



**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON**  
**July 1, 2024**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**Council Chambers**

**APPROVED 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**

Deputy Mayor Klase led the group in prayer/reflection.

**3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS**

- a) Proclamation proclaiming July 2024 as Parks and Recreation month

Mayor Black-Burke read the proclamation out loud.

**5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Sarah McKay, representing the Windsor Arts Center, said she is here in gratitude and in support of the Connecticut River and Roots Festival which will be happening on September 1, 2024. This event is presented by the Windsor Arts Center and the Windsor Historical Society in collaboration with Connecticut Blue Grass Association and others. Its presenting headliner has performed at Carnegie Hall who is himself an Afro futurist which blends folk music with modern, contemporary music. There will be an internationally known musician that will be coming and the point of the festival is to highlight the origins of the shared cultures delving into the deep history of roots music, specifically looking at African roots and indigenous roots and roots music.

Doug Shipman, Director of Windsor Historical Society, stated he is here to speak about the Connecticut River and Roots Festival as well. They not only hope that the 2024 festival will be the first of many annual Connecticut River and Roots Festivals, but they also hope it will instill a tradition of truly inclusive events on the town green that represents the culture of all Windsor residents. With your support tonight in approving the allocation of ARPA funds recommended by



the Town Manager for this purpose, you can help insure this hope becomes a reality. He also thanked the Town Manager and staff which have added an allocation of money to the Capital Improvement Plan for the Chaffee House. It is a historic house on the Palisado Green, a place where you can come and learn about the black experience in the greater Windsor area. They presently have a changing exhibit that's up on the Windsor Afro-American Civic association. They are thankful for all the changes that have been made to the house to date and he looks forward to stabilizing the exterior of the building.

Neill Sachdev, 960 Kennedy Road, President of the Board of Directors for the Windsor Arts Center thanked the Town Council for their continued support of their organization and he wants to voice his support for the Connecticut River and Roots Festival that will be happening on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

James Madison, 8 Fitzmaurice Circle, stated he loves the police cars that have the thin blue line flag on them. He has one on his truck. He strongly supports the police. He's watched hundreds of hours of body cam video. If you haven't watch them, he invites you to do so. Watch what the police go through. The average fire fight for a police officer lasts three seconds, for a distance of three yards for three shots. You go from an annoying person in a car to the snap of your fingers to a life or death situation. It's a hard job and he respects that tremendously. To him, that is what the thin blue line represents. There was an officer that was killed in the line of duty in Wethersfield and the residents of Wethersfield wanted to fly the thin blue flag on his behalf. He stated that there was opposition from a Wethersfield Town Councilor regarding doing that. We live in a very diverse town. It's about the heroism of the police and nothing else.

Joel Herman, 107 Rood Avenue, stated he didn't realize the gentleman before him was going to be talking about the thin blue line. He said it's a desecration of the American flag. The flag is made to be flown one way. As a U.S. Army veteran, he believes it's supposed to be flown just one way.

## **6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilor Eleveld said Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to all and be careful if you're playing with fireworks.

Councilor Smith wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Please be safe and careful and look out for your neighbors.

Councilor Pelkey wished everyone a Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>. He had the opportunity to attend the very packed Road Diet informational session last week. There is still a lot to be decided regarding the questions brought forth during that meeting. He looks forward to this going before the Town Improvements Committee. He believes there are still a lot of questions from residents. We have lots of work to do to get that right. He added that if you are interested in being a volunteer fire fighter, the town can use you. Please reach out to town hall or any of the town councilors if you or somebody you know is interested in volunteering.

Councilor Naeem thanked everyone that came to the town's Volunteer Thank You Brunch event. It was great seeing everyone. Have a wonderful July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Please stay cool and be safe.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman thanked those that came out to speak tonight. She's looking forward to the Roots Festival event. She asked that everyone please drive slowly as there are kids playing outside.

Councilor Armstrong stated she attended a Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the Valley Professional Center for a dentist office that opened. Great things are happening in Windsor and they are taking new clients. So much is going on in Windsor in the recreational areas as well. Get out there and enjoy those activities, stay hydrated, be careful and watch your speed while driving.

Councilor Walker wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He is looking forward to the Roots Festival on the town green.

Deputy Mayor Klase had nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Black-Burke thanked all the councilors that attended the Volunteer Thank You Brunch. It was a great event. On Independence Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, please be safe. Please read the packaging on the fireworks.

