

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
FY 2023-2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS  
April 25, 2023**

**\*To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** [https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/YVNtnnYVkX-KHgwWgfDlaajhOYK82B\\_pOpJII2h4QTzocTFutiJ6-D1DGks4HBSk.G5rfIkahBqFkquoJ](https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/YVNtnnYVkX-KHgwWgfDlaajhOYK82B_pOpJII2h4QTzocTFutiJ6-D1DGks4HBSk.G5rfIkahBqFkquoJ)

**\*\* If you are reviewing a print copy of these minutes and wish to view the meeting recording, please visit the Agenda Center at [www.hamden.com/agendacenter](http://www.hamden.com/agendacenter) and click the MEDIA link found next to this agenda under the meeting date. OR download the digital version of these minutes and click the link above.**

---

Legislative Council budget deliberations were held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was out of recess at 6:15 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez.

Z = Zoom P = in Person

<b><u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u></b>	Dominique Baez (P)	Cory O'Brien (Z)
	Katie Kiely (P)	Jeron Alston (Z) (approx. 9:15pm)
	Sarah Gallagher (Z)	Abdul Osmanu (Z)
	Ted Stevens (Z)	Laurie Sweet (Z)
	Bob Anthony (P)	Adrian Webber (Z)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lesley DeNardis; Mr. Farmer; Paula Irvin; Ms. Wetmore; Kristen Zaehringer

**PRESIDING:** Dominique Baez, President

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Stephen White, Town Engineer; Phil Goodwin, Purchasing Agent; Mike Milici, Assessor's Office; Keith Marus, Tax Collector;

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**Traffic:**

Ms. Baez requested a motion to take Traffic revenues off the table. Moved by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Kiely.

Mr. White explained his new revenue lines of Obstruction Permit(s) at \$30,000 and Electric Charging Stations at \$3,900.

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8172/Traffic-Revenue-Budget---FY2023-2024>

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8173/Traffic-Dept-Revenue-Lines>

Mr. Stevens asked if this was new revenue or already included in the total and just missing the page in the book. Mr. Eatman said it is not included in the Mayor's budget and if approved he will include it with his next mil rate update.

There was discussion on a fee schedule and the Traffic Authority. Ms. Gallagher asked if they'd be on board with the fee schedule. Mr. White said he doesn't see them being opposed. He said the fee schedule is not developed fully but is in the process.

Mr. Anthony asked if we were collecting fees by credit card. Mr. White said yes. There was then discussion on rates and charges. There was then discussion about another line in the Finance Dept.

Ms. Gallagher asked what the annual maintenance cost is. Mr. White doesn't have that answer right now. Ms. Gallagher said she thinks the charging stations in the plaza are free so why wouldn't folks use the free ones. Mr. White said he doesn't think the ones in the plaza are free.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to add revenue lines Obstruction Permit(s) at \$30,000 and Electric Charging Stations at \$3,900. The motion was seconded by Mr. Osmanu.

Ms. Gallagher requested the motion be separated.

Ms. Baez withdrew her motion and Mr. Osmanu withdrew his second.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to add revenue line Obstruction Permit(s) at \$30,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gallagher and approved unanimously.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to add revenue line Electric Charging Stations at \$3,900. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved with 1 abstention (Gallagher)

Ms. Baez then moved a motion to accept new revenue lines in the Traffic Dept., seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved unanimously.

## **Engineering:**

### Expenditures:

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open up Engineering expenses. Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Ms. Baez.

Mr. White went over his department through a PowerPoint of Major Initiatives which can be viewed here:

[https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8182/Engineering\\_Traffic\\_Department](https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8182/Engineering_Traffic_Department)

There was some discussion on grants.

Ms. Baez took the vote on expenditures as proposed and they passed unanimously.

#### Positions:

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open up positions. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Osmanu. Mr. Eatman explained the position swap here.

Mr. Anthony asked if the Assistant Town Engineer was union. Mr. Eatman said they're all union except for the Town Engineer.

