

Minutes of the June 23, 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 Tuesday, June 9, 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: Meli Garthwait, Brian Laucks, Edward McMillian, Ruby Melton Gary Donovan, Sarah Ackbarali, Kathleen Mueller Dawn Callahan, Christopher Vargo, Jr., Katherine Tucker, and Steven Johnstone, Nicholas Pascale and Anne Heffernan. Also present: Mayor Dorinda Borer, Mike Ajello, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Michael Gormany, Finance Director and Ron Dumas, CDA Housing Specialist.

7:00-7:12 p.m. PUBLIC SESSION

See City's website for remarks.

6:50 p.m.- PUBLIC HEARING- Finance Committee-Communication C, from the June 9, 2025 agenda, from the Community Development Administration regarding approval of the Program Year 51 Neighborhood Assistance Program budget; West Haven Child Development Center, Inc.-\$15,000.00, Ward Heitmann House Museum Foundation, Inc.-\$24,500.00 and West Haven Community House-\$20,000.00.-No one spoke.

6:55 p.m.- PUBLIC HEARING-Legislative Committee-Communication C, from the April 28, 2025 agenda, from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding an ordinance amending Chapter 178 of the Code of the City of West Haven: Posting of Bills. No one spoke.

Chairman Pascale called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Regular Meeting minutes from the June 9, 2025, meeting, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Laucks. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.** Councilwoman Ackbarali and Councilwoman Mueller abstained.

Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to AMEND the June 23, 2025 Agenda to REMOVE** Coletti and add Melton on the Personnel and Civil Service Committees, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Laucks. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

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

Communication B: from Deputy Chief Carl Flemmig regarding Animal Shelter Donations.

Communication C: from Michael Gormany, Finance Director and Rachel A-Massih, Tax Manager, regarding the approval of the sale and assignment of delinquent tax liens to Tower Capital Management.

Communication D. from the Community Development Administration regarding approval of the Block Grant Program Year 51 budget.

Communication E. from Dave Taylor, Assistant Finance Director regarding the transfer of funds of \$2,200,000 from the Medical Internal Service Fund (603) to the Workers Compensation Internal Service Fund (602) and the transfer of \$346,029 from account 19009990-56010 Unallocated Contingency to account 14000010-52680 Town Aid Road.

Communication F: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding the appointment of Paula Cappuccia, RN, 787 First Avenue, West Haven CT, to the West Haven Seniors Commission. Ms. Cappuccia's appointment will be for a term of 5 years effective immediately and will expire on June 30th of 2030.

Communication G: from Mayor Dorinda Borer, regarding a request for approval of the sale of the following two (2) properties to West Haven Housing Authority d/b/a Savin Rock Communities, Inc. ("SRC") for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000): A 0.25-acre property located at 1185 Campbell Avenue with a City map/lot designation of map 60 and lot 124; and A 0.18-acre property located at 1189 Campbell Avenue with a City map/lot designation of map 60 and lot 122 with an Open Space deed restriction.

Communication H: from Michael Ajello, Deputy Corporation Counsel, regarding an offer to transfer title to the real property located at 164 Roosevelt Avenue from Donnamarie Chappine and Marino Limauro to the City of West Haven.

III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Finance Committee called to order at 7:17 p.m.

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

FINANCE UPDATES

1. Finance updates from Michael Gormany, Finance Director. -Mr. Gormany handed out packets.

Councilman Vargo presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication B** from Deputy Chief Carl Flemmig regarding Animal Shelter Donations which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Johnstone. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Councilman Vargo presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication C** from Michael Gormany, Finance Director and Rachel A-Massih, Tax Manager, regarding the approval of the sale and assignment of delinquent tax liens to Tower Capital Management which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Johnstone. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Communication D: from the Community Development Administration regarding approval of the Block Grant Program Year 51 budget. -**Public Hearing set for July 28, 2025 at 6:50 p.m.**

Councilman Vargo presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication E** from Dave Taylor, Assistant Finance Director regarding the transfer of funds of \$2,200,000 from the Medical Internal Service Fund (603) to the Workers Compensation Internal Service

Fund (602) and the transfer of \$346,029 from account 19009990-56010 Unallocated Contingency to account 14000010-52680 Town Aid Road which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Johnstone. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Councilman Vargo presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication C, from the June 9, 2025 agenda**, from the Community Development Administration regarding approval of the Program Year 51 Neighborhood Assistance Program budget; West Haven Child Development Center, Inc.-\$15,000.00, Ward Heitmann House Museum Foundation, Inc.-\$24,500.00 and West Haven Community House-\$20,000.00. which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Tucker. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Finance Committee closed at 8:04 p.m.