## 7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### a) Board of Education

Leonard Lockhart, Board of Education, gave the following report:

- On Wednesday, June 11, the Windsor High School Class of 2024 graduated. Aron Keihne is the Valedictorian and Rjelyn Nikka Ersando is the Salutatorian for the Windsor High School Class of 2024. Congratulations to all the scholars as they are moving onto different segments of their lives, whether it be college, military or work force. We believe that Windsor has prepared these scholars for the next chapter in their lives.
- Thank you to all of our community scholarship partners. Our graduating seniors received over \$127,850 in scholarships at their Senior Scholarship and Awards Night on May 30.
- The WPS Summer Food Program will run from June 24 to August 16, Monday through Friday (closed on July 4 and 5) at the following locations: Sharshon Park at 38 Skitchewaugh Street, from 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM and at John Fitch Park, 156 Bloomfield Avenue from 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM. Due to changes in federal regulations for the Summer Food Service Program, the child must be present to be eligible for a meal - no parent or guardian pick-up is permitted and the child's meal must be consumed on site. Grab and Go meals are no longer permitted. Each child or teen 18 years and under is eligible for one lunch per day. The menu is posted on the district website.
- The WPS Summer Reading Program, *Adventure Begins at Your Library*, is underway for students in all our schools. Families should visit the district website for more information.

- The district administrators finished out the school year at their annual end-of-year leadership retreat. Again this year, they were able to have their leadership retreat at the new firehouse on Bloomfield Avenue. A special thank you to Mr. Paul Goldberg at the firehouse for all his help and time in making this event possible.
- Dr. Hill has announced the appointment of one new administrator:
  - Effective July 1, 2024, Ms. Kristen Blume will be the acting assistant principal for John F. Kennedy School. Kristen is currently a math interventionist at Poquonock School. A search will be conducted in the spring for a permanent assistant principal for JFK.
- 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.
- The first day of school for students for the 2024-2025 school year is Monday, August 26, 2024.
- Families are reminded to update their returning children(s) information in the PowerSchool Parent Portal - Returning Student Update 24-25. There is a banner on the district website and families may access their forms there. It is important to update phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc. in the Parent Portal prior to the start of the new school year.
- The BOE's next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at LPW.
- And finally, please remember to visit our website, [www.windsorct.org](http://www.windsorct.org), for the most current information, athletic schedules, and academic calendar. Families should make sure their child's school has their most up-to-date contact information.

Councilor Pelkey asked how many students completed/passed the fire fighter's education course? Mr. Lockhart stated he doesn't have that information in front of him but he will ask Miss Brown to watch this tape to get the answer the question as Councilor Pelkey has worded it. They will prepare something and send it to him.

Councilor Pelkey asked if Mr. Lockhart knew how many are signed up for next year for this program. Mr. Lockhart said it is his understanding that they are currently at 11, but he is going off of secondary information.

b) Metropolitan District Commission – unable to attend this evening.

## 8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Souza gave the following report:

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

All town offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and will be open for regular business hours on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Farmer's Market & Concerts on the Green**

The Farmer's Market sponsored by First Town Downtown continues on Thursdays until October 17<sup>th</sup>. The market will be open from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM each Thursday except for July 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information or questions, please call First Town Downtown at 860-247-8982 or visit [firsttowndowntown.org](http://firsttowndowntown.org).

Concerts on the Green kick off on Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Concerts will be on Thursday evenings through August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Block Parties**

The Windsor Youth Services Bureau and Windsor Police Department invites families to come out and enjoy the Community Block Parties this summer. The block parties run from 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Admission is a school snack donation for the Weekend Wheels program. All can enjoy tie dye shirts, bounce houses, face painters, henna artist, music and free food. There will be two parties in July and one in August.

- Friday, July 12, 2024 at Sharson Park located on Skitchewaug Street
- Friday, July 26, 2024 at Lancaster Park, located on Lancaster Drive
- Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, Deerfield Park, located on Seymour Street

### **Welch Pool Update**

Renovation of Welch Pool is substantially complete and is expected to open this Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Veterans Pool will be utilized by summer recreational camps but not for general family or lap swim. Goslee Pool is fully open.

### **Pierson Lane Sewer Line Work**

Due to Amtrak approval delays, the project to extend the MDC sewer line on Pierson Lane is now expected to start date September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Estimated project completion is still 6-8 weeks.

