

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**August 31, 2020**

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, August 31, 2020. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by the Council President. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brad Macdowall	Kristin Dolan
Mick McGarry	Jody Clouse
Valerie Horsley	Berita Rowe-Lewis (@ 7:30pm)
Harry Gagliardi	Justin Farmer (@ 7:30pm)
Betty Wetmore	Marjorie Bonadies
Dominique Baez	Athena Gary (@ 7:24pm)
Austin Cesare	Kathleen Schomaker (@ 7:30pm)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** VACANT SEAT (7<sup>th</sup> District)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Walter Morton, Director of Town and BOE Leg. Affairs; Julie Smith, Special Projects Director; Paul Jorgensen, Silver Petrucelli; Bill Sliver, Sliver Petrucelli; Jim Golden, Service Line Warranties of America; Tim Evans, National League of Cities

**PRESIDING:** Mick McGarry, President

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION:** Mr. McGarry called for a 30 minute recess to allow for reading of public comments sent in which were also posted on the Town's website.

In recess @ 7:09pm  
Out of recess @ 7:39pm

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:** Mr. McGarry announced the names of those for the Fiscal Stability Committee as Christian McNamara, Cory O'Brien, Jim Pascarella, Craig Cesare, John Sullivan, Brigitte Cogswell, Athena Gary, Marjorie Bonadies and Valerie Horsley as the Chair and said the first meeting would be on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McGarry said the first meeting of the Charter Revision Commission will be Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and at that meeting they will choose a chair and vice-chair and schedule their meeting dates. He went on to say that for their September 21<sup>st</sup> agenda they will add an item to fill the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council seat and those interested should send a resume to Ms. Renta by September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McGarry then shared his screen with some information about the 2020 Census. He then read a memo from Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Sharkey about postponing agenda item #9 until the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. McGarry said in addition to that #14 will be pulled at the request of the administration and #23 will be altered when they get to it to remove the name of Carol Noble.

**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 the August 3, 2020 meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved with 1 abstention (Farmer)

**REGULAR AGENDA:** Mr. McGarry took a vote on suspending their rules with 1 opposed (Farmer)

Ms. Baez requested to add to the agenda “**Motion to rescind the order authorizing the acceptance and expenditure of funds from the Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice “BJA 20 CORONAVIRUS Emergency Supplemental Funding Program.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Ms. Baez said they received different data at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting than they received previously and because of that some of them have changed their minds and that they also need to take into consideration what they heard from their constituents.

Mr. Gagliardi said he supports this motion and thinks this money could be better used to pay bills.

Mr. Macdowall said he also will support this motion due to the critical data they received after the vote.

Ms. Gary said she’ll also support this motion and agrees that they need to pay attention to the constituents.

Ms. Bonadies said she thought someone had to be on the prevailing side to bring up this motion. Mr. Gagliardi said using the word rescind makes this a whole new motion. Mr. McGarry asked Ms. Gruen if they were doing this right and she said yes.

A roll call vote was taken to add this item to the agenda and it failed with 8 in favor (Baez) (Clouse) (Dolan) (Farmer) (Gagliardi) (Horsley) (Gary) (Macdowall) and 6 opposed (Bonadies) (Cesare) (McGarry) (Rowe-Lewis) (Schomaker) (Wetmore)

Mr. McGarry said he’s going to move the agenda around some tonight due to some people being here for some of the items.

**5. Order for approval of amendment to agreement between Silver Petrucelli & Associates, Inc. and the Town of Hamden - High School swimming pool improvements**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Cesare. DISCUSSION: Ms. Smith explained the amendment to this contract. Mr. Farmer asked how they come up with this dollar amount of \$11,000. Mr. Jorgensen said it was the amount of hours spent by his design team. He then explained the bid process.

Ms. Dolan asked if the work was done. Mr. Silver said the first part was complete but not the second part. Ms. Dolan said but the part here tonight was complete, 18 months ago you did the work with contract? Mr. Silver said they do the work first and the paperwork later. Ms. Dolan asked if the payment was coming from capital or the 20-21 budget. Ms. Smith said there's approximately \$229,000 left in the capital account and then explained the three items within this amendment. Ms. Dolan asked if approved tonight what the next step is. Mr. Silver said if the second and third tags are authorized they'll go back to the documents and do what needs to be done and come back to council for those funds remaining in the contingency.

Mr. Gagliardi said he has a problem with the School Building Committee making financial decisions for the Town. He said they are the fiscal authority, not the SBC.

