

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Revised 3/10/2022

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 22, 2022

***To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/YhMRkAZRpmGYCjvL1aGY2DbW0bLp3tf4iKeyXVCSYrXN6Tfv5NLa-fTebJo9PCQ9HJyiqovmJSbdG9HY.Wu4RFDdqZbWtV8Ij?continueMode=true>

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dominique Baez	Jeron Alston
Justin Farmer	Sarah Gallagher
Paula Irvin	Katie Kiely
Abdul Osmanu	Adrian Webber
Ted Stevens	Laurie Sweet
Kristen Zaehring	

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marjorie Bonadies; Lesley DeNardis; Cory O'Brien; Betty Wetmore

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Brendan Sharkey, Assistant Town Attorney

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There was nothing submitted in writing and 1 speaker who was asked to save his comments about the Tree Ordinance for the committee that it fell under happening next.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Ms. Baez said she received a complaint and concern about the Land Recognition from the Republican Caucus. She said she will be having Ms. Zaehring add this for a vote to the Rules Committee as she does believe very strongly that acknowledging and recognizing this part of American history is integral to our growth as a Town and how they as a Council operate. Ms. Baez then said she will add it to her President's Report for now.

Ms. Sweet then read the Land Recognition followed by a moment of silence.

Mr. Farmer then asked for a point of personal privilege to thank everyone involved and all those who donated to the families of the recent fire. He said they have received a lot of clothing and are now asking for gift cards for Stop and Shop and different shopping places for food, clothes and things of that sense.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS: None

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the meeting held February 7, 2022. Moved by Ms. Zaehringer, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

<https://www.hamden.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/02072022-2823>

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ms. Baez called for an Executive Session for the Council and Town Attorney Sue Gruen. In Executive Session @ 7:14 PM - Out of Executive Session @ 7:37 PM – Ms. Baez took a vote to end Executive Session and it was unanimous.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the consent calendar. Moved by Mr. Alston, seconded by Ms. Kiely and Mr. Webber and approved unanimously.

- 1. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget – Fire Dept. – \$590,000 Multiple Accounts (from Reg. Salaries)**
- 2. Resolution with respect to the authorization, issuance and sale of not exceeding \$60,000,000 Town of Hamden, Connecticut General Obligation Refunding Bonds**
- 3. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to receive \$468,000 from the Wallingford Solid Waste Project Reserve Fund**
- 4. Order adopting Fund Balance Policy**
- 5. Order authorizing acceptance and expenditure of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Also known as American Rescue Plan Act Funds) \$24,140,337.11**
- 6. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget (Legislative Council – Legal Lawyer) \$50,000 FROM E&C ACCOUNT**

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Resolution establishing a Reapportionment Commission

-- Moved by Ms. Zaehringer, seconded by Mr. Stevens. DISCUSSION: Mr. Sharkey explained this resolution saying it would consist of seven members and include the two Registrar's and five

electors, no more than two from the same party. He said the commission has to be established before March 1st, not the members, just the establishment of the commission which is what this is. He went on to say that the body will establish the 9 Council voting districts by June 1st and they will need an outside consultant to help with this.

Ms. Baez said with only two people per party means only two democrats, only two Republicans, and that they need more people who are unaffiliated or independent or from a smaller party to volunteer for commissions like this so if anyone is interested in being on this commission please reach out.

Mr. Stevens asked if Council had any oversight on this and does Council approve it. Mr. Sharkey said it does come to Council for approval once complete.

There was then some discussion on State election districts being 9 to match Council districts with Mr. Sharkey said it's a little complicated to explain without a map in front of you and he then tried explaining how it's difficult to get all the folks into one of the nine Legislative Council districts without splitting up that polling place into multiple locations which means that a polling place may have three different sets of voting machines so the reason for the 10 is to kind of relieve that pressure and enable a more equitable disbursement of voters throughout town.

Mr. Farmer said he's sure there will be public input and that he also hopes we engage with Q.U. to use some part of their campus so that the Library doesn't end up being a large catch all and he thinks if we are redrawing maps that it would be a very pertinent thing.

Ms. Baez said before she takes the vote she wants to emphasize how much we need to have diversity, equity and inclusion which means representing on our boards and commissions the districts and demographics saying that the second, third and fifth districts are grossly under represented as was reported to them by Ms. Gallagher who she thanks for those numbers.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

Information Item: Appointment of a Mayoral appointment – Carlo A. Sarmiento – Building Official

Mr. Grace explained this item that the Charter doesn't call for Council approval of.

There being no further business Ms. Baez adjourned the meeting at 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council