### **Tax Payments**

Real Estate, motor vehicle and commercial personal property tax bills based on the October 1, 2023 Grand List are expected to be mailed on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Bills will be due on Thursday, August 1st, 2024 and payable by September 3, 2024.

Bills must be paid by Tuesday, September 3, 2024 to avoid interest charges. Any bills not paid in full by September 3<sup>rd</sup> will incur a monthly interest fee of 1.5% starting from the original due date of August 1st, for a total interest charge on September 4<sup>th</sup> of 3%.

Please note, failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the taxes due or any interest on it should it become delinquent. Taxpayers who have not received their tax bill the last week in July should contact the Tax office at 860-285-1810 to obtain a copy.

More information can be found on the Tax Collector page of the Town of Windsor website.



**Broad Street Traffic Calming – Road Diet Project**

Last week staff hosted a very well attended public information meeting regarding the proposed traffic calming and pedestrian safety project –often called a ‘road diet’ of ‘complete streets’ project. Our consulting traffic engineer presented a set of options that reduce the thru travel lanes from 2 in both directions to 1 in each direction. One option includes dedicated parking on both sides of Broad Street. A second option incorporates on-street parking and a bike lane on both sides of Broad Street and a third alternative which has on-street parking with a bike lane on the west side of the road and a bike lane on east side. Also, the option of incorporating a roundabout at the Broad Street / Palisado Avenue / Poquonock Avenue intersection and at the Bloomfield Street / Poquonock Avenue intersection was presented.

The thought is to bring the alternatives to the Town Council later this summer for review. Ultimately we are looking for guidance and direction from the Town Council this fall so design can move forward.

Mayor Black-Burke asked about the issue of burning trash in the backyard which was brought up at the last Town Council meeting during Public Comment and asked Town Manager Souza for an update. Town Manager Souza stated it was burning of building materials. Town staff has had a conversation with the resident. The Fire Marshal’s office is reviewing both our ordinance and comparing it to other municipality’s ordinances to see how we compare. We will continue that work over the course of the summer to see if any changes should be brought before the Town Council.

**9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Smith – there are no reports from the Town Improvements Committee for this meeting. Once the committee goes over the FY 25-FY30 CIP, they will share an update with the Town Council.

Finance Committee – Councilor Naeem – no updates tonight.

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

Health and Safety Committee – Councilor Armstrong said they will be having a meeting on July 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the town hall.

Personnel Committee – Deputy Mayor Klase – nothing to report.

**10) ORDINANCES - None**

**11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

## 12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Authorize submittal of application to the State's Cybersecurity Infrastructure Grant program

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong to authorize the submission of a Connecticut State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) application to the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) for a reimbursement grant in the amount of \$41,260 for three projects.

Frank Angelillo, Director of Information Technology, gave an overview of the grant. He stated the Connecticut division of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security in consultation with the Connecticut Cybersecurity Planning subcommittee announced the first round of funding for Connecticut state and local government cybersecurity grant. This newly established program was created as a result of funding Connecticut received through the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The town is eligible to apply if the project(s) was not previously budgeted in the past fiscal year and was the result of a third party provided cybersecurity vulnerability assessment. The town has three projects that meet these requirements. The three projects provide additional layers of security to complement our current environment and will aid us in monitoring inconsistent events, will help us automate manual and time-consuming tasks and as a result make us more proactive. The application deadline is Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Town Manager Souza added that this is a 90% reimbursement. There are some local dollars being used here. There will be ongoing annual maintenance and licensing costs.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- b) Consider setting a Public Hearing for August 5, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. to solicit public comment on a proposed amendment to the Plan of Conservation and Development which includes adding the Windsor Center Design Development Area Map and updating the map to incorporate 114 Upper Broad Street into the Center Design Development area

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to set a Public Hearing for Monday, August 5, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. to hear public comment on the proposal to add the Windsor Center Design District map to the Plan of Conservation and Development and to amend the map to include 114 Upper Broad Street in the district boundary.