Mr. Farmer asked how much a pump and installation cost? Mr. Silver said they don't really know until after the design. Mr. Jorgensen said a ball park figure would be between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Ms. Clouse said this pool was initially put into place with the gym, the gym was done on time but issues arrived and this had to be rebid and there was just setback after setback. She said if they don't approve the rest of this then they spent a lot of money for nothing because the pool isn't working. She said they need to get this done and get the kids back in the pool.

Ms. Bonadies asked what the total project cost was. Ms. Smith said she didn't have that in front of her but would get it.

Ms. Dolan asked who asked them to approve these invoices. Ms. Smith said Mr. DeSanti, the Town's Construction Manager.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 3 opposed (Dolan) (Gagliardi) (Farmer)

**11. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to enter into a sewer and water line license agreement and authorizing the Town to join the National League of Cities Service Line Program and Bid Waiver Agreement with the Town of Hamden and Service Line Warranty Program (\$16,692)**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Mr. Morton explained this item and said there is no cost to the Town or the taxpayers.

Mr. McGarry asked this doesn't replace the RWA pipe program it's in addition to it correct? Mr. Golden said yes, it's in addition to it.

Mr. Gagliardi asked where the \$16,692 was coming from. Mr. Eatman said from the organization that's sponsoring the Town who we're partnering with. He said the Town pays nothing as Mr. Morton mentioned we just give them the rights to use our seal.

Mr. Gagliardi said the agenda only says license agreement and bid waiver and this is no good to him and he's not in favor of this.

Mr. Macdowall expressed his concern that when lobbying not all members would benefit from what is being lobbied for. Mr. Evans said there will always be a membership that doesn't benefit from some of the lobbying. Mr. Macdowall then asked how the Town seal would be used. Mr. Golden said the city

logo would be on the outer envelope of mailings and that the Town would approve all marketing material. Mr. Macdowall asked who would approve that. Mr. Morton it would have to be discussed but his thought is the Mayor and Council. Mr. Macdowall asked if they had other seals and Mr. Golden said yes, Ansonia. Mr. Morton said they also have Enfield and (unintelligible) and he contacted them none of them had anything negative to say.

Ms. Horsley asked what the pricing was. Mr. Golden said the water line is 5.25, the sewer is 6.99 and the internal plumbing (unintelligible) a little higher. Ms. Horsley expressed her concern with 3 mailings a year.

Ms. Wetmore said she'll be voting no on this for three reasons. She doesn't like the use of the Town seal, she doesn't like giving out the residents address list, and we already belong to CCM.

Mr. Golden stated that they don't ask for a mailing list.

Ms. Dolan said she shares Ms. Wetmore's concerns and asked if this meant 3 annual mailings for all 3 years. Mr. Golden said you control the amount of mailings.

Mr. Gagliardi said he doesn't think we should co-sponsor any company and agrees with Ms. Wetmore and he'll also be voting no.

Ms. Bonadies asked if the program replaces pipe if its tree root damage and Mr. Golden said yes.

Mr. Morton suggested maybe postponing this and working with Mr. Golden on the mailing and marketing program.

Mr. Cesare said the seal part really bothers him. Mr. Macdowall said that really bothers him also. Mr. Gagliardi again expressed his concern with allowing others to use the seal. Ms. Schomaker said she'd be interested in tabling this to look into being part of the organization.

Ms. Baez **moved a motion to call the question**, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 4 opposed (Schomaker) (McGarry) (Rowe-Lewis) (Farmer) and 1 abstention (Clouse)

A roll call vote was taken to approve this item and it failed with 5 in favor (Clouse) (Dolan) (Rowe-Lewis) (Schomaker) (McGarry) and 9 opposed (Baez) (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Farmer) (Gagliardi) (Gary) (Horsley) (Macdowall) (Wetmore)

**1. Refund of property taxes collected prior to July 1, 2020 – (13) totaling \$4,816.52**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

**2. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 – (11) totaling \$6,393.56**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to add to the agenda Request for Proposal (RFP) for a street light audit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Ms. Baez said the public asked for an audit so she's asking for an audit.

Mr. Farmer said he thinks it's pertinent that they look at this.

Mr. Macdowall said there is currently some waste from our streetlights and he thinks doing an audit is important to do before signing an agreement with UI.

Mr. McGarry said in going back to the communication from Mr. Sharkey he wants to understand what it means and prefers an in house audit and not spending money at all.

