hereby be invalidated and the remainder of the Ordinance shall continue in effect. Any provision herein which is in conflict with the *Connecticut General Statutes* is hereby repealed, it being understood that said statute shall take precedence over this Ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in a newspaper having a circulation in Windsor.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Town Attorney

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Distributed to Town Council _____

Public Hearing Advertised _____

Public Hearing _____

Adopted _____

Advertised _____

Effective Date _____

Red-Lined Version

Veterans' Exemption
ordinance

RED-LINED VERSION

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR:

The Town of Windsor adopts the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes sections 12-81(21)(C) and 12-81f to provide a total or an additional property tax exemption for veterans or spouses eligible under Connecticut General Statutes section 12-81. Such exemption per 12-81(21)(C) shall take effect upon qualification as determined by the Assessor and shall terminate at such time as the veteran ceases to make such house his or her principal residence or ceases to maintain an ownership interest therein.

For the October 1, ~~2022~~-2023 Grand List and all subsequent Grand Lists thereafter, a local tax exemption shall be provided by the town in accordance with [Connecticut General Statutes section 12-81f with](#) the following income and exemption guidelines:

Qualifying Income	Marital Status	Local Veteran Exemption Amount
\$0 - \$38,100 <u>43,800</u>	Single	11,000 <u>20,000</u>
\$0 - \$46,400 <u>53,400</u>	Married	11,000 <u>20,000</u>


The qualifying income levels described above shall be set forth therein or equal to the qualifying income for the Additional Veterans' exemption as published annually by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management, whichever is greater.

Agenda Item Summary

Date: June 17, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Jim Bourke, Finance Director

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Approval of FY 24 General Fund Year-End Transfers

Background

Each June the Finance Committee reviews the projected year-end financial results for the General Fund and considers recommended transfers if needed. The Town Council, with the Finance Committee's recommendation, customarily grants the Finance Director the authority to transfer up to \$5,000 between service units at the end of the fiscal year (offsetting those that have gone over budget with those that have come in under budget). In addition, the Town Council is requested to approve the transfer of funds to service units that have gone over the adopted budget by more than \$5,000.

Discussion/Analysis

The General Government service unit is projected to be over budget by \$24,510, which brings the FY 24 General Fund funding to the service unit to \$1,283,140 as opposed to the adopted budget of \$1,258,630. The main driver for this is additional costs from legal fees for workers compensation cases. It is recommended that a transfer of \$24,510 be made from the FY 24 Safety Services budget.

At this time, there are no service units that are anticipated to require a year-end transfer by the Finance Director. However, in the event a service unit should exceed the original budget authorization, it is requested of the Town Council that the Finance Director be granted authorization to make year-end transfers of up to \$5,000.

Other Board Action

The Finance Committee met on June 10, 2024 and voted to recommend the Town Council approve the year end transfers as presented.

Recommendations

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

“MOVE that the Finance Director be granted authority to make year-end transfers in the General Fund of not more than \$5,000 per Service Unit and \$24,510 be transferred from Safety Services to General Government to cover the projected year-end deficit.

Attachments

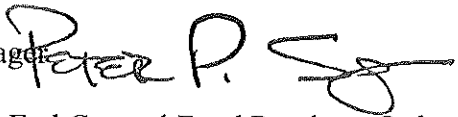
None

Agenda Item Summary

Date: June 17, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared by: Jim Bourke, Finance Director

Reviewed by: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Approval of FY 24 Year-End General Fund Purchase Orders

Background

Attached are FY 24 year-end purchase orders as of June 10, 2024 for the Town Council's review. When goods and services are not able to be received and paid for in the current fiscal year, purchase orders encumbering the funds for those goods or services must be extended into the upcoming fiscal year. By extending the purchase orders into the new fiscal year, the Town Council is formally extending budgetary authority for that item or service.

Discussion/Analysis

There are eight FY 24 General Fund open purchase orders totaling \$198,315 that are expected to be continued into FY 25. The list of these purchase orders is attached. It is recommended the purchase orders be extended until October 21, 2024.

Other Board Action

The Finance Committee met on June 10, 2024 and voted to recommend the Town Council approve the open purchase orders as presented.

Recommendations

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

“MOVE that the FY 24 General Fund year-end open purchase orders as presented be extended until October 21, 2024.”

Attachment

FY 24 Year-End General Fund open purchase orders

Attachment A

Town of Windsor
 FY 24 Year-End General Fund Open Purchase Orders
 As of June 10, 2024


Department	P.O. #	Vendor Name	Product / Service Description	Open Amount
Tax Collection				
Contractual Services	24120	Quality Data Service Inc.	Tax bills - printing & envelopes	\$11,033
Human Resources				
Contractual Services	24341	Management of America Consulting, LLC	Compensation and Class Studies For Administrative Pay Plan	\$12,600
Contractual Services	24342	Management of America Consulting, LLC	Compensation and Class Studies For Part Time Pay Plan	\$27,600
Public Works Facilities Management				
Repair & Maintenance	24345	Carrier Corporation	Town Hall Chiller Replacement	\$38,088
Public Works Stormwater Drainage				
Other Capital Equipment	24314	Chadwick-Baross	Drainage Inspection Camera	\$12,700
Public Works Equipment Repair				
Contractual Services	24169	Fuss & O'Neill	FY24 Environmental Regulatory Compliance Support	\$5,000
Vehicles	24278	Tasca Ford Berlin	Ford F650 Flatbed Truck	\$82,894
Fire Services				
Other Capital Equipment	24293	Firematic	Hose Replacement	\$8,400
General Fund Total				<u>\$198,315</u>

Agenda Item Summary

Date: June 17, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Donald Melanson, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Police K-9 Grant Program

Background

The Police Department's K-9 program has been in existence and provided enhanced policing services for over 30 years. During this time, the department has had up to three K-9 units in service at one time, providing specialized services to support our law enforcement mission.

Police K-9 unit capabilities include tracking of missing persons and/or criminal suspects, recovery of evidence/property, building and area searches, officer safety / backup, drug detection, gun / firearms detection, public relations lectures and demonstrations, and officer / citizen rescue. Additionally, K9s often serve as a deterrent, helping to reduce crime rates and increase community safety.

Police K-9's are assigned to police officers in the patrol division. For police officers, involvement in a K-9 program can lead to significant job enhancement and specialized opportunities. Officers who undergo K-9 training develop unique skills in handling and working with police dogs, which can lead to specialized roles within the force. These officers often receive additional training in areas such as canine behavior, obedience training, and tactical operations, making them valuable assets in their departments.

In 2023, K-9 Thor, one of two police canines retired from service after more than eight years. The Police Department currently has one police K-9 (K-9 Duke with Officer Horn).

Discussion/Analysis

With staffing levels improving and increased interest among newer officers, the Police Department has been working to re-deploy a second K-9 unit in the Patrol Division. In addition to securing donations to fund purchasing a second canine, the Police Department has identified a potential grant program to assist in funding a second K-9 for the department.

The Stanton Foundation, based in Massachusetts, provides grant funding to support K-9 units in cities and towns. Grant funds are intended to cover initial acquisition and training costs plus ongoing costs for a total of 3 years. The Police Department is a grant proposal for \$51,000 to support the Police Department in acquiring and outfitting the second police K-9. Grant applications are due by June 30, 2024.

The Police Department has already begun the process of identifying Windsor's next K-9 handler. After selecting the handler, the department will work with police master K-9 instructors to select a new canine. Training is expected to start in the September / October time frame.

Financial Impact

A \$51,000 grant, would cover startup costs estimated at approximately \$32,000 to \$35,000 for such items as acquiring the dog, initial training, equipment, K-9 protective vest, outfitting a vehicle and an outdoor kennel. The grant would also be used for the first 3 years of continuing training, veterinarian care, and supplies. Town funds would be used to cover officer salary and overtime costs.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

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

“MOVE to authorize the submittal of a grant application to the Stanton Foundation K-9 Grant program in the amount of \$51,000 and to utilize funds received from the grant to assist in purchasing, training, and equipping a second K-9 unit.

Attachments

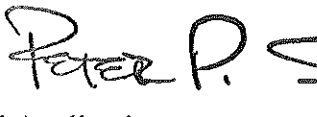
None

Agenda Item Summary

Date: June 17, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By: Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Community Investment Fund Application

Background

The town is eligible to apply to the State's Community Investment Fund 2030 (CIF). This competitive grant program is focused on fostering economic and community development in 54 communities that have the designation of a Public Investment Community (PIC) and/or Alliance District. Windsor qualifies for this grant funding as both a PIC and Alliance District. Municipalities as well as not-for-profit organizations and community development corporations that operate within them may apply. The deadline for this round is June 21, 2024.

Staff is recommending the submission of a grant application to help fund HVAC and window upgrades at the LP Wilson Community Center.

Discussion

All projects funded under CIF must: 1) Promote economic or community development in the municipality where the project is located, and 2) Further consistent and systemic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities. Projects that leverage non-state funds will receive priority, as well as those that include letters of support from members of the General Assembly.

The LP Wilson Community Center is home to our senior center, youth services bureau office, recreation services, social services, the Windsor Food & Fuel Bank and our community-access television WIN-TV. It is a major hub of community activities with an auditorium, gym space and a kitchen for events. Thousands of Windsor residents, including our most vulnerable, benefit from programs and services provided at this facility. The proposed improvements will make for a more comfortable building environment and help the town save money on utility costs.

The majority of HVAC equipment is original to the building circa 1957 as are the windows which do not meet current energy standards. Existing air handlers are heating only and they do not provide adequate ventilation per code. Grant funds will be used for construction, labor, and materials for the HVAC systems and window replacements. The project will entail installing two Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems to supply fresh air to the building, two new rooftop units (RTUs) for the Gym and four Heat pump systems to provide heating and cooling throughout the space. Exterior windows are slated for replacement including in the courtyards.

HVAC improvements have been underway on the north side of the building servicing the Board of Education utilizing town funds. The proposed project will entail replacement of HVAC systems on the south side of the community center, as well as windows for the whole complex. Design work is completed for the HVAC improvements and will be required for the window replacements.

Financial Impact

The preliminary cost estimate for construction and contingency, factoring in inflation and projected material cost increases is \$6.3M.

Proposed HVAC upgrades are included in the adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as a two-phase project in FY 25 & FY 26 utilizing bond funds. Design of the window replacements is in the CIP for FY 27 with construction unscheduled. A CIF grant award would allow the town to focus bonding capacity on other priority projects.

We anticipate a very competitive funding round. As such, demonstrating the leveraging of local funds is critical. It is recommended that a local match of \$630,000 be incorporated in the proposal. Assuming a \$6.3M project cost and a \$630,000 local contribution, the grant request would be \$5,670,000. A portion of the local match will be used for design services for the window replacements.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendation

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

“MOVE that the Town Manager is authorized to submit an application to the Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant to the attached resolution for the Community Investment Fund in the amount of \$5,670,000 and that a commitment of \$630,000 be made as a local match.

Attachments

Municipal Resolution

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 32-285a, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Windsor make an application to the State for \$5,670,000 in order to undertake the LP Wilson Community Center Enhancement and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by 32-285a.
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Windsor in an amount not to exceed \$5,670,000 is hereby approved and that Town Manager Peter Souza is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Windsor.



Town Council

Resignations/Appointments/Reappointments

June 17, 2024

Resignations

None

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

A. One Republican Member

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Four Year Term to expire March 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed

(Carol Elkins - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Carol Elkins as a Republican member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a four year term to expire March 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed.”

B. One Democratic Member

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Four Year Unexpired Term to expire March 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed

(Adam Schibley – resigned)

“MOVE to appoint Noel Osowiecki as a Democratic member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a four year unexpired term to expire March 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed.”

C. One Republican Alternate Member

Human Relations Commission

Three Year Unexpired Term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed

(Janice Fortunato – moved out of town)

“MOVE to appoint Sandra Result as a Republican Alternate member to the Human Relations Commission for a three year term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

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

D. One Democratic Member

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Four Year Term to expire March 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed

(Keegan Elder - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Keegan Elder as a Democratic member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a four year term to expire March 31, 2028 or until a successor is appointed.”

E. One Republican Alternate Member

Public Building Commission

Three Year Term to expire November 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed

(George Roebelen – resigned)

“MOVE to appoint Mark Purdue as a Republican member to the Public Building Commission for a three year term to expire November 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.”

F. One Republican Member

Town Planning and Zoning Commission

Five Year Unexpired Term to expire November 14, 2025 or until a successor is appointed

(Eric Kuintzle)

“MOVE to appoint Dominic DeCarlo as a Republican member to the Town Planning & Zoning Commission for a five year unexpired term to expire November 14, 2025 or until a successor is appointed.”

G. One Unaffiliated Alternate Member

Town Planning & Zoning Commission

Two Year Term to expire November 11, 2025 or until a successor is appointed

(Christian Rivas Plata – resigned)

“MOVE to appoint Sophia Tetteh as a Republican Alternate member to the Town Planning & Zoning Commission for a two year term to expire November 11, 2025 or until a successor is appointed.”

H. One Republican Member

Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee

Three Year Term to expire April 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed

(Charles Jackson - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Charles Jackson as a Republican member to the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee for a three year term to expire April 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.”

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

- I. One Democratic Member (Landlord)
Fair Rent Commission
Three Year Term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed
(Dawn Zukowski - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Dawn Zukowski as a Democratic member (landlord) to the Fair Rent Commission for a three year term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

- J. One Unaffiliated Member
Human Relations Commission
Three Year Term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed
(Castella Copeland - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Castella Copeland as an Unaffiliated member to the Human Relations Commission for a three year term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

- K. One Democratic Member
Human Relations Commission
Three Year Term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed
(Monika Nugent - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Monika Nugent as a Democratic member to the Human Relations Commission for a three year term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

- L. One Republican Member
Human Relations Commission
Three Year Term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed
(Lisette LaTorre - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Lisette LaTorre-Muszynski as a Republican member to the Human Relations Commission for a three year term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

- M. One Democratic Alternate Member
Human Relations Commission
Three Year Term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed
(Jody Denno - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Jody Denno as a Democratic Alternate member to the Human Relations Commission for a three year term to expire March 31, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

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

N. One *Independent* Member

Library Advisory Board

Three Year Term to expire April 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed

(Carol Sama - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Carol Sama as an Unaffiliated member to the Library Advisory Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

O. One *Republican* Member

Library Advisory Board

Three Year Term to expire April 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed

(Denise Panos - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Denise Panos as a Republican member to the Library Advisory Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2027 or until a successor is appointed.”

P. One *Democratic* Member

Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee

Three Year Term to expire April 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed

(Alvin Bingham - reappointment)

“MOVE to reappoint Alvin Bingham as a Democratic member to the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee for a three year term to expire April 30, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.”

