



Stratford, Connecticut

MINUTES OF MEETING

THE STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL CONDUCTED A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, 2725 MAIN STREET, STRATFORD, CT PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY POSTED.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Council Chairman Beth Daponte

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Beth Daponte, Mr. Wali Kadeem, Mr. David Harden, Mr. Philip Young, Ms. Marianne Antezzo, Mr. J. Vincent Chase, Mr. Alan Llewelyn, Ms. Tina Manus.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor John Harkins, Attorneys Christopher Hodgson, John Florek, Brian LeClerc and Kevin Kelly, Human Resources Director Ronald Ing, Chief of Staff Marc Dillon, Finance Director Susan Collier, Constituent Service and Outreach Coordinator Chris Bandecchi, CAO Chris Tymniak

WAIVER OF COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE SECONDED BY MR. LLEWELYN TO WAIVE THE COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE TO ALLOW ANOTHER SPEAKER TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

Ms. Judy Rafkin, member of Concerned Citizens Group, addressed the Town Council.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — conducted by Hon. Alan Llewelyn. A moment of silence and prayer, led by Hon. David Harden, was observed for Stratford Dispatcher Laura Price who passed away early in the morning.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Regularly scheduled meeting and public forum of July 11, and special Council meeting of July 18, 2016.

RESOLVED: That the reading of the foregoing minutes be dispensed with as copies thereof have been previously provided to each Council Member and the same be and are hereby approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO MR. LLEWELYN, SECONDED BY MR. CHASE TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. MR. LLEWELYN MOTIONED, SECONDED BY

MR. CHASE TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF JULY 18 TO REFLECT THAT MS. MANUS MADE THE MOTION TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION. THE MOTION TO AMEND PASSED 8 TO 0. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES AS AMENDED PASSED 8 TO 0.

2. CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS — None

3. COUNCIL MEMBERS' RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Kadeem — re: Ice Skating rink, Center School

Mr. Harden — re: Mighty Quinn Foundation

Mr. Young — re: Mighty Quinn Foundation, Blight Issues, tree devastation

Ms. Antezzo — re: Ice Skating rink, tree devastation, Facebook/computer attack, carwash on King Street.

Mr. Chase — re: tree devastation, Crime/blight on Public Safety Committee agenda, Bunnell field house, Roosevelt Forest open space

Mr. Llewelyn — re: acquiring properties for Stratford High School renovations (Splash Car Wash), Bunnell field house

Ms. Manus — re: Mighty Quinn Foundation, eminent domain/James Farm Road, Center School building, Ms. Grey's comments

Ms. Daponte — re: tree devastation, blight issues

4. COMMUNICATIONS, BILLS, PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES — None

5. MAYOR'S REPORT, COMMITTEE REPORTS, TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

5.1 MAYOR'S REPORT — Mayor Harkins reported as follows:

- A. SAEP — meeting to take place August 23 with Dept. of Defense and DEEP to discuss remediation
- B. EPA Cleanup — more Public info sessions will be conducted.
- C. Center School — awaiting test results
- D. Additional reporting: "Blues on the Beach" was successful, "Harkins Heroes" – a reading challenge program, will take place; tree remediation plan.

5.1.1 APPOINTMENTS — None

5.2 COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.2.1 BOOTHE PARK COMMISSION — The Boothe Park Commission conducted a special meeting of July 28, 2016 at which time the following was referred to Council with favorable recommendation:

Friends of Boothe Park DECD Grant Application

RESOLVED: that the recommendation of the Boothe Park Commission is accepted and the Friends of Boothe Park DECD Grant Application be and is hereby approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE, SECONDED BY MS. MANUS TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

5.2.2 SHORT BEACH COMMISSION — During the Short Beach Commission's regularly scheduled meeting of August 1, the following was referred to Council with favorable recommendation:

Parking Fee waiver for out of town guests for Narcotics Anonymous Group for their annual picnic

RESOLVED: that the recommendation of the Short Beach Commission is accepted and the Parking Fee Waiver for out of town guests for Narcotics Anonymous Group be and is hereby approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LLEWELYN, SECONDED BY MS. MANUS TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING FEE WAIVER. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

5.2.3 Longbrook Park Commission — portable ice skating rink proposed for Longbrook Park — donated by Wilcoxson School Fathers Club. Discussion went forward re: working out the logistics with Mr. Esposito (Parks superintendent), cost factors. Questions were posed to Mr. Florek.

