

Minutes of the February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting of the West Haven City Council in the Council Chambers 3rd floor, West Haven City Hall

The Regular Meeting of the West Haven City Council was held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00p.m. in the City Council Chambers 3rd floor. Chairman Pascale called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Nicholas Pascale, Edward McMillian, Gary Donovan, Christopher Vargo, Jr., Dawn Callahan, Sarah Ackbarali, Kathleen Mueller, Brian Laucks, Katherine Tucker, and Anne Heffernan, Meli Garthwait and Steven Johnstone. Absent: Ruby Melton. Also present: Mayor Dorinda Borer, Michael Gormany, Finance Director, Rick Fontana.

7:05 p.m. to 7:22 p.m. Seahawks Presentation of Proclamation for a Successful Season-

Cebi Waterfield, Chairwoman of West Haven Board of Education, thanked the City of West Haven for the proclamation which was presented to each cheerleader by Mayor Borer. The girls performed a cheer. **See City's website for remarks.**

Recess from 7:22 p.m. to 7:27 p.m.

7:27 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Public Session

See City's website for remarks.

Chairman Pascale called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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OF WEST HAVEN.
2025 FEB 20 PM 3:32


I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Regular Meeting minutes from the January 27, 2025, meeting, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Ackbarali. Councilman Johnstone and Councilwoman Garthwait abstained. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication A: from the Tax Collector regarding Overpayment of refunds for February 2025.

Communication B: from Chief Joseph Perno regarding Animal Shelter donations.

Communication C: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding waiver of permit fees for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk-a-thon being held on May 10th.

III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Council-as-a-Whole-7:32 p.m. to 8:38 p.m.

1. **Rick Fontana, Director of Emergency Management-updates.** Director Rick Fontana (343 Beach Street, # 303) has established a Community Risk Reduction Task Force, with Public Safety at the top of the list. He spoke about the quality of life for West Haven residents and about the Emergency Operation Plan. He is presently submitting grants dating back to 2021 to present. Defibrillators, Narcan kits, employee safety

enhancements, citywide security cameras, beach parking lot safety gates, flood gates, and anti-icing agents were all discussed before answering questions from the City Council. Mayor Borer thanked Director Fontana for his presentation. **See City's website for remarks.**

MARB Update-Mayor Borer stated that the next subcommittee meeting was on /February 11th. They have not met since last May although the City of West Haven has met the criteria to get out of MARB oversight and updated legislation has been added. Next full MARB Board meeting is scheduled for March 27th. She added that the security assessment of the doors at Carrigan School was done. She also stated that she is excited about the results of the draft audit and that the fund balance is better than expected. **See City's website for remarks.**

Ken Carney was not available to provide ARPA updates.

Finance Committee called to order at 8:38 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Councilwoman Ackbarali, Chairwoman-Committee members: Councilman Vargo, Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilman Johnstone

FINANCE UPDATES

2. Michael Gormany, Finance Director provided year-to date updates for December 2024.

Councilman Johnstone presented a **MOTION** to recommend the approval to the entire Council regarding **Communication B** from Chief Joseph Perno regarding Animal Shelter donations which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Vargo. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Councilman Johnstone presented a **MOTION** to recommend the approval to the entire Council regarding **Communication C** from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding waiver of permit fees for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk-a-thon being held on May 10th which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Vargo. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Finance Committee closed at 9:06 p.m.

Public Lands Committee called to order at 9:06 p.m.

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE, Councilman Donovan, Chairman -Committee members: Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Callahan, Councilman Vargo and Councilman Johnstone

Communication C: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding a request to refer the proposal from Ideal Group, LLC ("Ideal"), for the redevelopment of Stiles School, to the West Haven Planning and Zoning Commission. **HELD.**

Public Lands Committee closed at 9:07 p.m.

IV: UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS-9:07 p.m.

Clerk to read Communication A into record

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Councilwoman Ackbarali, Chairwoman-Committee members; Councilman Vargo, Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilman Johnstone

Communication B: from Chief Joseph Perno regarding Animal Shelter donations. Councilwoman Ackbarali made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilwomen Heffernan and Garthwait. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLVED: The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the Animal Shelter Donations totaling \$ 1,800.00 to be deposited into the Animal Shelter Donations account # 10100000-28285.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Kathryn Hanley-Gregory	458	\$ 100.00
2. Sharon Ann Molster	168	\$ 200.00
3. Ray Sirry	2406	\$ 50.00
4. Robert J Percopo Jr	1057	\$ 100.00
5. Prospect Beach Fish & Game Club	141	\$ 250.00
6. William Spargo 04/16	1510	\$ 100.00
7. Hughson-Miller Post	2106	\$ 1,000.00

Communication C: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding waiver of permit fees for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk-a-thon being held on May 10th. Councilwoman Ackbarali made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLVED: The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the request from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding waiver of permit fees for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk-a-thon being held on May 10th.

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE, Councilman Donovan, Chairman -Committee members: Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Callahan, Councilman Vargo and Councilman Johnstone

Communication C: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding a request to refer the proposal from Ideal Group, LLC ("Ideal") for the redevelopment of Stiles School to the West Haven Planning and Zoning Commission. **HELD.**

VI. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Johnstone reported that 2 West Haven Police Officers were shot while on duty and are now home, expecting to make a full recovery. Councilman Vargo reported that the Fair Rent Commission is drafting an ordinance on processes and procedures, to be completed in 30-45 days. Councilman McMillian said the Board of Education has begun a new text messaging system. Councilwoman Garthwait announced a bottle sort at the West Haven Animal Shelter on February 15th from 9-12. Residents in need of help with surrendering pets can use "Wendy's Wish", they also help with veterinary care. **See remarks on City's website.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Garthwait shared the k9.hometownfoundation.org website for people to vote for West Haven K9 officers to win a \$ 5,000.00 grant. Councilman Vargo announced that the Church Steeple Rededication Ceremony will be held on February 16th at 10:30 a.m. Mayor Borer reminded everyone of a Valentine's Day dinner on February 14th for seniors married over 50 years at the Church on the Green. She expects the Debonair to be closed on February 11th. On February 26th in the Harriet North Room in City Hall in celebrating Black History Month, a special reception honoring Levi Jordan and Carroll Brown will take place. The WHHS Chorus will sing. Lunch and a student award ceremony will be held then also. **See remarks on City's website.**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Laucks made a **MOTION to ADJOURN** which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Ackbarali. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

The City Council meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:22 p.m.

Nicholas Pascale
Chairman of the Council

Stacy Riccio
Clerk of the Council

Carlotta M. Serrini
City Council Administrator

****These minutes are subject to City Council approval.**