There was discussion on the grant and the new payroll system.

Ms. Sweet asked if this \$100,000 grant listed in salaries would cover this position in the future beyond this fiscal year. Mr. White said yes, he would expect it for at least the next 5 or more years and his department will make every effort to do it.

Ms. Baez took the vote on positions as proposed and it passed unanimously.

#### Revenues:

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open revenues, seconded by Mr. Anthony.

Mr. White explained the excavation permits difference reflects the changes made to the fee schedule earlier this year.

Ms. Baez stated she appreciates all the reports on the fee schedule changes and this increase.

Ms. Baez took the vote on revenues as proposed and they passed unanimously.

#### Assessor:

Mr. Milici, while giving an office tour, explained how they really cleaned the office up and found additional properties to tax that were missed.

#### Revenues:

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open up revenues, seconded by Ms. Kiely.

Mr. Milici explained this line was lower this year than previous years because people do a lot online and don't come in as much for copies.

Ms. Baez took the vote on the revenue line as proposed and it passed unanimously.

#### Expenditures:

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open up expenditures. Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Ms. Kiely.

There was some discussion on the differences between the expenditures lines. There was also discussion on positions and what's vacant. Mr. Eatman explained that the Real Property Appraiser (Commercial) is vacant and the Assessment Technician is new and also vacant. He then explained that they found it better to fill the new position of Assessment Technician than the

Assistant to Assessor which was not funded. Mr. Eatman said he thinks they can add more revenue to the Town by adding the positions that they currently have listed and he explained more about adding to the Grand List and uploading permits.

Mr. Eatman then explained the Temp. Wages line helps fund and implement the upcoming revaluation.

There was the discussion on the revaluation, on positions, on revenue, and on the increase of 50 million to the Grand List.

Ms. Baez took the vote on expenditures as proposed and they passed unanimously.

#### Positions:

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open up positions. Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved as proposed with 1 abstention (Webber)

#### **Purchasing:**

Mr. Eatman started by giving an overview of the copiers bought this year after approval from the LC. He also mentioned they have saved roughly \$20,000 in cell phone and phone lines since Covid now that no one is working from home. He went on to say that any increase is due to inflation of bills and utilities.

#### Expenditures:

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open up expenditures, seconded by Ms. Kiely.

Mr. Stevens asked if the post office increase is included in the postage. Mr. Goodwin said he anticipated the increase and that's why he asked for \$110,000 and then said we get a bulk rate of 48 cents.

Mr. Anthony asked if the 75,000 gallons of diesel fuel includes all diesel vehicles in the Town. Mr. Goodwin said that used to be at 115,000 but they lowered it because they were buying diesel for American Waste. Mr. Anthony asked if the 3,000 gallons of heating fuel was just for Town buildings. Mr. Goodwin said they switched most buildings to natural gas which is more efficient and this is for the few buildings that are left.

Mr. Stevens asked for the vacant position if they could lower the salary without impact. Mr. Goodwin said they'll be coming in at a Step 1. Mr. Stevens asked if they know what the Step 1 salary would be. Mr. Goodwin said this position is at \$56,000 starting.

At 8:28pm Ms. Baez called for a 10 minute break. Out of break at 8:36pm

Mr. Anthony questioned the department asking for \$205,000 in the telephone line and the Mayor giving \$210,000. Mr. Goodwin said there is a program that they want to bring on that Mr. Murphy can explain.

Ms. Baez took the vote on expenditures as proposed and they passed unanimously.

### Positions:

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open positions, seconded by Ms. Kiely.

**Ms. Baez moved a motion** to reduce the vacant Purchasing Technician salary from \$64,883.77 to \$56,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiely. DISCUSSION: Mr. Goodwin said when they hire this new person they'll be hired as a Buyer so that should actually change. Ms. Baez said if there name is changing inside of the description does it change in the union and does it change in the budget book? Mr. Goodwin said it was approved. Mr. Eatman said it was more of a timing issue as the budget was already submitted and that when the LC gets budget their budget together they'll probably change it. Ms. Baez asked did she need to make an amendment and Mr. Eatman said no.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it passed with 1 abstention (Webber)

Ms. Baez took the vote on expenditures as amended and they passed with 1 abstention (Webber)

### Tax Office:

#### Expenditures:

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open expenditures, seconded by Ms. Sweet.