Names submitted for consideration of appointment

None



TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON
May 20, 2024
Regular Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey, Councilor Leroy Smith, and Councilor Walker

2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

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

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

- a) Proclamation designating May 19-25 as Public Works Week

Mayor Black-Burke read the proclamation aloud.

- b) Proclamation proclaiming May 2024 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month

Deputy Mayor Klase and Councilor Naeem read the proclamation aloud.

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Susan Miller, 130 Palisado Avenue wanted to share that she was disappointed that the budget did not pass. It was very close and she knows the Town Council and the Board of Education worked very hard to make this as pain-free as possible in this challenging year. Given where we are now, she would just implore the Council to not cut the Board of Education budget. The kids, teachers and staff have been through so much in the last several years and we need to keep holding them up. They are our future so hopefully we'll maintain services for them and the rest of the town as well.



Marayann Overbaugh, 706 Palisado Avenue, stated she has been in town for a very long time. She's watched these budgets and heard the very same arguments over and over but she feels that this budget is too high. She does like the results because she knows a lot of young and elderly people which might have effected them tremendously. Her feeling is that when you discuss this the Council should take into consideration the fact that they have to pay a lot of money for these referendums. She would suggest that whatever cuts the Council is proposing that they make sure that we don't have to go through four rounds of the referendums. She would like to know how much the referendums cost the town.

Jen Fields, 19 Parkwood Drive, stated she has been in Windsor for 28 years and raised her kids here. She is here for two reasons. One as a concerned citizen and one as a concerned parent. Neither one of her children are now in the Windsor School system but they are successful because of it. She and her husband are in mental health field and their daughters are going into the mental health field as well. The reason that is happening is not because they forced them to go that way but rather it's what they saw and what they see every day in their lives. One of the things that is essential to school systems across the country is that more and more money needs to be invested into them. School is a safety zone for our kids. Parents have to work. If they are able bodied, they are working and they are trying to make ends meet. Yes, every time you increase a budget that squeezes someone but not everybody. However, if we don't invest in our kids, our kids will be exposed to things that are not going to support their resilience and growth. What's different from our generation (for those not raised with the internet) is that we were exposed only to ourselves to maybe news media, our parents and our friends. Now there is a huge access that children are exposed to. She feels every dollar we invest in the school system is essential simply because these are the people that are going to decide whether we go into a nursing home. These are the people that will take care of us. They will be the adults making the adult decisions when we're older.

Caleb Kisson, 23 Longview Drive, stated he is currently a 5th grade student at Clover Elementary school. On March 4th, he spoke to the Council about the importance of preventing budget cuts for the public schools. This evening, he has returned to represent his stance on the importance of avoiding budget cuts for our schools. He previously mentioned that he benefits from the Challenge program three times a week and he and his school mates have benefited from the support of his teachers, administrative staff and SEL instructor. He worries that these staffing programs might be in danger of being eliminated, depriving them of these valuable resources. If we truly believe that children are the future, then it is crucial to acknowledge that reducing staff and cutting programs will certainly have a direct impact on our present experience. He is kindly asking the Council to keep in mind the importance of investing in the future by preserving and valuing our present and providing them with the necessary resources and staff needed to foster their development.

Kathy Bousquet, 3 Winthrop Road, Director of Windsor Fife & Drum Corps stated she is here to thank the Council for allocating the ARPA funds to the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps. It is always their greatest pleasure to march in their town as well as represent Windsor in each of our performances throughout New England. Having our bus insured and back in service provides a valuable asset to our members. It allows families to send their Corps members off to a



performance and leaves them available to tend to other children or to go to work. It allows our Corps members to travel together and develop stronger friendships. It allows us to pack, manage and store our instruments, equipment and uniforms in a safe and organized manner. Since their beginning in 1985, the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps has been self-sufficient. Their main source of income comes from their contracted performances. With Covid shutting down all large gatherings, they lost a full year of income. The change in Connecticut legislation that tripled their bus insurance was just another unforeseen expense. These ARPA funds are an enormous boost for their group. She thanked the Town Council again for providing the funds. She gave a special thanks to Councilor Walker for recognizing the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps and what they offer our residents and for leading the discussion with Town Council on their behalf.

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, said regarding the second proclamation, recently he was made aware that it has just began or will begin soon that there will be an Asian American caucus at the State legislation. He is making his pitch for the Senior Tax relief. He did find on page 7 of the Council's deliberations minutes at the top of it was Deputy Mayor's conversation about the excess revenues. For the three items he mentioned to the Town Council in his email, you are going to have excess revenues in Fiscal Year 2024 of \$3.2 million. He asked what the Town Council will do with it. Somebody tried to pursue using some of that for the Senior Tax relief with an amount of \$305,000. That is less than 10% of the excess revenues. He is totally perplexed that for a group that is certifiably recognized as in great need that the Council has not changed that. He believes the amount should be doubled. Also at the top of page 18 of the minutes from the last meeting, the phrase was, 'As Town Councilors it is the role of government to assist wherever we can.' He thanked Councilor Walker for those words. For the Senior Tax relief he believes that is the least the Town Council can do given the impact of revaluation on the hardest hit group in this town.

Dr. Linda Alexander, 155 Fieldstone Drive, said that until we have a budget that the majority of tax payers can agree to, we still don't have a new budget. She truly appreciates the contributions of Town Manager Souza to decreasing expenditures. Unfortunately, we have yet to see a significant spirit of cooperation and understanding from our highly compensated school Superintendent and his administrators and the majority party on the Council. Revaluation of properties will hit Windsor residential taxpayers very hard and they simply cannot pay tax increases due to increased spending on top of it. The full force of the revaluation change will hit next year and continue unless there is a significant change in real estate values and that is not likely to happen any time soon. Additions to spending in the school budget are permanent and are just not affordable at this time in this town. Every year we pour money into the schools. \$80 million plus all the grants they get surely should be enough to educate the kids in this town with decreasing enrollment. She does not support taking money out of the savings fund. It's just not the solution to increased spending. It's time to decrease the demands on Windsor taxpayers.

Sarena Sky Raymond (spelled phonetically), 31 Bent Road, stated she is a graduate from Windsor High School. She feels cutting the budget for the school is not the answer. The budget from last year cut many classes that reduced creativity. She wanted to join the yearbook class but it had been turned into a club instead of a class. She wanted to ensure there would be a great yearbook for her senior graduating friends. She joined the club and it was her and one other person for the whole entire school year creating this yearbook single-handedly. It was

detrimental to the year book and her personal mental health as she had to sit there night upon night creating things that could have been a class. All these teachers are losing their jobs and their classes. The previous teacher who taught the yearbook class was teaching the class for over 10 years and now it is a club. We can have more students be involved in it and creativity is taken away from the students as no one can share their opinions. She doesn't think money should be taken from the school system because it is going to take away from students having the opportunity of being creative. Another example is a dance class that is gone and students are singlehandedly running a class as a club on their own. This should not be the case. She feels there should not be money taken away from students that need the opportunity to foster their creativity because some of these students in high school are using those skills for college and going into those fields. She feels this money should not be taken away from the students opportunities because it is pushing back on what they can achieve.

Nancy Field, 27 Pilgrim Drive, said four votes fewer than 5% of eligible voters casting ballots. It's not a mandate, yet it is a result of the referendum. Windsor is still a desirable place to live. We have good schools and services. In past times, when we have encountered referendums that have not passed, the easy way people look at it is to cut the school budget. Because to many people school cuts are invisible, every cut impacts students, their education and their opportunities. All of us are stewards of the future, and as a previous speaker said, we just need compassionate, capable students because they will be adjusting our IVs later in life. Coming back from Covid has been a challenge for students, families and schools. We need to continue our support for our schools because education cuts don't heal.

Eric Weiner, 130 Palisado Avenue, said to take a position that as a Council we know better than the school Superintendent and the staff regarding the emotional and educational well being of our children, in his mind is irresponsible and unbecoming of this Council. We have been starving our schools for years. Enrollment is constantly growing, it has not been declining. We must continue that process. As the previous speaker mentioned, a cut become cumulative and causes pain. We are already at a shoestring. We've let our buildings deteriorate. We lose staff because we are not above par. Don't do it. If there must be a cut he proposes that we look at the capital budget that has expenditures from the General Fund. He would first target pushing out road paving and sidewalk projects. Push them out a year or two. This spreads the pain across the town. It doesn't affect an individual program. It's an easy thing to do if you need to do a cut. As the previous speaker said, this vote was not a mandate. Our budget referendum process has long outlived its usefulness. He looks to the Town Council to do the right thing.

Tracey Zotter, 28 Spring Street, stated she had something prepared for the Council but they have already heard it from two students and the Windsor school system. We are at the state average for what is spent for the students. We have 21% of Windsor students that are special needs in the Windsor school system. Special needs require additional services. They require paraprofessionals, psychologist, programs, and the social/emotional learning staff. Running a school is running a business. Costs will go up yearly as utility costs rise and as services and goods rise. We can't expect to have a flat budget every year and progress our schools. There are significant links between a town's economic growth and the standing of its school systems. For us to continue to look at the Board of Education like it's an easy target, we are doing our town a disservice. A town where she grew up and learned that we are inclusive of everybody.



We are inclusive of our children with special needs, teachers that live in our town, and senior citizens to name a few. Those are the cornerstones that Windsor taught her and she is here to remind the Council that this is what students learn at the Windsor school system. We learn about community. She was disappointed that just 2,050 people showed up to vote. She doesn't think we can say an overwhelming majority either way feel yes or no but to continue to cut significant cuts from our budget for five votes seriously concerns her. A \$1.5 million cut in the budget will save the median household \$90 for the year or \$7.60 per month. You're talking 20 people's jobs and our children's education and their future.

Leonard Lockhart, 57 Columbia Road, said he is speaking as a taxpayer and not as a Board of Education member. He believes that this budget that was presented was not robust enough. He has been very vocal about that. There was no mandate at this last referendum. There shouldn't be any cuts to this budget at all. It will be sent back to the voters to decide again whether they want it or not. He agrees with the previous speaker that only 2,050 voters came out to vote. That is not good. Using the Board of Education or the district as low hanging fruit to say this is where we can cut. The town has benefited from Windsor schools being an alliance district because it has saved them from paying a lot more money in taxes and has kept their funding flat from the state, even through the pandemic when towns with the ability to pay were having a funding slash from the state. The town benefitted from that narrative. From his perspective, he knows what it is to live at the bottom with schools poorly funded, teachers not wanting to be there, teachers telling you that you aren't going to make it. He refuses to see a town where he lives and pays taxes in that he risks his life for every time he answers and alarm, that we are going to be racing to the bottom. We need to properly fund and take care of our most precious resource and that's our children. We need to make sure that we take care of every employee within the Town of Windsor. He doesn't care if they are Police officers, DPW, clerks at the town hall, district staff, etc. We should be making sure we are taking care of every employee of the Town of Windsor, both the Board of Education and town to make sure that we continue to provide the service that we are accustomed to here in the Town of Windsor. We have a great quality of life for the very low mill rate that we have. If you don't think so go to another town and see if you can get the quality of life like you're getting in Windsor with the taxes that you pay here. He's a wage earner who cheerfully pays for seniors and children and every service that we have here in the Town of Windsor as it is a collective responsibility that we take care of each other and not just ourselves. He implores the Town Council to send this budget back 'as is' and to allow the voters to have another crack at it.

Ashanti Osbourne Martin, 95 Pierce Boulevard, stated she moved to Windsor about seven years ago with her husband. They moved to Windsor and they believed it was a good town to raise a family in. She is disappointed that the budget did not pass. She asks this Council to not only think about the Windsor of today but the Windsor of tomorrow. That requires us to elevate our town and to invest in our town. Yes, that means increasing a budget. She is hopeful that as her family grows and they get at the point of having children that she is continually experiencing great services, not good services but great services. That means a constant re-evaluation of what great looks like. It also means continuing to think about the overall resident experience. This looks like investment in our education system for our future leaders. It is very disheartening to sit here and listen to the two young adults that came to this podium and shared their experience currently as students of the Windsor school system. That is very discouraging and

she is very concerned. She hopes that the Council really thinks about that current experience. She also wants the Council to look at other services that our tax dollars are supposed to provide for us, such as our community centers, parks, programming, etc. She asked the Council to consider increasing the budget. It is necessary and we cannot continue to operate on a flat budget. We need to continue to do more. She thanked the Council for their time.

Milo Peck, 23 Archer Road, said he has served on the Board of Education, Town Council and is on the Board of Assessment Appeals. He agrees with Mr. Lockhart. Our budget is not robust enough. We have to continue to increase as surrounding costs have increased. There are many people in the town that are hurting. It's unfortunate that the system of providing value and raising the tax dollars is with the most regressive tax rate possible. It's the property tax. Unfortunately, as people looked at the budget it looked like the town was just raising the property taxes to pay for the budget as opposed to determining the budget, which the Council did, irrespective of the assessed value. We need to take that step forward. As someone said, it was only about 2,000 votes with a 4 vote differential. How does the Council know that they were voting 'no' because we should have more in it? There weren't signs on the lawn. He's supporting the budget and he supported how we got there. We can't stay stagnant while costs rise. We are locked into our property values now for the next five years. We do have an unreserved unallocated fund balance to help smooth it out. Town Manager Souza has been generous in doing that and guiding the Council over the years to use this to reduce the mitigation. He would not back off. He'd keep it at 'as is'.

Sally Grey, 87 Ethan Drive, said she has a question about the tax increase that we had last year of 1.5% which was supposed to ameliorate the situation with the approaching revaluation. She doesn't see that it has been figured into things to help them with their tax situation. She wonders what happened to the 1.5% increase. Where did it go? Is it still around? Was it used for something else? As far as the turnout for the referendum, she believes one of the reasons it was so low is that people are very frustrated and they feel that when they go out to vote, it doesn't count or matter. Everyone is in favor of spending the money. They don't feel it's worth their time to go out and vote, which is very sad. As far as the budget goes, we can all appreciate a budget. We all have our expenditures that we have to make. With less money coming in and more going out, it's hard to navigate that. People are very much in a difficult position and she thinks any adjustments that can be made would be helpful for the people of the town in terms of reducing what the taxes will be.

Leslie Harrison, 41 Early Dawn Circle, said her comments are in regards of the solar farm that was recently approved by the CT Siting Council to be constructed at 445 River Street which is directly across from her house. She thanked Town Council members, Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and the legal representation that the town engaged to try and fight the CT Siting Council in this decision. When she spoke to each of them they were all very encouraging and helpful. They encouraged her to get into this upward battle in which she has expended much of her time fighting. She has attended every meeting, has spoken and sent interrogatories and feels she has done her part to be a good citizen. While she knows we were unable to convince the CT Siting Council of the folly of placing this solar farm as close as they have to residential homes, she does want to say that she read the background information attached to the agenda and she would like to emphatically implore the Town Council to go against Town Manager Souza's recommendation to not appeal this decision. The CT Siting Council is not representative

of any citizen in this State. The members of that Council are appointed by the Governor, by the Senate Majority leader and by the House Majority leader. Those people do not represent her, they do not live here in Windsor and will not be effected by the safety concerns and most especially the sound coming from that solar farm. She will be unable to open her windows for the rest of the time that she lives in Windsor because that solar farm will produce a humming that will totally prevent her from opening her windows during the summer and enjoying the quiet solitude of her home. She respectfully asks that the Town Council please appeal this decision. There are bills that are trying to reign in the authority of this unrepresented CT Siting Council. This will not be the only place in Windsor that this will occur. She asked the Town Council to consider that.