WAIVER OF COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE SECONDED BY MS. ANTEZZO TO WAIVE THE COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE TO ADD A REPORT FROM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REPORT — The Historic District Commission met on August 4, 2016 and endorsed a "ghost" walking tour pending consent from Mayor's office regarding insurance issues.

RESOLVED: that the recommendation of the Historic District Commission is accepted and the "ghost" walking tour be and is hereby endorsed pending consent from the Mayor's office and Town Insurance matters.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE, SECONDED BY MR. YOUNG TO APPROVE THE WALKING TOUR PENDING CONSENT AND INSURANCE AS STATED ABOVE. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 7 IN FAVOR AND 1, MR. KADEEM, OPPOSED.

5.3 TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT5.3.1 DALEY DEVELOPMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. ANTEZZO, SECONDED BY MR. KADEEM TO WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE TO TAKE THE AGENDA ITEM TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE END OF THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

5.3.2 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Chase: re: 735 James Farm Road property, conflict of interest in connection with Center School

Ms. Antezzo: re: James Farm Road property

Mr. Kadeem: re: speaker at public forum mentioning foreclosures and condemnations

Ms. Manus: re: Town Charter – right to recall

6. QUESTIONS TO MAYOR OR STAFF

Mr. Chase: re: concerns of Beautification committee for Paradise Green

Ms. Manus: re: cost analysis for “Blues on the Beach”

Ms. Daponte: re: Paradise Green and Stratford Center, Arts Coordinator

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and/or OLD BUSINESS7.1 Resolution to Restore \$35,000 to Senior Services Account 01354-6399.

WHEREAS: In accordance with section 6.2.5 of the Town Charter, the Town Council at it’s regularly scheduled meeting of July 11, 2016 proposed to make a transfer of certain funds in the budget appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, as hereinafter enumerated;

WHEREAS: Pursuant to said direction, a Public Notice was duly posted on the Public Sign post on July 14, 2016 and appears on the return of notice as on record:

RESOLVED: that said transfer be and is hereby authorized and made as follows:

FROM:	01108-6376 (Sewer Use Fees – Town & BoE Bldgs.)	\$35,000.00
TO:	01354-6399 (Senior Services)	\$35,000.00

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LLEWELYN SECONDED BY MR. CHASE TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING TRANSFER OF FUNDS. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

7.2 INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION — appointed by Council Chair, § 217-4A of Town code. NO ACTION TAKEN.

7.3 TABLED ITEMS

7.3.1 REQUEST TO EMS FUNDING COMMITTEE — At the regularly scheduled meeting of the EMS Funding Committee of April, the following was referred to Council: PLACED ON THE TABLE DURING MEETING OF MAY 9, 2016.

Request from volunteers for Public Donation funds in the amount of \$4,500.00 for purchasing appropriate uniforms and accessories for the Honor Guard.

RESOLVED: that, providing the funds are available for reimbursement to the volunteers, the amount of \$4,500.00 be and is hereby endorsed/approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE, SECONDED BY MR. YOUNG TO TAKE THE FOREGOING REQUEST OFF THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE, SECONDED BY MR. HARDEN TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING REQUEST. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

7.3.2 Cost of Dog Park - \$15,000.00 be set aside from CIP 2017. TABLED DURING COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 11, 2016.

RESOLVED: that the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee is accepted and that setting aside \$15,000.00 from CIP 2017 for the Dog Park be and is hereby approved. REMAINED ON THE TABLE

7.4 TABLED ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

7.4.1 CENTER SCHOOL — RESOLUTION — (tabled July 11, 2016) REMAINED ON THE TABLE.

Sponsored by the Stratford Town Council

Whereas, the Town Council has the power to authorize the demolition of a town building;

Whereas, the demolition of a school has long-lasting implications on educational opportunities for the town's population;

Whereas, the number of building permits has increased in Stratford;

Whereas, the physical use of the center of Stratford has long-lasting implications on the town's reputation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL:
THAT THE PATH TO DEMOLITION OF 55 SUTTON PLACE ~~1000 EAST BROADWAY~~,
AKA THE NEW CENTER SCHOOL, BE STOPPED, STOP PHASE 3 TESTING, FURTHER,
A STUDY WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE COST OF RETURNING THE
BUILDING TO USE AS A SCHOOL.

