

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

August 16, 2021

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, August 16, 2021. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M. by the Council President. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Kathleen Schomaker	Dominique Baez
	Brad Macdowall	Jody Clouse (left before mtg ended)
	Valerie Horsley	Jeron Alston
	Justin Farmer	Adrian Webber (after roll call)
	Austin Cesare	Kristin Dolan
	Marjorie Bonadies	Athena Gary (left before mtg ended)
	Kathleen Schomaker	Berita Rowe-Lewis
	Betty Wetmore	

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PRESIDING: Kathleen Schomaker, President Pro Tempore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Scott Jackson, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Adam Sendroff, Chief of Staff; Julie Smith, Community Development Manager; John Sullivan, Chief of Police; Gary Merwede, Fire Chief; Pedro Rodriguez, PD IT Manager; Mark Austin, Town Engineer; Craig Cesare, PW&P Director; Melissa Canham-Clyne, Library Director; Ray Frigon, DEEP; Attorney Ann Catino

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There were no speakers and 1 written comment which can be read here: <https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/4619/PUBLIC-COMMENT-for-08-16-2021>

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: None

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS: None

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Schomaker said they have a few sets of minutes to approve tonight.

July 8, 2021: Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Mr. Macdowall and approved with 1 abstention (Dolan)

July 12, 2021: Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 4 abstentions (Rowe-Lewis) (Clouse) (Gary) (Wetmore)

July 13, 2021: Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Mr. Macdowall and approved with 2 abstentions (Clouse) (Wetmore)

July 19, Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Mr. Macdowall and approved unanimously.

August 9, 2021: Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 5 abstentions (Bonadies) (Clouse) (Dolan) (Gary) (Horsley)

CONSENT CALENDAR: Ms. Schomaker said she is pulling #14 and #16 from consent and putting them on the Regular Agenda for amendments. Mr. Farmer asked if #7 and #18 could be pulled to the Regular Agenda as well. Ms. Schomaker then requested a motion for approval of the Consent Calendar without items 7, 14, 16 and 18. Moved by Ms. Rowe-Lewis, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 1 abstention (Dolan)

- 1. Refund of Property Taxes collected prior to July 1, 2021 – (6) totaling \$897.47**
- 2. Refund of Motor Vehicle Taxes collected between to July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 – (6) totaling \$2,141.62**
- 3. Appointment of Shenae J. Draughn from an alternate to a full member of the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2024**
- 4. Appointment of Thomas Whitbread to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission for a term to expire March 31, 2023**
- 5. Appointment of Daniel Clemente to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District for a term to expire June 30, 2023**
- 6. Reappointment of Laurel Ann Coleman to the Cable Television Advisory Council for a term to expire June 30, 2023**
- 8. Reappointment of Sharon L. Bradford to the Fair Rent Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2024**

9. **Reappointment of Jill Nathanson to the Tree Commission for a term to expire July 31, 2024**
10. **Reappointment of Scott E. Howland to the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2014**
11. **Reappointments of David N. Cooper, Henry Paul Dynia, Jr. and Martin Lawrence Mador to the Energy Use & Climate Change Commission for terms expiring July 31, 2024**
12. **Reappointments of Chante-Colleen Lewis and Joy W. Donaldson to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District for terms expiring June 30, 2024**
13. **Order to approve property access agreement between Town of Hamden and the Hamden Economic Development Corporation – 560 Newhall Street**
15. **Order authorizing the application and expenditure of funds from State of Connecticut Department of Children & Families Youth Services Base Grant (\$32,474) and Youth Services Enhancement Grant (\$12,891)**
17. **Order to approve Master Subscription and License Agreement between the Town of Hamden and ESO Solutions, Inc. – Fire Dept.**
19. **Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept and expend funding in an amount up to \$65,000 in State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) for the procurement of scale repair and calibration services from Scale Service and Supply Co., Inc.; to enter into software license, support, and maintenance agreements with Creative Information Systems, Inc.; and to purchase card readers and enter into a card services agreement(s) with Global Payments Direct, Inc.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

(From Consent Calendar)

7. **Reappointment of Kyle Blake as an alternate to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District for a term expiring June 30, 2024**

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Baez. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked all Boards and Commissions for the service that they give and said he's very thankful for this one as we battle Covid. Ms. Rowe-Lewis echoed Mr. Farmer's sentiments and thanked all the individuals on this Board for their tireless work through Covid. A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 abstention (Farmer)

14. **Order to approve property access agreement between Town of Hamden and the State**

of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – 560 Newhall Street

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Wetmore. DISCUSSION: Ms. Schomaker asked Ms. Catino to explain the amendment. Ms. Catino said they think it makes better sense for the agreement to go to December 2022 and follow the HEDC agreement rather than December 2021. She said nothing else changes. Mr. Frigon said he too feels it's better and that they can leave the properties in better condition and with better lawns by increasing the construction until next year.

Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to amend the date to December 2022. Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Ms. Horsley and approved with 1 abstention (Farmer)

A vote on the item as amended was taken after some discussion on the timeline and the item passed unanimously.

16. Order authorizing the Mayor to accept and expend grant funds in an amount of \$680,750.50 and to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for the replacement/rehabilitation of Bridge No. 061046 Woodin Street over Wilmont Brook

-- Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Ms. Clouse. DISCUSSION: Mr. Austin explained the typo within the body of the order saying that it says \$172,999 and should say \$680,750.50.

Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to amend the \$172,999 to \$680,750.50. Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer asked if we're still in the timeline to get the grant and Mr. Austin said yes.

A vote on the item as amended was taken and it passed unanimously.

18. Order authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Equipment Lease with VAR Technology Finance (Police Dept.)

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Baez. DISCUSSION: Chief Sullivan explained that this is a 5 year lease for information technology presented in this year's budget. Mr. Rodriguez said this replaces a few pieces of aging hardware. Mr. Farmer asked how critical this is. Mr. Rodriguez said one storage unit is at 90%, one is at 70%, and the servers are 10 years old. Mr. Farmer said he's concerned with the pattern of piece mealing with capital, it seems like patch work and he'd rather know what's needed and then asked if they could have an IT Infrastructure plan in a month. Mr. Rodriguez said this isn't piece mealing it's what they need to do now. He said they haven't had a capital in 3 years and they're going to run out of space. Mr. Farmer said he'd still like a plan along with capital to see the whole picture in what we need to do. Mr. Alston said he doesn't see this as an operating expense and thinks this is a capital lease that should be included in the capital budget. He then asked how much it costs. Mr. Rodriguez said

\$350,000 give or take, with the option to purchase for \$1 after 5 years, but if they don't do it within a certain time period the amount will change.

Ms. Horsley thanked the Chief and Mr. Rodriguez for this plan in getting our infrastructure up to date and staying on top of it. She said capital budgets are borrowing money and if we already have it budgeted for that's great and she'll support it.

Ms. Baez asked if this was already in the capital budget and asked if they approve this tonight can they take the money out of the capital. Mr. Rodriguez said he doesn't know if it's in the capital he has not seen it yet. Chief Sullivan said the situation they're in is drier and that's why they did it this way. He said this is only 20% of their needs and if they take it out he won't be able to get all the other things needed. There was then some discussion on the storage units and videos.

Mr. Farmer expressed his concern with duplication of funds and is again requesting a robust program to figure what bonding we do and what grants we can aggressively go after.

Mr. Alston asked if Mr. Jackson could say what in tonight's capital might be here. Mr. Jackson said that's difficult without the inventory list.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 2 opposed (Farmer) (Alston)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of 2021-2022 Capital Plan

-- Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Ms. Schomaker said they have one question so far on the PD infrastructure from the last item. Mr. Farmer asked how they should go through this process saying it's a 72 page document. Ms. Schomaker asked if they could start with the Keefe issues.

Mr. C. Cesare the large scale repairs needed at the Keefe Center are (1) repointing the bricks at \$400,000 (2) the windows are extremely dated and they leak - \$300,000 and roof issues - \$166,000. Mr. Sendroff said it was compiled in hopes of State bonding for the January 2019 session and first bonding was held up and then Covid happened. He said it hasn't been approved yet but it's still alive at the State level and possible to be approved in the future.

There was some discussion on the additional CDBG funds with Ms. Smith saying that it was very specific that it had to cover Covid related things. Ms. Schomaker asked what was in the capital for Keefe. Mr. Jackson said nothing specific for Keefe but that things related were put in the Public Works Building Infrastructure budget. Ms. Smith said they did receive some funds from previous years not Covid related that they could use too.

