

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 20, 2021**

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, September 20, 2021. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M. by the Council President. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Schomaker	Dominique Baez
Brad Macdowall	Jody Clouse (after roll call)
Jeron Alston	Valerie Horsley (after roll call)
Adrian Webber	Justin Farmer
Kathleen Schomaker	Berita Rowe-Lewis
Kristin Dolan (left mtg. at approx.8:30pm)	
Austin Cesare (left mtg. approx. 9:25pm)	
Betty Wetmore (left mtg. approx. 9:25pm)	

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marjorie Bonadies; Athena Gary

PRESIDING: Kathleen Schomaker, President Pro Tempore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Scott Jackson, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Adam Sendroff, Chief of Staff; John Sullivan, Chief of Police; Mark Austin, Town Engineer; Craig Cesare, Public Works & Parks Director; Ken Kelley, Personnel Director; Eric Johnson, Economic Development Director/Town Planner; Tom Cruess and Aaron Hoffman, NWNH

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Ms. Schomaker said the Library Director (Melissa Canham-Clyne) is asking them to come to a Library Public Input Session set up inclusively for Council

members and will be held on September 28th saying they all should have received the invitation in their email. She said it will be facilitated by the Nationally Recognized Library Leader, Maureen Sullivan.

Ms. Schomaker said she's also happy to announce that our 4th electrical vehicle event will be happening this Saturday from 11:00 to 3:00 and will be held in the library parking lot. Lastly, she said the University of Hartford is running a series called "The Two Connecticut's" conversation about race and place and it's a State wide conversation.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS: 560 Newhall Street update: Mr. Hoffman said the plan is conceived and brought forth the same as it was in 2016. There are a total of 87 units. Phase I is the rehab of the Middle School Building with 57 units for that building. Phase II is new construction of 30 Town House style apartments between the Middle School and the street. The plan proposed to demolish the gymnasium and build a new Community Center open to the residents and the community at large. A consultant was brought in and the rehab of the facility would cost between 5.5 and 6 million dollars and they don't believe the project can support the rehab of the gym from both the funding phase and the operational phase. The unit mix will be 80% affordable and 20% market rate. Once approved they'll go out for funding from the State in January/February of 2022 with funding approval sometime around April, then they'll finish the plans and bid out the project looking to start construction of Phase I in 2023. Construction will be between 12-18 months depending on the market, and Phase II will proceed somewhere between 6-8 months behind Phase I.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Schomaker said they have a few sets of minutes to approve tonight.

August 2, 2021: Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Mr. Alston and approved with 1 abstention (Dolan)

August 9, 2021: Moved by Mr. Alston, seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved with 1 abstention (Dolan)

August 11, 2021: Moved by Mr. Alston, seconded by Mr. Webber and approved with 2 abstentions (Dolan) (Farmer)

August 16, 2021: Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Ms. Schomaker said the Consent Calendar will now include numbers 4, 5 & 6 from the Regular Agenda and requested a motion for approval. Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Mr. Alston. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Farmer asked if number 4 and 8 can be pulled from the consent and numbers 4, 5 & 6 that were just put there could remain on the Regular Agenda. Ms. Schomaker agreed and took a vote with those changes and it passed unanimously.

1. Refund of Property Taxes collected between to July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022

– (1) totaling \$2,705.38

2. **Refund of Property Taxes collected prior to July 1, 2021 – (20) totaling \$8,479.01**
3. **Refund of Motor Vehicle Taxes collected between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 – (23) totaling \$5,527.74**
5. **Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a gift of a bench on the Farmington Canal Greenway in memory of Joseph Lee**
6. **Resolution of official intent to reimburse expenditures from the proceeds of tax exempt obligations for the planning, design, renovation, improvement,, construction and acquisition of Town roads, parking lots, guardrails and sidewalks; drainage repairs and upgrades; fire department and apparatus; and improvements to the Miller Memorial Library, Brundage Branch Library, and Whitneyville Branch Library in the maximum amount of \$4,630,000**
7. **Order authorizing the Town of Hamden to enter into an agreement with Lexis/Nexis**
9. **Order authorizing the Hamden Public Library to accept and expend up to \$100,000 in funds from the State of Connecticut, Connecticut State Library Board**

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Order authorizing the repaving of Hogan Road

-- Moved by Mr. A. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Wetmore. DISCUSSION: Mr. A. Cesare said the administration has to do a better job with roads connecting to Quinnipiac University and having them pay their share. He said they should be helping us with cost and not outing it all on the taxpayers. Mr. Farmer asked in terms of paving we've seen this year's list and asked what about next year. Mr. C. Cesare said last year's list became this years. Mr. Farmer asked if we have a plan for next year. Mr. Austin explained how they schedule many years ahead of time and explained how they pick the worst of the worse. Mr. Alston asked if there's been a precedent for the university to help us with roads. Mr. Jackson said no. Mr. Alston said he thinks there should be a partnership with Q.U. and the Town. A vote was taken and the item passed with 4 opposed (Webber) (Cesare) (Dolan) (Alston) and 1 abstention (Baez)

(Ms. Dolan is now absent from the meeting)

2. Ordinance regulating facial recognition technology

-- Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Mr. Macdowall. DISCUSSION: Mr. Macdowall thanked everyone who was a part of bringing this legislation to the floor and that he's excited for this. He then asked Ms. Horsley if she was okay with the new language and she said yes. Mr. Macdowall then moved a motion to adjust the language as amended by Ms. Gruen. (The amendment was in 105.02 (A) after Hamden Official "acting in their official capacity" was added) The amendment

was seconded by Mr. Cesare and approved with 1 opposed (Farmer) A vote was then taken on the item as amended and approved unanimously.

