

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
October 25, 2021

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, October 25, 2021. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by Kathleen Schomaker, President Pro Tem. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Kathleen Schomaker	Kristin Dolan (at approx. 8:00pm)
	Jeron Alston	Valerie Horsley
	Adrian Webber	Justin Farmer
	Berita Rowe-Lewis	Athena Gary (after roll call)
	Dominique Baez	Betty Wetmore
	Austin Cesare	Kristen Zaehringer
	Marjorie Bonadies	Brad Macdowall (after roll call)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jody Clouse

PRESIDING: Kathleen Schomaker, President Pro Tempore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Scott Jackson, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Adam Sendroff, Chief of Staff; Craig Cesare, Public Works & Parks Director; Mark Austin, Town Engineer; John Sullivan, Chief of Police; Pedro Rodriguez, Police Dept. IT Manager

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There were no speakers and 3 written comments which can be read here: <https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/4843/LC-PUBLIC-COMMENTS---10-25-2021>

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Discussion regarding potential settlement in a pending legal matter

Ms. Schomaker moved a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a pending legal matter with the Legislative Council, Town Attorney Sue Gruen, Acting Planning & Zoning Director Erik Johnson, Attorney Tim Lee, Attorney Melinda Powell and Attorney Ryan Mckone. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonadies.

In Executive Session at 6:46 P.M.

Motion to come out of Executive Session moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis and approved unanimously.

Out of Executive Session at 7:59 P.M.

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Vote on settlement matter

-- Ms. Schomaker moved a motion to approve the following:

“Be it resolved that the Hamden Legislative Council does hereby provide its consent to settle the case of Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities ex rel Peter Chometa et al v. Town of Hamden, as recommended by the Town’s legal counsel in Executive Session on this date.”

The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonadies and approved with 2 abstentions (Farmer) (Wetmore)

2. Order to approve and enter into an amendment and extension of Lease Agreement between the Town of Hamden and Triumph Golf Management, Inc. for the Laurel View Country Club Golf Course, 19th Hole and Banquet Facility

Bid Waiver associating with the amendment and extension Lease Agreement between the Town of Hamden and Triumph Golf Management Inc.

-- Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Mr. Webber. Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to amend and accept the October 25th revised document. Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Ms. Horsley and approved unanimously. DISCUSSION: Mr. Sendroff went over the changes in the document since the last meeting. (Changes are attached and highlighted)

Mr. Cesare thanked everyone for the changes saying he thinks they’re reasonable and he looks forward to having the facility up and running and he’s happy to support it. Mr. Farmer thanked Attorney Gruen for working on this negotiation but said he still has concerns and still thinks they need a long term plan. Ms. Wetmore said she’s pleased with the cooperation of Mr. Manchetti working with us on these revisions. Ms. Baez thanked everyone for working hard on this. Mr. Macdowall said he appreciated the adjustments that make it clearer and appreciates Ms. Gruen for working with them on this.

A roll call vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

3. Approval of 2021-2022 Capital Plan

Engineering Dept.

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Wetmore. DISCUSSION: Mr. Austin went over the memo he sent in saying this potable video camera is a self-propelled investigation unit and can be used to determine the condition of storm drainage pipes in preparation of future storm

drainage capital projects. Mr. C. Cesare told them how valuable this would be to them. Ms. Baez asked about borrowing. Mr. Austin said he looked into it and not may close to us have them and that the closest would be a 2 hour round trip. Ms. Baez thanked him for looking into it.

A vote was taken and it was approved unanimously.

Public Works:

Ms. Schomaker asked if anything for Laurel View was in here. Mr. C. Cesare said the Town wide building and grounds line includes the hot water system that our in house staff will replace. He then went over the other items included in the Building Repair line. Mr. A. Cesare asked if there was anything in this budget for fencing around the shed. Mr. C. Cesare said there wasn't. Mr. C. Cesare then explained the Tree Planting line saying these funds were for the spring. He then moved on to the Trash/Recycling Tote Replacement line saying the \$10,000 is a drop in the bucket. He said there is a big backlog of these in need of replacement right now and in general they're reaching their life expectancy. Mr. C. Cesare then went over the Vehicle Repairs line saying one of his Vactor trucks is in need of the biggest replacement right now. He then went over some of the other vehicles needing work.

There was then some discussion on the tree planning program as well as who looks over the vehicles with Mr. Cesare saying the superintendent acts as the Fleet Manager keeping a log of all work done. There was then some discussion on snow gear.

Ms. Bonadies asked if there should be any money in here for Laurel View for water delivery infrastructure and to explore solar panels.

