



**TOWN OF WINDSOR
TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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

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

- AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,330,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE POQUONOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,330,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION
- AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$980,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH O'BRIEN STADIUM ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$980,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Christopher Fulton, 40 Stratford Court, Athletic Director of Windsor Public Schools, stated he is here to talk about the appropriation for the O'Brien Stadium field. As the athletic director he oversees a lot of activities that happen on that field. We need a turf field. The field is needed for competition. There was some talk about the health of those playing on the fields and the pellets that might be in the field. He stated that they keep the kids safe and if they knew that definitively there was something going on with those pellets, they would not put kids on that field. Since we don't know that definitively, we look to try to make sure that we can continue along that same line of putting down a turf field and making sure the kids have a competitive edge. Some of the schools they compete against have several turf fields. He and the coaches here tonight fight every day for that field. There are 27 varsity teams and 9 programs that use that field in the fall. About another 5 or 6 in the spring. It's always busy and gets a lot of usage. Putting grass down on the field, he's not sure how the town would be able to keep grass viable to play on. It's important to our kids and the programming that we put this turf down. We look forward to the kids having the best playing surface possible.

Brandon Jubrey, 34 Jubrey Drive, is here to offer support and echo what Mr. Fulton said about the turf field. He runs a youth flag football program. They utilize the turf field extensively. He likes to think that it provides a nice addition to that which is already offered in town. The turf field is a huge positive. He thinks that it would be great to have another turf field in town. As operator of the youth flag football team in town, the turf field offers a great space for the activity to happen. It has helped us to bring in local businesses such as food trucks, hot dog trucks and other vendors that will come to the field. He is not sure if that is possible without that space in town. He's been personally asked to bring the league to other towns that do have a turf field. He's turned them down because he enjoys doing it here in town. As a resident running a youth program, the turf field is a positive.

Rick Hazelton, 328 Schoolmaster, stated he was the athletic director at Trinity College for 28 years. They built fields like this. They have football fields that are also used for men's lacrosse. They have a field hockey field which the women use for their lacrosse. They also have a baseball field and a softball diamond and other regular grass fields. It's the best thing we've ever done, especially since they are land locked. He supports this effort and stated that in his opinion, the Town Council should go forward with this request.

Oshady Daron, 776 Matianuck Avenue, stated he is part of the boys soccer game. Soccer is a big part of Windsor and a turf field would help a lot. It will also be a positive for the kids.

Paul Broxterman, 13 Cleary Lane, is part of the football coaching staff at the school. He stated we need two turf fields as one is not enough for the number of sports that use it, not just at the high school, but sports for the community as well. He's not sure how they would do it with turf fields. He knows that there have been complaints about the soccer field that was redone over at Sage school and that football is using it too much. But if you look at who uses it, it is usually used for soccer and there are ruts in it. You have one team of 30 kids playing on the field and then another 30 kids come along and are going to create ruts as well. They'd be playing in a mud hole if they were grass fields. Some districts have two turf fields and some have more. He's not sure how you do it with this amount of participation on grass fields. You can, but you wouldn't like the bill.

Rob Fleeting, 2 Lighthouse Hill Road, said he feels the turf field is definitely in need here in Windsor. It allows us to have enough traffic on that field. Every Friday night when they have a game, he's proud to be a Windsor resident and head coach of the football team. When people from other towns come in, they say how wonderful Windsor is. That helps us to keep kids from doing negative things and staying around adults that are positive and being role models to them. It's one of the great things about Windsor. He was talking to Athletic Director Fulton and one of the things he said is that at WHS we have a campus where all of our kids are together. Every kid at the school goes on



the turf field every day. He can't imagine us not having a turf field. Other places have 3-5 turf fields. He thanked the Town Council for what they do for Windsor residents.

3) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Black-Burke declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene M. Albert
Recording Secretary