A vote to add this item to the agenda was taken and approved with 4 opposed (Cesare) (Wetmore) (Horsley) (McGarry)

This item "RFP for Street Light Audit" will now be known as #26 on the agenda.

**3. Bid waiver – IT Dept. - 5 year contract for Internet Service Provider (ISP) services – (Crown Castle \$60,000)**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Mr. Eatman explained this item and said we had this company for 7 years and they're giving us savings of more than \$1,000 a month. Mr. McGarry asked if they checked for the best rate and Mr. Eatman said yes, we're getting the best rate out there.

Ms. Horsley said she's confused as to why this is a bid waiver. Mr. Eatman said they're asking for approval of this vendor without going out to bid which could cause us to lose this opportunity. Ms. Horsley asked if the Police Dept. and BOE also use this vendor. Mr. Eatman said the police do but he's not sure about the BOE.

Mr. Gagliardi asked if this service protects our internet. Mr. Eatman said this is our internet provider, we have other services for those reasons. He then explained what we get from this vendor.

Ms. Dolan asked why he thought we would lose this if we went out to bid. Mr. Eatman said it could damage the relationship we have with them. He said when we've gone out to bid in instances like this it came back and bit us. He said this is a great savings and that they're trading cost for the longevity of the contract and a good relationship. Ms. Dolan stated that we may get a good price with another company for a long term contract too.

Mr. Macdowall said he's also concerned with a bid waiver and then asked if this was the same service we had with all our attacks. Mr. Eatman said you're not going to prevent every attack, but with faster speeds etc. it can help, and again, this isn't for security it's our internet provider.

Mr. Farmer thinks we should be looking at vendors with locking in long term contracts and would like to table this and talk to IT.

Mr. McGarry called for a 5 minute recess.

In recess @ 10:34 PM

Out of recess @ 10:41 PM

Mr. McGarry asked if this is a good deal for the Town. Mr. Eatman said it's a great deal. Mr. McGarry asked if we could deal with security and accessibility another time. Mr. Eatman said yes, we could have IT come and speak on it.

Ms. Bonadies said going out to bid is part of the process and every company knows that and the fact that they took \$1,600 off makes her think we were overcharged before. Mr. Eatman said they did that because it's a 5 year contract.

Ms. Horsley moved a motion to postpone this item until the next meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 2 opposed (Bonadies) (Dolan)

**4. Order authorizing interdepartmental transfer 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget – Fire Dept.  
Assistant to Firefighters Grant - \$39,614.69 (Communications \$35,016.36 – Medical \$4,598.33)  
FROM E&C ACCOUNT**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Chief Merwede explained the grants and how each one required a 10% contribution from the Town. Mr. Eatman said the budget is tight so they put the transfer in from the E&C for the contribution.

Mr. Gagliardi moved a motion to bundle items #6 and #7 with this, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 1 opposed (Cesare)

(Discussion on items 4, 6 and 7): Mr. Farmer asked if there is any money from the administration for this instead of E&C. He also mentioned we get a lot of PPE donations and asked how that would be used. Chief Merwede said he's very appreciative of the donations but the things used for personnel have to be certified.

Ms. Baez asked about applying for the hardship waiver and the Chief said we didn't get it.

Ms. Dolan thanked the Chief for this.

Mr. Macdowall said he appreciates this and also thanked the Chief for all he does and for his help during the recent storm.

Ms. Rowe-Lewis also thanked the Chief for this.

A vote was taken on items #4, 6 and 7 and approved unanimously.

**6. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept and expend \$350,163.64 from the  
Department of Homeland Security for the 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

-- (Bundled with and approved unanimously with item #4)

**7. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept and expend funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program COVID-19 Supplemental**

-- (Bundled with and approved unanimously with item #4)

**8. Order to authorize the Mayor to apply, accept and expend a special allocation of funds and substantially amend the Program Year 45 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (\$281,529)**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Cesare. DISCUSSION: Mr. Sendroff explained this item. Mr. Farmer thanked Mr. Sendroff for being on the frontline for these things. He then asked how soon the program starts. Mr. Sendroff said as soon as it's available.

Mr. McGarry thanked Mr. Sendroff for his dedication to the community. Ms. Rowe-Lewis also thanked him for all he does.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 abstention (Baez)

**9. Order authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the United Illuminating Company – Streetlight Conversion Project – POSTPONED ITEM**

-- Mr. McGarry moved a motion to postpone this until the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, seconded by Mr. Cesare and approved unanimously.