7.4.2 TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND TABLED RESOLUTION (placed on the table during Council meeting of June 13, 2016)

A. TRANSFER

WHEREAS: In accordance with section 6.2.5 of the Town Charter, the Town Council at it’s regularly scheduled meeting of June 13, 2016 proposed to make a transfer of certain funds in the budget appropriations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, as hereinafter enumerated;

WHEREAS: Pursuant to said direction a Public Notice was duly posted on the Public Sign post on June 23, 2016 and appears on the return of notice as on record:

RESOLVED: that said transfer be and is hereby authorized and made as follows:

FY2016-2017 Interdept Budget Transfers / Approp [General Fund]							
Inter-Departmental Budget Transfers -							
EXPENSES:							
Org	Obj	Proj	Account Description	Beginning FY17 Budget	From Expense [Decrease]	To Expense [Increase]	Ending FY17 Budget
VISITING NURSES							
01360	6422		Visiting Nurses Association	500	53,000		53,500
Restore to historical funding amount							
TOWN BUILDINGS							
01108	6376		Sewer Use Fees-Town&BOE Bldgs	200,000	(53,000)		147,000
TOTAL EXPENSES				200,500	-	-	200,500
Net Impact					-		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. MANUS, SECONDED BY MR. KADEEM TO TAKE THE FOREGOING TRANSFER OF FUNDS OFF THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. KADEEM SECONDED BY MR. HARDEN TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING TRANSFER OF FUNDS. MR. LLEWELYN MOTIONED TO AMEND TO CUT THE AMOUNT IN HALF FOR NOW AND SEND THE OTHER HALF LATER. MS. MANUS SECONDED THE MOTION TO AMEND. THE AMENDMENT PASSED WITH 6 IN FAVOR AND 2 OPPOSED.

Stratford Town Council meeting recessed: 9:25 p.m.
Stratford Town Council meeting reconvened: 9:35 p.m.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS— continued

MR. LLEWELYN MOTIONS, SECONDED BY MS. MANUS TO RESCIND THE AMENDMENT (HALF OF THE FUNDS NOW AND HALF LATER). THE MOTION TO RESCIND PASSED WITH 8 IN FAVOR AND NO ONE OPPOSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LLEWELYN, SECONDED BY MR. HARDEN TO RETURN THE FOREGOING TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

~~B. RESOLUTION TO REINSTATE \$53,000.00 to the VNA General Fund account 01360-6422:~~

~~Sponsored by: Hon. Wali Kadeem – Third District; Hon. Marianne Antezzo – Seventh District
WHEREAS, services that are explicitly provided to Stratford’s most vulnerable residents who do not have insurance coverage (i.e.: uninsured) or who are underinsured for home nursing services. There are Stratford patients whose average age is 77 years old. In the last 9 months, 90 patients and saw 350 visits by VNA nurses. The VNA has received the same amount for 30 years, and has done an incredible job doing more with less as medical costs have skyrocketed.
WHEREAS; there is an expected surplus of \$150,000 in the budget line item 01108-6376 Town buildings *Sewer Use Fees; funding would be reallocated to cover the \$53K accordingly.~~

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE, SECONDED BY MR. LLEWELYN TO STRIKE THE FOREGOING ITEM FROM THE AGENDA. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

7.5 TABLED APPOINTMENTS

7.5.1 STRATFORD HOUSING PARTNERSHIP — NO ACTION TAKEN.

- A. 3 members of the local business community (3 vacancies)
- B. 1 member-at-large

7.5.2 SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT NOISE ABATEMENT COMMITTEE — § 7-12 of Town Code, one member appointed by Mayor, one member appointed by PYE. *Placed on the Table during Council meeting of March 10, 2014.* NO ACTION TAKEN.

- A. 1 member from District of Town in which Sikorsky Memorial Airport is located – appointed by Town Council.
- B. 2 members from the Stratford Electorate at-large — appointed by Town Council.

7.5.3 ETHICS COMMISSION — 4-year term. *Placed on the table during Council meeting of Nov. 11 2015.* Members — 5 (§5-30 of Town code) NO ACTION TAKEN.