Diane Lehan, 29 Early Dawn Circle, said the solar installation is going to have a strong effect on the quality and value of her home. Her house was just re-evaluated and it has gone up which means her taxes will go up. The installation will go in and the value of her home will drop. That has been proven in many states. The sound, take a drive over to East Windsor to hear it, that they will have sheep wandering around taking care of the vegetation and they have no plan to pick up the feces. It will dry and be forced into the soil. You got a nice windy day and her front yard is about 400 feet from the farm. She chose her home and neighborhood based on the beauty and serenity of it. She's lived there for 31 years. For the greed of one person, how many of us are going to be affected by this installation.

Divon Haughten (spelled phonetically), 31 Bent Road, said she has four children that have gone to Windsor public schools. She was very angry when they did the redistricting so she took her kids out of the Windsor public schools and sent them to magnet schools. She believes education follows the money. When Windsor started to reinvest over the decade she saw a lot of change happen in Windsor. She then placed her kids back into the Windsor school system because she saw change. Now she's seeing that there are so many cuts and changes. If you keep pulling money from the schools, you will end up like me where you are going to pull out your kids from that system to another one. Please keep making Windsor great. Yes, it will cost the citizens money and the taxes will go up, but don't take away from our children.

Aron Kiehne, 603 Brick Layer Road said just like Sky he is a senior at Windsor High School. He'd like to once again raise his voice in support of Windsor High school. Public school funding is crucial, and as the gentleman earlier said, above par spending is necessary for teacher retention. Teacher retention is key to student success. He is lucky to have avoided this himself over the past three years. He's seen hundreds of kids' school year disrupted because one or more of their teachers left half way through the school year, sometimes with literally no notice. This is just in high school. He's sure that students in the elementary schools are struggling through similar experiences. In particular, he personally benefited a lot from the Challenge program himself. When regular class wasn't challenging enough, it provided him a space and place to explore learning along like-minded students and under the supervision of excellent teachers. These are the programs under fire here and these are the ones that matter. These are the things that have set Windsor apart from other districts and he doesn't want to lose any more than we already have. He seconds what Dr. Lockhart said. This budget should not be cut any more than it already is, especially since it failed to pass by four votes. He could have single handedly gotten four people to change that vote if he had known beforehand. Go ahead and cut

a little bit and send it out again, it'll pass this time. He wanted to remind everyone that this comes back to Windsor residents directly. Who's moving into Windsor, who's buying new homes? It's families drawn by the quality of public schools and community services. It's why towns like West Hartford do so well. Without good schools, you miss out on this. If you're looking at saving yourself some money by voting no or cutting the budget, it doesn't work. Eventually down the line it will come back to you because your home value will drop by 25% and you won't be able to get a job nearby.

Jennifer Bernardino, 36 Pierce Boulevard, is here to represent for the budget in favor to cover the Windsor Public schools. She is a co-president of the JFK PTO. She has triplet boys that have attended Oliver Ellsworth and John F. Kennedy elementary school. Her kids get lots of resources from the school and she would like to keep their budget intact. Please vote for the public schools so they can have the budget that they need so they can move forward and progress.

Lucy Goins, 9 Sage Park Road, echoed what many of the others said. The public schools give so much value to our community. The budget is hard and rough decisions were made and what we got is good so keep it going. She is voicing in favor of funding the schools.

Marclion McMikle, 85 Trent Drive, said she's been a Windsor resident for 20 years. When her kids were young, they were placed in private school. In Kindergarten her daughter needed additional support. Private school could not provide that additional support she needed therefore they made the decision to bring her over to Windsor public schools. It's been an amazing experience for them. She can say without a doubt if her daughter hadn't had those services, she wouldn't be thriving today. She's a junior now and an honor roll student. The services that she received such as occupational therapist and a para when she was young has made a world of difference in her being able to thrive. She stated that the children are worth \$8 per month. That's what it comes down to. If we can't spend \$8 per month on a child, I think we have bigger issues.

Lakisha Hyatt, 104 Benjamin Court, stated she wants to lift her voice in agreement in support of the budget. She would only add as a healthcare provider and nurse we are relying on educators to really engage our children after all they've been through. She iterated once again that she wanted to voice her support of the budget. She applauded the great work of the Council and she knows they faced with (connection failed).

Lisa Cato-Scott, 9 Plum Ridge Lane, said her daughter is in a magnet school and she also needed some special services. She is still in a magnet school but the support we get from the Board of Education is second to none. She feels that we need to lift up our children as they are our future. They will need to make decisions later on in life when we are no longer able to. It is important to understand that \$8 per month is not a big deal for us to pour into our children. They are the ones that will suffer in the long run. She is in support of the budget.

Quinn Martin, 10 Sachem Hill Road, said her family moved here about four years ago. They came from private schools. They wanted to try Windsor because of the community and the love and support they found here. She has three children and two of them have ADHD. The services that they receive in Windsor are beyond belief. She did not get this support at the private schools.

\$8 per month is not a lot of money. We spend more money on coffee than that every day. She implored everyone to think about how far the \$8 month will go. This is for the benefit of not only our children but our community. Windsor has a phenomenal community. The only way to keep that is by making sure we aren't cutting our funding for the public schools.

Eric Crossett, 415 Broad Street, stated that he wanted to express some thoughts around the revaluation and that the budget as presented before is reasonable and this body knows the Board of Education took into account the impact of revaluation as they were coming up with the budget. As far as a long-term strategy of reducing services, reducing funding to the school systems would be to the detriment to the town because he believes long-term we need to shift the tax burden back onto commercial real estate rather than private property which happened with this revaluation. Our long-term strategy is we need to bring in more business into Windsor and in order to do that we need to maintain the funding, the social services and basic services such a Fire, EMS, Police so that the property values do not decrease. We maintain our property values but we need to increase the commercial value. He feels we need to do those things to draw businesses into Windsor. He is recommending that we keep the proposed budget 'as is' and bring it back up for a vote.

Beverly Moody, 39 Lamberton Road, said she is an ESL/multi-lingual teacher at Poquonock Elementary school. Her daughter just graduated from Windsor High school. At first she had her in private schools but then she put her into Windsor public schools and her daughter had a great time there. As a teacher, she can see where they can struggle if they don't get this money. We really need our budget to pass. It would be great if they can once again do a referendum and since only 5% of the town came out, she's asking that we have another vote.

Mayor Black-Burke thanked everyone that came out to speak tonight.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Eleveld said thank you to everyone that came out to speak. This was a much more enjoyable group for a large group of people speaking than what we've seen in our past meetings. Everybody is entitled to an opinion. He understands where many of them are coming from. However, one gentleman said to cut from capital and the need to invest more money in schools. You can't do both because it is the same money. It's nice that people came out to speak and he understands where the \$8 per month is coming from but many people are looking at a \$800 - \$1,000 increase in their tax bill. The \$800 is a valid number however, it's not the whole number. He thinks that is what people should take a look at. This Saturday was the Shad Derby. The rain did not hold off until 11:00 AM and that's about when the parade started. There was a good turnout but not as good as years past. We can only hope that in the future the weather might be better.

Councilor Smith said May is College Graduation Month and he congratulated all from Windsor that are graduating from college this month. Please consider volunteering some tutor or mentoring time into our schools for those students graduating college. Thank you in advance for supporting the Windsor school system and congratulations on this important achievement in your life.

Councilor Pelkey thanked the Registrars and employees at the polls. He thanked the Town Manager and department supervisors in allowing town employees to help out with the recount because that did save dollars for our town since we didn't have to pay for extra people. He touched on the solar power plant on River Street. While we supported the legal aspects in trying to preserve our neighbors' rights and interests of the town, that ultimately we don't have any responsibility or authority over that. Please there is an election in November. Talk to your state representatives from all parties across the state. As one speaker said, these individuals on the Siting Council are decided by the Governor, Senate and House majority leaders which are people who don't live here in Windsor. So you need to talk to your representative so they can vote for what you want in the interest of your town rather than a one size fits all from the state. The Town Council does not have control over that. He thanked his fellow Councilor Gluck Hoffman in helping to run the Shad Derby for 20 plus years. He thanked the police officers in town. As they were marching the parade route, every time they went by an American flag, they all stopped and saluted. Public Works open house is this Thursday from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. There will be refreshments at the event. There is the Windsor House Tour sponsored by the Windsor Historical Society on June 8, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. If you are going south on Route 159, Windsor Avenue, and you are at that light on Rood Avenue and Deerfield, the light and signal has now changed. It used to be a left on green arrow only. Now it is a yield on left. For those going northbound please be aware of this change. Tomorrow there will be a ground breaking for a new park just south of I-291 across from the Roger Wolcott School. The Governor is scheduled to appear. There are a number of things happening. We still need more fire fighters in town. If you're interested please contact the town hall, a Councilor or talk to a fire fighter.

Councilor Naeem thanked all the speakers that came out and those that joined us online today. It was great to see all the engagement. We will be addressing the budget and having some deliberations later on this evening. She thanked a few of the individuals that came out tonight to talk about the Senior tax credits. We recognize that this budget and the impact of revaluation are impacting everyone and seniors with their circumstances are getting hit on that as well. She looks forward to bringing forth, along with all her fellow Democratic council members, the increase for the Senior tax credit tonight. She knows there was another question that came up in terms of last year's tax increase. As the Town Council, they had put in a lot of one time expenditures with that increase to make sure that we are able to remove those off the books this year. The ground breaking and the Shad Derby were great. She gave a shout out to the Shad Derby queen, Serena Sky Raymond, that came to speak at tonight's meeting. Congratulations to you and your full Queen's court.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman thanked the Shad Derby queen for speaking tonight and for Caleb speaking as well. She mentioned a few of the organizations that gave toward the scholarships for the kids in town. It's doesn't only take just one, but it takes a village. Many of us here today have talked about the stewardship of our kids. We have taken it on and we want our kids to take it on as well. Community service is extremely important. She believes it is something that we as a town strive for. It's important to have that in the public schools and it's something that she would like to see more of. She just wanted to say thank you to those organizations and everyone who participated. It's been a wonderful ride and she thanked all the councilors that came out this weekend.



Councilor Armstrong said she was happy to see the audience that's here today and those online that are here to participate. She commended Councilor Gluck Hoffman on the Shad Derby and it running so smoothly, the Shad Derby queen and the event which was wonderful, the Grand Marshal and everyone that attended the Shad Derby. Be careful, be hydrated, relax when you can, exercise for your health and enjoy life. She asked that everyone look out for the bikers and walkers out there and to heed the speed limit. There is much to do in the Town of Windsor. If you're looking for something to do she's sure it can be found as we have vast opportunities for our seniors and our young people. She congratulated all the graduates. For the young people, we sometimes talk about what they don't do and not of what they do. We should appreciate that. She added that the Council does care and appreciates all their comments. We are concerned and we anticipate more participation in the audience and the calls that come into us.

Councilor Walker thanked all people that came out and made their voices heard. We also heard from the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps and he'd like to thank his fellow colleagues who worked with him to make sure that those kids got some things that they desperately needed. It is difficult for moms to run back and forth and go to different homes to attempt to pick up these kids. You've seen the Windsor Fire & Drum Corps perform not only in Windsor but in different towns and he urges anyone who wants to learn more of what they do to go to their website. We need to find things for our kids to do because there is so much out there to lead them astray. He said he's been to the neighborhood where the solar farm is proposed and has seen all the communications back and forth. There is no doubt that people who purchase a home will look to see what is in the surroundings. Unfortunately, there is what is known as a solar farm that is coming. He's not sure what the landscaping around that property will do and it's unfortunate that people bought those homes before there was a solar farm. The flip side to that is that people have property rights and they can put up anything they want to put up as long as it's within the zoning rules. The bigger issue is the push, not just in Connecticut but it's strong in CT for state government to come in and tell municipalities what they will do with their zoning rules. The push is on the take away the say of local zoning boards and to put it in the hands of the town. He feels local people know what is best and they are best able to determine what fits in their neighborhood. Talk to your state representatives so when these bills come up, they can vote to defeat it and give back to municipalities some of the rights in what they can say. There are people in town that support these solar projects. There's one on Broad Street and when it came about the residents protested it as well as the school. It's still there and it does make noise regardless of what the decibel levels are. All the councilors and Town Manager did the best they could do. Regarding the budget, he hears the figure of \$8 put out. He thinks that most residents in town wish that it cost \$8 to educate a child in Windsor. It doesn't and it's very misleading. Just about \$0.75 of every dollar that the town spends goes toward the Board of Education budget. This budget in his opinion was not really about the schools but about affordability. With many seniors in this town and a lot of those that are getting by just barely, it's about what they can afford in taxes. We need to redirect the focus to affordability. It's about what people can do to stay in their homes. Currently, you have people choosing between buying gas or food. He looks forward to the deliberations this evening.

Deputy Mayor Klase thanked everyone who came out and spoke online.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that she lifted up the students that came out to speak. She spoke of Caleb and how she's read in his class before. She congratulated the Shad Derby court. She's really proud of these young women and all they have accomplished. They are a very accomplished group. She highlighted the award winning music department from Windsor High School who had many concerts over the last few weeks. She encouraged folks to go out on May 31st to join them at the 'Hartford's got Talent' talent show. They will be a part of the line up in the talent show. It will be held at the Bushnell. The award winning Gospel choir will be performing on stage at the Bushnell. On June 8th, Art and Bloom is taking place at the Windsor Art Center. There are so many things that happen in our town each and every week. She encouraged everyone to look through the nice bulletin that is out and what is being pushed out via social media. Windsor is a great community.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

a) Public Building Commission

Jim Bennett, Public Building Commission, stated the following:

Oliver Ellsworth School Humidity Mitigation Design - 9574

Construction is underway. A kickoff meeting was held with contractor, engineer, and town officials to set expectations and answer questions. All HVAC equipment has been manufactured and shipped. Project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2024.

Sage Park Middle School Slab Moisture Mitigation Project – 9567

Nothing new to report with Construction anticipated over the 2025 summer break.

Sage Park Middle School Energy HVAC Efficiencies Upgrades Project Phase 2 & 3 - 9542

Auditorium unit return air ductwork is being redesigned to reduce the noise levels. Design should be completed in the next two weeks and work shall be scheduled shortly thereafter. Project is expected to be completed by the end of June 2024.