Town Manager Souza stated Grava Properties applied for the mixed-use Founder's Square development at 144 Broad Street under the Windsor Center Design Development District. The intent of the Windsor Center Design Development District is to promote residential densities that maximize potential for transit oriented development. This POCD proposal places 114 Upper Broad Street, which is .21 acres, within the Windsor Center Design District boundary, allowing the existing raised-ranch to be demolished and the acreage used to increase the number of bedrooms in Founder's Square. Because the process to amend the POCD and incorporate the

property into Founder's Square will require three public hearings, which includes notification requirements, there will be several opportunities to receive public comment. The Planning and Zoning Commission will take the Council's recommendation and any public comment under consideration.

Councilor Eleveld asked if he has acquired the house on the land. Town Manager Souza said yes, he acquired the property at 114 Upper Broad Street. Councilor Eleveld asked if he is looking to add this to his piece of property that he is looking at developing Founders Square on. Town Manager Souza said it is his understanding that is what he is contemplating on doing. Councilor Eleveld said we need to add that property to the development area for what reason? Town Manager Souza stated that would provide, if the Town Planning & Zoning Commission would approve the multi-step process, additional square footage which under the design guidelines would increase density for the Founder's Square project. The property that he wishes to get is going to be used for additional parking for his development.

Councilor Eleveld said it seems he's looking at changing his current plan for that parcel. Town Manager Souza mentioned increased density, which means more units, correct? He's looking at increasing the size of his project in respect to the amount of rental units? Town Manager said that is what he is contemplating.

Councilor Eleveld asked how this effects the Tax Increment Financing district. He asked would it be added to his CEA. So that means that parcel will be taxed separately. Town Manager Souza stated the Town Council has the ability to amend a CEA. Those are questions that at this point have not been explored as it is getting the cart way before the horse. The assessment would obviously increase. There may have to be technical changes to the amendment, not necessarily whole sale changes to a CEA.

Councilor Eleveld said all we are doing is changing the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and adding this parcel to that. Town Manager Souza stated the Town Council does not change the POCD however, they can weigh in on that change.

Councilor Eleveld stated that he noticed in the notes on the memo that there were two choices. One was to do this with a public hearing and the other was to do it without a public hearing. Why are we doing the one with the public hearing? Town Manager Souza responded that is an option the Town Council has to make. That's why we presented it as two options. This is a project that has had significant community input so perhaps the Town Council would like to have a little additional input into the project before they make a recommendation relative to the POCD, but it is not required.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

c) Introduce Fiscal Year 2025 – 2030 Capital Improvements Program

Town Manager Souza outlined a few highlights of the proposed six-year CIP which totals approximately \$122 million in projects:



- The CIP includes approximately \$9.4 million for street resurfacing, pavement reclamation, milling, curb replacement, minor drainage improvements and other pavement repair work. In addition, the 6 year period includes major street reconstruction or rehabilitation projects at an estimated cost of \$28.1 million. Of the total \$37.5 million included for the asset management of town roadways, \$11.2 million is planned to come from state and/or federal funding sources.
- Projected debt service ratios based on a five-year financial forecast, inclusive of all projects requiring voter referendum, are not projected to exceed the 8% policy goal in any year of the proposed CIP.
- The proposed CIP identifies \$23.3 million in cash-funded projects. The sources for cash funding projects are primarily appropriations from the annual General Fund as well as requests for monies from the Capital Projects Fund Assigned Fund balance and the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance. The Capital Projects Fund source fluctuates from year to year as that fund is comprised of closed out balances from completed projects.
- The remaining Outdoor Pool Facilities project (Veterans Pool) is scheduled for design in FY 2026 and construction in FY 2028. This project may require voter referendum depending on the scope of work and phasing approach.
- The proposed CIP forecasts \$80.9 million in new bonding authorization. The 6-year CIP cycle includes seven projects that would require voter approval due to current estimated costs. These projects are:
  - Windsor High School HVAC Systems Replacement
  - Windsor High School Roof Replacement
  - Poquonock School Ventilation Upgrade
  - Veteran's Pool Improvements
  - Windsor High School Fieldhouse Renovation
  - Broad Street Road Diet
  - Milo Pack HVAC, Electrical, and Energy Improvements
- School related projects total \$41.5 million over the 6-year period. Projects range from a fieldhouse renovation, roof replacements, window replacements, envelope improvements, and HVAC updates to boiler renovation/replacement and ventilation updates.

The Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) met and recommended the proposed Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY25-FY30 for Council consideration. There were several areas that the CIC suggested be explored by staff in planning for next year's update. Those areas include facilities and storage needs at NWP, potential improvements at Deerfield Park, sidewalks leading out to the north on Palisado Avenue, and taking a look at an unscheduled project for the streetlight replacement project to perhaps be able to phase that in instead of having one large project.

