

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

**May 16, 2022**

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

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/thj0MyuxOvTYxIhzbzV08PUX0QuYmLEY8hu2PbVo81fkcnSa-9MOdjRpvxDrv\\_LfQwIUvSHBasHcAs0xQ.zdAUwqKMUjuqlB3F?continueMode=true&\\_xzm\\_rtaid=y5Gd0bjVTRmB7XDxd-EdBQ.1652988639622.1a9e67778ea8d13ae2bb2242e88be504&\\_xzm\\_rtaid=826](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/thj0MyuxOvTYxIhzbzV08PUX0QuYmLEY8hu2PbVo81fkcnSa-9MOdjRpvxDrv_LfQwIUvSHBasHcAs0xQ.zdAUwqKMUjuqlB3F?continueMode=true&_xzm_rtaid=y5Gd0bjVTRmB7XDxd-EdBQ.1652988639622.1a9e67778ea8d13ae2bb2242e88be504&_xzm_rtaid=826)

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, May 16, 2022. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Paula Irvin

**PRESIDING:** Dominique Baez, President

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION:** There were no speakers and no written comments submitted. (Written comments can be sent to [LCpublicinput@hamden.com](mailto:LCpublicinput@hamden.com))

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

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

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:** None

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the minutes from May 2, 2022. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. DeNardis and approved unanimously. Ms. Baez then requested a motion for approval of the minutes from May 9, 2022. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Ms. Baez called for a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion regarding potential settlement in a pending legal matter and includes the Legislative Council, Town Attorney Sue Gruen, and Attorney Patrick Allen. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously. In Executive Session @ 7:17pm

Motion to come out of Executive Session @ 7:45 pm was moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** Ms. Baez moved a motion for approval of the consent calendar, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

- 1. Appointment of Toure Diggs to the Arts Commission for a term to expire May 31, 2023 (D-7)**
- 2. Appointment of Anthony Griego from an alternate to a full member on the Historic Properties Commission with a term to expire September 30, 2025**
- 3. Appointment of David Johnson from a full member to an alternate on the Historic Properties Commission for a term to expire September 30, 2023**
- 4. Appointment of Gregory G. Seaman to the Clean & Green Commission for a term to expire November 1, 2023**
- 5. Reappointment of Michael F. Horn to the Natural Resources & Open Space Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025**
- 6. Reappointment of Philip G. Kent to the Ethics Board for a term to expire January 31, 2027 (D-6)**
- 7. Order authorizing acceptance and expenditure of additional cold weather expense funds from United Way of Greater New Haven - \$50,000 (Warming Center-Keefe Community Center)**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

1. Be it resolved that the Hamden Legislative Council does hereby provide its consent to settle the case of Allen v. O'Neil, et al., as recommended by the Town's legal counsel in Executive Session on this date

-- Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

2. Order amending the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget (Community & Youth Services)

-- Moved by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Ms. Wetmore said she won't be voting for this as the Town can't afford new positions. She said it may save money this year but what about future? Plus it oversees positions that are supposed to report right to the Mayor.

Ms. DeNardis said she agrees with Wetmore and said they are not in a position to consider this, the fiscal problems are too severe at this time. She said even if we had the money she's not convinced that this organizational structure would serve any better than the previous one so she won't be voting in favor of this.

Mr. Stevens asked where the money comes from for this. Ms. Baez said it comes from the department head that was in there and consolidated and they saved a little bit of money.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 5 opposed (Wetmore) (Farmer) (DeNardis) (Bonadies) (Zaehring) – 2 abstentions (Osmanu) (Gallagher) and 1 absent (Irvin)

3. Order amending the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget (Planning, Economic Development)

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Ms. Wetmore said she doesn't understand this whole structure and will again be voting no.

Mr. Farmer asked if these responsibilities have already been shifted to their perspective departments. Ms. Baez said this particular responsibility has and this person now and took on the spot of the economic development role that was needed to be filled. Mr. Farmer asked when that took effect. Ms. Baez said months ago after hearing from the Director that they were very pleased with the work that has been going on and because they were understaffed and needed that person.