Milo Peck School HVAC Construction – 9538

Nothing new to report

Clover Street School Roof Replacement Project – 9549

Nothing new to report



LP Wilson Community Center HVAC Renovations Project - 9551

Phase - 1

Major construction is completed. Sequence of operation programming for DOAS units and controls continues to progress with project expected to be completed by the end of June 2024

Phase - 2

Contracts have been issued and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for this week. Work to begin shortly and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2024.

330 Windsor Ave. Community Center Gym HVAC Renovations - 9550

Work continues to progress. Punch list review has been performed and contractor is working on identified corrections. Project is expected to be completed by the end of July 2024

Clover Street School Restroom ADA Code Compliances Phase-1 - 9552

Construction is underway. A kickoff meeting was held with contractor, engineer, and town officials to set expectations and answer questions. HazMat testing has been completed and quotes for abatement have been received. Project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2024.

LP Wilson BOE Restroom Renovations - 9553

Nothing new to report

Sage Park Middle School Roof Design Project – 9541

Contracts have been issued and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for this week. Work to begin shortly and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2024.

Pogonock Elementary School Roof Project - 9558

Nothing new to report

JFK Elementary School HVAC System Upgrades Phase III Project - 1932

Punch list items are being addressed and project completion is expected to be completed by the end of June 2024.

Welch Park Pool House Renovations Project - 1938

Work continues to progress. All interior masonry is complete. All interior and exterior slab has been poured. Roof decking is being repaired with roofing installed thereafter. Water and Electrical supply to building will be completed this week. Project is expected to be completed by the end of May 2024.

b) Board of Assessment Appeals

Milo Peck, Chair of the Board of Assessment Appeals, gave the following report:



He thanked the Town Assessor Josh Gaston and all of his associates for all the hard work they did during this revaluation period which isn't just the meetings, but the process beforehand with Vision. They worked very hard and he thanked them very much for their diligence.

The members of the Windsor Board of Assessment Appeals met 19 times for over 75 hours during the course of the 66 days from March 2, 2024 to May 7, 2024. Mr. Peck added that the amount of appeals of 177 was the highest he's ever seen in the 17 years that he's been on the board. The last time he saw something close to that is when they had 110 appeals.

These meetings resulted in the following Assessment changes:

Category	# Appeals	\$ Assessment	\$ Change	% Change
Residential Real Estate	132	49,697,690	(1,516,890)	-3.05%
Commercial/Industrial Real Estate	27	273,857,250	(2,379,790)	-0.87%
Personal Property	2	197,095	0	0.00%
Motor Vehicle	16	314,454	(42,007)	-13.36%
Total	177	324,066,489	(3,938,687)	-1.22%

*These figures treat the 432 Condos of the Rivers Bend Complex as a single commercial appeal as opposed to 432 residential appeals.

*These figures reflect the BAA's decisions prior to any values being phase-in.

Councilor Pelkey said he had the pleasure of sitting in on a few meetings. The patience that they have to have to repeat themselves time after time along with listening to citizens complain about things they don't have control over is commendable. He's not one to give praise lightly but putting in that many hours we should quadruple their salary. For Mr. Peck and the board members he thanked them for all they did. As far as education goes, he agrees with Mr. Peck about education and would love to hear his thoughts about anything we can do. We have time to plan this so we can better educate our neighbors in the town.

Councilor Pelkey asked what the average decrease is for a residential property. He just needs a ballpark figure. Mr. Peck responded that he doesn't think that it ever went down lower than \$20,000. They had some at \$10,000 or \$5,000 as well.

Councilor Naeem said thank you to him and the board. She thinks she saw them here every time she came to town hall. Mr. Peck stated that the Assessor's office had to work extremely hard because they were constantly going back and forth to the property specifications to validate information and or look up information which took a lot of time and preparation before the meetings.

Councilor Eleveld thanked everyone on the board and the town staff. His question is on the motor vehicles. You ended up with about 13% average reduction overall. What were the reasons for the reductions? Mr. Peck responded that you'd have someone come in with a car with a



mileage of 258,000. They go by the JD Powers values. Individuals get a reduction on the mileage once it hits a certain level. 90% of the reductions deal with the mileage deduction.

Councilor Armstrong asked for an example of an appeal for personal property. Mr. Peck stated if someone has a small business in town and you have office furniture, that furniture within the business is classified as personal property and is taxable. The same thing would happen with the property that is in a hotel. You look at the bedrooms, the beds, etc. and that is all considered personal property.

Councilor Walker thanked Mr. Peck as well. He thinks some of this conversation we're having tonight might help those that didn't win an appeal or didn't get a larger decrease in their assessments understand it better. While a lot of us can afford to pay higher taxes, everybody can't. It might look good on the outside but a lot of people in this town are saying they have a budget, they're on a fixed income, and some of us have heard it. But he thinks that by Mr. Peck explaining the process it helps.

Councilor Armstrong asked how you apply for an appeal of assessment. Mr. Peck said that the form is at the Assessor's office and the person fills that out. Then it goes to the Board of Assessment Appeals for review.

Mayor Black-Burke thanked him and the Assessment team for all they do.

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Souza gave the following report:

Town of Windsor Memorial Day Observances

Memorial Day observances will be held on Monday, May 27, 2024.

An observance 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 Windsor Scouts.

This year's Parade Marshal is Windsor Police Officer Joshua Amaro. Amaro is an Afghanistan Combat Veteran and currently holds the rank of Staff Sergeant with the CT Army National Guard where he serves as an instructor for newly enlisted soldiers.

Within the Windsor Police Department, he has fulfilled roles as School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer and Peer Support. He is also an Assistant Lacrosse and Field Hockey Coach at Windsor High School.

In case of rain, one single ceremony will be held at 10:00 AM in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Contact Enita Jubrey at 860-285-1835 with any other questions.



Ground Breaking Ceremony of New Park at 458 Windsor Avenue

We are ready to celebrate 'breaking ground' on the new park project in Wilson. A ground breaking ceremony will be held on May 21, 2024 at 10:30 AM at 458 Windsor Avenue for this event. The park will be a transformative project set to breathe new life into a long vacant parcel, creating a multi-dimensional space at the gateway of the Wilson neighborhood. Planned enhancements include a parking lot, trails, trees, landscaping, habitat improvement, public art, food truck parking, picnic patio, playgrounds, pavilion, amphitheater and a great lawn. This is an investment in the community's well-being, offering spaces for recreation, relaxation and cultural enrichment. All are welcome to attend!

Public Works Open House

Come celebrate National Public Works week with us on May 23, 2024 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM at 99 Day Hill Road and meet the amazing public works crews who take care of our community! Step into large equipment, go for a ride in a plow truck, take a tour of the facility and learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at the Public Works facility.

MDC Water Line Replacement Project - Kellogg and Lennox

Starting the week of May 13th, the MDC will be replacing water lines on Kellogg Street and Lennox Avenue. This work will also include replacing water meter pits at a number of homes and select hydrants. The MDC has notified the residents of this scheduled work. The project is expected to take three months. Our plan is to repave these roads and several others in the neighborhood during the summer or fall of 2025.

MDC Sewer Line Extension Project – Pierson Lane

The MDC plans to begin construction this summer on extending the sanitary sewer line along a portion of Pierson Lane. The existing sewer line in Pierson Lane ends just west of the Palisado Cemetery. This project will extend the sewer line west under the railroad tracks to the area in front of the Windsor Tennis and Racquet Club. Work will require alternating one way travel and at times the road way will have to be closed in the area of the railroad. Work is expected to take 12 weeks. As the schedule gets firmed up, MDC will be providing public notices through various means of the altered traffic patterns.

Siting Council Decision on River Street Solar Project

The CT Siting Council made their decision on the proposed solar project at 445 River Street approving the petition with some conditions pertaining to items the town had expressed initial concerns with.

The Siting Council approved the revised layout plan. The revised plan provides a greater set back or buffer in this area near the residential property. The set back from this property line near the condos is now over 120 feet and was previously approximately 25 feet.

The CT siting Council also approved the enhanced screening along the River Street frontage. The town had an independent sound engineer review the applicant's pre-operational sound study. Our consultant found the applicant's sound study followed acceptable standards/methodology and based on the information submitted it appears the operation of the facility's equipment will not violate State and local noise regulations. The CT Siting Council is

requiring the applicant to conduct a post-operational noise study that documents compliance with state standards and if needed mitigate the noise to adhere to the standards.

According to our outside legal counsel, the courts afford deference to the decisions made by the Siting Council, but parties are still able to appeal those decisions if the Siting Council has acted unreasonably, arbitrarily, illegally or in abuse of its discretion. The deadline to file the appeal is 45 days from the date of the filing of the Siting Council decision.

Here is a link to view the Siting Council documents, correspondence and information related to the proposed project. https://portal.ct.gov/CSC/3_Petitions/Petition-Nos-1501-1600/PE1598.

Greater Hartford Legal Aid

The Social Services Department and Senior Center have partnered with Greater Hartford Legal Aid who provides free consulting services to address the critical needs of individuals related to obtaining government benefits, housing, senior issues, employment laws, and more. The Social Services department is hosting individual appointments for residents of all ages on the first Friday of every month from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Walk-ins are welcome. The Senior Center appointments are reserved for residents who are 55 and up, and host appointments on the last Friday of every month. Residents may call the Windsor Senior Center to schedule a 20-minute appointment at 860-285-1992.

Volunteer Animal Feeders Needed

Northwest Park is seeking volunteer animal feeders to help feed, water and care for the heritage breed farm animals on display in the barn and pastures. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and able to work outside in all kinds of weather. The typical commitment is one scheduled evening or weekend shift (morning or evening) each week. Applications may be requested via phone (860-285-1886), email (northwestpark@townofwindsorct.com), or picked up from the park office in the Nature Center.

Red Cross Emergency Preparedness

The Red Cross will be at the Main Library to educate attendees about emergency preparedness on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Learn how to prepare for natural disasters, fires, and other unexpected emergencies. Come ready with any questions you may have.

Registration required. To register, go here: <https://windsorpl.librarycalendar.com/event/red-cross-emergency-preparedness-21221> or call the Reference Desk at 860-285-1918.

Food Bank renovations and move back update

The Windsor Food Bank (temporarily located at 100 Addison Road) will close beginning Wednesday, May 29th to begin preparation to move back to the newly renovated food bank space at the L.P. Wilson Community Center. The food bank will reopen at L.P. Wilson for client distribution on Thursday, June 6th.

Food Bank clients will be notified of the schedule change. For questions, contact Windsor Social Services at 860-285-1839.



Bradley Airport

Bradley Airport is doing some work on their main runway this month. That will require a change in the flight patterns for a few weeks. There will be more traffic over the Hayden Station area than normal.

Town Manager Souza stated that the cost of having a referendum is from \$19,000-\$20,000.

Town Manger Souza said that there was a question about how the FY 24 budget to a degree helped mitigate revaluation. The FY 24 budget had \$755,000 in one time monies that were built into the budget with the expectation that those costs would not continue. In addition to that, there is \$300,000 for our housing rehabilitation program. Our desire is to keep that project funded because it's an important program. Those \$300,000 were also reduced from the town's side of the operating budget to mitigate as well. Essentially, over \$1 million was built into the FY 24 budget to try and mitigate to some degree the property revaluation impacts.

Councilor Pelkey said lots of people said they didn't know when the referendum would be and they feel they missed it because of that. He has many people proposing to maybe use the electronic billboards to put that information out ahead of time whenever we do set a vote for the next referendum. Town Manger Souza said that we can look into that. We only have one that is programmable. We share that with the Town of Bloomfield. We had received that through a shared services grant a good number of years ago. We can look at that in terms of visibility and the best place to put that.

Mayor Black-Burke asked the Town Manager to restate the cost of the referendum. Town Manager Souza said it is from \$19,000-\$20,000. That goes to pay for printing the ballots and the election workers stipends.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Smith – nothing to report.

Finance Committee – Councilor Naeem – nothing to report

Joint Town Council/Board of Education Committee – Deputy Mayor Klase – nothing to report.

Health and Safety Committee – Councilor Armstrong - nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Deputy Mayor Klase said the Personnel Committee has two upcoming meetings on May 22nd and May 23rd.

10) ORDINANCES - None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Update on proposed solar development at 445 River Street

Assistant Town Manager, Scott Colby, stated the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to request the CT Siting Council to hold a formal local public hearing and to also submit an application for 'party status' related to Verogy's Petition of Declaratory Ruling in December of 2023.

On May 9, 2024 the CT Siting Council approved Verogy's project with several conditions pertaining to items the town had expressed initial concerns with as outlined below.

As part of the CT Siting Council review process, three lengthy evidentiary hearings were conducted by the CT Siting Council, these were held on February 8th, March 19th, and April 9th. Evidentiary hearings included the presentation of witnesses, the numbering of all exhibits, requests for administrative notice, and the verification of all exhibits by appropriate witnesses. Witness panels were subject to cross-examination by the CT Siting Council and the parties and intervenors.

Setbacks from Property Lines

Final Decision

The CT Siting Council approved a revised layout plan (see attachment). The blue areas indicate the proposed solar panels. At the top or north of the site, the tan/brown shaded area indicates the area where the panels were originally proposed to be installed. The revised plan provides a greater set back or buffer in this area near the residential property. The set back from this property line near the condos to the northern section of the site are now roughly 123 feet compared to the developer's proposed 25 foot set back.

Vegetation/Screening

Final Decision

The CT Siting Council did not approve the berm. However, they approved the enhanced screening along the River Street frontage and the northern section of the site. Attached is a plan showing the landscape/screening along the River Street frontage and northern section of the site. The highlighted areas indicate plantings that the project developer has agreed to add to enhance the screening.

Noise

Final Decision

The CT Siting Council is requiring a post-construction operational noise study be completed that documents compliance with state standards and the identification of any noise mitigation measures that are employed to adhere to the standards.

Decommissioning

Final Decision

The Siting Council ruled that the lease is a private agreement between WSO and the property owner. At the end of the lease term, control of the solar facility site reverts back to the property owner. The CT Siting Council does not have the authority to supersede restoration provisions of the site lease or require additional site restoration conditions beyond those established by the site lease. The property owner would determine site restoration conditions at the time of Project decommissioning.

According to our outside legal counsel, the courts afford deference to the decisions made by the CT Siting Council, but parties are still able to appeal those decisions if the CT Siting Council has acted unreasonably, arbitrarily, illegally or in abuse of its discretion. The deadline to file the appeal is 45 days from the date of the filing of the CT Siting Council decision.

Mayor Black-Burke said there has been a lot of work at the State level in regards to legislation to look at the level of control a Siting Council would have. She knows that for State Representative Garibay and State Representative Jaime Foster and others this is something they are continuously working on just to look at the level of control a Siting Council does have, especially if it will impact the town.