Mayor Black-Burke referred the item to the Town Improvements Committee for their review prior to final consideration by the Town Council.



d) Approve proposed use and authorization of American Rescue Plan funds

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Smith that the following authorizations of American Rescue Funds be approved:

- \$180,000 for the town’s Housing Rehabilitation Program
- \$145,000 for the town’s Multifamily Housing Rehabilitation
- \$100,000 for the town’s Community & Neighborhood Enhancement Grant program
- \$55,748 towards a Dial-A-Ride replacement van and
- \$15,000 to the Windsor Art Center in support of the September 2024 CT River and Roots Festival.

Town Manager Souza thanked the Town Council and past Councils for their thoughtfulness on how this once in a generation opportunity was allocated to use the federal funds to come out of a challenging time created by the pandemic.

Town Manager Souza stated it is requested that the *italicized* items be formally authorized by the Town Council on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow staff to begin work on launching these efforts. The remaining items are expected to be brought to the Town Council for consideration in the next 60 days or so as program planning is solidified to a greater degree.

Proposed allocation plan

Competitive & Sustainable Economy

○ School to Work Initiative	20,000
● Safe, Strong, Diverse Neighborhoods & Families	
○ <i>Housing Rehabilitation Program</i>	<i>180,000*</i>
○ <i>Multifamily Housing Rehabilitation</i>	<i>145,000*</i>
○ <i>Community &amp; Neighborhood Enhancement Grants</i>	<i>100,000*</i>
● Community Health & Wellness	
○ <i>Dial-A-Ride Van</i>	<i>55,748*</i>
○ <i>CT River and Roots Festival</i>	<i>15,000*</i>
○ Journey Home	15,000
○ Art & Cultural Series	20,000
● Capital & Infrastructure Investment	
○ Entry Signs / Landscaping Enhancements	<u>42,000</u>
TOTAL	\$592,748

The proposed allocation plan remains cognizant of the reality that the funding is not recurring in nature and funds need to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and fully expended by December 31, 2026.

Councilor Eleveld said Journey Home just received \$2 million which probably has come through very recently. He feels we can take them off the list of receiving money from the town.

Councilor Eleveld asked if the Dial-A-Ride is our program for our residents. Town Manager Souza said yes.

Councilor Eleveld said the only other item he is questioning is the Connecticut River and Roots Festival. His concern is that it will be an annual request, but then again we did support Shad Derby and that was an annual request.

Councilor Smith asked about the Community and Neighborhood Enhancement grant program. Will there be a list of eligible and ineligible activities? Town Manager Souza responded that in the parameters that the previous Town Council had set, it does outline what those are.

Councilor Pelkey said in regards to the Connecticut River and Roots Festival, he'd like to go and have a good time, but he wonders if we couldn't perhaps spend something with the Arts Center that is more infrastructural. Is there something else that we can spend the money on for the Arts Center but something that will last for the next 5, 10, 15, or 20 years rather than a one-time expenditure? Town Manager Souza said we do have the responsibility as a landlord to manage the Freight House and the Train Station which the Arts Center occupies both of those buildings for a variety of different uses. There are projects, just need deferred maintenance in general, for both of those buildings. In example, the train station boiler is identified in the six year CIP. There are other resources the town can plan for those capital type of uses and use our other cash resources. There probably are some immediate needs. The thought here was to be able to again use the American Rescue fund monies in a way that it brings that visibility to arts and culture and is bringing the community together in a different way than what we've done in the past.

Councilor Naeem gave her strong support toward the festival. She knows it's a one-time thing and that we've done other one-time fundings in the past to help bring more vibrancy to organizations or to folks coming into town. Her hopes are that this will not be a one-time festival. She recognizes that getting something like this off the ground is difficult because you don't have numbers from previous years to sell to sponsors. She hopes this will help to fill in some of the gaps and in future years they are able to cover that with the wonderful numbers on turn out and engagement we get from the festival.