3. Order amending the 2021-2022 Budget and establishing position Benefits Manager – Personnel Dept.

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Horsley. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer asked Mr. Kelley why he needed this. Mr. Kelley explained the increase in the responsibilities this position has taken on over the last 3 years and cited a list of the additional duties. Mr. Farmer asked what the range before was. Mr. Kelley said it was a 7 and is now a 10. Mr. Farmer asked to see arrange chart. Mr. Kelley said he didn't have that tonight but could verbally give him the ranges. He said a range 7 would be \$50,641 at step 1 and \$63,301 at step 4. He said a range 10 would be \$58,622 at step 1 and \$73,277 at step 4. A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 opposed (Dolan) and 1 abstention (Farmer)

4. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2021-2022 FY Budget - Fire Dept. \$15,000 (Overtime)

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Mr. Macdowall. DISCUSSION: After a brief discussion on the events that caused this overtime with Mr. Jackson explaining the unusual event costing \$8,000 that we normally wouldn't spend a vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

5. Order to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hamden and UPSEU/COPS (Police Union) – Officer Justin Martin

-- Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Wetmore and approved with 1 opposed (Farmer)

6. Order authorizing the Hamden Police Dept. to accept and expend funds from the Office of Policy and Management for Corona Relief Funds

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Horsley. DISCUSSION: After an explanation and some discussion on these funds Mr. Farmer stated he wasn't comfortable with ala cart. A vote was taken and the item passed with 2 opposed (Farmer) (Macdowall)

(Pulled from Consent Calendar)

4. Appointment and reappointment of Anthony M. Cardo to the Veterans Commission for an appointment to a vacancy expiring October 26, 2021 and a reappointment to expire October 26, 2024

-- Moved by Mr. Alston, seconded by Ms. Wetmore. DISCUSSION: Ms. Horsley moved a motion to TABLE this item until Mr. Farmer returns. seconded by Ms. Wetmore. Upon Mr. Farmer's immediate return both Ms. Horsley and Ms. Wetmore withdrew their motions. Mr. Farmer thanked Mr. Cardo for his dedication and service and to all those who serve our country. He also thanked everyone that serves on our Boards and Commissions. A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 abstention (Farmer)

8. Order authorizing the Town of Hamden on behalf of the Police Department to accept and expend a donation from the estate of Edward Richard Vreeland

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Horsley. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer extended his gratitude to the family of the fallen officer. He then asked what the funds would be used for. Chief Sullivan said it hasn't been earmarked for anything specific yet and there wasn't any specific usage dedication from the family either. Mr. Macdowall asked how we can accept funds when we're not voting on something specific. Ms. Gruen said it goes into the gift fund and follows purchasing procedures. Mr. Macdowall asked when this money comes out of the gift fund that it comes to Council. Ms. Gruen said the expenditures of gift funds are all subject to purchasing procedures and charter requirements. Mr. Macdowall said he's unable to vote for this until he knows how the funds will be used, but if came back at a later time he'd vote for it. He'll be voting no this evening without a plan. A vote was taken and the item passed with 2 opposed (Macdowall) (Farmer)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Approval of 2021-2022 Capital Plan

-- Ms. Schomaker asked that they concentrate on Engineering tonight. Mr. Austin then went over his power point and reminded them that the Drainage Repair & Upgrade for \$100,000 was already approved in August. Mr. Farmer asked if matching funds don't come in do we still work on these projects. Mr. Austin explained how they work on designs for the projects as they come in and as funds come forth they designate the money towards them. Mr. Alston asked about the amount covered by grant and the amount we're bonding. Mr. Austin said they're asking for our portion not the grant portion. After a lengthy discussion on some of the items Mr. Jackson said if approved tonight they would issue a declaration of intent to reimburse borrowing from the general fund. Ms. Baez said she wonders if we could set the Pipe Crawler Inspection Camera aside and check with neighboring Towns. Mr. Austin said he has designs to start and made this a priority but if it holds up his money he'd be willing to drop the \$75,000 off. There some discussion on possibly renting one and Mr. Austin said he'd look into that. Mr. Jackson went over how it's done in toto and explained going out to bond and debt service. Mr. Alston asked if it comes back to this body before bonding with an amount and Mr. Jackson said absolutely.

Ms. Baez then moved a motion to approve Engineering's Capital Budget without the Pipe Crawler Inspection Camera. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webber. Mr. Jackson said that makes the GIS line now \$123,000. A vote was taken and approved with 2 opposed (Cesare) (Farmer)

Ms. Schomaker then requested a motion to postpone the remainder of the Capital until the October meeting. Moved by Ms. Horsley, seconded by Ms. Clouse and approved unanimously.

(Mr. Cesare and Ms. Wetmore are now absent from the meeting)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Appointment of Kristen Zaehringer to fill the vacancy in the First District

-- Moved by Mr. Macdowall, seconded by Mr. Farmer. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked Ms. Zaehringer for joining this body and welcomed her aboard. Ms. Clouse said she had a great conversation with Ms. Zaehringer over the summer and after that conversation she is definitely confident that she has Hamden's best interest at heart and she wished her the best. Ms. Schomaker said she would like to add that she's had a couple conversation with Ms. Zaehringer and one sit down meeting and she is very encouraged that she is going to be a valuable asset and addition to this Council and she's highly excited to welcome her and vote on her appointment. Ms. Baez thanked her for being part of the team and welcomed her and wished her luck. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Zaehringer said she is humbled and honored to join this body and looks forward to working with them.

There being no further business Ms. Schomaker requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Mr. Macdowall and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council