

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

May 9, 2022

***To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/-oP2KcRWkYMjpxkvZB4nWUQ6dFhdOi3TQpZ3szgc0gewUEUFFnpxzZhK3pXAmiLgAMuvgWW2s7Sa-gbm.sXOK2TGMYPZcQOO?continueMode=true&_xzm_rtaid=n4cdZ4IpTUa9VIun1au_sQ.1652192546180.d8491c2734b421cad74f55e06d3152d6&_xzm_rhtaid=355

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A special meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, May 9, 2022. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dominique Baez	Jeron Alston (after roll call)
Katie Kiely	Betty Wetmore (after roll call)
Kristen Zaehring	Lesley DeNardis (after roll call)
Abdul Osmanu	Adrian Webber (after roll call)
Ted Stevens	Laurie Sweet
Marjorie Bonadies	Justin Farmer
Cory O'Brien	

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Gallagher; Paula Irvin

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Mike Siciliano, Asst. Public Works Director; Tom Ariola, BOE Finance Director

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: None
(Written comments can be sent to LCpublicinput@hamden.com)

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Ms. Baez read the Land Recognition followed by a moment of silence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

AGENDA: Ms. Baez moved a motion to suspend their rules for tonight's meeting.
The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonadies and approved with 1 opposed (Osmanu)

**1. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget
Public Works - \$100,000**

-- Moved by Ms. Bonadies, seconded by Ms. Kylie. DISCUSSION: Mr. Siciliano explained this transfer saying they're extremely backed up with their tub grinding at the Transfer Station and they need to grind and remove some of the mulch because what happens when it piles up is it starts combusting and starts fires.

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

2. Order amending the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget – Town Clerk's Office

-- Moved by Ms. Kylie, seconded by Mr. O'Brien. DISCUSSION: Mr. Eatman said this was to increase the Document Fees revenue line because they anticipate more revenue than what was budgeted for and to cover fees for Reimbursement and Land Record Indexing. Mr. Stevens asked where the extra \$58,000 he noticed will go. Mr. Eatman said it might be used to cover other things because we're short in other accounts and will be a more detailed discussion with the Council as the year comes to a close.

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

3. Resolution to transfer appropriations and unexpended bond proceeds for West Woods Schools Roof Project

-- Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Ms. Bonadies. DISCUSSION: Mr. Ariola explained this is specifically authorization for West Woods School and taking Dunbar School out as requested by the State. He also said they are no longer doing windows and this is now just the "West Woods Roofing Project"

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

4. Resolution appointing members to the Reapportionment Commission

-- Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Ms. Kylie. DISCUSSION: Ms. Baez read an email she received from Asst. Town Attorney Brendan Sharkey. She then explained how all this has to be done by June 1st and explained how they had to find an unaffiliated voter to step in and fill the last spot they needed as this commission can't have more than 2 of the same party.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 3 opposed (Sweet) (Farmer) (Osmanu) and 1 abstention (DeNardis)

5. Order providing for the appointment of a Mayoral Appointment (Timothy F. Wydra – Deputy Police Chief

-- Moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Brien said this is a difficult spot for anyone stepping into the department right now as they're about to debate the

Police Dept. budget and as they have ongoing conversations of how they imagine public safety and how they ensure the police, fire, and all public responders work to the benefit of everybody in Town. He said he had a nice conversation today with Mr. Wydra and out all that out on the table and Mr. Wydra answered very thoughtfully understanding the fiscal impact of our bargaining agreements and structure of the department, as well as crime in general. Mr. O'Brien said one thing Mr. Wydra said that won over his support is that the police need to have empathy. Mr. O'Brien said he was happy to have that conversation and is happy to appoint a Deputy Police Chief that is forward thinking.

Mr. Farmer said he will be opposed to this. Not because of Mr. Wydra but because the community didn't have enough time to weigh in. He does think they're lucky though to have Wydra step up.

Ms. Bonadies said she will be supporting this.

Mr. Osmanu said he also doesn't have a problem with Mr. Wydra but feels the community didn't have a chance to weigh in.

Mr. Webber said he agrees with everything said and has concerns with public safety as the Chair, but he's had a personal opportunity to work beside Wydra (giving an example of a call involving a mentally disturbed person) and how well Mr. Wydra handled the situation. Mr. Webber said he will be supporting this.

Ms. Sweet said she will be abstaining because she wasn't adequately prepared to vote and also because the community hasn't weighed in.

Ms. Kylie said she echoes what other Council members have said and said she too has had personal interactions with him, as well as her students, and she thinks what's most important is the ability to be seen and treated the same regardless of age. She also said she would like to see some kind of structure set up that includes dialog. Ms. Kylie said she will be supporting this she thinks it's a great appointment.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 2 opposed (Farmer) (Osmanu) and 1 abstention (Sweet)

There being no further business Ms. Baez adjourned the meeting at 6:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council