

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 15, 2021**

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, November 15, 2021. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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
	Betty Wetmore	Valerie Horsley
	Adrian Webber	Justin Farmer
	Kathleen Schomaker	Berita Rowe-Lewis
	Austin Cesare	Marjorie Bonadies

MEMBERS ABSENT: Athena Gary; Jeron Alston; Kristin Dolan

PRESIDING: Kathleen Schomaker, President Pro Tempore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Scott Jackson, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Adam Sendroff, Chief of Staff; John Sullivan, Chief of Police; Mark Austin, Town Engineer; Craig Cesare, Public Works & Parks Director; Eric Johnson, Economic Development Director; Adam Roszkowski, IT Manager; Phil Goodwin, Purchasing Agent

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There was 1 speaker who can be heard at Time Code 00:16:15

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Ms. Schomaker said this is the final session of the 2019-2021 Legislative Council and she's very pleased to be working on a smooth transition with the new Council. She then thanked some people of the administration and behind the scenes.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS: Finance Director Jackson said he would be leaving on his desk for the next administration a refunding and refinancing for \$35,000,000 that will save \$2,200,000.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held October 18, 2021. Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis and approved unanimously. Ms. Schomaker then requested a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held October 25, 2021. Moved by Ms. Rowe-Lewis, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 1 abstention (Clouse)

CONSENT CALENDAR: Ms. Schomaker pulled items 4, 9, 11, and 16 from the consent calendar and then requested a motion for approval without those items. Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Bonadies and approved with 1 opposed (Farmer)

- 1. Refund of Property Taxes collected between to July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022
Overpayments on current Grand List – (10) totaling \$22,452.47**
- 2. Refund of Property Taxes collected prior to July 1, 2021 – (22) totaling \$43,221.94**
- 3. Refund of Motor Vehicle Taxes collected between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 –
Overpayments on current Grand List - (99) totaling \$38,366.03**
- 5. Appointment of David J. D’Agostino to the Farmington Canal Commission for a term to
expire December 31, 2023**
- 6. Appointment of Oscar Bolanos to the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission for a term
to expire July 1, 2023**
- 7. Appointment of Isabella Mendes Lira to the Arts Commission for a term to expire
May 31, 2023**
- 8. Appointments of Susan Cutillo and Eben Pariser to the Arts Commission for terms to
expire May 31, 2024**
- 10. Bid waiver for purchase of bus shelter (Columbia Equipment Co. - \$12,713)**
- 12. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Fire Department to accept and
expend a donation from Anna Mulvey (\$45,000)**
- 13. Order authorizing the purchase of body worn cameras, in-car cameras and other
related equipment and services and authorizing the Mayor to enter into a master**

services and purchasing agreement with Axon Enterprises, Inc.

14. Order approving a Municipal Waste Disposal Services Agreement between the Town of Hamden and Murphy Road Recycling, LLC

15. Order approving first amendment to Collection Agreement between the Town of Hamden and All American Waste, LLC

REGULAR AGENDA:

(Pulled from Consent Calendar)

4. Appointment of Brad Macdowall to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a term to expire April 30, 2024
-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Baez. DISCUSSION: Mr. Macdowall said he will not be voting on this tonight. A vote was taken and the item passed with 2 abstentions (Bonadies) (Farmer) and Mr. Macdowall recusing himself.

9. Appointment and reappointment of Miguel Arturo Perez-Cabello as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an appointment expiring January 31, 2022 and a reappointment expiring January 31, 2025
-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Mr. Cesare. DISCUSSION: Ms. Schomaker said they've learned the reappointment can't be done because it falls under a new Mayor. She then requested a motion to divide the question into an appointment and reappointment. Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Mr. Farmer.

Ms. Schomaker then requested a motion to approve the appointment to expire January 31, 2022. Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Mr. Cesare. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked all the community members for serving. A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 opposed (Farmer)

Ms. Schomaker then went on to the reappointment reminding them they needed to vote this down because of the Charter. A roll call vote was taken and the item failed with a tie of 6 in favor (Bonadies) (Cesare) (Clouse) (Horsley) (Rowe-Lewis) (Wetmore) and 6 opposed (Baez) (Farmer) (Macdowall) (Webber) (Zaehringer) (Schomaker)

11. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2021-2022 Fiscal Year budget – Police Dept. \$350,000 (\$250,000 Overtime) (\$100,000 Extra Duty Town Jobs)
-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Chief Sullivan explained how he was down 20 officers and how the main reason for overtime comes from contract obligation. After some discussion on how positions are filled Mr. Macdowall asked if this was for labor already done. Chief Sullivan said it's a projection going forth. A vote was taken and the item passed with 2 opposed (Farmer) (Macdowall)

16. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept a donation of a bench and Garden of Hope from Paint Hamden Pink

-- Moved by Ms. Rowe-Lewis, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked all those involved with this and said he's looking forward to visiting the garden when it's done. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

Regular agenda items: (not pulled from consent)

1. Commercial truck traffic ordinance – Davis Street (Postponed from June 22, 2021 mtg)

-- Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Ms. Wetmore. DISCUSSION: Ms. Schomaker explained how they divided the question in June and passed Todd Street but Davis Street still needed work and now it's here. Chief Sullivan explained the study they had done and how the ordinance was not recommended to the traffic authority, but instead they have other measurements they'll do on that corridor. He said the traffic authority unanimously voted it down. It was also mentioned that this is the only East to West corridor with a bridge that trucks can go over. A roll call vote was taken and the item failed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Elderly Services Department to accept and expend a donation from Anna Mulvey - \$25,000

-- Moved by Ms. Rowe-Lewis, seconded by Mr. Macdowall. DISCUSSION: Ms. Schomaker said she appreciates Ms. Mulvey's generosity for all her donations. Mr. Farmer said he appreciates her as well and all those who honor our elders. Ms. Baez said it's astounding to see her generosity. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

2. Order authorizing interdepartmental transfer 2021-2022 FY Budget – Accrued Benefits/ Retirement – \$200,000

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Mr. Farmer and Ms. Bonadies and approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Approval of 2021-2022 Capital Plan

Parks Renovations - \$125,000:

Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Mr. Webber.

Public Works Director Mr. Cesare explained some of his needs here saying there were aging playgrounds and equipment (\$25,000), fencing at some parks need replacement (\$25,000), and Farmington Canal paving needs to be done (\$50,000). He said there's also \$25,000 included here for unforeseen things that may come up.

Ms. Baez mentioned that the Keefe Center Park needs improvements and that Villano Park has exposed wires. Mr. Cesare said he would put those on his radar.

There was some discussion on the areas of the Farmington Canal to be paved and whether or not we partner with New Haven for continuity. Mr. Cesare said they haven't yet worked together but that he'd be welcomed to any kind of plan with them if they were willing. Mr. Farmer said as a biker he thanks him for this.

A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

Building Dept. Software - \$15,000:

Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Mr. Farmer.

Finance Director Jackson explained this software program to help be more efficient in the field and how it's a shared platform for the Building Dept., Planning & Zoning and the Fire Marshal's to all see the same stuff. Mr. Farmer asked the longevity of this application. Mr. Jackson said they intend to go out to bid and take the state of the art and that it has a lifespan of more than 5 years. Acting Town Planner Mr. Johnson explained how everything is still done on paper and that they should have electronic efficiency.

A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

Purchasing Dept. - Copier Replacement - \$95,000:

Mr. Goodwin said right now our copiers are about 9 years old and we normally replace them every 5 years. He said right now it's about \$150,000 to replace them and that purchasing them rather than leasing would save the Town about \$150,000 over 5 years. He said the Police Dept. is estimated at \$45,000 so all together it would be about \$200,000 to replace them all and with this \$95,000 he would start replacing the oldest ones with the most needs first. Ms. Schomaker asked how many machines there were. Mr. Goodwin said not counting police or library there are 26 copiers. He then explained how the police copiers are purchased and the Town copiers are leased. There was then discussion on maintenance which Mr. Goodwin said we would have whether we purchase or lease.

A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

Information Technology - \$275,000:

IT Director Mr. Roszkowski explained how there was all aging equipment. He said the servers are at the end of their life, core switches are old and one is over 10 years needs replacement, desktops are Windows 7 and need to go to Windows 10. He then explained how VDI works.

A vote was then taken and it passed unanimously.

Economic Development – Neighborhood Investment Program - \$600,000:

Acting Town Planner and Economic Development Director Erik Johnson explained how this is modified into 3 buckets. The first \$225,000 is for a façade program, a loan grant program for businesses, looking to do facade improvement throughout town focusing on primarily retail businesses. Another \$225,000 is an improvement program to encourage businesses to open up or move to Hamden and would be a matching program, and the last \$150,000 is for other contractual services for things such as marketing, research, consultants, etc. There was some discussion on brownfields and studies and Mr. Johnson explained some of his visions in starting these programs.

A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business and after some “moments of reflection” Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Mr. Cesare and the meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council