



**TOWN OF WINDSOR
TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING**

APPROVED 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, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong (virtual), Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey, Councilor Leroy Smith (virtual), and Councilor Lenworth Walker

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

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AUTHORITY TO DECLARE THAT A FIREFIGHTER, POLICE OFFICER OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY."

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Wilder, Police Department, 1075 Suffield Street, Suffield stated that he is the President of the Police union here in town. He is here to voice concern on behalf of the union membership regarding some of the language and the implementation of a proposed town ordinance that designates authority to the declare that a firefighter, police officer or EMS personnel died in the line of duty. The Police union's main concern is that this authority is designated to the Town Manager and it does not require that he consult with any professionals that specialize in a particular field as it relates to the cause of or manner of death. The town ordinance only states, "The Town Manager should make the determination after consulting with either the Police Chief, Fire Chief or EMS Chief, depending on the employee's department along with other professional resources such as the Risk Manager or Human Resources Director." He wanted to point out that the ordinance specifically refers to the Risk Manager and Human Resources Director as professional resources for a line of duty death. The Police union strongly disagrees with classifying the Risk Manager and Human Resources Manager as a professional resource relating to line of duty death. The union disagrees because neither of them are medical examiners, forensic pathologists, medical professionals nor a doctor. Such professional resources should be sought out in a line of duty death to specialize or have expertise in determining causes of death or the manner in which the death could have occurred or what they are linked to. It's also important to point out that

the subject declaration may entitle surviving family members to certain federal, state and municipal benefits. Because of this, it is important to make sure that should we ever encounter this that we get this determination right. There are concerns with leaving this with the Town Manager, Risk Manager and Human Resources Department. Those concerns include financial impacts they may have in mind in making such determination. Finances should not have a role in this determination. This determination should be made with the most accurate and correct information only after consulting with real professional resources, specializing cause of and manner of death as it relates to cardiac events. The Police union hopes the town does not vote for this ordinance as it is currently written. He'd like the Council to take what he said tonight and consider it in making a determination.

3) ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene M. Albert
Recording Secretary