Legislative Matters Committee called to order at 8:05 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE, Councilman Vargo, Chairman -Committee members: Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilwoman Melton and Councilman Johnstone

Councilwoman Tucker presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication C, from the April 28, 2025 agenda**, from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding an ordinance amending Chapter 178 of the Code of the City of West Haven: Posting of Bills, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Laucks. Councilman Johnstone abstained. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Legislative Matters Committee closed at 8:05 p.m.

Personnel & Civil Service Committee called to order at 8:06 p.m.

PERSONNEL & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE, Councilwoman Melton, Chairwoman – Committee members: Councilman Laucks, Councilman Vargo, Councilman Donovan and Councilman Johnstone)

Councilman Donovan presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication F** from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding the appointment of Paula Cappuccia, RN, 787 First Avenue, West Haven CT, to the West Haven Seniors Commission. Ms. Cappuccia's appointment will be for a term of 5 years effective immediately and will expire on June 30th of 2030 which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Laucks. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Personnel & Civil Service Committee closed at 8:08 p.m.

Public Lands Committee called to order at 8:09 p.m.

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

Communication G: from Mayor Dorinda Borer, regarding a request for approval of the sale of the following two (2) properties to West Haven Housing Authority d/b/a Savin Rock Communities, Inc. ("SRC") for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000): A 0.25-acre property located at 1185 Campbell Avenue with a City map/lot designation of map 60 and lot 124; and A 0.18-acre property located at 1189 Campbell Avenue with a City map/lot designation of map 60 and lot 122 with an Open Space deed restriction. **Public Hearing set for July 28, 2025 at 6:55 p.m.**

Communication H: from Michael Ajello, Deputy Corporation Counsel, regarding an offer to transfer title to the real property located at 164 Roosevelt Avenue from Donnamarie Chappine and Marino Limauro to the City of West Haven. **HELD.**

Public Lands Committee closed at 8:20 p.m.

IV: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Council went into Executive Session at 8:21p.m.

Councilman Vargo made a Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issue -Councilman Donovan 2nd the Motion - All were in favor. The Council came out of Executive Session at 9:49 p.m.

Council went into Recess at 9:49 p.m. -10:34 p.m.

Councilman Vargo made a Motion to Amend the 2025-2026 Approved Budget with respect only to the two job positions now known as Asst. Registrar to temporarily return the job titles to Administrative Assistant under line item 11300010-51000 - Regular Wages - Registrar of Voters - Personnel Detail, subject to the elected Republican Registrar of Voters to provide the Corporation Counsel Office with a list of all job responsibilities for the position known as Administrative Assistant by July 3, 2025, so that the Corporation Counsel may request an official determination from the Secretary of State as to whether or not the position as described by the Registrar of Voters complies with Title 9 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Councilwoman Heffernan 2nd the Motion. A Roll Call vote was taken - all in favor.

Roll Call vote: 13 In Favor

Councilwoman Garthwait	Yes
Councilman Laucks	Yes
Councilwoman Heffernan	Yes
Councilwoman Melton	Yes
Councilwoman Ackbarali	Yes
Councilman Donovan	Yes
Councilman McMillan	Yes
Councilwoman Callahan	Yes
Councilwoman Tucker	Yes
Councilman Vargo	Yes
Councilwoman Mueller	Yes
Councilman Johnstone	Yes
Chairman Pascale	Yes

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS-10:39 p.m.

Clerk to read Communication A into record

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

Communication B: from Deputy Chief Carl Flemmig regarding Animal Shelter Donations.