Ms. Dolan asked for clarification on approving this document and what this evening's goal is. Mr. Jackson said if passed as is each line would then be authorized to go to bond market when the time is right. He said a number of these items will come back to the LC for various reasons, but not all, giving an example of the copy replacement program in Purchasing may not need to come back because they may use a State vendor.

There was discussion and concerns that this document doesn't have backup explaining where or what the projects are that are being done in certain lines. Mr. Farmer said he thinks they need multiple nights to dig into this and prioritize things.

Mr. C. Cesare explained how important it is for paving to happen and that if this is put off then paving will be put off for another season and said maybe they can find a way to proceed for funding for paving. Mr. Alston asked how much is not speculative and how much not based on contingency. Mr. Cesare said he'd get a list of priorities. Mr. Alston said yes, and anything that you think needs attention this year.

There was some discussion on paving.

Ms. Bonadies said we haven't had a plan in 4 years and the lack of detail here is bad and she's surprised the Keefe Center isn't on here. She said she's underwhelmed at the preparedness of this document and they need an understanding of what needs to get done and thinks tonight they should approve what needs to be done now and ask for another document and said she'll make a motion after more discussion.

After some discussion on bonding **Ms. Dolan moved a motion** to approve the paving funding. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonadies. DISCUSSION: Mr. A. Cesare said this is needed and a top notch necessity and he'll support it.

There was then some discussion on sidewalk repairs and Mr. Austin explained how things are prioritized. He also explained how his Drainage Repair and Upgrade Program went along with the street paving. Ms. Schomaker asked for an amount. Mr. Austin said 20 million is the scope of the entire program. Ms. Schomaker asked how much in his priority list. Mr. Austin said \$400,000.

There was some discussion on the RSR list and when it was last updated. Mr. C. Cesare explained how he got to the numbers. He then said he provides the information to the Mayor and the Mayor decides what gets paved. Mr. Jackson stated they've never made changes to the Director's list. Mr. Cesare said that's correct.

Mr. Alston asked how they go forth. Mr. Jackson said there is money in the general fund to borrow from for Mr. Cesare to go forth if the Council sees fit and we can float it for a bit and decide when it's best to go out for the bonded money.

Mr. Alston stated he'd like to move the Public Works tonight. Ms. Schomaker asked him at what dollar figure? Mr. Alston said 2.7 is his sticker. There was some discussion on some other items to add to this number for approval.

Ms. Dolan said there's not enough information here. She said there's a line for building repairs at \$175,000 and she'd like to see detail for it like what buildings and what work is being done. She then asked Mr. Cesare if he was happy with his capital or does he think he needs more. Mr. C. Cesare said honestly he needs more. Ms. Dolan said she thinks they should just stick to the 2.7 for now then.

Mr. Alston asked if she would accept a friendly to include the \$100,000 from Engineering for the storm basin work that goes along with paving. Ms. Dolan accepted the friendly amendment and Ms. Bonadies as the second also accepted it.

Mr. Jackson suggested it would be helpful if they included language of borrowing from the general fund until the money is bonded and the general fund is replenished.

A vote was taken on the amendment of 2.7 for paving with the \$100,000 added by the friendly and approved with 1 opposed (Cesare)

A vote was then taken on the 2.8 million and borrowing from the general fund to be reimbursed with the bond money and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Bonadies then suggested that Department Heads present their capital.

Mr. Farmer asked Chief Merwede about the District 2 Fire Station. Chief Merwede said it's in disrepair, the 2nd floor is unusable and there are leaks everywhere. He said they were hoping to get State funding but did not. It's 7.5 million to replace and they propose Putnam and Gallagher. He then went over his capital saying Engine he needs to get off the road, it's 27 years old and the entire cost including all equipment needed on it is \$580,000. He said the same for the squad but that cost is \$675,000 equipped. ASHER PPE at \$60,000 is for bulletproof vests for firefighters in case things become hostile. Lastly, are 2 fleet vehicles from 2004 and 2005 that are unsafe and off the road. He then said they should consider replacing a vehicle every 4 years.

Ms. Dolan said she thinks this part of the budget has good detail and she moved a motion to approve the Fire Dept. capital budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Horsley and approved unanimously.

