

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

September 26, 2023

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

https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/I9IRMt7liHx45KsIT924HG53s0UOsrE2GNNI86uEG_wiXsoZQqIRhM0X47gxip5g.ucEM1mtN6-DdpoUY

**** 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 Tuesday, September 26, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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)	Bob Anthony (P)
Katie Kiely (P)	Jeron Alston (Z)
Justin Farmer (P)	Abdul Osmanu (P)
Laurie Sweet (P)	Adrian Webber (Z) (after roll call)
Ted Stevens (Z)	Sarah Gallagher (P)
Paula Irvin (Z)	Cory O'Brien (Z)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristen Zaehring; Betty Wetmore; Lesley DeNardis

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Carol Hazen, Director of Grants & Capital Projects; Karen Bivens, ARC&W Director

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There were 2 speakers in person, 4 speakers on Zoom, and 1 written comment submitted which can be read here:

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8970/9-26-2023>

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President Pro Tempore Farmer said he wanted to highlight

that it's Hispanic Heritage Month and take the opportunity to highlight and honor those in our Latin community, and the contributions that they make to our history.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Community Development Block Grant PY50 Annual Action Plan:

Ms. Hazen explained that these are funds received annually to create suitable living environments and increase affordable housing availability, primarily for low and moderate income residents, and that they are now beginning to develop the Action Plan for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. She said they will hold a series of public input sessions and the first will be on October 18, 2023 at the Keefe Center from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. and the second one will be December 6, 2023 held virtually on Zoom. She explained how they receive approximately \$450,000 annually and are now drafting a draft plan, basically based on what they've done in the past few years. The draft plan will be posted online no later than October 3rd and residents can have a look at that plan and see what's being proposed to spend the funds on.

Ms. Hazen said they also award about 15% of the annual award which is sub granted out to public service agencies throughout Town and that our public service agency application period will open on January 2, 2024, and that application period will close on January 31, 2024. She said if anyone has any questions they can email her at chazen@hamden.com

Click below for more information:

Timeline:

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8993/PY50-AAP-Timeline>

In person Public Hearing info:

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8992/In-Person-Public-Hearing-Oct-18>

Virtual Public Hearing info:

<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/8994/Virtual-Public-Hearing-Dec-6>

Fair Rent Commission Report:

Ms. Bivens reported they are moving along with hearings. The Town Clerk is working with the Mayor's Office, I.T., and the Council to establish some standardization for the process of meeting agendas and posting online, as well as working with our clerks to make a more efficient and streamlined and transparent way to do so.

Ms. Bivens said during the last meeting the commission members agreed to work on issues with the non-compliance of orders by the parties involved, ie. the landlords and owners of the properties, and they're also working on notices to the housing port. She then said they have an upcoming meeting on October 5th and more hearings will be held then. She also said if they have any questions she thinks reviewing the minutes of the Fair Rent Commission meetings would be helpful for that and if there are any other questions please let her know.

Mr. Farmer asked for the number of people served. Ms. Bivens said she doesn't currently, but a few weeks ago she did send over a report that gave the up to date until that point and the meeting that occurred this past week on Thursday. Those cases were either settled or continued, so those

will be updated for the next go around.

There was then some discussion about some people having trouble getting onto the meetings. Ms. Bivens said they are making every effort to make sure that the meetings are accessible and if anyone in the community is having any issues, she welcomes them to let her know what those issues are so they can be resolved.

There was then a lengthy discussion on the procedure and the open position in the department. There was also mention of the ordinance to follow.

Ms. Kiely suggested that on Monday night (October 2nd) they start at 6:00pm and invite the commissioners, tenants, landlords, and the public, to come and have a conversation with them. Ms. Baez then announced there'd be dinner at 6:00pm on October 2nd and childcare provided. She also announced they would do it again on October 16th at 6:00pm, informally and before the record of their 7:00pm meeting.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval of the minutes from September 18, 2023. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved with 1 abstention (Osmanu)

CONSENT CALENDAR: Mr. Farmer requested numbers 3 and 5 be pulled from consent. After pulling those items from consent Ms. Baez requested a motion for approval without them. Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously.

1. **Appointment of Amber Patrice Woodward to the Library Board for a term to expire January 31, 2029 (D-3)**
2. **Reappointment of Thomas W. Parlapiano to the Tree Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2026**
4. **Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a gift of a bench on the Farmington Canal Greenway in memory of Michael Pantera (Site #18)**
6. **Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept and expend funding up to \$200,000 in State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Funds for Pavement Repair and Replacement Program (Project 062-23-020)**
7. **Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept and expend funding up to \$300,000 in State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Funds for Pavement Repair and Replacement Program (Project 062-23-030)**

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Order amending the 2023-2024 budget and authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement to increase the wage rate – Electronic Technician/Traffic Position (James Mesner)

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Mr. Osmanu. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer said he usually doesn't talk about positions, but this person goes above and beyond and he wants it known that it's seen and it's appreciated. He will vote in favor of this but will not vote in favor for any more stipends without a plan.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

Items pulled from the Consent Calendar:

3. Reappointment of Arnold Mann to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2025 (D-9)

-- Moved by Mr. Farmer, seconded by Mr. Osmanu. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer thanked all the community members who serve.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

5. Order approving grant funds, increasing the agreement between the Town of Hamden CT- VIP and amending the 2023-2024 budget, Hamden Youth Diversion Project – Youth Services Bureau (\$23,000)

-- Moved by Ms. Kiely, seconded by Ms. Baez. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer asked if there was a breakdown for this. Ms. Bivens said \$21,000 of the \$23,000 was for a part-time case worker to help with additional cases. Mr. Farmer said he hopes the program goes well and that we can support our youth and families first in need.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council