

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**January 6, 2020**

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, January 6, 2020 in the Legislative Council Chambers at Memorial Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 8:48 P.M. by the Council President. The Clerk took the roll which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mick McGarry	Justin Farmer
Harry Gagliardi	Marjorie Bonadies
Austin Cesare	Jody Clouse
Brad Macdowall	Athena Gary
Betty Wetmore	Valerie Horsley
Mike Colaiacovo	Berita Rowe-Lewis
Kristin Dolan	Dominique Baez
Kathleen Schomaker	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**PRESIDING:** Mick McGarry, President

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION:** There were 2 speakers

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:** Mr. McGarry said the administration is putting together a list of priorities for the General Assembly in Hartford so if council members have input send a list to Leadership and they will pass it on to the administration.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:** None

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Mr. McGarry requested a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2019. Moved by Mr. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Horsley and approved unanimously.

Mr. McGarry then requested a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2019. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Horsley. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Gagliardi asked why they are approving minutes to a meeting that had no quorum. Mr. McGarry said it wasn't really a meeting it was more of a workshop. Mr. Gagliardi stated then there shouldn't be minutes. Mr. McGarry asked Town Attorney Sue Gruen her thoughts and Ms. Gruen said she would approve them just to be on the safe side. A vote was taken and there were approved with 8 abstentions (Colaiacovo) (Macdowall) (Rowe-Lewis) (Wetmore) (Gary) (Gagliardi) (Cesare) (Clouse)

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** The consent calendar includes all items that have passed unanimously in Committee-of-the-Whole on December 16, 2019 and will now be considered in toto by unanimous consent:

1. Refund of property taxes collected prior to July 1, 2019 – (4) totaling \$1,086.69
2. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 – Overpayments on Current Grand List – (119) totaling \$42,618.99
4. Appointment of Nicole N. Woolard-Figueroa to the Human Services Commission for a term to expire March 1, 2020
5. Appointment of Cherlyn Poindexter to the Police Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2019
6. Appointment and reappointment of Michael Eliot Sheiman to the Building Board of Appeals for an appointed term expiring December 31, 2019 and a reappointment expiring December 31, 2024
7. Reappointment of Jessica Hazan to the Town Center Park for a term to expire November 1, 2022
8. Reappointment of Marvin Michalsen to the Housing Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2024
9. Reappointments of Jorge Fernandez and Loraine Bornholdt Brown to the Arts Commission for terms expiring May 31, 2022
10. Reappointments of David Schaefer and Bill Horowitz to the Farmington Canal Commission for terms expiring December 31, 2022
12. Agreement between Hamden Board of Education (BOE) and the Association of Hamden Public School Administrators (AHPSA)
14. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2019-2020 FY Budget - \$236,000 (\$60,000 Garcia Overtime) (\$176,000 Sub/Straight Time)
17. Order authorizing the Mayor to expend funds from the Quinnipiac University Gift Fund (\$9,500 – Education Foundation) (\$11,000 – Columbus House Warming Center)

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

3. Appointment of Jennifer McGarry to the Arts Commission for a term to expire May 31, 2021  
-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved with 1 abstention (McGarry)

13. Order to distribute league stipends – Hamden Youth Sports Contribution - \$52,000

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Bonadies. DISCUSSION: Mr. Macdowall said they requested some additional information and he's wondering if they've received that. Mr. C. Cesare said the only information they received back was from one of the organizations which was Hamden father's Baseball that they have approximately 700 members. Mr. Macdowall asked was the commission not able to provide the information that they utilized in their decision making process. Mr. Cesare said he's not sure if that was sent it was from last year's budget. Mr. Macdowall stated that still would have been helpful. Mr. Cesare said he will send any info forth that he may receive and suggests looking at this at budget time. Mr. Macdowall said they've had this conversation for about 9 months now and he has yet to see any real information come from it from either the commission or the different sports organizations and with budget season coming he'll be looking for that. Mr. Farmer said last time they had this item they also talked about forming a policy committee and he thinks in terms of activities for the youth he wouldn't want to hold the leagues hostage so to make sure we're lacking of opportunity for all Hamden residents (unintelligible) and those who need help finding the extra expenses and with that policy committee they can work and go about that.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

18. Resolution amending the resolution establishing a School Building Committee

-- Mr. McGarry moved to table this item until the January 21, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Cesare and approved unanimously. **TABLED ITEM**

11. Bid waiver associated with the Seasonal Overnight Warming Center – Columbus House Inc. – \$35,000 (Community Development)

-- Mr. McGarry said as a cleanup he'd also like to table this item since it was treated as an emergency bid waiver. Mr. Farmer said he'd like to speak on it before it's tabled, therefor Mr. McGarry requested a motion for approval. Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded Ms. Bonadies. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer said he also met with Director Sendroff and talked about expediting the process to make sure that if any bad weather came everyone could stay warm. He said he has talked with some other churches and had a follow up with Mr. Sendroff (unintelligible) of other services that we may provide. He again wants to thank the administration and Mr. Sendroff for expediting this.