Ms. Kiely asked for clarity saying her understanding is this person left the arts position and went to the economic development position several months ago and this is moving the funds over there. Mr. Grace said this person is working in under economic development at the moment and doing the tasks that are needed there.

Ms. Gallagher asked for a point of clarification asking is the person already working as a digital media marketing coordinator. Mr. Grace said the person has moved their office to under economic development and is working under the direction of the director of economic development in general now and doing a lot in that position, including some of the work they had previously done in terms of creating digital flyers etc. Ms. Gallagher asked about a job description and how it works to work under one not approved. Mr. Grace said it's not a union position and they are written in general enough ways where they have administrative flexibility to get the job done. After a little more discussion Ms. Gallagher said same as in the earlier vote, she doesn't feel the budget is approved and this should have waited so she'll be abstaining from this vote as well.

Mr. Farmer said he is frustrated with the process that wasn't followed. He then asked if the cost savings were for 1 year or throughout future budgets. Mr. Grace said it's a permanent cost savings.

Ms. Zaehring said she thinks it's premature to vote on this before the budget process and she will vote no.

A vote was taken and the item passed with 6 opposed (Farmer) (Osmanu) (Zaehring) (DeNardis) (Bonadies) (Wetmore) and 1 abstention (Gallagher)

4. Ordinance adopting Chapter 13: Rules of Procure for the removal of a member of any appointed Board, Commission or relevant position or panel of alternates  
-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Baez. DISCUSSION: Ms. DeNardis said she will be voting against this as she is still concerned with the removal process. Ms. Gruen then explained the process that is now in the revised ordinance.

Mr. Farmer asked what type of felony. Ms. Gruen said they could add something with an amendment. Ms. Gallagher said she wants to ensure that the summons should include the appeals process. Mr. Stevens said he might prefer majority over 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s. Ms. Zaehring said she thinks paragraph A should reference 13.03 and not 13.01. After hearing everyone Ms. Gruen said it seems the changes to amend are change 13.01 A to 13.03 (typo). 13.01B "process for appeal", and 13.03 C&D add "during the current term". **Mr. Farmer moved a motion to amend** this with Ms. Gruen's suggestions. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved with 2 abstentions (Wetmore) (DeNardis)

**Mr. Stevens moved a motion** to change 2/3 to a majority vote of the entire Council in section 13.02 A "appeal". The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer.

Ms. Bonadies said she doesn't like writing ordinances on the fly and she'd rather table this and come back to it. She said this isn't how you create an ordinance and she will not vote for it like this.

Mr. O'Brien said if we're talking about over turning a process of the Mayor he thinks it should be 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s and he won't support this motion.

Ms. DeNardis said she agrees with Ms. Bonadies and would like to see it on one sheet down the road.

After some more discussion Mr. Stevens said he changed his mind and withdrew his motion. Mr. Farmer withdrew his second.

Ms. Zaehring said she would be comfortable tabling this to see a clean copy and she **moved a motion to table** this item until the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonadies. Mr. Alston said there doesn't seem to be a pressing matter so he supports tabling. A vote was taken to table this item and approved with 1 opposed (Baez) and 2 abstentions (Kiely) (Farmer)

#### **TABLED ITEM**

**Information Items:** Mr. Eatman gave a brief update on these contractual items. He said there is approximately \$53,000 remaining and more retirements coming.

Accrued Benefits/Retirement – Fire Dept. - \$42,022.59

Accrued Benefits/Retirement – Police Dept. - \$45,869.22

Accrued Benefits/Retirement – Police Dept. - \$47,951.40

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Appointment of Helen D. Ward to the Civil Service Commission for a term to expire August 31, 2023

-- Ms. Baez announced she was adding this item to the agenda for approval tonight saying the commission has been having trouble with a quorum. She then requested a motion for approval. Moved by Ms. Zaehring, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved unanimously.

There being no further business Ms. Baez moved a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiely and the meeting adjourned at 9:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council