- Michael Peslak (Pastor) — expired Oct. 31, 2012
- Alternate members (3)

7.5.4 DISABILITY REVIEW BOARD — 2-year term, appointed by Council. *Placed on the table during Council meeting of Jan. 11, 2016.*

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CHASE, SECONDED BY MS. MANUS TO TAKE APPOINTMENTS A. AND B. BELOW OFF THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

- A. RESOLVED: that RENEE C. RICKARD-CASEY, MD of 31 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, MLFD be and is hereby appointed a member of the Disability Review Board. (term of Renee C. Rickard-Casey, MD expires Jan. 13, 2016)

MR. CHASE MOTIONS SECONDED BY MS. MANUS TO REAPPOINT RENEE C. RICKARD-CASEY, MD TO THE DISABILITY REVIEW BOARD. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

- B. RESOLVED: that FRANK SCIFO, MD of 2595 MAIN STREET be and is hereby appointed a member of the Disability Review Board. (term of Frank Scifo, MD expires Jan. 13, 2016)

MR. CHASE MOTIONS SECONDED BY MS. MANUS TO REAPPOINT FRANK SCIFO, MD TO THE DISABILITY REVIEW BOARD. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

7.5.5 BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE — term concurrent with Council. NO ACTION TAKEN.

- A. 4 2 ALTERNATE MEMBERS (new positions)
B. 1 REGULAR MEMBER

7.5.6 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS – ALTERNATE MEMBERS — 4-year term, appt. by Council, § 5-77-78. TABLED DURING COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 8, 2016..
RESOLVED: that _____ of _____ be and is hereby appointed an Alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals. (term of Kenneth Caserta expired March 13, 2016) NO ACTION TAKEN.

7.5.7 STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY — 5-year term TABLED DURING COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 8, 2016

RESOLVED: that _____ - of _____ be and is hereby appointed a member of the Stratford Housing Authority. (term of Kenneth Bishop ended June 30, 2016)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. MANUS, SECONDED BY MR. KADEEM TO TAKE THE FOREGOING APPOINTMENT OFF THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. MANUS, SECONDED BY MR. KADEEM TO REAPPOINT KENNETH BISHOP TO THE FOREGOING POSITION. THE MOTION FAILS WITH 6 IN FAVOR AND 2 OPPOSED.

7.5.8 COMMITTEE/COMMISSION VACANCIES created by Town Council resignations— TABLED DURING COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 8, 2016.

- A. Conservation Commission. NO ACTION TAKEN.

8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS — None

9. NEW BUSINESS — None

9.1 APPOINTMENTS — None

5.3.1 DALEY DEVELOPMENT — Deferred from Town Attorneys' Report

MR. CHASE MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. KADEEM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE-CITED ITEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRATEGY

AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING CLAIMS OR LITIGATION TOWARD THE TOWN WITH EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL, THE MAYOR, ATTORNEYS HODGSON, FLOREK, KELLY AND LECLERC. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

Stratford Town Council meeting recessed into executive session: 10:02 p.m.

Executive Session took place in room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT. The following persons entered into executive Session: Council members Beth Daponte, Wali Kadeem, David Harden, Philip Young, Marianne Antezzo, Vincent Chase, Alan Llewelyn and Tina Manus; Mayor Harkins, Attorneys Hodgson, Florek, Kelly and LeClerc. The above-cited item, Daley Development, was the subject of discussion. Executive Session ended at 10:22 p.m.

Stratford Town Council meeting reconvened: 10:23 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LLEWELYN, SECONDED BY MR. CHASE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION PASSED 8 TO 0.

RESOLVED: that approval is hereby given for Kevin Kelly, Esq. to proceed with Daley Development as discussed in executive session.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LLEWELYN SECONDED BY MR. CHASE TO APPROVE THE DECISION MADE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 6 IN FAVOR AND 2, MS. MANUS AND MR. KADEEM, OPPOSED.

10. ADJOURNMENT — Hearing no further discussion in connection with the above agenda items or further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. ON A MOTION MADE BY MR. KADEEM, SECONDED BY MR. HARDEN, IT WAS VOTED 8 TO 0 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:26 p.m.

ATTEST: *Carol Cabral*
Carol Cabral, Council Clerk