

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 3, 2023

***To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/play/8Z-UzyoPob9CUB4vAj3ch8dJXCWKKTpWLVs7VvEMqUqIyN4IRRen_WuMFRZBywnpEDnrrrS2EK1e8Idi.yZjbrP28Og5U1Eqg?continueMode=true&xzm_rtaid=T6aRUXuOSle7KU0XBYsNzw.1672862493181.bd2486ebf94cd42b1205964611079dbb&xzm_rhtaid=876

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Sweet then read the Land Acknowledgement followed by a moment of silence.

Z= On Zoom P= In Person

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Dominique Baez (Z) | Abdul Osmanu (P) |
| Katie Kiely (P) | Jeron Alston (Z) |
| Lesley DeNardis (Z) | Ted Stevens (P) (after roll call) |
| Sarah Gallagher (P) | Paula Irvin (Z) |
| Laurie Sweet (P) | Adrian Webber (Z) (after roll call) |
| Bob Anthony (Z) | Cory O'Brien (Z) (after roll call) |

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justin Farmer; Betty Wetmore; Kristen Zaehring

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Karen Bivens, ACR&W Director; Eugene Livshits, Town Planner; Stephen White, Town Engineer; Erik Johnson, Economic Development Director

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There was 1 speaker in person, 2 speakers on Zoom (which can all be heard on the recording at Time Code 00:20:35) and 1 written comment which can be viewed here: <https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/7525/01-03-2023>

(Written comments can be sent to LCpublicinput@hamden.com)

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Ms. Baez said there has been another tragic shooting and act of violence this past holiday weekend and she sends her prayers and heartfelt thoughts to our neighbors who are experiencing gun violence and that there needs to be more done from the out of control amount of guns that are on our streets.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Police Dept. Overtime Reports:

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/7529/PD-OT-Reports>: Acting Chief Wydra went over the reports stating most is attributed to language in the collective bargaining agreement regarding staffing levels in the patrol division. He said much of that over time is these weeks that are in front of them are for some of these unfortunate events. These incidents occur at all hours of the day and when they happen on time periods when the detective division or other specialized units aren't working it requires us to sometimes call several officers in depending on the nature of the incident to properly investigate and interview and that requires staffing and personnel. Mr. Anthony asked about staffing. Chief Wydra said the minimum staff number on patrol is 7 except on Friday's, Saturday's and Sunday's it's 8. Mr. Anthony asked what his manpower is today and the Chief said they are budgeted for 103 but have 11 vacancies so they're at 92. He said he has 6 officers in the Police Academy, and another 4 or 5 that are out, either injured or on another type of leave so there's approximately 80 working officers right now. Ms. Baez asked when the next time the Commission was meeting with the goal of hiring. Chief Wydra said they don't have anything planned right now but that Civil Service today did approve a new process for entry level so they're going to fast track as quickly as they can and he believes there are 2 applicants on the certified process that we will have to conduct written and oral exams. Ms. Baez said they're going to be starting another test and ramping up our advertisement for that process.

Economic Development report on High Meadows: by: Erik Johnson, Economic Development Director

Mr. Johnson said for the past few years the Town has been working with the State of Connecticut to acquire the High Meadows property and that process has started again in taking the following steps. First, the Town put out solicitation for an Owner's Representative and they selected Colliers which is a multi-faceted real estate advisory firm. The reason they went with an Owner's Rep. was to make sure there were a couple things in place. One, that the Town had an expert advisor as it goes through the process. Two, to make sure that there is an objective party as we get solicitations from developers to make sure that we had an objective qualified party to review the proposals and provide their professional opinion on them in a way that didn't seem to be (unintelligible) by either himself or anyone in the administration. And then third, they wanted to

work with a party that had a recognition within the real estate development community for the opportunity to get the best qualified applicants.

The next thing that they are doing is establishing a task force that will work with Town staff as they go through the process. He said through January and the beginning of February they'll send around a schedule and will have a series of community input sessions that will be done with the Planning Department and the Economic Development Office and they'll be talking about problems that are going on, what the expectations are, and listening to what the community's thoughts, feelings, and concerns about the redevelopment are. They'll release an RFP at the beginning of February and give developers an opportunity to respond. Once the issues are in Collier will give a formal report as they evaluate proposals. They'll take probably the top scoring development submission and then have a question and answer session which will be public so people can hear and see the presentation, but the questions will be limited to ones that are coming from either staff or the advisors committee, and then that would be facilitated by Colliers. After a selection the final proposal will come to this body for review and approval. Mr. Johnson then went on to explain the zoning change that may need to happen.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the December 20, 2022 minutes. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Alston and approved unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Ms. Baez pulled #6 off of the consent calendar at the request of Mr. Alston She then requested a motion for approval of the consent calendar without #6. Moved by Mr. Alston, seconded by Ms. Gallagher and approved unanimously.

- 1. Refund of property taxes collected prior to July 1, 2022 – (12) totaling \$7,649.29**
- 2. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 – (2) totaling \$567.83**
- 3. Refund of motor vehicle taxes collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 – (19) totaling \$6,781.64**
- 4. Order establishing a special account entitled Opioid Settlement Fund**
- 5. Order to approve amendment and extension of Property Access Agreement between the Town of Hamden and the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – 560 Newhall Street**
- 7. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Hamden Public Library to accept 56 laptop computers from the Connecticut State Library, Division of Library Development**

- 8. Order approving Partner Tuition Discount Agreement and authorizing the Mayor to sign agreement with Quinnipiac University**
- 9. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a gift of a bench on the Farmington Canal Greenway in memory of Sean Kearn Froehlich**
- 10. Resolution authorizing the Town of Hamden to file round 2 applications for financial assistance from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and if offered accept and expend funds –Community Investment Fund 2030 (Newhall Area Drainage System Project)**
- 11. Resolution authorizing the Town of Hamden to file round 2 applications for financial assistance from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and if offered accept and expend funds – Community Investment Fund 2030 (Arts & Culture Project)**

REGULAR AGENDA:

6. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Fire Department to accept and expend a donation from Anna Mulvey (\$50,000)

-- Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Ms. Kiley. DISCUSSION: Mr. Alston said he wanted to thank Ms. Mulvey and her family for this donation on behalf of the Public Safety Committee as Mr. Webber was having technical difficulties and could only hear tonight. Ms. Baez said she too is very appreciative of this citizen for continuously giving to the Town and she thanks her for this donation from the bottom of her heart.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously

There being no further business Ms. Baez announced the meeting closed at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council