

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

July 17, 2023

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https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/BD2xbesMrrHpQ_b335NMj5TTbUaEqZI7PMrTpeep2gAwTao_lqJP50ecCI9agSU.OKIUieE7DwDOPE5V

(After their recess the regular meeting starts again at Time Code 02:29:08)

**** 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 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.**

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, July 17, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took 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)
 Jeron Alston (Z) Katie Kiely (P)
 Lesley DeNardis (Z) Betty Wetmore (Z) after roll call
 Laurie Sweet (P) Adrian Webber (Z)
 Bob Anthony (P) Kristen Zaehring (Z)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ted Stevens, Justin Farmer; Sarah Gallagher; Paula Irvin; Cory O'Brien

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Tim Wydra, Acting Police Chief; Jeffrey Naples, Fire Chief; Carol Hazen, Manager of Grants & Capital Programs

Ms. Zaehring moved a motion to suspend the rules for the tax refund matters that weren't heard previously in committee that had no quorum. Ms. Baez explained recessing tonight and coming back to approve them after they go through committee tonight.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There was 1 (in person) speaker

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: None

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS: None

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the June 20, 2023 minutes. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Ms. Baez moved #11 from the consent calendar to the regular agenda and then requested a motion for approval for the remaining items. Moved by Mr. Osmanu, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously.

1. **Appointment of Brett M. Prestia to the Library Board for a term to expire January 31, 2028 (R-9)**
2. **Appointment of Mary Jean Brown to the Library Board for a term to expire January 31, 2028 (D-5)**
3. **Appointment of Cynthia Marie Schwarz to the Hamden Plains Cemetery Committee for a term to expire October 15, 2024**
4. **Appointment of Ryan Ott to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2026 (D-6)**
5. **Reappointment of Ganiyu S. Mimiko to the Human Rights & Relations Commission for a term to expire April 30, 2025 (U-1)**
6. **Reappointment of Lisa Crutchfield Diggs to the Technology Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2026 (D-7)**
7. **Order authorizing the Brundage Rain Garden and Barrel Installation Project**
8. **Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to extend the License Agreement with Yale University**
9. **Order approving and authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Hamden Public Library to enter into an agreement with Patron Point, Inc.**
10. **Order to accept and expend grant funds from the Greater New Haven Green Fund**
12. **Order approving and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with ARC Mechanical – Public Works (Ice Rink)**
13. **Order to accept and expend grant funds from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation 2023 Highway Safety Project Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement**

14. Resolution authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept the donation of an electric wheelchair – Elderly Services Department

15. Resolution of support for Eli’s Garden of Healing

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Order to accept and expend grant funds from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection – CT FY2023 ARPA Auto Theft and Violence Program

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Webber. DISCUSSION: Chief Wydra explained how this grant will cover overtime expenses by adding additional law enforcement personnel out on the street to target areas using productive patrols, as well as to conduct surveillance, investigate groups and individuals responsible for auto theft and violent crimes in areas where these incidents occur. Mr. Osmanu asked for a better mapped out version of the motor vehicle accident report they received. Chief Wydra said he will provide that as soon as he can. He also mentioned that Dixwell, between Putnam and Benham have a lot of accidents and that they’ll be in that area for sure.

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

2. Resolution authorizing the Town of Hamden to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the use of State Homeland Security Grant Funding and Custodial Ownership of Regional Assets in DEMHS Region

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Zaehringer. DISCUSSION: Chief Naples explained how the Council had signed a Resolution in November of 2022 to enter into an agreement with DEMHS for asset allocations here in Hamden. He said we currently have two and they're in an enclosed trailer. One is a 15 by 30 foot shelter that has an HVAC system to be able to provide air conditioning and heating to the unit itself and is something that they've practiced multiple times with the CERT to put up and disassemble and it works very well for a couple opportunities to be able to provide it across region to as an asset. Ms. Baez asked if that was the only asset. Chief Naples said that currently is two separate assets, and those are the only two assets at this point in time the Town of Hamden possesses. (Chief Naples audio became unintelligible)

Mr. Anthony mentioned the second Whereas was missing the word “to”. Ms. Gruen said it’s a clerical error and the substance of the approval is there, but they could approve it with the word “to”.

A vote was taken with correction and the item passed unanimously.

3. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget – Police Dept. – \$176,998.56 (Vehicle Replacement)

-- Moved by Ms. Zaehringer, seconded by Ms. Kiely. DISCUSSION: Chief Wydra explained this was a transfer into vehicle replacement to purchase 3 vehicles. He explained how he has not had any vehicles added in 5 to 6 years and that they’re

antiquated, not repairable anymore, and beyond their life expectancy. Mr. Anthony asked if these were electric vehicles. The Chief answered not electric, but fuel efficient. Mr. Anthony expressed his concern that if they were electric we wouldn't have the capacity or the facilities to recharge those vehicles.

Ms. Sweet thanked the Chief for going with hybrid vehicles.

