

Minutes of the March 14, 2022 City Council – Council Chambers/Harriett North Court Room

The Regular Meeting of the West Haven City Council was held on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers

Pledge by Girl Scouts

\*Meeting moved to Harriett North Court Room due to large number of people in the audience.

7:24 p.m. meeting back in session

**Roll Call:** Members present were Council members Gary Donovan, Colleen O'Connor, Bridgette Hoskie, Meli Garthwait, Sarah Ackbarali, Mitchell Gallignano, Robbin Watt Hamilton, Kathy Tucker, Victor Borrás, Robert Bruneau, Steven Johnstone and Peter Massaro absent Ronald Quagliani. Also present Mayor Rossi

7:25 p.m. Public Session

1. Clerk read letter from Irina Geata regarding senior center.
2. Paula Notorino – 20 Hall Street, Thompson School: parking, tenants, crimes, trash, absentee landlords, suggests traffic study speed bumps.
3. Irmina Gaeta – 58 West Walk, does not accept Mayor's plan for the ARPA money.
4. Fatima Adyde- 2 Treat St - refuge for women. Talked about useful use of ARPA funds. \$1 Million for temporary housing isn't enough.
5. Hilary – 15 Hoffman Street. Let's give covid-19 money for the youth. Need more than an art center need a recreation center. Should consider use of funds.
6. Paige Weinstein – 20 Platt Ave – owns business on Post Rd. Supports police pay, hire more officers, start a youth program?
7. Pat Bolitieri – 215 Westbrook spoke about the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting presentation made by Jumaine Samuels the I.T. Director for the City. I.T. department not enough staff.
8. Cathy Hebert, 166 Blohm Street. Spoke about \$1 million dollars- is that for Vertical Church- City being charged for recycling, that's going to the same place. REMA \$450,000. Wondering what that is, if it supports senior center.
9. Andy Weinstein - 20 Platt Ave – Police trained and then they leave. Supports police increase in wages. Need to sustain their payroll.
10. Margaret Ashley – 1 Sanford St drainage problems. Bad flooding in that area. Sidewalk is getting lifted; tree has to go.
11. Samantha Violate – 9 Highview in favor of funding for Art Center. Art crawl Campbell Ave. May 26, 2022 Thursday night. Showed a flyer.
12. Mike Hickey – 32 Bungalow Lane. Not in favor of programs for kids. Tax Lien on him from 2013 he didn't owe. Claims he was sent threatening letters.
13. Elinor Slomba – 18 Fourth Ave – Art Center!
14. Pat Libero – 146 Connecticut – spoke about ARPA funds.
15. Barry Lee Cohen – Morgan Lane spoke about ARPA, police salary, long overdue increase in police salary, storm water management, ad to infrastructure, more money. Small businesses and large corporations both look at infrastructure. Economic development, tax abatements only should be granted to companies bringing in substantial revenue. Also spoke about fiscal responsibility, credit card problem.
16. Tony Geratasio – Milford Boar of Alderman liaison to Police Commission, supports polices salary increase.

## Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of Special Meeting of February 23, 2022

Councilman Bruneau presented **MOTION to APPROVE** and **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hamilton.

All in favor. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Approval of minutes of Regular meeting of February 28, 2022. As Amended by Councilwoman Garthwait  
Legislative matters- Patricia Bollteri matter should be held.

Councilwoman Hamilton presented **MOTION to APPROVE** and **SECONDED** by Councilman Bruneau. All in favor. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Approval of minutes of Special Meeting of March 2, 2022

Councilwoman Hamilton presented a **MOTION to APPROVE** and **SECONDED** by Councilman Bruneau. All in favor. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION** to move New Business to this part of the Agenda Councilwoman Hamilton **Seconded. All in favor. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **New Business:**

Fill seat in the 7<sup>th</sup> district, Councilwoman Hamilton made a **MOTION** to accept Kathy Tucker to the 7<sup>th</sup> District seat. Councilwoman Hoskie **SECONDED**.

Chairman Peter Massaro, Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilman Borrás all spoke highly of Ms. Tucker.

All in Favor. Except Councilman Johnstone and Councilwoman Garthwait abstained.

Patty Horvath, City Clerk, swore Ms. Tucker in and Councilwoman Tucker took her seat at the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council.

Chairman Massaro made Councilman Gallignano head of Tax Deferral Committee in Trenee's place.

9:03

### **II Communicate Meetings**

#### **COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:**

**Communication G.** from Mayor Nancy Rossi in regards to the expenditure plan for the ARPA funds provided to the City under the Corona Virus State and Fiscal Recovery Act. Setting Special Meeting for March 23, 2022. Public Hearing setting for 6:00p.m. Special Meeting at 6:30p.m.

Finance Committee, Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie, Chairwoman – Committee members: Colleen O'Connor, Ronald Quagliani (absent), Sarah Ackbarali, Robbin Watt Hamilton

1. Police Pension Study update - HELD
2. ARPA update - HELD
3. MARB Meeting update - HELD
4. Discussion regarding compensatory time for elected/appointed official- HELD

**Communication A.** from Kati Guthrie Tilove for the Church of the Holy Spirit requesting waive from any fees, including but not limited to, the department, Planning and Zoning Commission and the Police Department. Councilwoman Hamilton made **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Ackbarali. All were in favor, Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communication B.** from Joseph Perno, Chief of Police of the West Haven Police Department in regards to the Animal Shelter Donations. Councilwoman Ackbarali made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O'Connor. All were in favor, Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communication E.** from Mayor Nancy Rossi in regards to the Tentative Agreement between the City of West Haven and the West Haven Police Local #895, UPSECU-C.O.P.S. to Resolve the Police reopen the current collective bargaining agreement which expires on June 30, 2023. Councilwoman Hamilton made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O'Connor. All in favor except Councilwoman Ackbarali abstained.