**10. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept and expend funds from the State of CT Office of Policy and Management – Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Wetmore. DISCUSSION: After an explanation of this item by Mr. Morton a vote was taken and approved unanimously.

**12. Resolution authorizing the donation of a street name sign and brackets and replacement at the north/west corner signal pole located at Dixwell and Washington Avenues in memory of Edward (Ted) Braza**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Macdowall. DISCUSSION: Mr. Morton explained this item saying it was in memory of Town employee who worked in the Town's traffic dept. for more than 18 years. Mr. Gagliardi asked doesn't these signs belong to the State? Ms. Gruen said she looked into it and the poles belong to the Town. Mr. Macdowall asked if the street was being renamed. Ms. Gruen said no, this is a sign that goes on the pole under the street name. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

**13. Appointment of Kyle Blake as an alternate to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District for a term to expire June 30, 2021**

-- Mr. McGarry moved a motion to bundle and approve items #13, 15 thru 22, 24 and 25. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schomaker. DISCUSSION: Mr. McGarry thanked everyone who serves on all of our boards and commissions. A vote was taken and all items were approved unanimously with the exception of item #24 which Ms. Wetmore abstained from.

- 15. Appointment of Daniel Dunn to the Technology Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2022**  
-- See item #13
- 16. Appointment of Phil Cronan to the Technology Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2023**  
-- See item #13
- 17. Appointment of Wanda Lary to the Civil Service Commission for a term to expire August 31, 2023**  
-- See item #13
- 18. Appointment of Christopher Swiderski to the Clean & Green Commission for a term to expire November 1, 2022**  
-- See item #13
- 19. Appointment of Judy Hennessy to the Clean & Green Commission for a term to expire November 1, 2023**  
-- See item #13
- 20. Reappointment of Anthony M. Cardo to the Cable Advisory Council for a term to expire June 30, 2022**  
-- See item #13
- 21. Reappointment of Donna Elkin to the Arts Commission for a term to expire May 31, 2022**  
-- See item #13
- 22. Reappointments of Ruth Resnick Johnson, Lois K. Jason, Diane X. Brown and Nancy J. Torello to the Arts Commission for terms expiring May 31, 2023**  
-- See item #13
- 24. Reappointments of Paul Wetmore, Jr. and Dr. William Doheny to the West Rock Ridge State Advisory Council for terms to expire April 30, 2024**  
-- See item #13
- 25. Reappointments of Thomas Parlapiano and Glen M. Cummings to the Tree Commission for terms to expire July 1, 2023**  
-- See item #13
- 23. Reappointments of Carol Noble, Carl M. Porto, Robert J. Freeman and Henry Dove to the Retirement Board for a term to expire June 30, 2022**  
-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Mr. McGarry moved an amended motion to this to remove the name of Carol Noble, seconded by Ms. Baez and approved unanimously. A vote was taken on the item as amended and it passed unanimously.

## **26. RFP for streetlight audit**

-- Moved by Mr. McGarry, seconded by Mr. Farmer. Mr. Cesare moved a motion to postpone this item until their September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, seconded by Ms. Schomaker. DISCUSSION: Ms. Schomaker said she it's late in the night and they don't do their best thinking or work late in the night so she thinks it's better to be postponed.

Ms. Wetmore agreed with Ms. Schomaker and also said she thinks we should be doing this in house.

Ms. Baez said she thinks they should talk about it now so that they're ready for the agreement on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Macdowall said he will not support a motion to postpone this, he thinks it's critical.

Mr. Farmer said he thinks we should reach out to the activists like Christina and Bob.

Mr. McGarry agrees that it should be postponed and also thinks it should be done in house.

Ms. Schomaker moved a motion to call the question, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved with 8 in favor (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Dolan) (Horsley) (Rowe-Lewis) (Schomaker) (Wetmore) ( McGarry) - 5 opposed (Baez) (Farmer) (Gagliardi) (Gary) (Macdowall) and 1 abstention (Clouse)

A vote was then taken on postponing item #26 until September 21<sup>st</sup> and approved with 8 in favor (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Dolan) (Horsley) (Rowe-Lewis) (Schomaker) (Wetmore) (McGarry) 4 opposed (Baez) (Farmer) (Gagliardi) (Macdowall) and 2 abstentions (Clouse) (Gary)

There being no further business Mr. McGarry moved a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Farmer and the meeting was duly adjourned at 11:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council

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