Councilor Walker asked about the screening that the Siting Council recommended and if its vegetation and if there is a height restriction to it? How tall is this screen going to be? Assistant Town Manager Colby said they will be placing new trees and shrubs in that area at a variety of different heights. They worked with the town to ensure that they were a species of plants and trees that would grow full and lush within the next few years so that it does provide adequate screening. It should blend into the neighborhood naturally. Councilor Walker said if they get too high then there's the possibility that they will block sunlight which is what a solar farm needs. He's sure they are not going to dig into their revenues. It's unfortunate because it's a huge area, but the town did the best they could and we'll see where it goes.

Councilor Pelkey asked why is it being recommended not to appeal the decision. Assistant Town Manager Colby said with an appeal it doesn't guarantee that the town will be able to get any of the items that they are expressing concern for changed. It doesn't mean that those would occur. It would be a cost expense to go through the courts to be able to gain some traction to enhance screening or do anything else that there is a concern with but it doesn't guarantee any of those changes would be made.

Councilor Armstrong asked if the solar farm had to be removed would it be labeled as a hazardous removal and it would require an additional cost. Assistant Town Manager Colby said to his knowledge and understanding these materials are not hazardous and that the cost of the removal is on the petitioner at the end of life cycle which is expected to be 30-35 years. The petitioner would be the ones required by the Siting Council to remove those panels.

Deputy Mayor Klase said she knows that this property was eligible for a solar farm because it was zoned agricultural. Is there a zoning that exists where the town could identify the land that is more suited for solar. We do want green energy and that is one of the Council's commitments but we want to be able to say that we'd like it at a particular site like maybe the landfill where there isn't a trench. If a company is looking, we can say these are the preferred areas that will not impact neighborhoods. Town Manager Souza said that any project that is over 1 meg they can go in any zone they want to unless the CT Siting Council overrules the zoning. We do allow solar facilities currently under the zoning regulations if they are generating power for their use on site. We do have regulations that are in place for that. If it's less than a meg, they can have the opportunity to look at our zoning regulations and talk to town staff. If it goes beyond that, they just have to notify the town and go through the petition process with the state. We are extremely limited for anything over 1 meg.

Councilor Eleveld asked what is the cost of an appeal. Assistant Town Manager Colby said he does not have a cost of how much that would be to go through an appeal process.

Councilor Eleveld asked if we were to do that for this project wouldn't that put us on the slippery slope for the group that didn't want to see Dollar Tree go in and then now saying okay Windsor now you go and pay for the cost to fight Dollar Tree (used as an example only). We provided an opportunity for a hearing and we spent \$20,000 or so for that but to go to an appeal we are looking at six figures at least. Then what do we do when the next Dollar Tree pops up and the residents that live 150 feet from it could say, oh this isn't what we want and they want us to stop it when it can't be stopped? It's an issue that we need to consider in this process. He just wants to put that out there. He's not thrilled with the project and the location but unfortunately CT Siting Council has jurisdiction and we don't have much that we can say about it.

Mayor Black-Burke stated the Bill is House Bill #5507.

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Approve Public Relations job descriptions

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman that items 12 C and 12 D be moved ahead in the agenda before item 12 A.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Mayor Black-Burke said that they were looking at the timing and they wanted to make sure that they had enough time for deliberation and that is why the Democratic side had put that motion forward. They thought that was something that everyone would want to do.

Councilor Eleveld suggested to Mayor Black-Burke that a Special Town Council meeting be set for budget deliberations within the next few days. He believes it can be done on Wednesday if we don't have it hybrid and we have plenty of time notice-wise to do that. Thursday is not an option as that is the Town Committee caucus meeting. He believes we are all going to want to attend for our respective reasons. Or we can just recess this meeting to another date. He's not sure if there is a notice requirement for something like that.

Councilor Eleveld said there's been no discussion on our side relative to what your side is proposing at this point so we are a little on the blind side over here.

Deputy Mayor Klase stated she totally understands that, however, it was on the agenda, we discussed it during the preparation meeting for the agenda and we didn't make up any body's minds. People came out and spoke. We know what we stand for, we understand that. It's a deliberation session and she thinks they should be able to deliberate their thoughts publicly. She doesn't understand the movement of this as there are conflicts for some of us. We have meetings set for the rest of this week and the longer this sits, the longer it will take for the voters to get the budget and vote on it. The longer we hold people in limbo regarding their tax bill. She thinks they should continue with the agenda as published.

Councilor Eleveld said that in order to change the agenda, it requires 6 votes and he believes the vote was 5-4-0. So you'd have to continue with the agenda in the order that it was laid out prior to the motion.

MOTION RESCINDED

Deputy Mayor Klase rescinded her earlier motion.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong that the job descriptions for the positions of Senior Communications Specialist and Communications Specialist be approved as presented and the position of Senior Communications Specialist be placed in the Administrative Pay Plan in pay grade 6.

Sophia Castellanos, Human Resources Manager and Enita Jubrey, Assistant to the Town Manager and Public Relations Specialist, gave an overview of the item.

Ms. Castellanos stated the change to the title from Communications and Community Outreach Specialist to Communications Specialist is to better align the title with industry standards or practices.

Adding the Senior Communications Specialist position creates the capacity for career development within the Public Relations division. It furthers the goal of enhancing recruitment and retention in the organization by providing opportunities for professional development and growth. As employees develop more knowledge, build their skills, and become more valuable to the department and the town, this allows opportunities for career advancement.

The Senior Communications Specialist position will have some of the same job duties as the Communication Specialist position but will be responsible for strategic planning, training employees, developing methods to analyze the success of various outreach efforts, and coordinating, scheduling and assigning work. This position would also be involved in higher-level projects/assignments.

The Communications Specialist position will be more focused on planning and creating content with guidance from the Senior Communications Specialist.

Councilor Pelkey asked for the Communications Specialist, he sees that the minimum qualifications were down graded from needing a Bachelor's degree to now needing an Associate's degree. Why do we need to have a degree at all for this position? Why is that a requirement? Ms. Castellanos stated that it is really just the change of going from a Bachelor's degree to an Associate's degree. There has to be some level of understanding and that is just a basis point.

Councilor Pelkey then asked if we could substitute work experience instead of the degree. Ms. Castellanos said they could look into that. Town Manger Souza said there is language within the minimum qualifications that allows for equivalent combination of work experience. So we do have that there. Town Manager Souza added this is in the position description. The way



that you recruit nowadays you don't put out your job description. We are using other tools to demonstrate to folks that we are open to all different types of experiences.

Councilor Gluck-Hoffman thanked them for the job description. Just as Town Manager Souza said, you have to capture people and she knows that job experience is important but working with folks for many years in Public Relations, Communications, and social media, you have to have all of this in there. She thanked them again for a great job description.

Councilor Smith asked if there are any requirements to seek minority candidates in the search for this position. Ms. Castellanos explained they use the same means that is used to post all positions. We do reach out to different organizations in the community, we have a specific group of people, different emails and contacts that we do to ensure we reach all demographics within the community.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Approve tax suspense list

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman, that \$305,451.30 motor vehicle, supplemental, and personal property taxes be transferred to the Suspense Tax Book from the following respective Grand List years.

OCTOBER 1, 2016 -	\$	745.28
OCTOBER 1, 2018 -	\$	198.49
OCTOBER 1, 2019 -	\$	311.80
OCTOBER 1, 2020 -	\$	<u>304,195.73</u>
	\$	305,451.30

Cathy Elliot, Tax Collector, stated in accordance with *Connecticut State Statutes* §12-165, the Suspense List must be submitted annually to the Town Council. This list consists of motor vehicle, supplemental, and personal property taxes on the 2020 Grand List that are considered not collectable. Also included is one account from the 2016 Grand List, one account from the 2018 Grand List and two accounts from the 2019 Grand List which were added on after those lists had been suspended and are still showing as active accounts.

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) Budget deliberations and adoption of revised FY 2025 budget

Councilor Naeem felt they brought forth a budget that was very strategic and in the reductions that they made to make sure they had fiscal stability in the long run. She feels they were very responsible on the use of opening cash as well. We recognize that there is a significant tax increase in town, but the significance is not because of the increase of expenditures, it is because of the impacts of revaluation. As we look to move forward, it is important to protect the financial stability of our residents. It is also very important to protect and support our town services which includes our education services. She knows that earlier tonight, Ms. Zotter shared some numbers and Councilor Walker eluded that \$8 per month is not the full cost of the Board of Education budget. She doesn't think they are here to talk about the full cost, rather we're here to talk about expenditure increases in particular because that's where there is a lot of discussion. She pointed out that beyond that \$8, if we were to bring all the expenditures down to \$0, we would be saving an average household in Windsor \$18 per month. For those \$18 per month in savings we would potentially be laying off 40-50 full-time employees between the town and the Board of Education. That is going to be a significant decrease in service levels. She feels that is not something that they can afford to do as a town. She talked about protecting the financial stability and earlier we heard from folks about the importance of making sure there is support there for our seniors. She would like to make sure that they are looking tonight at increasing the senior tax credit and doubling it as we look into the next budget that will be passed. There are other adjustments on the budget that we saw and she'd like the Town Manager to touch on that a bit.

Town Manager Souza said in preparing for the phase-in, there was a transfer to the Great Pond Improvement District which is based upon the overall taxes that are generated within that district. That transfer was not reflected downward. That was an oversight on the staff's part in preparing for the evening of the final adoption of the budget by the Council. What that does is it allows the Council to reduce the expenditure overall level by \$355,000 which is located in General Services of the budget. We apologize for that oversight. That does not impact any services. We are still meeting the obligation of our interlocal agreement with the Great Pond Improvement District. That provides some flexibility for the Town Council. If the Council were to reduce that \$355,000 in expenditures, there are a series of other motions that would need to take place relative to overall revenues, the overall expenditures and the current levy. If there were no other changes made to the budget by the Council, that \$355,000 reduction would result in a mill rate of 30.28 mills. The budget that was not passed on the 14th would have had a 30.37 mill rate associated with it.

Councilor Pelkey asked how we arrived at the \$305,000 figure for the Senior Tax Relief. Town Manager Souza said that \$305,000 is based upon the number of eligible participants per the ordinance that the Town Council has in place.

Councilor Pelkey asked how much does the \$305,000 translate to for each person? Town Manager Souza said it varies upon your income, if you meet the state program or if you are a part of the local option. He explained the different ways you can get the money and how much you would get.

Councilor Pelkey asked if we proceed with doubling this benefit would that possibly be \$800 to \$3,750? Town Manager Souza said conceptually that is correct but they'd have to work through that. He noted that several years ago when the Council made an adjustment, if it's included within the operating budget, then we'd have to come back to the Council to make an amendment to the ordinance. The Council would have to conduct a public hearing and then act on the amendment to put into effect what was in the adopted budget.

Councilor Pelkey asked if we are currently using all \$305,000? Town Manager Souza said he does not have that information will him but some years we may not reach that full amount, it depends upon those people that are re-upping and new people that have joined.

Councilor Pelkey asked if the Town Manager can give an estimated guess that we hit 98% of it versus 50%? He's trying to see what the need is. Town Manager Souza said in recent years it's probably 90%.

Councilor Armstrong asked if the mandatory recount remained the same? Town Manager Souza said it did.

Councilor Smith said we are trying to add to the Senior Tax Credit and people that are disabled. In his opinion, this is a very much needed service to give to seniors and the disabled some type of tax relief. If the numbers work out to be \$800 / \$1,300 that's where the numbers are. He feels that is totally acceptable. What would be the ramifications of having this tax abatement? Town Manager Souza said if there's a qualified individual that makes \$22,000 or less they currently are eligible under the state program \$1,250. On top of that they are able to receive local funds in the amount of \$1,875.

Town Manager Souza said in regards to Councilor Pelkey's question earlier, he would envision the \$1,875 would be doubled if we increase it.

Town Manager Souza wanted to clarify what he said earlier. He is using terminology from when the State of Connecticut gave us reimbursement for this program. The State of Connecticut still sets the income guidelines. What the dollar amounts are for the State is we used to get \$200,000 per year in reimbursement from that 'state' program. They did away with that about 5-6 years ago. What we refer to as the local match is the municipality has the ability by local option to increase the benefit to those that are eligible under the State program as well as to increase the income cap. In other words, expand the umbrella so more people can qualify.

Councilor Eleveld said the \$305,000 we are doing now is all on us at this time and the Town Manager's number for the State is irrelevant because it's all coming out of our pocket anyways. Town Manager Souza said yes, on that perspective, yes it is not irrelevant because they set the income thresholds. Councilor Eleveld said but we set the amounts that we can credit. Town Manager Souza said for the local portion of it we do.

Councilor Eleveld said if we were to double it to \$610,000 the proposal would be to either increase the income cap and/or increase the amount received at the various levels. Town Manager Souza said his recommendation would be that you don't increase the income cap

because at this point in time, that application deadline has passed but it does not mean that we cannot increase the benefit amount. Just note that the benefit amount needs to be determined prior to and giving enough time for staff to prepare the billing for this billing cycle. It's doable but it does impact the calendar for when the bills can be prepared and sent out.

Councilor Eleveld said so we'd have to run through this quickly between this meeting and the following meeting to get the ordinance approved and on the books. Would there be a possibility of looking at the Veteran's Relief program? Town Manager Souza said the Council adjusted that last year. Councilor Eleveld asked do we have any more room to increase that. Town Manager Souza said he'd have to look into that.

Councilor Pelkey asked how many people currently utilize the Veteran's Relief program. Assistant Town Manager Colby said there are 287 participants in that program.

Councilor Pelkey asked are we suggesting with the Great Pond miscalculation, does that wash out the increase. Town Manager Souza said yes.

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Smith to amend the proposed budget for General Services of \$19,642,690 by \$355,000 to \$19,287,690.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MAIN MOTION

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to accept all other service unit budgets as adopted by the Town Council on April 24, 2024.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED by Councilor Pelkey, seconded by Councilor Walker to amend the motion and reduce the Board of Education budget by \$1.3 million, reduce Community Services by \$108,860 and reduce Open Space by \$65,000.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman stated she cannot support moving funds from Community Services.

Mayor Black-Burke stated she cannot support reducing the budget of the Board of Education. As a mother to a student that was part of the Covid class, in the summer she will take time to use her own money to ensure that her son continues to be where he is supposed to be for his education. So reducing the Board of Education by another \$1.3 million is something she cannot do in good conscience.

Councilor Armstrong stated she does not support reducing the Board of Education, Community Services or Open space.

AMENDED MOTION

Motion Failed 3-5-1 (Mayor Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Klase, Councilors Armstrong, Naeem and Smith opposed and Councilor Gluck Hoffman abstained)

MAIN MOTION

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Smith to amend the total proposed General Fund expenditures for the FY 2025 budget of \$143,670,840 by \$355,000 to \$143,315,840.