Ms. Bonadies then moved a motion to add \$200,000 for Laurel View water delivery infrastructure and to explore solar panels. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer.

DISCUSSION: Mr. A. Cesare said he thinks this is a perfect example of where we can do something now instead of having a long term problem. After some discussion Mr. Farmer said he thinks they'll need to add more money if the water alone is \$200,000.

Ms. Schomaker said as a municipality they might not want to purchase solar panels and instead enter into a power purchase agreement and that they should understand that purchasing solar panels isn't always the favorable way to go, so that wouldn't be a capital expense that would come under an energy purchase contract using solar energy. She said she just wanted to throw that in.

Mr. Webber asked if they looked into the American Rescue Fund around the trees. Mr. C. Cesare said they had a recent conversation on this and they're waiting on clarification on what the funds can be used for.

Mr. A. Cesare said he would like to see this \$200,000 number as a placeholder and he'll be supporting it.

Mr. Farmer said he thinks this placeholder should be larger and bonded out now.

Ms. Baez thinks this should be vetted more before it's approved and she would also like to see the water bills. She'll vote no until further info. Mr. A. Cesare said this is just a placeholder and that they weren't buying into anything.

Mr. Farmer said voting for this would add it to the capital budget and he then asked Mr. Jackson if they approve this does the money get bonded. Mr. Jackson said yes, it would be on hold and they would put together a resolution for Council to allow for the borrowing from the General Fund, but items that need additional information and research they would not go to market as it's not very smart to borrow money and sit on it. It falls into a category of authorized but not issued which means at any point they could go to market for it because they already have the LC approval but they're not doing it right now so it's the identification of an emergency need not necessarily mature right now. Mr. Farmer asked would it come back to Council before it's issued. Mr. Jackson said no, once you authorize it it's ready to go when the project is ready to go. Mr. Farmer said he wanted to make sure everyone understood that.

Ms. Bonadies asked for clarification. Mr. Jackson said if a project is not ready they aren't going to borrow until they have full confidence it's going forward.

After some more discussion on how bonding works a roll call vote was taken on the amendment to add \$200,000 to the Building Repairs line in the Public Works Capital Plan and it passed with 3 opposed (Baez) (Farmer) (Macdowall)

A vote was then taken on the Public Works capital plan as amended and it passed with 1 opposed (Gary)

A break was then taken from 9:27pm until 9:37pm.

Police Department:

Ms. Schomaker requested a motion for the Police Dept. capital. Moved by Ms. Bonadies, seconded by Mr. Farmer and Mr. Cesare. DISCUSSION: Chief Sullivan explained that the AFIT for \$10,000 can come off saying they had to purchase this when the State updated their system. He then went to his first line of ACO vehicles saying these have high mileage and are in need of repair. For IT Infrastructure Mr. Rodriguez said they don't have great security they only have the basics and he's trying to get to preventive form. For tactical equipment Chief Sullivan said the equipment needs updating, the rifles are 25 years old. For FF&E he said they need additional furniture and to replace aged exercise equipment. For Audio/Video Mr. Rodriguez said that the video is antiquated and the cameras are low quality and for duty gear the Chief said he's looking to replace some obsolete stuff.

There was some discussion on non-lethal weapons. Chief Sullivan said the SWAT Team wants to look into new technology.

Ms. Baez asked if any grants or donations have been able to pay for any of this capital. Chief Sullivan said for the ACO vehicles they were working off a grant to try and get monies but they would have to petition to use it for that piece of equipment. Ms. Baez then said during the IT Infrastructure presentation it seemed total \$350,000 but the line here says \$375,000 and asked

why there was a \$25,000 difference. Mr. Rodriguez said the scope watch came in under what he expected it to be.

Ms. Baez then moved a motion to decrease the IT Infrastructure line from \$375,000 to \$350,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

There was then some discussion on the Animal Control vehicles and the two employees. Mr. Farmer asked if they were expanding that department. Chief Sullivan said he would like to and will request it in the next budget.

There was then some discussion on dash cams. **Mr. Farmer moved a motion to postpone** the thermal imaging unit until November 15th so the Chief can see if he can share the Fire Departments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez and failed with 4 in favor (Farmer) (Baez) (Zaehringer) (Gary) 6 opposed (Schomaker) (Horsley) (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Rowe-Lewis) (Wetmore) and 1 abstention (Macdowall)

A vote was then taken on the Police Department capital budget as amended and it passed with 3 opposed (Farmer) (Baez) (Macdowall)

There being no further business Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Gary and the meeting adjourned at 10:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council