

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
FY 2023-2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS  
May 15, 2023**

**\*To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** [https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/VgDpX87nkh2d-K7siBui\\_XUZ\\_VOTswIoE7YYl cabWRUtpXwZ1mjY6KbnTla63GVH.BMox7ixySCtdhA-q](https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/VgDpX87nkh2d-K7siBui_XUZ_VOTswIoE7YYl cabWRUtpXwZ1mjY6KbnTla63GVH.BMox7ixySCtdhA-q)

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Legislative Council budget deliberations were held on Monday, May 15, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was called out of recess at 6:12 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez.

Z = Zoom P = in Person

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dominique Baez (P)	Paula Irvin (Z) after roll call
Katie Kiely (P)	Betty Wetmore (Z) after roll call
Laurie Sweet (P)	Lesley DeNardis (Z) at 7:00pm
Bob Anthony (P)	Justin Farmer (Z) at Town Hall
Abdul Osmanu (P)	Sarah Gallagher (Z) after roll call
Kristen Zaehringer (Z)	Jeron Alston (Z) after roll call
Ted Stevens (P)	Cory O'Brien (Z) approx. 7:30pm
Adrian Webber (P)	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**PRESIDING:** Dominique Baez, President

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Karimah Mickens, Town Clerk

**PUBLIC INPUT:** There were no speakers

**Town Clerk:**

Ms. Mickens gave a tour of her office.

**Revenues:**

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open the revenues. Moved by Mr. Webber, seconded by Ms.

Kiely.

Ms. Mickens said the document fees are up and they're at \$623,000 now ytd and she feels comfortable with \$700,000-\$750,000.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to increase 10310-1005 Document Fees to \$750,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webber.

Mr. Stevens asked if this was gross or net revenue. Ms. Mickens said gross. Mr. Stevens said they should also increase fee reimbursement then and Ms. Mickens said yes.

A vote was taken on the motion and it passed with 1 opposed (Wetmore)

A vote was taken on revenues as amended and approved with 1 opposed (Wetmore)

**Expenses:**

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open the expenses. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Irvin.

Ms. Mickens said that adjustments to salaries need to be made due to retirements. The following was the list of salary adjustments:

Asst. Town Clerk - \$79,055.20

Asst. Town Clerk - \$75,761.56

Asst. Town Clerk - \$72,464.96

Land Record Tech. - \$58,499.67

Vital Records Clerk - \$61,641.17

Ms. Wetmore asked if the part time Counter Clerk position was going to full time. Ms. Mickens said yes and explained how the duties became more with the Charter changes. Ms. Wetmore stated she thinks we should do with what we have and said she can't vote for this.

Mr. Anthony asked if the starting salary was for a union position. Ms. Mickens said it's the number she was given.

There was some discussion on salaries and a new full-time counter clerk which Ms. Mickens explained the duties for.

**Positions:**

Ms. Baez requested a motion to open positions. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Farmer.

There was some Charter discussion and Boards & Commission discussion.

Mr. Anthony stated how they haven't been increasing pay and he would rather this position didn't go full-time.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to decrease the 3 Asst. Town Clerk positions and increase the others as follows:

Asst. Town Clerk - \$79,055.20

Asst. Town Clerk - \$75,761.56

Asst. Town Clerk - \$72,464.96

Land Record Tech. - \$58,499.67

Vital Records Clerk - \$61,641.17

The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved with 1 opposed (Wetmore) and 1 abstention (Webber)

Mr. Farmer moved a motion to amend the Town Clerk salary to \$90,000.04. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wetmore.

Mr. Farmer said she does a great job but we have to be consistent. Ms. Mickens explained how you can only have increases in an election year and that this cannot happen again for 2 years. She said she can share information she has on trends of increases also said the Town Clerk has not had an increase since 2017. She also looked at other Towns.

Ms. Baez said she won't support this like the others because it's a voted position and not appointed. Ms. Wetmore said she won't support this either, maybe in 2 years.

A vote was taken and it passed with 1 opposed (Baez) and 2 abstentions (Kiely) (Webber)

A vote was taken on salaries as amended and approved with 3 opposed (Wetmore) (Zaehringer) (DeNardis) and 1 abstention (Webber)

**(back to) expenditures:**

Ms. Gallagher said in 0590 Prof./Tech. there's a note that the Fair rent Commission is in there. Ms. Mickens said it was included as part of her responsibility overseeing the Fair Rent Clerk.

There was discussion on clerk's pay.

Mr. Steven's stated he thinks the increase of \$100 to \$150 is a lot. He then moved a motion to decrease it from \$150 to \$125. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zaehringer.

Mr. Stevens said he went in the middle and this is still a 25% raise. Ms. Gallagher said the Fair Rent Commission Clerk is also budgeted in another department and she doesn't support decreasing this. Ms. Bivens explained her Clerk position is different than the other clerks, hers is a Clerk Typist.

After some more discussion on this Mr. Stevens withdrew his motion and Ms. Zaehringer withdrew her second.

Mr. Alston moved a motion to increase line 11001-0940 by \$109,500. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez and approved with 1 opposed (DeNardis)

There was more discussion on Clerks.

Mr. Alson suggested they leave the Fair Rent Clerk alone in both Community Services and the one here, too minimal.

A vote on expenditures as amended was taken and approved with 2 abstentions (Webber) (O'Brien)

There being no further business Ms. Baez recessed the meeting at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council