Mr. McGarry then requested a motion to table this item Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved with 1 opposed (Gagliardi) – **TABLED ITEM**

15. Order authorizing interdepartmental transfer 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget - \$234,000  
(\$10,000 Natural Gas) (\$24,000 Electricity) (\$100,000 Street Lighting) (\$100,000 Water)  
FROM E & C ACCOUNT

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Schomaker. DISCUSSION: Mr. Gagliardi stated this is from the Finance E&C account and that the agenda should reflect that.

Mr. Macdowall asked how we fell short. Mr. Donnelly said he had a discussion with the Finance Director this morning who brought it to his attention this morning that it appears that for the Hamden Ice Rink the utilities are not included in the budget. Mr. Macdowall stated he thinks that the creation of those line items should have come with this item.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 opposed (Farmer) and 1 abstention (Gagliardi)

16. Order providing for the appointment of John Cappiello as Chief of Police and approval of Employment Agreement

-- Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi. DISCUSSION: Ms. Clouse said she voted against this last time and she will do so again tonight and wants it on the record that it's not due to Chief Cappiello's service or character but because of the process that the appointment came through.

Ms. Bonadies said she also voted no on this at the last meeting and will do so again and wants it on the record that he's a yes for Chief but a no for the raise. She said she believes it's a political raise and she thinks Chief Cappiello should have been hired 18 months ago at the current rate.

Mr. Farmer asked the Chief what the difference is between being Acting Chief and being the Chief. Chief Cappiello said stability and it means he can move forward with some ideas (unintelligible) the department more freely than being an Acting Chief and gave a few examples of what they were like Community Policing and just getting things under control and like he said a few weeks ago the department needs to be reenergized and get back to their basic functioning as public servants. Mr. Farmer said he just wants to make sure that every community member is served. Chief Cappiello said he couldn't agree more.

Mr. Cesare said he'll be supporting this appointment tonight. He said this Town desperately needs stability in the Police Department when it comes to this position with the rise of crime in Town, we want to have stability for the common value of things like a raise and increase. He said he's also looking at the fact that we have somebody here who has vast knowledge of the department, vast knowledge of the Town, and a lot of experience, and in terms of paying for that for a new Police Chief he thinks would be very expensive so the increase is there whether you look at it either way. He said the Chief is a great guy, does a great job for the Town and an excellent candidate for this position so he'll be supporting it.

Mr. Gagliardi said he will also continue to support Chief Cappiello in this position, he thinks it was a wise move that they moved the stipend out and he has no problem with the raise. He said he knows this Town is hurting for money but again he thinks if they were to advertise this position it'd be nowhere near the figure they're getting right now. He said he'll be supporting this 100% because he knows there are things he wants to do that were stopped because he was Acting Chief.

Ms. Wetmore said she'll also be supporting this because she thinks the way he handled himself in the 2019 crisis that we had in Town speaks for itself and she thinks we need a person that understands it, been through it and it's well worth the money because he has the knowledge going forward.

Ms. Rowe-Lewis said she supported this the last time and she will again tonight. She then asked the Chief if he was looking to retire in the coming months. Chief Cappiello said he could be here another 9 years.

Mr. Colaiacovo said he'll be supporting this appointment tonight as he's totally proved in the last year what he's capable of doing and he agrees with Mr. Gagliardi and he wishes the department well.

Mr. McGarry said he will also be supporting this as he believes this is the right person for the job at the right time and has some objection to the term "raise" as he's changing his job to a job with more responsibilities so to him this is just compensation.

Mr. Macdowall said often when they do their budget season they talk about raises as they associate to

positions not individuals. Is this not a raise from what the position was previously at? Mr. McGarry asked him if he wanted an answer. Mr. Macdowall said he knows the answer.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 5 opposed (Bonadies) (Baez) (Macdowall) (Farmer) (Clouse) and 1 abstention (Dolan)

**NEW BUSINESS:** -

Mr. Colaiacovo asked to add to the agenda two items from his committee tonight.

Mr. McGarry requested a motion to suspend the rules and add new item #1 to the agenda. Moved by Mr. Colaiacovo, seconded by Ms. Horsley and approved unanimously.

1. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Hamden Police Department to accept and expend a donation from Anna Mulvey (\$40,000)  
-- Moved by Mr. Colaiacovo, seconded by Ms. Baez and approved unanimously.

Mr. McGarry requested a motion to suspend the rules and add new item #2 to the agenda. Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis and approved unanimously.

2. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Hamden Fire Department to accept and expend a donation from Anna Mulvey (\$40,000)  
-- Moved by Ms. Rowe-Lewis, seconded by Ms. Schomaker and approved unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business Mr. McGarry requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Colaiacovo, seconded by Mr. Farmer and the meeting duly adjourned at 9:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta,  
Clerk of the Council