Ms. Canham-Clyne explained how the elevator is 40 years old and how it's hard to get parts so they have to search and get them wherever they can so the \$300,000 is an estimated cost for now. She said she thinks it's important because she's worried about the safety of the people and isn't even sure if they should be operating without it for ADA purposes. There was then discussion on

bathroom repairs. Mr. Farmer said he thinks the Library budget is straight up as well and he's comfortable moving it.

Mr. Farmer moved a motion to approve the Library capital budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Macdowall. DISCUSSION: Ms. Dolan said she can't vote for this tonight saying she thinks this is one of the examples of needing more detail. She said until we get quotes that \$300,000 could really be \$1,000,000. She said if the vote happens tonight it'll be a no but if given more time to read detail then she would probably vote for it.

Mr. Alston asked about what about the last line of \$38,500 (AC Condenser). Mr. Jackson said that's in the PW budget.

A vote was taken to accept the Library capital budget and it passed with 3 opposed (Dolan) (Alston) (Baez) and 2 abstentions (Horsley) (Wetmore)

Ms. Dolan asked what happens if the elevator price is higher than the \$300,000. Mr. Jackson said then they cancel or postpone the project, or amend it, but they would not bond without a current estimate.

Mr. Farmer suggested pausing all of this for now for more detail. Ms. Schomaker said they have some department heads here and maybe they should listen to them while they are here and suggested they review Ms. Smith's plan. Mr. Jackson said Ms. Smith has no items in the proposed plan. Ms. Bonadies suggested listening to the Police Department. Ms. Baez said it's late and she thinks that they need more time and that they're rushing this. Ms. Schomaker said they'll just listen and not vote.

Chief Sullivan said his Animal Control vehicles are a 1995 and a 2005 and are very old. I.T. infrastructures Mr. Rodriguez spoke on some of this but they need numerous things and he can get a list to them by the end of the week. Mobile data terminals need to be updated. Laptops and desktops are beyond their life and they need to be upgraded. The State did an upgrade which made them required to do an upgrade on their AFIT Unit. Chief Sullivan went over the next couple lines quickly saying for the Audio/Visual system replacement he thinks there was some confusion saying this is all for inside his building. Mr. Alston asked for the mobile data terminals and laptops what percentage is slated for that. Mr. Rodriguez said about \$12,000 to \$15,000 a car and he believes there are 5 to 6 vehicles. He said the laptops are separate items. Mr. Alston asked how many units for laptops/desktops? Mr. Rodriguez said due to more Zoom meetings now they'll be adding more so than replacing.

Mr. Cesare moved a motion to approve the Police Dept. capital budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Horsley. DISCUSSION: Mr. Cesare said they've been provided extensive information and they should move this along.

Ms. Dolan asked if they vote no on this tonight will it go away or can it come back again. She said she's surprised to not see any fleet replacement in this capital. Chief Sullivan said they ended up with 10 all together and although he would like more and needs more after some deliberation they decided not to put in for more.

Ms. Baez said this is not fair to rush this and the Chief for answers and thinks it should be tabled.

Ms. Baez then moved a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Mr. Cesare pointed out he has a motion on the floor. Ms. Rowe-Lewis asked Chief Sullivan if he felt rushed or if he had anything else he wanted to add. The Chief said nothing else he wanted to add but that Mr. Rodriguez would get them a breakdown tomorrow.

Mr. Farmer said he thinks if they vote on this tonight they'll be patch working and coming back.

Mr. Cesare and Ms. Horsley both withdrew their motions.

Ms. Dolan requested more detail on the desktops and laptops.

Ms. Horsley moved a motion to postpone the rest of the Capital Improvement Plan until their next meeting on September 20th. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cesare and approved unanimously.

2. Election of Council President

-- Ms. Schomaker asked if there were any nominations. Ms. Rowe-Lewis nominated Ms. Schomaker and Mr. Cesare seconded the nomination.

Ms. Schomaker asked if there were any other nominations. Ms. Dolan nominated Ms. Baez and Mr. Alston seconded it. The clerk then took a vote of the choices and it went as follows:

Votes for Ms. Schomaker: (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Horsley) (Rowe-Lewis) (Schomaker) (Wetmore)

Votes for Baez: (Alston) (Baez) (Dolan) (Farmer) (Macdowall) (Webber)

Ms. Schomaker announced it a tie vote and said they'd try again at the next meeting.

There being no further business Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Ms. Bonadies, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis and the meeting adjourned at 10:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council