

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 19, 2021

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 8:14 P.M. by the Council President. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Macdowall	Dominique Baez
Mick McGarry	Jody Clouse
Valerie Horsley	Berita Rowe-Lewis
Justin Farmer	Adrian Webber
Austin Cesare	Kristin Dolan
Betty Wetmore	Marjorie Bonadies
Kathleen Schomaker	Athena Gary

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2nd District Vacancy)

PRESIDING: Mick McGarry, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Curt Leng, Mayor; John Sullivan, Police Chief; Gary Merwede, Fire Chief; Walter Morton, Director of Town and BOE Legislative Affairs; Sue Rubino, Youth Services Coordinator

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There were no comments submitted.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Mr. McGarry read a statement he wrote about the January 6th attack in Washington DC. He then mentioned that he asked Mayor Leng to come and talk about the Towns previous meetings with the MFAC that they all were surprised to recently find out about and to establish a method to assure that the Legislative Council and FSC are kept informed of the work being done with the State.

Mr. McGarry said he will be asking for a recommendation from the DTC and asking for letters of interest to fill Councilman Gagliardi's vacancy in the Second District. He said if anyone is interested to contact the DTC for a recommendation or send a letter of interest and resume if applicable to Ms. Renta by the February 1st meeting and with the appropriate candidate they'll be looking to fill the seat by the 16th.

Mr. McGarry said in February they'll also be looking to implement protocols to have live public input at the February meetings and for all future meetings then incorporate CivicsClerk. He said they' be utilizing the Towns tech committee and some other members of the public in this work in hopes that as we move to a hybrid in the future we can continue having public input that is both written and live verbally during the meetings.

Mr. McGarry said there are some tentative dates that he sent out that he'll repeat now so that the public is aware of the progress that we are making. Working towards a new schedule of implementation of

CivicsClerk whose platforms are being developed for them right now. On February 22nd there will be a CivicsClerk training specific for the LC. March 1st there will be a mock committee and Council meeting that utilizes CivicsClerk and we will have live CivicsClerk support during that. March 8th there will be a mock committee and Council meeting utilizing CivicsClerk but the training wheels will be off and we'll be doing that meeting without support. March 15th we'll have LC committee meetings: Finance, Public Safety, Public Works, Economic Development and Human Services (all tentative); and on March 22nd they will have committee meetings: Environment, Education, Rec. & Culture, Personnel, Settlement (only if necessary), Administration, Municipal Planning & Properties, then on the 29th they'll have the regular meeting of the Council and future meetings to follow will be week 1 committees, week two committees, and week three Legislative Council. He said this means a change to their rules which will have to be approved prior to this.

Mr. McGarry went on to say that the Rules of Procedure Committee would be meeting this Thursday (1/21) at 5:30pm. and the Fiscal Stability Committee would be meeting with the Charter Review Commission this week and next week their meeting will focus on hiring protocols and reviewing our pension plan and other items.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS: Mayor Leng and Finance Director Eatman gave reports. (Department reports (generated with the help of Rose Lion) can be found attached to the end of the minutes)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Mr. McGarry requested a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting held December 21, 2020. Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved with 1 abstention (Bonadies)

Mr. McGarry then requested a motion to approve the minutes from their regular meeting held January 4, 2021. Moved by Ms. Rowe-Lewis, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA: Mr. McGarry requested a motion to suspend their rules for tonight's meeting. Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Schomaker and approved with 2 opposed (Farmer) (Macdowall)

1. Refund of property taxes collected prior to July 1, 2020 – (3) totaling \$632.83

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

2. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 – (2) totaling \$4,830.76

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

3. Refund of motor vehicle taxes collected between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 – (18) totaling \$5,787.36

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

4. Appointment of Jim Pascarella to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to expire January 31, 2023

-- Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Horsley. DISCUSSION: Mr. Cesare thanked Mr. Pascarella for his service and said he is pleased to support him. Mr. McGarry said his expertise will be very helpful.

Mr. Farmer thanked everyone who serves and helps the Town with the work to be done. A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 opposed (Farmer)

5. Reappointment of Ann M. Pari to the Ethics Board for a term to expire January 31, 2026

-- Ms. Baez moved a motion to bundle items #5 through 16 for a vote together. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schomaker and approved unanimously.

