

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 4, 2020

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday, June 4, 2020. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 10:40 PM by the Council President. (This meeting also extended into the next day of June 5, 2020) The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mick McGarry	Athena Gary
	Harry Gagliardi	Justin Farmer
	Marjorie Bonadies	Valerie Horsley
	Berita Rowe-Lewis	Brad Macdowall
	Austin Cesare	Betty Wetmore
	Kristin Dolan	Kathleen Schomaker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dominique Baez; Mike Colaiacovo

PRESIDING: Mick McGarry, President

PUBLIC INPUT: President McGarry read 41 emails submitted.

After public input Mr. McGarry called for a recess.

In recess @ 11:10 PM

Out of recess @ 11:49 PM

AGENDA:

VOTE ON THE 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mr. McGarry moved a motion to approve the 20-21 FY year budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis.

Mr. McGarry then read the budget ordinance out loud announcing it the Legislative Council adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$248,928,679 with a mil rate of 51.98.

Mr. Gagliardi said he wants to know if a Town employee can vote on the budget. (There was no answer to this)

Ms. Dolan moved a motion to call the question. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis and it failed with a roll call vote of 6 in favor (Bonadies) (Clouse) (Dolan) (Rowe-Lewis) (Schomaker) (McGarry) and 7 opposed (Cesare) (Farmer) (Gagliardi) (Gary) (Horsley) (Macdowall) (Wetmore)
DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer said they have to do better than this for the taxpayers.

(It is now Midnight and into the next day of 6/5/2020)

Mr. Macdowall stated conversation needs to happen and that they should have spent another hour on this. He said he's split on the budget.

Ms. Horsley said this was hard work and no one is happy but they cut what they could and prioritized and created a better budget than what they had.

Mr. Cesare said he thinks the decisions made tonight were bad un-funding the police and taking salary cuts from the Chief. He said it's unmoral.

Mr. Gagliardi said he's not happy with this budget and mentioned the referendum section in the charter stating that this budget can be overruled by 15% of the Town. He said the mil rate is more honest than it has been in years but still don't do the job.

Ms. Bomadies said nothing is right and nothing is fair from decades of not doing right by our taxpayers. She said this is what accountability looks like and that they got stuck doing the dirty work from years and years.

Ms. Wetmore said she agrees with Ms. Bonadies and knows no one is happy but they did the best they could. She said they had a 55 mil rate and brought it down and she thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Gary stated she doesn't like this budget at all and apologized to her constituents.

Mr. Farmer said he thinks he can get some signatures electronically for a referendum.

Mr. McGarry thanked everyone for their hard work and said it's not a great budget but the better of the two.

Mr. McGarry called for a roll call vote and it passed with 8 in favor (Bonadies) (Clouse) (Dolan) (Gagliardi) (Horsley) (Rowe-Lewis) (Wetmore) (McGarry) – 3 opposed (Cesare) (Gary) (Macdowall) - and 2 people not voting (Farmer) (Schomaker)

There being no further business Mr. McGarry adjourned the meeting at 12:35 A.M. on June 5, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta,
Clerk of the Council

- o Meeting Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/7MpONY3y2mhOEg_p9U7eBawuAJnE-aaa81CkYrPEPzxvF3yDlv1NIGBR9Hyu47IJZ

- o Access Password: 9k\$.x6#=-