

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

April 17, 2023

***To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:**

https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/Wg9zYEbYSZ2D_flhqZmhew0wtDUaxWYb1TSnEFMoDIOCV4JnL7jYbdT82L1ch3zN.lspfiqWk9XL0xOt

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, April 17, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:14 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. Ms. Baez announced 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 (P) Abdul Osmanu (P)
 Katie Kiely (P) Kristen Zaehring (P)
 Justin Farmer (P) Bob Anthony (P)
 Paula Irvin (Z) Laurie Sweet (P)
 Adrian Webber (Z) (after roll call)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betty Wetmore; Sarah Gallagher; Jeron Alston; Lesley DeNardis;
 Cory O’Brien; Ted Stevens

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There were no speakers and no written comments

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Farmer read the following quote: “Oppressed people, whatever their level of formal education, have the ability to understand and interpret the world around them, to see the world for what it is, and move to transform it.” – **Ella Baker** Mr. Farmer then said through those words of Ella Baker, let us move and transform our world, and be in community and to have all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ms. Baez requested a motion to go into an executive session which includes the Council and Attorney Nick Grello to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

In Executive Session at 7:18pm and unanimously voted out of Executive Session at 8:30pm.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Information item: 100k of traffic signal capital used for unpaid project bill (traffic)
-- Mr. White explained this is was a signal replacement project from 2019-2020. The former Traffic Director, Mr. Braza, passed away while he was managing this and the soon after Covid hit. There were several minor quantity overruns that came out a wash when other quantities were short, but there were 2 major items in the contract that were over the original contract amount and those 2 items were some concrete sidewalks at approximately \$30,000 and traffic control police extra duty at approximately \$60,000. He reviewed this and his understanding is work was performed and he sees no reason that we shouldn't pay them, but no Change Order was done and so he had to create one and use this capital money. Ms. Zaehring asked how we prevent a situation like this from happening again. Mr. White said by making sure when we have projects that are capital that we have appropriate construction management and contract oversight.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of April 3, 2023 minutes. Moved by Mr. Osmanu, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved with 1 abstention (Zaehring)

CONSENT CALENDAR: Mr. Farmer requested items numbers 6 and 7 be pulled to the regular agenda. Ms. Baez pulled the items from consent and requested a motion on the consent calendar without items 6 and 7. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously.

- 1. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 – Overpayments on current Grand List - (4) totaling \$7,500.82**
- 2. Refund of property and motor vehicle taxes collected prior to July 1, 2022 – (2) totaling \$539.84**

3. **Refund of motor vehicle taxes collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 – Overpayments on current Grand List - (23) totaling \$5,642.68**
4. **Refund of motor vehicle taxes for Veterans collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 – Overpayments on current Grand List - (1) totaling \$194.76**
5. **Appointment of Deirdre L. Moody to the Ethics Board for a term to expire January 31, 2025 (R-4)**
8. **Resolution adopting the 2023 SCRCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**
9. **Order authorizing interdepartmental transfer 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget – (Retirement/Accrued Benefits) - \$200,000**
10. **Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept and expend \$8,600,032 in funds from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security**
11. **Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept a donation of a Speed Display Sign from the CT Training & Technical Assistance Center (T2 Center) – Traffic Department**

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Resolution adopting Fiscal Structure and Policy Manual

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Zaehring. Mr. Eatman then gave the following presentation: <https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8126/Town-of-Hamden---Fiscal-Policy-Update-Presentation-Final>

Ms. Zaehring asked about travel and if other policies include this. Mr. Eatman said yes, and this updates our current policy. Mr. Farmer asked if the items that were removed were housed in other documents. Mr. Eatman answered yes. Mr. Farmer asked when this had to be voted on. Mr. Eatman said he was hoping tonight, they have an MFAC meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Farmer asked when will the Finance Commission look over this and can it be amended. Mr. Eatman said yes, and that this Thursday is their first meeting. Mr. Farmer asked for a report on this document from the Finance Commission after their meeting Thursday.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 abstention (Anthony)

(Items from Consent Calendar)

6. **Appointment of John J. Keegan to the Economic Development Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2026 (D-6)**

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Mr. Anthony. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked all community members for serving saying it helps them do their job. He then asked how

many from the 6th district are on this commission. Mr. Grace said none currently, this will be the first. There was then some discussion on youth representation about following the same protocol that adults follow to apply and to email the Town Clerk and Mayor.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

7. Bid waiver for technical rescue equipment (Fire Dept. – Vector Rescue – \$28,300.30)

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Mr. Anthony. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked this family for this donation. He said he'll be supporting this tonight but that they need to come up with a process for bid waivers.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Baez closed the meeting at 9:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council