Ended 9:35p.m.

**Public Lands Committee: Councilman Gary Donovan, Chairman, Committee members: Colleen O'Connor, Ronald Quagliani (absent) Robert Bruneau, Robbin Hamilton**

**Communication D.** from the office of the Corporation Counsel in regards to the sale, lease or transfer of 165 Richards Street (former Thompson School). Councilman Donovan made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O'Connor. All in favor. Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communication E:** from the February 14, 2022 agenda – from the office of the Corporation Counsel in regards to sale, lease or transfer of 20 Helm St. **HELD**

Ended 9:49p.m.

**Legislative Matters: Councilman Robert Bruneau, Chairman, Committee members: Colleen O'Connor, Mitchell Gallignano, Victor Borrás, Sarah Ackbarali**

**Communication F.** Schedule Public Hearing for the Amendment of Ordinance Sec. 224-4- (A) (1) to add word "CLASS 3" Councilman Bruneau schedule Public Hearing for March 28, 2022 at 6:45 p.m.

Ended 9:21p.m.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS: 9:15p.m.**

**Clerk to read Communication C into record.**

**COUNCIL AS A WHOLE: 9:21 p.m.**

**Communication G.** from Mayor Nancy Rossi in regards to the expenditure plan for the ARPA funds provided to the City under the Corona Virus State and Fiscal Recovery Act. Setting Special Meeting for March 23, 2022. Public Hearing setting for 6:00p.m. Special Meeting at 6:30p.m.

Doug Colter: spoke on ARPA money. What can be passed or held because of budget. Nothing given in guidance as to all or nothing in regards to pass or hold. Could decide on certain items, hold others.

Mayor asked if we could bring forward police pension funding?

Doug Colter: yes could do that. Can't appropriate more than \$500,000.00 all at once.

Massaro going to hold special meeting on March 23, 2022.

Hoskie: Shouldn't Scott Jackson be the one answering these questions? Is the police budget to be sustained in the future?

Scott Jackson: draft budget isn't out yet, but sustainable budget will be on there.

Can choose to fund through ARPA or not.

Chairman Massaro: asked about food bank, housing crisis doesn't affect budget—can we pass those?

Scott Jackson: yes, under jurisdiction of council. We may want to bring these programs back through community development block grant.

Councilman Bruneau: we do have certified people to run new truck.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE, Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie, Chairwoman-** Committee members, Colleen O'Connor, Ronald Quagliani, (absent), Sarah Ackbarali, Robbin Watt Hamilton

**Communication A.** from Kati Guthrie Tilove for the Church of the Holy Spirit requesting waive from any fees, including but not limited to, the department, Planning and Zoning Commission and the Police Department. Councilwoman Hoskie made **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Gallignano. All were in favor, Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communication B.** from Joseph Perno, Chief of Police of the West Haven Police Department in regards to the Animal Shelter Donations. Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hamilton. All were in favor, Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communication E.** from Mayor Nancy Rossi in regards to the Tentative Agreement between the City of West Haven and the West Haven Police Local #895, UPSECU-C.O.P.S. to Resolve the Police reopen the current collective bargaining agreement which expires on June 30. 2023. Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O'Connor and Councilwoman Hamilton. All in favor except Councilwoman Ackbarali abstained.

Discussion: Ray Collins III Appletree Terrace. Board of police commission, thanked everyone.

Councilwoman Hoskie: This body never spoke of defunding the police.

Mayor Rossi spoke about the increase in salaries being sustainable—2.4 million set aside. Police pension bods will be falling off this year. Securing better revenue streams this year. We have more money for pilot/ more money from conveyance tax for years to come.

Councilman Bruneau: Still only mid-range salary compared to other communities. Thanked police.

Councilman Borrás: Thanked police for when his son was shot. Encouraged kids to become cops.

Chairman Massaro: well deserved, proud of police and fire department in our city.

Councilwoman Hamilton: thanks for your service.

Councilman Donovan: thanked all police men/ policewomen.

**PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE: Councilman Gary Donovan, Chairman,** Committee members: Colleen O'Connor, Ronald Quagliani (absent), Robert Bruneau, Robbin Watt Hamilton

Communication D - Discussion

Bruneau asked if contract is as is for Sale.

Lee Tiernan —We will work with them to get Grant money for Asbestos removal. We get half purchase price off equipment. . If anything happens with this developer, we have another backup developer. 60 days and then we get the other half.

Lee proceeded to go over contract highlights.

Councilwoman Hamilton: Historic building?

Lee Tiernan: some historic features.

Councilman Gallignano: questioned what luxury apartment is.

Lee Tiernan: Mostly 1 bedroom.

Will look for safety to traffic, street can be widened. Depends on what community.

Meli Garthwait: square feet of each unit?

Lee Tiernan: planning and zoning have those numbers: probably 750-1100 square ft. per apt.

O'Connor: thanked Hunter for his hard work.

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March 23<sup>rd</sup>; 6:00 public hearing on ARPA plan, 6:30 special meeting.

March 28<sup>th</sup>: 6:45 public hearing ordinance Communication F.

**VI. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED – NONE**

**VII. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: - NONE**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A**

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN**, which was **SECONDED** Councilwoman O'Connor. All in favor.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The City Council meeting was **ADJOURNED at 9:59p.m.**

**Peter Massaro**

**Chairman of the Council**

**Stacy Riccio**

**Clerk of Council**