Deputy Mayor Klase stated that she understands that Journey Home received the \$2 million but in general if you've done grant applications, you usually have to highlight and identify where you're going to use that funding. So, often times, it's not money that can be reallocated across your organization. In particular, Journey Home helps with our local Windsor homeless population. She would still be in favor of giving Journey Home the money.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman asked the Town Manager if he could get more details about the \$2 million that Journey Home received. That might be helpful in making a more informed decision. She's for helping with the homelessness as we need that assistance. Regarding the Connecticut River and Roots Festival, she understands what Councilor Eleveld is saying but she agrees with

Councilor Naeem. She does not feel this will be a one-time event. She believes it will be something for the future. Town Manager Souza made a good point about being a landlord but we are caretakers too for the community. It's important to keep these traditions alive and going between the Windsor Arts Center, the Historical Society, etc. She thinks the Roots Festival would be a good opportunity for us to showcase who Windsor is and what we are.

Councilor Smith said as far as the organization that helps the homeless goes, he is fully in support of that. Until we have solved the homelessness problem, we can't afford to take our foot off the gas. Nobody is choosing to be homeless. Even among those that are working and because of the rent situation, people are finding themselves in a really difficult situation. It is not a choice to be homeless. Circumstances put you into that place. He doesn't feel that there should be a limit on the amount of money provided for the homeless.

Mayor Black-Burke stated Journey Home is a small non-profit entity that serves the Greater Hartford area. Them receiving \$2 million and being able to compete on a national level is a feather in their cap. This is a growing concern in our town. Just as Town Manager Souza stated, these are dollars that probably won't happen again for another generation, so if we are able to support a non-profit or social services, then we should. We need to be proactive. So our using that \$15,000 to support Journey Home is us being proactive. Regarding the Connecticut River and Roots Festival, we are at an intersection at our town where we have to become intentional on how we are pulling all parts, all genres, and all areas of our town together. With the Connecticut River and Roots Festival, we have another opportunity for something that's not necessarily a parade, but something different. She feels that it won't be a one-time expense but if we have the money to support it now, she's saying why not. Homelessness is a very important topic to her. She asked Town Manager Souza if we can get data of working with our school district, find out what is the intersection with Journey Home and the Vento act. She thinks that it would be a sweet spot for the town as it covers all bases such as citizens, what's happening with our students, and how we work with Journey Home to think about corrective ways to work differently with that population.

Councilor Walker said he agrees with the Mayor that for this Town Council, Journey Home is not the only entity that is out there addressing homelessness. There are other entities and he feels it would help if this Council, looking at the homeless problem, looked at what else is out there. He knows that in the City of Hartford budget there is money allocated towards homelessness and other social services items. Journey Home is just one little piece. Regarding the Connecticut River and Roots Festival, he doesn't have a problem with it and is looking forward to it. He did notice that the listing on the memo says 'Arts and Culture series' and it has \$20,000 in there. Over the years, he has continually contemplated how best to address cultural activities on the town green and in Windsor. We have a large West Indian community in this town. They used to have a West Indian event on the town green that for political reasons got destroyed. They're still here and are not going anywhere. He feels it's past time that Windsor goes back and looks at finding some funding to celebrate our proud West Indian heritage. In addition to that, we have Hispanic people in town. So, if we say we are a diverse melting pot, we shouldn't just talk the talk, but should walk the walk. With that \$20,000 or whatever we can do, he feels it is past time to do something for the Jamaican people.

Mayor Black-Burke said that very often we find in a small town like Windsor that services are not readily available for people that live there such as Bloomfield, Windsor and Suffield for example. She's sure there are other avenues besides Journey Home such as 2-1-1 that people can contact. However, if our Social Services department has established a relationship with Journey Home and they've been doing it for the last couple of years, she's hoping that they can give them an opportunity to continue that while the Town Council explores other avenues.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

### **13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Eleveld to:

- Accept the resignation of Castella Copeland from the Human Relations Commission.
- Accept the resignation of Jody Denno from the Human Relations Commission.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

### **14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

a) Minutes of the June 17, 2024 Public Hearing

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 Public Hearing as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Minutes of the June 17, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

c) Minutes of the June 24, 2024 Special Town Council meeting

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Gluck Hoffman to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024 Special Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0



**15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Neill Sachdev, 960 Kenney Road, said on behalf of the Windsor Arts Center, the Windsor Historical Society and all of our partners, they sincerely appreciate the consideration they've given them for the Connecticut River and Roots Festival for the first time in September this year. They appreciate the continued support they are given and he looks forward to celebrating the event with all of the Town Council.

**16) EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**17) ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Naeem to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert  
Recording Secretary