Mr. McGarry requested a motion to approve items #5 through 16. Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Ms. Wetmore said Mr. Mitchell is very involved in the community and she thinks he does great on this commission. Mr. Cesare thanked Ms. Morrill, Mr. Cocchiario and Ms. Mastropetre for their services. Mr. McGarry said he's happy to see these folks coming back. Mr. Farmer said he wants to thank Ms. Mastropetre for her work and always listening to the community, he appreciates that. A vote was taken and the items passed unanimously.

6. Reappointment of Edward Simon as an alternate to the Ethics Board for a term to expire January 31, 2023

-- SEE ITEM #5

7. Reappointment of Philip Kuchuk to the Library Board for a term to expire January 31, 2026

-- SEE ITEM #5

8. Reappointment of Jess Mallory to the Farmington Canal Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2023

-- SEE ITEM #5

9. Reappointment of George Alexander to the Cable Advisory Council for a term to expire June 30, 2023

-- SEE ITEM #5

10. Reappointment of David G. Johnson to the Historic Properties Commission for a term to expire September 30, 2025

-- SEE ITEM #5

11. Reappointments of Paul J. Geary, Mark Osenko and Anthony Griego as alternates to the Historic Properties Commission for terms to expire September 30, 2023

-- SEE ITEM #5

12. Reappointments of Alison M. DeMaio and Lawrence E. Rosenthal to the Energy Use & Climate Change Commission for terms to expire July 31, 2023

-- SEE ITEM #5

13. Reappointments of Ken Sweeten and Sarah A. Morrill to the Parks & Recreation Commission for terms to expire January 31, 2024

-- SEE ITEM #5

14. Reappointments of Victor Mitchell and Michael J. D’Andrea to the Town Center Park Commission for terms to expire November 1, 2023

-- SEE ITEM #5

15. Reappointments of Doreen Steel and Karin E. Frodel to the Commission on Disabilities for terms to expire October 31, 2023

-- SEE ITEM #5

16. Reappointments of Michele I. Mastropetre and Robert J. Cocchiaro to the Planning & Zoning Commission for terms to expire January 31, 2024

-- SEE ITEM #5

17. Bid waiver associated with the Happiness Project Billboard Campaign (Outfront media - \$15,000)

-- Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Ms. Rubino said this vendor is the only one in Hamden and she’s always been happy with them. She then gave a brief overview of the program. Mr. Macdowall asked which location this billboard would be at. Ms. Rubino said they will be throughout Hamden. Mr. Farmer thanked Ms. Rubino for the work she does and mentioned the start date and longer period of time and asked if there would be extra charges. Ms. Rubino said no, each billboard will be up for 28 days. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

18. Order amending the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget (Fire Dept.)

Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Chief Merwede said this is the first prong of the diversity planning they’re doing on the Fire Dept. He said this is the Sam Jones scholarship and his intention is to take this from the EMS Revenue line raise the EMS revenue line expectation \$1,500 and correspondingly raise the Training line which is where they’d pay the invoice for this scholarship from. He said since the beginning of the fiscal year they’ve collected \$84,505 in EMS revenue (56%) and he thinks they’ll come in over their estimated revenue. The Chief said this would be to secure a place at the Yale New Haven Center for EMS for an 18 year old graduating Hamden High School this year.

Mr. McGarry said this is an excellent program that's well thought out with good goals and he hopes this serves as a model for all our departments in ways to move forward and increase the diversity of our work force.

Mr. Farmer said he appreciates the Chief bring this and asked if it was still intended for a person of color which he's guessing could be someone black or Hispanic. Chief Merwede said his intention is to make this as broad as possible in order to achieve a greater opportunity for the most amount of people and wants nothing to do with choosing the scholarship person and the care and control of that is the Counseling and Career Path Dept. at the Hamden High School.

Ms. Horsley thanked him for establishing this program.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

19. Order to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hamden and UPSEU/COPS – Officer Enrique Rivera-Rodriguez (Police Union)

– Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Mr. Macdowall. DISCUSSION: After an explanation from Chief Sullivan of how this is a pay differential between the officers Town job and military pay while he is away serving Mr. McGarry called for a vote and it passed with 1 opposed (Dolan)

There being no further business Mr. McGarry requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Ms. Bonadies, seconded by Mr. Farmer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council

Meeting recording: (this meeting recording starts at TC 1:55:45 after the special mtg)

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/pm3vGCGESKRVPDwLkLYICVCsrTq-0MecZHqyKrCAIBOe5dVKERYD7DGsw9zFPPoy.rNTqt8AWdB1TjNHP>

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