Mr. Eatman explained the Tax Office.

Mr. Stevens said it was mentioned there were no raises for unions but there are some here. Mr. Eatman said those are mandatory step increases even while going through negotiations.

There was some discussion on the collection rate.

Mr. Anthony asked if this reflects the increase from the Grand List and Mr. Eatman answered yes.

Ms. Baez took the vote on expenditures as proposed and they passed unanimously.

#### Positions:

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open positions, seconded by Mr. Anthony.

Mr. Stevens asked if there was any slack in the in the \$67,035 (vacant Back Tax Collector position). Mr. Eatman said it's a little above the first step to have a good candidate and negotiate.

Ms. Baez took the vote on positions as proposed and they passed with 1 abstention (Webber)

#### Revenues:

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open revenues, seconded by Mr. Anthony.

Ms. Sweet asked if they expect to see more ytd revenue to come in. Mr. Eatman said yes, right up until the last day of the fiscal year.

There was then some discussion on motor vehicle tax and how revenue comes in.

Ms. Baez took the vote on revenues as proposed and they passed unanimously.

## **Finance:**

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open up finance. (No mention of section) Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Anthony.

Mr. Eatman then gave a presentation on Prior Achievements and Future Goals which can be viewed here: <https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8183/Finance-Achievements-Presentation-042423>

There was audit and pension discussion.

## **Positions:**

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open positions, seconded by Ms. Kiely.

Mr. Eatman explained the CDBG funding for the Grants & Capital Projects Manager.

Mr. Stevens said his goal is flat for all salaries and he moved a motion to decrease it from \$80,000 to \$75,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiely.

Mr. Alston asked if we were tracking this kind of stuff (flat funding) and if this (raises) has been done in any other departments discussed. Mr. Eatman said not yet, there are others in the budget but we're not there yet. Ms. Baez said there was one that they said they were going back to. Mr. Alston said he is okay with his motion since they have not done it to anyone else as of yet.

Mr. Anthony said he doesn't know what's going on with negotiations but 3% would be \$2,500 and this is 6% and he's not sure we should be giving more than others.

Ms. Baez said she agrees with Mr. Stevens on this while they await the Rubik's.

A vote was taken on the motion and it passed with 1 abstention (Webber)

## **Expenditures:**

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open expenditures. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Baez.

There was discussion on credit card fees and Mr. Murphy explained the line for charging stations.

Mr. Stevens said the insurance lines have notable increases and asked if we were expecting higher insurance. Mr. Eatman said yes, they are expecting increases and a higher cost.

Mr. Anthony said for line 10501-0552 Buildings Rental Vol. Fire his understanding is that we're in the process of taking over Station 5 (Mt. Carmel) and wonders if they can take out the \$27,000 listed for it. Mr. Grace said yes, they absolutely can.

Mr. Anthony moved a motion to reduce line 10501-0552 Buildings Rental Vol. Fire by \$27,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez and approved unanimously.

Ms. Baez took the vote on expenditures as amended and they passed unanimously.

## **Revenues:**

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open revenues. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Baez.

Mr. Eatman explained the miscellaneous line is a catch all line for revenues they did not anticipate or revenue that doesn't have a home when it comes in gets placed here.

Ms. Baez took the vote on revenues as proposed and they passed unanimously.

### **I.T. Dept.:**

#### Positions:

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open positions. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Baez.

Ms. Baez asked if the two increases were step increases and Mr. Eatman said yes.

A vote was taken on positions as proposed and approved with 1 abstention (Webber)

#### Expenditures:

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open expenditures. Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously as proposed.

### **Board of Assessment:**

Ms. Baez moved a motion to approve as proposed. Seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Baez recessed the meeting at 9:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council