

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

June 5, 2023

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<https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/0vTSTG1fxRE0B56KkZUDBAT2xMUneqlpV9PPdxqQUVrKUiMnx9AfYIVnKe35gPMY.rhvXvEtmLs1dUjo6>

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, June 5, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 8:28 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)
Ted Stevens (P)	Jeron Alston (Z) – after roll call
Lesley DeNardis (Z)	Paula Irvin (Z)
Laurie Sweet (P)	Adrian Webber (Z)
Bob Anthony (P)	Cory O’Brien (Z)
Sarah Gallagher (Z)	Betty Wetmore (Z)
Justin Farmer (P)	Kristen Zaehringer (Z)
Katie Kiely (P)	

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

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

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There was 1 (in person) speaker

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Farmer said he wanted to take the time and recognize that we are grieving in our community over recent shootings the last couple weeks and he wants the

community to know he's thinking of them.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS: None

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approval of the May 1, 2023 minutes. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved with 1 abstention (Gallagher)

Approval of the May 8, 2023 minutes. Moved by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Ms. Baez and approved with 1 abstention (Gallagher)

Approval of the May 15, 2023 minutes. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Baez and approved with 1 abstention (Gallagher)

Approval of the May 25, 2023 minutes. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved with 3 abstentions (Stevens) (Gallagher) (Zaehringer)

CONSENT CALENDAR: None

REGULAR AGENDA: (Requires a vote of 2/3rds of the members present and voting for suspension of the rules under §14(a) of the Standing Rules)

Ms. Baez moved a motion to suspend their rules for the regular agenda item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and approved with 3 opposed (Farmer) (Zaehringer) (DeNardis) and 4 abstentions (Osmanu) (Anthony) (O'Brien) (Gallagher)

1. Order approving and authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Hamden and the Hamden Board of education and providing for a budget amendment for the use of the funds

-- Ms. Baez moved a motion to amend the title to "Order approving a budget amendment for the use of Wintergreen funds." The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Mr. Osmanu asked if this changes the language in the order that mentions the MOA. Ms. Baez said there is no MOA tonight, just an order for \$3,000,000.

Ms. Zaehringer stated she won't be voting in favor of this tonight. She said she would vote on the matter that was noticed, as well as the materials when you click on the link that is there for a proposed order and a proposed MOA.

Ms. Gallagher asked about the MOA in the backup. Ms. Baez said the attorneys didn't agree to it. Ms. Gallagher said she is in support of giving the \$3,000,000 as agreed during the budget process but has concerns they're not voting on an MOA.

Mr. Anthony said his understanding is this is a Memorandum of Agreement. Ms. Baez said they're pulling the MOA and just doing the order for the budget. Mr. Anthony said he doesn't see that. In the language he has it says, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement. Ms. Baez said her amendment on the floor right now is to take the Memorandum of Agreement out but keep the budget order. Mr. Anthony said he doesn't think they can do that saying they can't change the Memorandum of Agreement because it's not a Memorandum of Understanding, it's a Memorandum of Agreement with both parties agreed to, so if we vote on this we're voting to give them the money even though we don't know what the Memorandum of Agreement is. Ms. Baez said that is why they're taking that part out and it is now just an order providing for the budget amendment. Mr. Anthony stated he thinks this should be tabled. Ms. Baez said she would change her amendment to "amend and substitute" for the document being shown. Ms. Sweet as the second to the motion accepted the changed amendment. Mr. Anthony said he has no problem with the \$3,000,000 but thinks the attorneys should be here.

Mr. O'Brien said he wants to clarify that under the Be it Ordered as follows #2 references that this order is subject to the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement and basically this order is to transfer the money to show the BOE in good faith that the money is available even though that MOA is not fully done, the BOE has to finalize their budget this is to show the money is in their account even though they can't use it until that MOA is done. He said this puts the money in there and the MOA will dictate the terms in the agreement. He asked Ms. Gruen if that statement is correct. Ms. Gruen said that is correct. She said the MOA wasn't done in time so to show that the money could still be appropriated this order substitutes the agenda item that was posted, so you are not approving an MOA tonight, you are approving the movement of the funding so that the money is there effective July 1st. Mr. O'Brien said he will support this. He also cautioned people about talking about what was agreed upon during budget because it was just a discussion, not an agreement.

Ms. Kiely said she thinks it's important to note that the amount that they are giving them is not changing and they're just talking about these funds and making sure that the amount is there in the account. Mr. Anthony stated he would rather have the MOA in front of him.

Ms. Zaehring said her view is, when we sold winter green funds were going to be allocated to the BOE to go into a capital account and during the budget process it was discussed, although not voted on, that of the money that went to the Board of Ed in their capital account \$3,000,000 of those funds would go into their operating account. She supported that then, she advocated for that then and continues to advocate for that now, and it's her position that \$3,000,000 from the capital funds from the sale of Wintergreen should go into the operating an account separate and apart from any other eventualities with any other funding, whether it be from the State or otherwise that should go.

Mr. Stevens said the order mentions the MOA twice and wonders if that language is okay. He then asked about both funding lines showing an increase and wonders if one should be decreased. Ms. Gruen said in the first whereas it says in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement that will be presented for approval so that contemplates something coming to you

in the future, and in the second, making it subject to approval. She said for the second question you're taking that \$3,000,000 and placing it into a revenue account in the finance department and an expenditure account in the finance department and in order to have a balanced budget, you have to increase revenues and increase expenditures and that's what this order does.

Ms. Gallagher questioned the MOA and the process. There was then a lengthy discussion about the MOA and the process.

Ms. Baez called the meeting into recess for a Democratic Caucus based on information just received.

In recess at 8:57pm – Out of recess at 9:14pm

Ms. Baez pulled her amendment and substitution in light of new information received. Ms. Sweet pulled her second.

Ms. Baez requested a motion to approve this item as it was listed and posted on the agenda. Moved by Ms. Zaehring, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved with 2 opposed (Anthony) (Wetmore) and 4 abstentions (DeNardis) (Farmer) (Osmanu) (Stevens)

Information Items:

1. Accrued Benefits/Retirement Cashout – Library Clerk - \$11,309.36

Mr. Eatman explained this contractual item saying there is \$286,510.46 left in the account and does not include tonight's cashout.

There being no further business, Ms. Baez announced the meeting closed at 9:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council