Councilor Eleveld said we are going to send this back to the taxpayers with no real change. Deputy Mayor Klase said that is a pretty accurate portrayal. We took some money and added it to the Senior Relief program.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman said they had discussed the creativity programs. We did not discuss certain people in certain positions with certain salaries. She does not want to delete programs.

Deputy Mayor Klase clarified that when they had their prior deliberations, the Board of Education came to us and said that if we reduce it by any other things there is going to be positions. They've looked at other scenarios from the Town Manager that showed positions at a certain point. The proposal that was made is going to require position reductions.

Mayor Black-Burke said that she thinks it's been very clear overall that on the town side as well on the Board of Education side that it would be a total of about 50 positions total for the town as well as Board of Education. Also keep in mind that the contractual obligations on both sides must be met. The cost of living will continue to go up. She just wants to make sure for everyone listening that we do have contractual obligations that is a bulk of a budget.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman said she is well aware of the contractual obligations.

Councilor Eleveld said we are having the same problem that every community in the state is having. Hartford got hit with a \$44 million deficit. Multiple towns that have had revaluation and/or have had the ESSER funds disappear are all rejecting their budgets. The fact that that is happening is clear that there is a problem. It isn't our making. It's not our fault. The Federal government gave us money and presumed that we would fund it later and reality is you're asking taxpayers, on top of a revaluation year, to cover this. Next year, we have a secondary problem which many people may not realize and it could be much worse next year. He can't support this. You're giving the taxpayers back the same budget, with no changes effectively. He can't support that.

Councilor Walker said it is a fact that nothing has changed in the budget that was presented to the voters. It failed but maybe it will pass this time. We keep talking about the Board of Education. Councilor Eleveld mentioned the ESSER positions that the Superintendent knew because were temporary positions. He agreed to that. All those temporary positions have been filled. He went to one of the budget presentations at 330 Windsor Avenue. He hears people saying we will make reductions, any reductions at all 20, 40, 50. It's great to say those statements but we need to back it up with facts. How many actual positions will be eliminated, if any, if there are reductions in the budget. We're still an alliance district. Granted that we have kids that are doing very well, but are we getting the best bang for our buck. With the reduction,



not an increase in student population, it's \$5 million that the Board of Education is looking for. This is a trend every year to increase it. As Councilor Eleveld said it's not just Windsor that has to do it. He's heard people in town say to his face, 'you can't touch the Board of Education budget and we're not going to touch it.' It's fine. He's only just one vote. The citizens have said we need to do more. We can vote on it tonight, but he would definitely never vote for something like this.

Councilor Pelkey stated that it was 11:00 PM and they are at the end of their meeting.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to extend the regular meeting to 11:30 p.m.

Mayor Black-Burke called the question of extending the meeting to 11:30 p.m.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Mayor Black-Burke said that tonight they have not concluded their business for the evening. They will have to look to come back to continue this business.

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 p.m.

Motion Passed 5-4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert
Recording Secretary



**TOWN OF WINDSOR
TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING
JUNE 3, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Mayor Black-Burke.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey, Councilor Leroy Smith, and Councilor Lenworth Walker

Mayor Black-Burke read aloud the notice of the public hearing to hear public comment on:

- Applications for participation in the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit program
- Proposed change to the Plan of Conservation and Development's future land use plan related to 5T and 105 Birchwood Road

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Davis, (address not given), stated he is pleased to be here to represent his brother Mike Davis who is the owner of 15 and 105 Birchwood Road and he and his wife who are the owners of 3 Birchwood Road. These adjoining parcels make a parcel of 24 acres of land which is currently a 'cut your own' Christmas tree farm. We are asking Windsor to approve our Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) amendment. The change is to 5T and 105 Birchwood Road from open space and low density residential respectively to agriculture in the future land use plan as a first step with the town and other entities to preserve Birchwood farms as permanent agriculture. This amendment meets the goals of the POCD to maintain sufficient natural area in agricultural open space to help preserve the town's heritage and maintain a balanced life that our residents expect. An application has been submitted to the CT Farmland preservation program. Originally, in the preservation program, you had to have about 35 acres to qualify. Now there is a program for smaller farms like theirs that are under 35 acres. With this change to the plan, it will help them to facilitate their efforts to preserve the farm. He's also chairman of the Windsor Land Trust. The Windsor Land Trust supports any effort to preserve open space and especially farmland here in Windsor. So this is just a change to the future use of this land. It will help us combine the whole farm to all agriculture. We don't want to put a road down the middle of it. We want to preserve it and this is the first step going forward to help us achieve that goal of



preserving the farm forever. He hopes the town wants to work with them. A lot of residents have been very supportive of this proposal. They are glad to see farmland expanding. As part of the Windsor Land Trust, he is thrilled to see something switching from residential to agriculture as normally it goes the other way.

3) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Black-Burke declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert
Recording Secretary



TOWN COUNCIL

HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON

June 3, 2024

**Special Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong (via Zoom and then in person – entered meeting late), Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey, Councilor Leroy Smith, and Councilor Walker

2) COMPLETE ACTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

Town Manager Souza stated the Council had talked about the potential reduction for General Services last time with the \$355,000. Where the Town Council left off was the motion for Total General Fund revenue expenditures.

Total General Fund Expenditures

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Deputy Mayor Klase to amend the total proposed General Fund expenditures for the FY 2025 budget of \$143,670,840 by \$355,000 to \$143,315,840.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

MOVED by Councilor Pelkey, seconded by Councilor Eleveld to amend the main motion so instead of a reduction of \$355,000 it would be a reduction of \$1,655,000 down to \$142,015,840.

Deputy Mayor Klase asked if Councilor Pelkey can describe where that money would come from. Councilor Pelkey responded he doesn't think we should be spending that much money. Deputy Mayor Klase said to Councilor Plekey that he doesn't have it earmarked for anything. Councilor Pelkey said he did but it is not part of this motion.

AMENDED MOTION VOTE

Motion Failed 4-4-0 (Mayor Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Klase, Councilors Naeem and Smith opposed and Councilor Armstrong absent for vote)

Councilor Naeem clarified for the public that the Town Council discussed during their last meeting that \$355,000 be cut from General Services which is reflective of an error that was caught due to phase-in for the Great Pond Improvement District. They did vote to



adopt all of the other services' budgets as they were proposed and we are now on our General Fund Expenditures.

Councilor Eleveld said just for the record the \$355,000 reduction is not a reduction in spending, it's just an acknowledgement of an accounting error.

Councilor Naeem stated that Councilor Armstrong cannot get into the meeting via zoom.

Mayor Black-Burke asked if there is a telephone number that she can call into the meeting with? Assistant Town Manager Colby stated there is a number on the agenda as well as within her email.

Mayor Black-Burke called a five minute recess at 6:39 p.m. due to technical difficulties of getting Councilor Armstrong onto the zoom call.

Councilor Armstrong regained her connection via phone at 6:46 p.m. and the Special Town Council meeting began again.

Deputy Mayor Black-Burke added that per the Rules of Order, you must be on camera for an Executive Session and cannot be calling in. For any other vote you do not need to be on camera.

MAIN MOTION VOTE

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck-Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

General Fund Revenues

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Deputy Mayor Klase to amend the proposed budget for Revenues of \$143,670,840 by \$355,000 to \$143,315,840 to reflect expenditure adjustments.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck-Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Current Levy

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Smith to amend the Current Levy by \$355,000 from \$117,521,400 to \$117,166,400.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Eleveld, Gluck-Hoffman, Pelkey and Walker opposed)

Revaluation

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Deputy Mayor Klase to implement the October 2023 revaluation with a two-year phase-in starting in FY 2025 with an estimated net taxable grand list for FY 2025 of \$3,928,000,000.

Motion Passed 9-0-0



Senior Tax Relief

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Pelkey to amend the amount proposed for the Senior Tax Relief by \$129,475 from \$305,000 to \$434,475.

Councilor Naeem stated that they had some discussion on this at the last Town Council meeting recognizing some of the challenges that some of our senior residents may be facing. This dollar amount is reflective of what we think covers the needs of our town.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Veterans' Tax Relief

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Pelkey to amend the amount proposed for Veterans' Tax Relief by \$15,170, from \$23,100 to \$38,270.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

3) SET DATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET REFERENDUM

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman that the annual vote on the budget be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at all 7 polling places.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Councilor Eleveld stated he would like to have the Town Council consider adding non-binding advisory votes to the referendum. He thinks it could be done because nothing has been printed. This is a similar approach as used by the Town of East Granby.

Councilor Eleveld added that he will be forming his motion as what will be read on the ballot for the voters. The two questions would be: Question #1: "In your opinion is the General Government budget, non-Board of Education, in the amount of \$59,002,500 a decrease of .0003% or \$19,230 the right amount too low or too high? Question #2: In your opinion is the Board of Education budget in the amount of \$84,313,340 an increase of 5.15% or \$4,129,320 the right amount, too low or too high?"

Councilor Eleveld thought this is something we should consider doing and that would allow the voters to accept or reject the budget and to able to provide us guidance on it.

NEW MOTION

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Pelkey that two advisory non-binding questions be added to the ballot. The questions are as follows: Question #1: "In your opinion is the General Government budget, non-Board of Education in the amount of \$59,002,500 a decrease of .0003% or \$19,230 the right amount, too low or too high? Question #2: In your opinion is the Board of Education budget in the amount of \$84,313,340 an increase of 5.15% or \$4,129,320 the right amount, too low or too high?"

Councilor Naeem stated she appreciates the idea of adding questions to the ballot. Her concern is questions have implications in terms to how they are worded and phrased. She would like to have more time to think about this versus reacting to it in the moment. She will not be supporting this today, but she would like that they have a potential conversation on about how we can bring these questions or any other questions to the ballot in the future during the Finance Committee meetings.

Councilor Pelkey stated he likes this idea as it provides information. This is an exact verbiage from East Granby minus the numbers. It has been used and meets legal criteria. This gives folks a way of giving their input. This would give not only the Council but he folks in town an idea of where their neighbors stand. It's not perfect. But if you look back at the results from East Granby you can get a sense of how each side voted on the questions. It's just a data point and it's open to interpretation. He thinks it gives us an idea whether the vote was yes or no did we get it about right. Putting this in would give us a direction regardless of a yes vote winning or a no vote winning. He feels it's worth having the information as a community.

Deputy Mayor Klase stated she would like to see this question studied further. She doesn't disagree that it would be something to look at. Her concern is that we had over an hour of public comment clearly stating to the Council that the Board of Education budget should not be reduced. It should be evaluated. She doesn't think the questions aren't good, but we should be evaluating them. She will be voting no on this item.

Councilor Smith believes that this might have a potential of creating the Board of Education versus the town. It might have that indirect situation going on. He feels that it should be evaluated some more. He would hate to see a situation where it's the town versus the Board of Education.

Councilor Armstrong felt there should be more discussion on these items brought up tonight. She would be voting no at this time.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman said when the folks came out to speak about the Board of Education, they did speak for an hour to keep the budget without the cuts. That was just one room full of people and does not constitute the full community. She believes the questions are good and we need some informational pieces. We should discuss it further but she thinks it would be a positive for all of us here as opposed to a negative going forward.

Councilor Walker said the questions as they are worded have no negative connotation whatsoever. He feels the questions make the voter look closer within to see what exactly they are voting on. He gave an example using the Board of Education. He doesn't feel there is a negative to it and the other piece of it is most of us walk around this town we hear from our neighbors and constituents. The views are spread all over. There are some people in town that are of the opinion that some of the councilors do not do enough for the Board of Education. He feels they are not aware of the amount of money that needs to go



to the school system. When people understand that better, the opinions change. He feels there's no negative nor can it hurt to place the questions on the ballot.

Mayor Black-Burke stated she also is of the same opinion as Councilor Gluck Hoffman regarding the room full of people that were here at the last Town Council meeting asking that the Board of Education budget not be cut. There are more than just a handful of people in the community with opinions and we hear them every day. The Board of Education budget is a portion of the budget – it's a service to the town. She thinks this is something the Finance Committee can look at further. Can the question be crafted a bit differently in the future? Do we take it up as one block of a question? She is not prepared to have that discussion here tonight. For her, she will be saying no to the motion, but perhaps knowing that they may come back to this at a later time. She thanked Councilor Eleveld for bringing it up. It is food for thought.

Motion Failed 4-5-0 (Mayor Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Klase, Councilors Armstrong, Naeem, and Smith opposed)

Mayor Black-Burke referred the item regarding the two advisory non-binding questions being added to the ballot to the Finance Committee for review.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that she'd like to spread the word about the next budget referendum and asked that the councilors help with that along with town staff. The referendum is set for June 18th between the hours of 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM at all seven polling places.

4) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Naeem seconded by Councilor Pelkey to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert
Recording Secretary



TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON
June 3, 2024
Regular Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey, Councilor Leroy Smith, and Councilor Walker

2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Councilor Eleveld led the group in prayer/reflection.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Eleveld led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Richard Rutkowski, 295 Kings Landing, stated Windsor is only one of six towns and cities that pay their property tax once a year. As a matter of information, the City of Hartford pays their taxes quarterly. By paying taxes once a year, that is a burden on most of the senior citizens. He thinks it's time to make a change. Seniors paid school taxes when their kids were in school. There should be a reduction in property assessment of say \$1,000, but he understands this would be something that the state legislature would have to enact. What the seniors are telling us is 'enough is enough'. He hopes the reduction in the budget will reflect a yes vote on the next referendum. He shared a comment about the Board of Education. He noticed that a house can have a senior in high school while the other one goes to middle school. There are two buses that go to this house to pick up the kids. Why can't we have one bus pick them up?

Linda Rickard, 62 Sycamore Street, stated she and her husband have lived in town for 50 years. When they first moved to Windsor, the town center was a thriving business center. As the years have gone by, more and more buildings stand vacant. It is her understanding that many of these buildings are owned by the Sachdev Real Estate Development Group. She discussed her concerns with Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director for the town. He suggested that she contact Dr. Sachdev directly. She sent him an email and phoned him but never heard



back. She was also told by Patrick McMahon that there is nothing the town can do to require Dr. Sachdev to rent the properties. These vacant buildings have a negative impact on other real estate development. She respectfully suggested that the Town Council consult with the Town Attorney to investigate the feasibility of a vacant property ordinance or any other legal means to require commercial property owners to put their properties to use.

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive stated he understands reducing expenditures by \$355,000 but at the same time, the Council took \$144,000 out of that and had a tax increase. For those that don't get a senior tax relief, that is not much of a change between the two referendums. Until you set a mill rate, you can still change that. He gave his suggestions as to why the town should go that route. He explained his next chore is to come up with an explanation and a letter to the editor for the *Windsor Journal* for the seniors to come out to raise the maximum income level qualifying for a senior tax credit from \$60,000 to \$67,000. The Council should focus on the most needy which is this group. He gave his view on the advisory questions that are being asked to be placed on the ballot.

