

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
FY 2023-2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS  
May 3, 2023**

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

[https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/cYxfPN9awnOsTOh3GA\\_L1SQEDCIY\\_V30n4fpd28NV09v-3kw0qvJjCTfVFz8OIFZ.BYY1QW4xU8OVCdWK?startTime=1683151130000](https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/cYxfPN9awnOsTOh3GA_L1SQEDCIY_V30n4fpd28NV09v-3kw0qvJjCTfVFz8OIFZ.BYY1QW4xU8OVCdWK?startTime=1683151130000)

**\*\* If you are reviewing a print copy of these minutes and wish to view the meeting recording, please visit the Agenda Center at [www.hamden.com/agendacenter](http://www.hamden.com/agendacenter) and click the MEDIA link found next to this agenda under the meeting date. OR download the digital version of these minutes and click the link above.**

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Legislative Council budget deliberations were held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was called out of recess at 6:11 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez.

Z = Zoom P = in Person

<b><u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u></b>	Dominique Baez (Z)	Paula Irvin (Z)
	Katie Kiely (Z)	Justin Farmer (Z)
	Sarah Gallagher (Z)	Abdul Osmanu (Z)
	Ted Stevens (Z)	Laurie Sweet (Z)
	Kristen Zaehring (Z)	Betty Wetmore (Z)
	Bob Anthony (P)	Cory O'Brien (Z)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeron Alston; Lesley DeNardis; Adrian Webber

**PRESIDING:** Dominique Baez, President

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Brian Murphy, Constituent Services Manager; Brigitte Cogswell, Personnel Director; Nadia Balassone, Human Resources Officer; Kathy Walsh, Benefits Manager; Erica Blue, Administrative Assistant

**PUBLIC INPUT:** There were 2 speakers on Zoom

**Civil Service/Personnel:** (Now known as "Human Resources")

Expenditures:

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open the expenditures. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Sweet.

Ms. Cogswell gave a presentation of the department. She said the name has changed per the new Charter and they are now “Human Resources”. They have a new Human Resources Officer and her name is Nadia Balassone, the Benefits Manager is Kathleen Walsh, and the Administrative Assistant is Erica Blue.

There was discussion on the Civil Service Commission as well as what contracts have started negotiation with Ms. Cogswell saying the Fire contract is being negotiated now, there was an extension to the Police contract so that has been extended until 2024, and 6 other contracts have not been started at all.

Ms. Baez asked about the EEO Officer. Ms. Cogswell said Nadia Balassone is the EEO Officer.

Mr. Farmer asked about the training line saying the request and what the Mayor gave are different. Ms. Cogswell explained how they have the opportunity to do online training free through CCM so that line was able to be lowered.

There was discussion on physical exams. Mr. Anthony asked if these average approximately \$1,600 per person. Ms. Walsh answered about \$800 to \$1,000 for the physical exam, \$350 for police polygraph, and \$450 for psych (per person) Mr. Anthony asked if there were extra points for Hamden residents. Ms. Cogswell said it’s been discussed but not put forth and approved. Mr. Anthony asked about CMERS saying in 2007 people started going to that plan which is going through major changes because they don’t have enough money and he asked how that affects her office. Ms. Cogswell said that’s a finance question.

Mr. O’Brien said it seems physical exams isn’t budgeted fully and said she may need to come back for more. He asked her if there were any others. Ms. Cogswell said no.

There was discussion on Fire Dept. exams and application fees. Mr. Stevens asked if it was reasonable to bump up the application fees. Ms. Cogswell said she hasn’t seen an increase in this and these fees aren’t Town wide, they are only for police and fire.

Ms. Wetmore asked about the ADA Coordinator being zeroed out and asked if we no longer had one. Ms. Cogswell said it was moved to the Building Dept.

Mr. Farmer asked about Temp. Wages and asked if she sees that going up or if it’s a good sound number. Ms. Cogswell said they did add \$5,000 more there because this year they had to come back for a transfer.

Ms. Baez took the vote on expenditures as proposed and they passed unanimously.

Positions:

Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved unanimously as proposed.

Revenues:

Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved as proposed with 1 abstention  
(Zaehringer)

There being no further business Ms. Baez recessed the meeting at 6:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council