

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

August 21, 2023

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, August 21, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 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 (Z)
Katie Kiely (P)	Bob Anthony (P)
Justin Farmer (Z)	Cory O'Brien (Z)
Laurie Sweet (Z)	Adrian Webber (Z)
Ted Stevens (Z)	Sarah Gallagher (P)
Paula Irvin (Z)	

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeron Alston; Lesley DeNardis; Kristen Zaehring; Betty Wetmore

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 7 speakers in person and 1 speaker on Zoom

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President Pro Tempore Farmer mentioned keeping our hearts and minds to the families on Shelton Avenue where there were more shootings this weekend with one fatality.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Fair Rent report: Mr. Grace gave the following report.

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8784/Fair-Rent-Report-08-21-2023>

Ms President US presentation: Program presentation given by Gopika Sheth.

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8789/Ms-President-US-Program>

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ms. Baez requested a motion to go into an Executive Session with the Council, Labor Attorney Nick Grello, and Town Attorney Sue Gruen to discuss the items on the Personnel Committee. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved unanimously.

In Executive Session at 8:37pm

Ms. Baez requested a motion to come out of Executive Session. Moved by Mr. Anthony, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

Out of Executive Session at 9:11pm

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the August 7, 2023 minutes. Moved by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Mr. Farmer requested #4 be pulled to the regular agenda. Ms. Baez then requested a motion for approval of the consent calendar for items #1,2,3,5 & 6. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously.

- 1. Refund of property and motor vehicle taxes collected prior to July 1, 2023 – (31) totaling \$10,033.87**
- 2. Refund of property taxes collected between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 – Overpayments on current grand list - (3) totaling \$5,383.40**
- 3. Refund of motor vehicle taxes collected between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 – Overpayments on current grand list – (34) totaling \$4,894.12**
- 5. Order authorizing interdepartmental transfer 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget (BOE Capital Non-Recurring Account) - \$799,999**
- 6. Resolution establishing fees for organic material at the Transfer Station**

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Order amending the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget

-- Ms. Baez asked the Mayor's office to explain this item. Mr. Eatman explained this was additional revenue received from the State in the amount of \$434,009. He said

they wanted to put \$26,500 to the Risk Manager salary, \$10,000 to Traffic salary and the rest into E&C.

Mr. Farmer said he'd like to divide the question into 3 parts. Mr. O'Brien said he'd second that. Ms. Baez took the vote on dividing the question and it passed with 2 opposed (Baez) (Stevens) and 1 abstention (Anthony)

Ms. Baez requested a motion to first accept the \$434,009 of additional funds. Moved by Ms. Gallagher, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved with 1 abstention (Anthony)

Ms. Baez requested a motion to put \$26,500 to the Risk Manager salary. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Kiely. DISCUSSION: Mr. Anthony stated he thought at budget time they decided on no raises. Mr. Farmer asked if this would be enough for a Risk Manager salary, he doesn't want them to come back asking for a stipend. Mr. Grace said he believes this will be enough to recruit successfully. Ms. Gallagher asked where they're at in the hiring position. Mr. Grace said it will go through Civil Service and get posted. Right now there is a previous Risk Manager in the position as a consultant but they have no interest in remaining in the position.

A vote was taken and it passed with 1 opposed (Anthony) and 1 abstention (Webber)

Ms. Baez requested a vote to put \$10,000 to Council #4, Traffic. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Baez. DISCUSSION: Mr. Anthony asked what this represents. Mr. Grace said it's for a Traffic Dept. member. Mr. Anthony asked if it's a contractual agreement. Mr. Grace said there is an agreement that goes with this. Ms. Gallagher asked if it's been seen by the Personnel Committee. Ms. Baez said that committee has the MOA. Mr. Anthony stated he doesn't know how he can vote on something without seeing the agreement.

Ms. Gallagher moved a motion to add the \$10,000 to E&C until after the Personnel Committee sees it. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiley. Ms. Baez announced the item has been amended and took a vote that passed unanimously.

Ms. Baez then took a vote on the item as amended and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Baez said their third motion is for the \$397,509 to E&C. Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved unanimously.

2. Order authorizing interdepartmental transfer 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget (BOE Capital Non-Recurring Account) - \$4,015,000

-- Ms. Baez said it was asked by the Finance Dept. to table this but she is going to open it and table it after hearing from the Finance Dept. Ms. Baez then moved a motion to open this item, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Mr. Eatman explained how they wanted to postpone this item until September 18th to give finance enough time and go over things with the BOE to make sure the Council receives the most accurate information possible.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to table this item until the September 18th meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anthony and approved with 1 opposed (Gallagher)

(pulled from consent calendar)

4. Reappointment of James Pascarella to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to expire January 31, 2026 (D-8)

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Kiely. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked all who serve on our Boards and Commissions, it's deeply appreciated.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

Information Items: None

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council