Kazik Skoczylas, 2 Strawberry Hill, has been a Windsor resident for 50 years and he has two questions. How many illegal immigrant children are attending Windsor Public Schools? How many illegal immigrants are currently living in Windsor who are causing taxpayer funds to be used from the FY 2025 budget?

Coralee Jones, 1171 Mantianuck Avenue reminded everyone that Thursday, June 6th is "D" day. Our young men had to try to get onto dry land at Omaha and Utah. She feels that young people do not have a clue about the sacrifices that have been made and it's a shame. What is going on with the hatefulness against our country? She attended the ceremony today for the building of the apartments on Poqunock Avenue. She spoke to Mr. Sachdev today and he told her that what is going on with the building. It is evident the theater will not be a profit making entity on its own. It has to be opened under the right circumstances.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Eleveld said driving home on Saturday from the center of town he saw a woman who had spun around in her driveway and ended up crashing down to the ground. She ended up with a busted lip. He saw what happened and immediately pulled over, but there was another person that also saw what happened and stopped to aid the woman along with himself. We have a lot of great Windsor citizens that if someone needs help they will stop and offer aid. There was a ground breaking today for the former Chevrolet property at the corner of Mack Street and Poqunock Avenue. Dr. Sachdev had a spiritual event earlier at sunrise and did a blessing on the ground. Some of the Councilors attended the event. He was able to participate in the Memorial Day parade. Josh Amaro, our honoree, did a wonderful job. He asked everyone to watch out for the kids. School will be out in a week or so.

Councilor Smith congratulated the Windsor High School class of 2024 on their upcoming graduation on June 11th. He congratulated the parents and the school for supporting the youth to that point and affording them the ability to go on in their careers.



Councilor Pelkey said that some people in town are having difficulty using the zoom links for the meetings. He helped in directing them to use the correct links for the correct meetings. He thanked the Police and Fire departments for their efforts and said we need more heroes in town so for those interested in joining the Volunteer Fire department in town, please call the town hall, touch base with a councilor or a fire fighter. He couldn't attend the ceremony this morning, but he is glad to see that the private sector is able to develop on its own and hopefully profit and do well for the town.

Councilor Naeem gave her thanks for those that came out to speak this evening. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. Juneteenth celebration week is coming up. She highlighted some of the events.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman stated she had to talk to one of the dispatchers this weekend. The collaboration that the Windsor Police have with every town is absolutely amazing as she saw this first hand when she was dealing with her emergency situation over the weekend. They also patched her over from one town to the other, they stayed on the phone with her the whole time. She's very grateful and gave her thanks to them and the staff.

Councilor Armstrong thanked everyone that came in with their comments. She is proud to be a citizen of Windsor. There is not enough to be said for those who service us in the public and those behind the scenes. She's so grateful and Windsor is the best town to live in. She asked that everyone watch out for the kids and even the older adults that are walking. Let's keep our community clean and don't litter. She reminded everyone to vote.

Councilor Walker said he attended the Memorial Day celebrations and saw the Windsor Fife & Drum Corps at it. It is because of our fallen that all of us can have our freedoms and we can have debate and still maintain differences and opinions in our country. Speeding is a big issue on the roads. Slow down. There are signs from the town that can be put out on lawns regarding speeding and there are speed gauges as well to help deter speeding.

Deputy Mayor Klase encouraged the Council to have the Finance Committee look at issuing tax bills twice a year or four times a year. Perhaps the Town Improvements Committee can look at what we can do to partner further with the downtown business owners and our economic development folks or if there are other avenues to encourage the growth and development of those business areas. Bike safety is important and we should all be clear about that before riding a bicycle.

Mayor Black-Burke stated she is proud to live in Windsor. She is proud of the individuals that live here. She thanked the Police Department and the Fire Department as they had a really rough weekend. When we say that we have stellar Safety and Emergency services, we aren't joking. They help to keep us safe. On Saturday she experienced something she doesn't ever want to experience again. People stopped to help out and make sure that folks would be okay until the safety team could get there. She commended Richard (she didn't have the last name) for what he did during this weekend as well. She asked Chief Melanson to spread the word of thanks to the team. Thank you for keeping us safe each and every day. The bikers are out. Please insure that your children and an adult have a helmet if you are bicycling. This Saturday,



the Art in Bloom event is happening. Tickets have been extended to today. You still have a chance to go. She gave a shout out to the Assistant Fire Chief and the Windsor EMS services. She congratulated the class of 2024 graduates.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

a) Board of Education

David Furie, Board of Education, said that there were over 100 scholarships or \$100,000 in scholarships awarded to graduates. He stated that he also was at the Memorial Day event and commended Josh Amaro on his offerings during the day. Windsor is one of the few schools that has a fire fighter course. Chief Bianchi is a participating instructor in that class. It is an important course that we are very committed to on both sides of the aisle even if it's an expensive class. The Windsor school system does have school on Veteran's day and are looking at having age appropriate programs throughout the day and inviting our veteran's to come into the school and be honored. He gave the following report:

- The Windsor High School Class of 2024 Commencement will take place on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center at 6:30 PM. The last day of school for students Pre-K to Grade 11 will be Friday, June 7, 2024.
- After more than many nominations across the district, building level interviews and 12 district finalists, the WPS District Selection Committees announced two amazing staff members who will go on to represent the district at the state level. Last week, the Paraeducator of the Year and Teacher of the Year were surprised at their respective schools by the requisite selection committees. The Paraeducator of the Year is Ms. Susan Lyons at John F. Kennedy School. The Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Christina McCann at Poquonock School. Both will move on to the state process.
- Congratulations to the following students who have signed to play athletics at a college/university next fall - these students are in addition to the students announced at the May Town Council meeting:
 - Maxim Copeland- Outdoor Track & Field- Morgan State University
 - Jordan Crain- Outdoor Track- Livingstone College
 - Eli Fangiullo- Baseball- Wentworth Institute of Technology
 - Noah Fedo- Boys Swimming & Diving- Widener University
 - Hunter Howard- Outdoor Track- Livingstone College
 - Kaiden James- Boys Basketball- Westfield State University
 - Destiny Ross-Bates- Track & Field- Livingstone College
 - Mikaela Williams- Girls Basketball- University of Hartford
- On May 22, 2024, Windsor High School held their annual Art and Fashion Show. The following students' art work were selected as the purchase prizes:
 - BOE Purchase Prize selected by BOE Vice President Ayana Taylor
 - *Treehouse* by **Aron Kiehne**
 - Superintendent's Purchase Prizes selected by Superintendent Dr. Terrell Hill

- *Holders of Life* by **Chay Williams**
- *Breaking Free* by **Aiden McGraw**
- Windsor High School Purchase Prize selected by Principal Breon Parker
 - *Overthinking* by **Briana Martinez**
- The district is pleased to announce the appointment of the JFK Principal:
 - **Mr. Dana Gagne** has been appointed by the Board of Education as the permanent principal of John F. Kennedy School. He has served as acting principal since last July. Mr. Gagne has been an educator for WPS for the past 24 years. His remarkable ascent through the ranks stands as a testament to his passion for education, tireless work ethic, and unwavering commitment to the success of our students.
- The BOE's next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at LP Wilson Community Center.
- Dr. Hill's Coffee Talks have concluded for this school year. Please watch for his Coffee Talks for the 2024-2025 school year which will be posted on the district website.

Deputy Mayor Klase asked Mr. Furie to describe how the Windsor public schools celebrates Veteran's day and what the curriculum looks like for each of those schools. Mr. Furie responded that it is different at each school and it is age appropriate. The schools are open to parents and to veterans to come in and at most times the students have some type of presentation, whether it's musical or acting out something. There was a concern a year ago at the high school that not every class was able to attend the program. What they did at Oliver Ellsworth and Poquonock schools is the kids might have little flags to wave. This is usually led with the teacher and/or music instructor at the school. As you start moving up in grade, you get more sophisticated in what is being done.

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Souza gave the following report:

Groundbreaking for new park in Wilson

This past week, we hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new park in Wilson. Governor Lamont and State Senator McCrory, State Representative Kahn and State Representative Garibay attended the ceremony. This park is being funded through a State of Connecticut Community Challenge Grant in the amount of \$4 million as well as federal American Rescue Funds approved by the Town Council. The park will be substantially completed in the Spring of 2025.

Later this summer and fall a naming contest will be held in which we will solicit possible names for the new park.



Windsor Health Department - Vaccine Grant

As you will recall, the Health Department received an Immunization Activities Grant through the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The initial award totaled \$95,375. A portion of that total is required to be spent on media and public information initiatives. In addition, another requirement is to conduct a Rapid Community Assessment (RCA). The RCA has been completed and results are being compiled for review. Work on the creation of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) has begun.

The Health Department was recently notified that an additional \$38,552 will be awarded. The Health Department is currently exploring options to spend those funds. Those options include:

1. Create additional public service announcements
2. Create and send mailed marketing materials and/or
3. Hold a vaccine clinic for individuals who are neuro-diverse (individuals whose brain processed information in a way that is not typical of most individuals) or have special needs.

The grant ends June 30, 2025.

Bike helmets are available at the town hall at a reasonable cost.

Pool Passes Free for Windsor Youth and Seniors this summer

Pool passes for youth (up to 17 years old) and seniors (55 years and older) are free until June 30th. Please register for your season pass by going online at www.townofwindsorct.com/recreation or visiting the Recreation office at LP Wilson Community Center, 599 Matianuck Avenue.

Daily admission for youth and seniors is also free until June 30th. Family and adult season passes are also available for purchase in the Recreation office or online.

Goslee and Veterans pool will be opened on June 15th. Please see the hours at this link www.townofwindsorct.com/recreation.

Renovations at Welch Pool continue with the goal of opening the pool the first portion of July.

Juneteenth events

It's Juneteenth week! Please help us in celebrating Juneteenth by attending one of the many events planned throughout the week:

- **June 13 - 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM** – Watch the Movie “TILL” (based on a true story) at town hall in Council Chambers
- **June 14 - 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM** – Versatile PoetiQ and Rapoet (featured guest) – Windsor Art Center, 40 Mechanic Street – Take the mike and say what Juneteenth means to you.
- **June 15 - 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM** – Juneteenth event on Windsor Town Green – music, dancing, poems, speakers, etc. Matthew Rivera Keynote speaker

- **June 19 – 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM** – Zoom Webinar – “Conversation: Juneteenth then and now. How history impacts our future. Register online at www.townofwindsorct.com

‘AAA’ Credit Rating Affirmed

I'm pleased to let you know that Standard and Poor's (S & P) has reaffirmed the Town's AAA credit rating. Town staff led by Jim Bourke, Finance Director, in conjunction with the town's financial advisor Mark Chapman from Munistat, conducted a conference call with representatives from Standard and Poor's (S & P) on May 29th to discuss in detail a range of topics such as the local and regional economy, recent economic development activity, management practices, fiscal and debt management practices, budgetary performance and retirement plan stewardship. The Credit Profile report was issued last week and documents a number of positive assertions put forth by S & P, such as our “strong economy, strong financial management practices and consistent financial performance” to name a few. The town will be selling or issuing \$8.8 million in general obligation bonds and a one-year bond anticipation note for \$1.4M on June 11th.

Councilor Eleveld stated that the Town Manager had said there are helmets in the Health Department. Is that for adults too? Town Manager Souza said yes. Councilor Eleveld asked how much they are. Town Manager Souza said he will look that up and pass that information along to him.

Councilor Pelkey asked about construction on Lennox Street. Do we have any plan going forward to make that a nice, smooth road? Do we have a time table on that? Town Manager Souza stated the MDC has been replacing water lines and a year or two ago the gas company was there replacing some of their work. The plan is there will be temporary patches over the course of this calendar year. We'll let things get settled and then next spring/summer, the plan is for the town to repave Lennox and three or four other streets in that neighborhood in the spring/summer of 2025.

Councilor Pelkey said there's been a lot of solicitors in town recently. He believes there is an ordinance regarding that so people can ask for a badge. He experienced it on his street and Officer Amaro was able to send somebody out and asked them for their credentials and they all dispersed after that. Can we get anything online showing what the badge might look like? This is the solicitor badge they are supposed to be able to present to people. Town Manager Souza said he is correct there is a requirement for those individuals that are soliciting to register with the Police Department. He believes we can put up a copy of the permit online. Chief Melanson gave him the thumbs up. He also wanted to let them know that bike helmets are \$15.

Councilor Pelkey asked if we can have the electronic sign put somewhere to help people know about our referendum on the 18th. How is that going? Town Manager Souza stated we are taking that under advisement and seeing how many times we can move it. We will be able to do this as long as it's not needed for construction activities.



Mayor Black-Burke asked about the Welch Park Pool house. Where are we with that? Town Manager Souza stated at this time they are targeting the first part of July. It is progressing nicely at this point. There were some delays regarding the delivery of the new pool liner but the subcontractor does have that in Connecticut now. We are planning on opening Veteran's pool similar to last year's schedule. There may be some adjustments depending on the Board of Education schedule because we need to have custodians there. We are hoping it will be the first week of July for Welch Pool.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Smith said the committee is planning on having a meeting soon. Deputy Mayor Klase will be discussing one of his favorite topics on revitalization of the town and the efforts being taken. The committee will report to the Council with any recommendations they may have.

Finance Committee – Councilor Naeem – the next meeting will be next Monday.

Joint Town Council/Board of Education Committee – Deputy Mayor Klase – nothing to report.

Health and Safety Committee – Councilor Armstrong - nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Deputy Mayor Klase – there will be the review of appointments later on in the agenda.

10) ORDINANCES - None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Consider proposed amendments to the Plan of Conservation and Development relative to 5T and 105 Birchwood Road

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to recommend the Town Planning and Zoning Commission amend the Plan of Conservation and Development's Future Land Use Plan by reflecting 5T and 105 Birchwood Road as agricultural.

Town Manager Souza stated the owners of 5T and 105 Birchwood Road, would like to preserve these parcels for agricultural use through the potential future sale of development rights. These parcels are currently a Christmas tree farm. The owners would like the Plan of Conservation and Development's Future Land Use Plan to reflect these properties as agricultural. The intent of the Future Land Use Plan is to depict the most desirable future use of each parcel of land, which is typically the current land use but can vary for vacant land, depending on its zoning and other characteristics such as abutting properties and features.



5T Birchwood is 7 acres and currently zoned agriculture and 105 Birchwood is 9 acres and zoned residential. The Future Land Use Plan shows 5T Birchwood as Open Space and 105 Birchwood as low density residential. As noted above, the property owner would like these properties to be reflected as agricultural on the POCD's Future Land Use Plan. This Future Land Use Plan designation has the potential to improve the competitiveness for preservation grants if the property owner wishes to sell the property development rights to the state or other conservation related entity.

