

**TOWN OF WINDSOR  
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2020  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with Councilor James Dobler and Councilor James Govoni present. Town Manager, Peter Souza; Assistant Town Manager, Scott Colby; Police Chief, Don Melanson; Anthony Valenti, Police Lieutenant; and Devin Sailor, Police Sargent were also present.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**3. DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC STOP AND SPEEDING ENFORCEMENT**

Town Manager Souza gave a brief overview of the Agenda Item Summary.

In years past, the town developed the *Drive Wise* public education program. This effort included information and awareness signs placed in the front yards of homes. Citizens can work together with town staff to coordinate the distribution of these signs in concentrated areas where high traffic speed has been consistently noted. The neighborhood lawns signs will “travel” so they can be shared with all Windsor neighborhoods throughout the year. The town also owns several sets of Digital Speed Display Signs (DSDS). These signs are routed throughout town to collect traffic data and to warn drivers to slow down. Even when the signs are not flashing, they are counting passing vehicles and recording speeds. Specific neighborhood traffic concerns are given to officers as target areas for enforcement. The town’s multi-disciplinary traffic team meets regularly to review traffic complaints and identify areas for traffic data collection. This information helps in making decisions regarding deploying limited patrol resources in an efficient and effective manner.

Attached are several charts that provide a breakdown of traffic enforcement activity by patrol district and comparison of speeding enforcement activity within area towns. The charts show that Windsor makes significantly more motor vehicle stops related to speeding than the seven other suburban communities that are similar in population. Over the years, our focus has not been to simply issue infractions for speeding. The overarching goal has been to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and bikers through a combination of public / motorist information, education and enforcement.

Police officers made over 10,658 vehicle stops in the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. This is compared to 12,095 stops for the previous fiscal year. The majority of stops are for moving violations (e.g. speeding, failure to stop at a stop sign or not using a turn signal.) Other stops are primarily related to equipment-related violations. The number of

overall stops in the second half of fiscal year 2020 and the first quarter of the current fiscal year has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilor James Dobler asked if we know how fast over the speed limit the vehicles are going.

Police Chief Don Melanson stated that they only know when a citation has been issued.

Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke asked if these citations were broken down by passenger vehicles, trucks, and commercial trucks. She reminded us that there is access to I-91 as well which is important.

Chief Melanson stated that trucks are not what they are seeing speeding.

Councilor James Dobler asked about license plate readers.

Police Lieutenant Anthony Valenti stated that two license plate readers are taken out each shift and 148 stops year to date have been made with them. They have been proven to be successful since implementation and beneficial on a regional approach.

Councilor James Govoni talked about the portable speed bumps on West Street with the noise impact.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that we have received complaints on speeding and that the real concerns are the residential neighborhoods near the high traffic areas. She asked how we increase awareness to the public and curb this behavior. She explained that we need to explore some other options to ensure that community awareness is raised. She asked if there is a way to determine if these issues are near main arterial roads and if they are Windsor residents or out of town commuters.

Town Manager Peter Souza directed geo fencing to those neighborhoods to help them understand the issue. He stated they are even looking to repackage the Drive Wise program.

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN**

Town Manager Souza gave a brief overview of the Agenda Item Summary.

A multi-disciplinary staff team is being formed to develop several different approaches to address littering concerns including producing a series of public awareness “anti-littering” messages to help reinforce the importance of this issue. We envision reaching out to the business community, various civic groups and appointed boards / commissions to help in developing and implementing a coordinated multi-faced approach to this aesthetic and environmental issue.

The challenge of roadside litter control can be and is significant with over 175 miles of town and state roadways spread across 30 square miles. In addition to residents taking the

initiative to protect our local environment and community appearance by picking litter in their neighborhood, our Department of Public Works (DPW) addresses littering in a few different fashions.

DPW has seven defined litter pick-up routes and deploys staff on rainy days, when other work isn't feasible. Many of these are along more heavily traveled roadways and public spaces. We also deploy partial groups when their other tasks are complete or can't be done. Mowing crews are instructed to pick up litter as they perform their normal days' work in public spaces. Crews also respond to litter and trash-related citizen requests or complaints. These complaints are typically for garbage in parks, along roadsides, or public trash bins overflowing. Recently, our community based vendor has resumed litter and clean-up activities at the various bus shelters. This service was in abeyance for several months due to COVID-related constraints. Town staff also helped facilitate volunteer community clean ups during the year.

Councilor Govoni asked if no littering signs are needed to issue a ticket and asked if there should be more signs around town. He stated that we need to identify where this litter is coming from.

Councilor Black-Burke asked if there are enough trash receptacles in public and private areas around town. She also asked if it would be possible to set up a town wide clean up to determine the areas with a lot of trash.

Councilor Govoni stated that the town needs to be creative with the trash and recycling can placement.

Councilor Dobler stated that the town should be utilizing a multifaceted approach including community awareness and education, town clean up, and business education on policies.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that it must be an ongoing approach.

## **5. STAFF REPORTS**

Town Manager Souza provided updates on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training. The town received eleven proposals ranging from \$20,000 to \$180,000.

He stated that all of the Police Department did go through DEI training instructed by the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NABLEO).

There will be COVID-19 Mobile Testing at Windsor Shopping Center on November 11, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

330 Windsor Avenue will be reopening in light of many obstacles. We are below the guidelines set in place by Connecticut Department of Health determining group size.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) October 8, 2020

MOVED by Councilor Dobler, seconded by Councilor Govoni to approve the unapproved minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

**7. ADJOURMENT**

MOVED by Councilor Dobler, seconded by Councilor Govoni, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Scott Colby  
Assistant Town Manager