Ms. Gruen explained this uses last years funding and explained the additional language she put into the Order that allows this to be done and said this is needed for auditor requirements.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to amend to the revised language, seconded by Ms. Kiely.

Mr. Alston asked how does this effect the capital budget they have right now. Ms. Gruen said this is from last years operating budget, but a capital purchase. Mr. Eatman said it's in the capital plan, but it is not in the capital budget.

Mayor Garrett explained they have a small capital budget that went to the Council for this meeting tonight and that it's enough to get through the fall and that the engineering department is using some of its funding to put together a more comprehensive capital plan. She said a capital plan spans several years, whereas a capital budget is for immediate use, meaning it's for allocating and appropriating the funds to spend. The capital plan is to give you an idea of what you need for the next several years. Mr. Alston said he knows they spent time on a capital budget and not a capital plan, we called it a budget, but what he's asking is have we made any allocations outside of that? You mentioned the paving which he knows we normally do but police cars were in that budget at that point. We have not done any allocation at that point of police cars? Mayor Garrett said if you're talking about the document that was included with the operating budget this past spring, that was a capital plan so nothing was appropriated, a capital plan, as in the Finance Committee tonight, comes with a funding source and there were no funding sources in the plan you saw in the Spring.

A vote was taken on the order with the amended language and it passed unanimously.

A vote was taken on the item as amended and approved unanimously.

From consent calendar:

11. Order to approve the Annual Action Plan and to authorize the Mayor to apply, accept and expend Community Development Block Grant Funds in accordance with the Annual Action Plan Program Year 49, Fiscal Year 2023-2024

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Ms. Hazen how they developed a spending plan on the entitlement award of \$447,883, plus \$55,000 in program income that we've received, for a total of a little over \$503,000. The spending plan includes 20% of the entitlement award that would go for administrative expenses and 15% of the total that would go to public service agencies that have gone through an application process. They have several other line items and are looking to increase the supply of affordable housing and what that would mean is to create 7 home ownership units and 3 affordable rental units in the CDBG target area which is the Newhall Community. They also allocated funds to provide infrastructure improvements in the CDBG target area and those improvements include things like sidewalks, lighting improvements, traffic calming, trees, signage, and street furniture. We have earmarked funds to promote economic development, and the idea is to is to leverage this funding with the funding that was allocated through the ARPA funds that were allocated for

small business grants so they're looking to put those funds together and create a small business grant program.

Ms. Baez said she does see in the proposal the 6 projects but in the past something that she and other council members have really celebrated is the first-time homebuyer program but she doesn't see it here. She would like to put a little bit towards that and help a few families get their homes. Ms. Hazen explained why it looks different than in the past and how they did it this time. Ms. Baez said she appreciates the explanation and all the hard work that's gone into this.

Ms. Kiely said she echoes Ms. Baez and also appreciates the work and she thinks they need to make sure people have affordable housing, but also that first time homebuyers have that assistance.

Ms. Kiely then moved a motion to move \$20,000 to be for the first-time home buyer program. Ms. Baez then said the motion is to move \$20,000 from the creation of affordable housing to a new line for first time homebuyer assistance, down payment assistance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Ms. Baez expressed her support of this. She then took a vote on the amendment and it passed with 1 abstention (Anthony)

Ms. Baez then took the vote on the item as amended and it passed with 2 abstentions (Anthony) (Wetmore)

Information Items:

1. Accrued Benefits/Retirement – Elderly Services Coordinator and Municipal Agent
-- Mr. Eatman explained this contractual item and said there was \$246,194.87 left after this.

Ms. Baez called the meeting into recess at 8:12pm.

Ms. Baez called the meeting back into session at 9:22pm.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to add to add to their agenda item numbers 1,2,3 and 5 from tonight's Finance Committee, number 6 from the Human Services Committee, and number 1 from the Municipal Planning & Properties Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved with 1 abstention (Zaehring)

Items from Finance Committee:

1. Refund of property and motor vehicle taxes collected prior to July 1, 2022 – (11) totaling \$16,524.73
-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved unanimously.
2. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 – (9) totaling \$20,410.93
-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved unanimously.

3. Refund of motor vehicle taxes collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 (35) totaling \$7,380.47

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved unanimously.

5. Order granting a previously waived exemption

-- Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously.

Item from Human Services Committee:

6. Order to approve FY 2024 and 2025 Agreement between the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Town of Hamden Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Local Coordinating Agency

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

Item from Municipal Planning & Properties Committee:

1. Order authorizing revision to State Project No. 61-152; Federal Aid Project No. 6061 (006) Skiff Street over Route 15

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved with 1 abstention (Wetmore)

Mr. Anthony asked about filling the positions of the Chief of Police and the Assistant Fire Chief. Mr. Grace said they're having discussions and interviews and will present something to Council. Mr. Anthony stated it's imperative these positions get filled.

There being no further business, Ms. Baez announced the meeting adjourned at 9:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council