The TPZC held a public hearing on May 21, 2024 and continued the Public Hearing until after the Town Council meeting of June 3. Residents spoke in favor of the proposed amendments. There were no dissenting views from the public at the TPZC hearing.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Approve resolution for Neighborhood Assistance Act

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem that the attached resolution approving applications for participation in the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit program administered by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services be approved.

Flavia Rey de Castro stated the Office of Community Development issued media releases, utilized the town's website and sent email notices to non-profit organizations in an effort to ensure that eligible organizations are aware of the NAA program. Organizations submit the state application form indicating the expected or desired corporate donation amounts. Town staff confirms non-profit status and the application is fully completed. The applications received this year include the following:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Windsor Police Cadets, Inc.	\$ 7,500	Program Sponsorship
Madina Academy	\$150,000	Replacement windows & doors
Oliver Benoit Foundation	\$ 30,000	Distribution of personal care packages for Homeless and Shelter Residents

WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT (NAA) TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, acting through its Department of Revenue Services, administers a program authorized by the state legislature entitled the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program which provides corporations with tax liability in the State of Connecticut an opportunity to receive tax credits for donations made to participating municipal and tax-exempt organizations; and

WHEREAS, in order to utilize the NAA Program eligible municipal and non-profit organizations must first secure the approval of the local governing body in a town served by the applicant; and

WHEREAS, the organizations listed below have submitted applications for assistance in the NAA Program and the Town Council believes that the proposed activities are in the best interests of Windsor's residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL that the following applications for participation in the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program are hereby approved:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Windsor Police Cadets, Inc.	\$ 7,500	Program Sponsorship
Madina Academy	\$ 150,000	Energy Efficiency
Oliver Benoit Foundation	\$ 30,000	Homeless and Shelter Resident support

Councilor Naeem asked if the Town Council approves this, the funds that are being requested, basically those organizations need to find the corporate partners that will provide that funding and know that they can get 'X' percent of a credit. Ms. Rey de Castro said that is correct. After the applications get approved, they go to the State of Connecticut. The corporations on their end have to also apply. We won't hear the results until November or December.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Approve acceptance of donation of 400 Deerfield Road open space grant parcel

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem, to accept the donation from Ms. Janet Cohen, of property known as 400 Deerfield Road in the Town Assessor's records, as shown on map entitled "Property of Marguerite E. Mills and The Hartford Electric Light Co.," dated March 1967, by W.M. Alford, which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office in the Town of Windsor, Connecticut as Map Volume 11, Map Number 1066 and authorize the Town Manager to execute associated forms related to the property transfer.

Suzanne Choate, Town Engineer, stated as part of the design for Windsor River Trail from East Barber Street to Windsor Town Center, the town's design consultant for the project, East-West



Engineering, identified properties that are not owned by the Town of Windsor, which would require an easement from the property owner in order to build the trail. 400 Deerfield Road is one of three privately owned parcels that would require an easement. The owner of 400 Deerfield Road, Ms. Janet Cohen, has expressed interest in donating the parcel to the town. The Town Council is respectfully requested to accept the parcel to support future construction of the multi-use trail along the Connecticut River.

400 Deerfield Road is approximately 1.5 acres in size. There are no structures or other improvements on the parcel. The parcel is in the floodplain and is unbuildable per current regulations. The owner has indicated a desire to donate the property to the Town of Windsor at no cost, in support of the future construction of a multi-use trail.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- c) Approve an appropriation of \$70,000 from the Capital Projects fund for design of the Prospect Hill Road pavement rehabilitation project

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Pelkey, to approve \$70,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for design services related to the Prospect Hill Road Pavement Rehabilitation project.

Suzanne Choate, Town Engineer, said Prospect Hill Road is a major collector roadway with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of approximately 3,200 vehicles per day. The town's most recent pavement evaluations indicates the pavement condition spanning from Day Hill Road to Lang Road is within the fair to poor range with a pavement condition index (PCI) as low as 56 on the roadway. This section of the roadway exhibits significant distressing, with block cracking, transverse and long cracking, potholes and non-utility patches.

The project limits begin at the intersection of Day Hill Road and end at the rotary at the intersection of Lang Road. The project length is approximately 5,200'.

The proposed rehabilitation project includes milling several inches of existing pavement and repaving. We also intend to replace bituminous curbing, catch basin tops, and sidewalk ramps along the roadway. The proposed rehabilitation also includes restriping of the roadway with 11' lanes for consistency with other similar roads and to maximize the shoulder width. The current cost estimate for the construction phase is \$825,000.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- d) Approve an appropriation of \$80,000 from the Capital Projects fund for design of Marshall Phelps Road



MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve \$80,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for design services related to the Marshall Phelps Road Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

Suzanne Choate, Town Engineer, stated Marshall Phelps Road is an arterial roadway with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of approximately 5,500 vehicles per day. The town's most recent pavement evaluations indicates the pavement condition spanning from Day Hill Road to Bloomfield Avenue is within the fair range with a pavement condition index (PCI) as low as 70 on the roadway. The pavement exhibits significant linear and block cracking as well as areas of alligator cracking and potholes.

The project limits begin at the intersection of Day Hill Road and end at the intersection of Bloomfield Avenue. The project length is approximately 5,900'.

The proposed rehabilitation project includes milling several inches of existing pavement and repaving. We also intend to replace bituminous curbing, catch basin tops, and sidewalk ramps along the roadway. The proposed project scope includes restriping of the roadway to accommodate 5' wide designated bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. The current cost estimate for the construction phase is \$1,175,000.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- e) Introduce an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XV11, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong, that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS" 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 the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting."

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Pelkey to introduce an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XVII, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager, stated property tax credits under the state program can be up to \$1,250 for married couples and \$1,000 for single individuals. Credits are based on a graduated income scale. The town provides an additional benefit with a current match of 50% of this credit for those households eligible under the state program. The town's ordinance also



provides for a flat benefit of either \$308 or \$425, dependent on marital status for eligible households with incomes between \$43,800 and \$60,300.

Currently there are 337 participants under the state program and the local match benefit. There are 86 participants in the flat benefit program.

There was discussion at the May 20th Town Council meeting to explore the cost of the program if the additional local benefit were to double for participants.

The State of Connecticut no longer reimburses municipalities for the state program. The program as a whole has a current cost of \$305,000.

Based on the same number of participants as in FY 24, the estimated cost of the additional benefits related to this proposed amendment is \$129,475 in FY 25. Total program benefits would then be approximately \$434,475.

Councilor Eleveld said when we were having this discussion a few weeks ago, he thought that we were going to double the amount from \$305,000 to \$610,000. Assistant Town Manager Colby said looking at the program cost, we are doubling the benefit for the individual. We are currently doubling the amount they receive on the local end. An individual that would receive \$1,875 if they are under that \$22,000 as an example would now be receiving \$2,500. We cannot adjust the amount that the state provides. We can only do the local match. Councilor Eleveld asked if there was a cap to that respective to the local match. Assistant Town Manager Colby said we could continue to increase those benefits there percentage wise. That can always be explored in the future.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- f) Set a Public Hearing for June 17, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. for an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XV11, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS."

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem that a Public Hearing be set for Monday, June 17, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. (prevailing time) in the Council Chambers of the Windsor Town Hall, to hear an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XV11, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS" and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to post and publish notice of said Public Hearing.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- g) Introduce an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION."



MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION" 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 Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to introduce an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION."

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager, stated there are 867 individuals who participate in or receive the state benefit. Veterans who qualify for the state benefit receive an exemption on their property assessment ranging from \$3,000 to \$21,000 depending upon varying factors (i.e., level of disability, age, income).

Based upon the income limits, 63 individuals out of the total 867 currently participating receive the additional local benefit. The so called local option benefit is presently an \$11,000 exemption on their assessment if their income is under \$43,800, if they are unmarried or \$53,400 if they are married, regardless of VA qualifying status. The current local exemption amount offers a benefit of approximately \$334 and results in approximately \$23,100 of forgone tax revenue.

If the Town Council increases the local benefit to a \$20,000 exemption level this would provide an individual benefit of approximately \$607. By increasing the exemption, the total program cost would be approximately \$38,270 or an overall increase of \$15,170.

Based on the same number of FY 24 participants, if the local veteran exemption amount were increased to \$20,000 then this would provide an individual tax benefit of approximately \$607. The total program cost for the proposed budget would be approximately \$38,270 or an overall increase of \$15,170.

Councilor Eleveld asked if that is the maximum amount under state law? Assistant Town Manager Colby said the maximum amount is \$20,000 under state law that the municipalities can provide as an additional exemption.

Councilor Eleveld said more people could qualify for it on an income basis and that would increase our potential cost. Is that correct? Assistant Town Manager Colby said yes. If the income guidelines were revised and amended, then that would increase potential participants. Councilor Eleveld said that we can't change that, that's state right? Assistant Town Manager Colby said the municipality does have the option to increase the program guidelines. Councilor Eleveld asked if the state gives us any money. Assistant Town Manager Colby said the state gives us a partial reimbursement in regards to those that are income qualified. There's not a full reimbursement.

Deputy Mayor Klase said she'd like the Finance Committee to review the possible expansion of both the elderly and disabled tax relief and the Veterans' exemption for another time. She'd like to see if we can expand those. Councilor Naeem asked for clarification. Is it to expand the income levels that we are talking about? Deputy Mayor Klase said yes.

Town Manager Souza noted that for those, from a work load perspective, discussions would probably occur in mid to late fall as we start to approach budget parameters.

Councilor Eleveld asked are the income levels adjusted from inflation? Assistant Town Manager Colby said yes, the state revises their income guidelines each year. Councilor Eleveld asked if it is for both programs. Assistant Town Manager Colby said yes it is for both.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- h) Set a Public Hearing for June 17, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. for an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION."

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong that a Public Hearing be set for Monday, June 17, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. (prevailing time) in the Council Chambers of the Windsor Town Hall, to hear an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE XIV, VETERANS' EXEMPTION" and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to post and publish notice of said Public Hearing.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- i) Consider settlement of Wolak vs Town of Windsor

Town Manager Souza stated this item does not need to be acted on this evening nor does it need to be considered in Executive Session this evening.

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Deputy Mayor Klase stated that the Personnel Committee met and there are several appointments that they are submitting for the Town Council's consideration tonight.

Deputy Mayor Klase wanted to submit for consideration of appointment the persons designated in the Town Council's resignations/reappointments/appointments report of June 3, 2024 as included in the agenda except for Victoria Virgo-Christie as we are removing that name for consideration.

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the April 23, 2024 Special Town Council meeting (budget)



MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 Special Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- b) Minutes of the April 24, 2024 Special Town Council meeting (budget)

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2024 regular Special Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- c) Minutes of the May 6, 2024 Public Hearing (CDBG grant application and CDBG income to town's housing Rehabilitation)

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 Public Hearing (CDBG grant application and CDBG income to the town's housing rehabilitation program) as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- d) Minutes of the May 6, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- e) Minutes of the May 20, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting

MAIN MOTION

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Councilor Pelkey stated that on page 28 of the May 20th meeting minutes it indicates that we took two votes but those two votes technically did not happen because they were after the 11:00 p.m. mark. He believes those votes should be stricken from the record.

Mayor Black-Burke asked if Councilor Pelkey was referring to the motion to extend the meeting and the motion to adjourn. Councilor Pelkey said that was correct.

Mayor Black-Burke said her recollection was that the motion to extend the meeting was made prior to 11:00 PM. Councilor Pelkey said it was 11:01 p.m. when it was taken.



Councilor Naeem and Mayor Black-Burke said 11:01 is when they adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Black-Burke said being in session, her understanding is that you need to adjourn a meeting. She knows that the adjournment says 11:01 p.m., but they had to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Naeem stated she has the video up and believes the motion to extend the meeting was before we hit that 11:01 mark. But she would have to go back to the tape to verify that.

Deputy Mayor Klase asked if they can just hold that vote and have it checked out and bring it back at the next meeting.

MOTION TO TABLE MINUTES

MOVED by Councilor Armstrong, seconded by Councilor Pelkey to table the approval of minutes for the May 20, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting until the next meeting.

Councilor Armstrong said the statement was made that it would be checked as far as the time and the question was raised for that. Councilor Naeem also said she would research it.

Mayor Black-Burke asked Councilor Naeem if she was going to research that. Councilor Naeem said she doesn't have it in front of her.

Mayor Black-Burke stated for her the minutes are about the recording of it. You know that yes we were right around that mark but you do have to conclude a meeting. We can table it as well.

Councilor Black-Burke asked Town Manager Souza what the process was now. Does someone have to go back and watch the tape. Town Manager Souza said he would ask Helene Albert who prepared these minutes to review the tape tomorrow and clarify the timing.

Councilor Naeem said for a point of clarification does a meeting need to be adjourned with a motion even if it's past its deadline. Town Manager Souza said he does not have an answer for that right now so he wouldn't want to guess at it.

Mayor Black-Burke said she does not think it's good use of anyone's time to sit down and watch a tape over a minute difference. We can table it or take the vote to have it removed but she doesn't think it's a good use of anyone's time.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE MINUTES

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Mayor Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Klase, Councilor Naeem and Smith opposed)



15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, stated they should appoint someone at 10:50 p.m., if the meeting is still going, to make the motion to extend the meeting. He hopes in the next day or two they keep Trooper Pelletier in their thoughts and prayers. He was surprised that no one mentioned that the Boys Track Team came in second in the Class L by one half of one point and the girls won. He stated that what the Town Manager said was not incorrect when they were deliberating for the budget earlier in the evening. The situation was what happens if you don't fund the pension. Town Manager Souza said you pay later. He explained what he thought of the process and what will happen if they don't fund the pension appropriately.

Cecilia Carita, (last name hard to determine), 43 Poquonock Avenue, believes there are free classes in the Town of Windsor for English as a second language and studying for the American citizenship test. Is that right? Are those in the town's budget? Is that where they come from? Deputy Mayor Klase explained that during Public Comment the Council cannot respond to her questions. Cecilia added that those classes were one of the first things she noticed when she moved to Windsor in 2018. She is a naturalized citizen herself. To learn English and to pass that test is the first building block to becoming a participating citizen who knows what is going on. When she first moved here and saw those classes, it made her proud of the town that the town had decided if someone had the will to study, money should not be a barrier to them. She would be disappointed if that went away.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to enter Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. for the purpose of:

- a) Strategy and negotiations in respect to collective bargaining (Windsor Police Employee Association)

Motion Passed 9-0-0

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey, Councilor Leroy Smith, and Councilor Walker

Staff: Peter Souza; Town Manager; Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager; Amelia Bliss, Director of Human Resources

Outside Counsel: Kevin Deneen, Law Office of O'Malley, Deneen, Leary, Messina and Oswecki



MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to exit Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. and re-enter the Regular Town Council meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Armstrong seconded by Councilor Pelkey to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert
Recording Secretary