

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

February 6, 2023

***To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** <https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/Je2JABXFJ4DAN5x0-T-yH8i2WhuxXXtFTma9heuW4sFoQy57Ln7MnUxFv-GIvFZM.czmms3BSFVoS68Ro?startTime=1675725971000>

(Meeting starts at Time Code 01:43:28)

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, February 6, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Sweet then read the Land Acknowledgement followed by a moment of silence.

Z= On Zoom P= In Person

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dominique Baez (P)	Abdul Osmanu (P)
Katie Kiely (P)	Jeron Alston (Z)
Justin Farmer (P)	Ted Stevens (P)
Sarah Gallagher (P)	Paula Irvin (Z)
Laurie Sweet (P)	Adrian Webber (Z)
Bob Anthony (P)	Cory O'Brien (Z)
Kristen Zaehringer (Z)	

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betty Wetmore; Lesley DeNardis

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Tim Wydra, Acting Chief of Police; Stephen White, Town Engineer

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: None

(Written comments can be sent to LCpublicinput@hamden.com)

After the Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Farmer asked for a point of personal privilege. He then mentioned for Black History Month he wants to mention the life and legacy of Dr. King and a short excerpt of his talk. "When peace becomes obnoxious, if peace means a willingness to be exploited economically, dominated politically, humiliated and segregated I don't want peace. So in a passive, non-violent manner, you must revolt against this peace."

Mr. Farmer said he hopes that during this month they can talk about the complex history that is black history in America and that as they deal and grapple with the contemporary issues across the nation and in this Town that they can be what King would talk about in a positive piece which is full of tension, which means that we have to address the issues and not shy away from them.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: None

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:

1. Audit presentation

This was moved to the next meeting.

2. Info on Resolution for Town of Hamden's Fiscal Structure and Policy Manual

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/7771/Fiscal-Structure-and-Policy-Manual>

Mr. Eatman went over the PowerPoint stating this is just an outline. He said the purpose of this is the Town of Hamden is committed to responsible fiscal management, to financial integrity, including stewardship, public assets, planning any accountability and full disclosure. The bar purpose of this manual is to enable the Town to achieve long term industrial financial operations that the structural financial operations in the most transparent and physically accountable way.

Mr. Farmer asked when was the last time a policy was adopted. Mr. Eatman said 25-30 years ago. Mr. Farmer asked if there was an outline of what's different and what's historical. Mr. Eatman said he can provide that. Mr. Farmer asked if we were required to do this. Mr. Eatman said it's the best practice of GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association).

There was some discussion on other community policies with Mr. Eatman saying each Town has their own and he will get them a list of Towns that have policies. There was some discussion on how adhering to a fiscal policy helps bond rating. Mr. Eatman stated this is an annual policy that will come to the Council with the budget.

Ms. Zaehring stated she thinks it's important for all the Council to go over this and not rush into anything.

Mr. Alston stated he has seen these policies before and that this is a small one. He'd also like to see the list of other Town's too see if there's anything they may need or may have left out.

3. **Accrued Benefits/Retirement – Foreman of Buildings – Public Works - \$11,748.90**
4. **Accrued Benefits/Retirement – Battalion Chief – Fire Dept. - \$58,243.31**
5. **Accrued Benefits/Retirement – Lieutenant – Police Dept. - \$70,521.18**

Mr. Eatman went over the three above Accrued Benefit items saying they are contractual obligations. He said there is \$134,000 left in the account and he'll be asking for a transfer at the next meeting. Ms. Baez asked what the amount of the transfer is. Mr. Eatman said \$200,000 and he hopes it will last until the end of the year.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the January 17, 2023 minutes. Moved by Mr. Osmanu, seconded by Ms. Sweet. **DISCUSSION:** Ms. Gallagher said under the reports where ARPA funds are discussed Mr. Eatman said the reports aren't posted online, but that they can be made available and she wants to make a note that she requested that they be sent to the Council for review and she'd like that to be reflected. Ms. Baez called for a vote on the minutes as amended and they passed unanimously.

Ms. Baez then requested a motion for approval of the January 23, 2023 minutes. Moved by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Stevens and approved unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR: There was no consent calendar for approval.

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget – HamdenPolice Department - \$200,000

https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/7603/01172023_Order-IntraDept-Transfer-FY22-23-HPD-200k

-- No motions. **DISCUSSION:** Acting Chief Wydra explained this item and said although his memo reflects \$697,000 when sent a month ago that number has since increased to close to \$800,000. He said they've had an unprecedented number of vacancies over the last 12 months and they've been able to fill many of those vacancies but are still short 11. He said he also has a number of officers out right now injured or on leave.

Mr. Farmer asked what's the mitigation plan in terms of having less people out. Chief Wydra said for the officers out injured that's between them and their doctors, 6 are in the Police Academy right now, one will graduate in April, one in May and one in July, he thinks 2 of officers required surgeries that are not work related, one is on maternity, one is committed to the military and won't be back he thinks until July, one officer is on long-term disability, and there are several other officers out. He said this puts them at about 19 officers that are not available for duty so as far as mitigating it's just waiting for some of these people to become available again.

Mr. Farmer said in terms of staffing at some point there won't be funds to transfer from

but there's a want for patrol, so at what point do we re-evaluate and restructure? Chief Wydra asked how so? He said he has 6 officers that are not in patrol right now, one is working in the property and evidence room and he can't shut down that room, one officer is on the extra duty and permit officer position that's in the labor contract, one officer doing court liaison, two officers assigned to the schools ,one officer in the middle school, one in the high school, and we have one officer in the DEA Task force whose focus is on heroin and fentanyl investigations with that Federal task force.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 4 abstentions (Osmanu) (Farmer) (Sweet) (Kiely)

There being no further business Ms. Baez announced the meeting closed at 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council