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

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Callahan	3157	\$50.00
2. Alfonsina Burke	1264	\$25.00
3. Susan Alonso	4566	\$30.00
4. Vaille Lachance	377	\$50.00
5. Debra A Johnson	2141	\$50.00
6. Frank R Milone	3062	\$50.00
7. Linda M. Bennis	5113	\$75.00
8. FronStream SPV LLC	3536098	\$71.40

Communication C: from Michael Gormany, Finance Director and Rachel A-Massih, Tax Manager, regarding the approval of the sale and assignment of delinquent tax liens to Tower Capital Management. Councilwoman Ackbarali made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Vargo. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

WHEREAS: The City of West Haven requested bids for the assignment of liens for delinquent sewer fees and taxes on the grand list of 2023 in the aggregate amount of \$1,109,367.75; and

WHEREAS: Tower Capital Management was the high bidder with a purchase price of \$1,245,796.15, or 107.25% of the amount of the liens to be assigned; and

WHEREAS: It is the recommendation of both the City of West Haven's Finance Director and Tax Manager that Tower Capital Management's bid and proposal be accepted.

BE IT RESOLVED: That, acting pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-195h, the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves and authorizes the assignment of said liens for delinquent sewer charges and taxes totaling \$1,109,367.75 to Tower Capital Management in consideration of the sum of \$1,245,796.25.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Dorinda Borer, as Mayor of The City of West Haven, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents related to this Resolution on behalf of the City of West Haven and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Communication D: from the Community Development Administration regarding approval of the Block Grant Program Year 51 budget. -**Public Hearing set for July 28, 2025 at 6:50 p.m.**

Communication E. from Dave Taylor, Assistant Finance Director regarding the transfer of funds of \$2,200,000 from the Medical Internal Service Fund (603) to the Workers Compensation Internal Service

Fund (602) and the transfer of \$346,029 from account 19009990-56010 Unallocated Contingency to account 14000010-52680 Town Aid Road. Councilwoman Ackbarali made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Tucker. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves a transfer of funds from account number 19009990-56010 Unallocated Contingency to account number 14000010-52680 Town Aid Road in the amount of \$346,029.

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves a transfer of funds in the amount of \$2,200,000 from the Medical Internal Services Fund (603), which is over-funded, to the Workers Compensation Internal Service Fund (602), which is underfunded, for Fiscal Year 2025.

Communication C, from the June 9, 2025 agenda, from the Community Development Administration regarding approval of the Program Year 51 Neighborhood Assistance Program budget; West Haven Child Development Center, Inc.-\$15,000.00, Ward Heitmann House Museum Foundation, Inc.- \$24,500.00 and West Haven Community House-\$20,000.00. Councilwoman Ackbarali made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman McMillian. Councilman Johnstone abstained. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

WHERE AS: The Ward Heitman House Museum Foundation, Inc., a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, has applied through the West Haven Community Development Administration for funds provided by the 2025 State of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NNA) in the amount of \$24,000 to be used for an energy conservation HVAC system; and

WHERE AS: The NNA delegates authority to the City of West Haven, acting through its City Counsel, to approve such applications for funding; and

WHERE AS: A public hearing on the application was duly held before the regular meeting of the West Haven City Council on June 23, 2025, in accordance to the requirements of the NNA.

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the application of the West Haven Community House Association, Inc. for NNA funds in the amount of \$24,500 to be used for an energy conservation HVAC system.

WHERE AS: The West Haven Child Development Center, a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, has applied through the West Haven Community Development Administration for funds provided by the 2025 State of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NNA) in the amount of \$15,000 to be used for energy efficient air filtration systems for its classrooms; and

WHERE AS: The NNA delegates authority to the City of West Haven, acting through its City Counsel, to approve such applications for funding; and

WHERE AS: A public hearing on the application was duly held before the regular meeting of the West Haven City Council on June 23, 2025, in accordance to the requirements of the NNA.

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the application of the West Haven Child Development Center for NNA funds in the amount of \$15,000 to be used for energy efficient air filtration systems for its classrooms.

WHERE AS: The West Haven Community House Association, Inc., a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, has applied through the West Haven Community Development Administration for funds provided by the 2025 State of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NNA) in the amount of \$20,000 to be used for energy conservation and capital improvements of its facilities; and

WHERE AS: The NNA delegates authority to the City of West Haven, acting through its City Counsel, to approve such applications for funding; and

WHERE AS: A public hearing on the application was duly held before the regular meeting of the West Haven City Council on June 23, 2025, in accordance to the requirements of the NNA.

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the application of the West Haven Community House Association, Inc. for NNA funds in the amount of \$20,000 to be used for energy conservation and capital improvements of its facilities

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE, Councilman Vargo, Chairman -Committee members: Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilwoman Melton and Councilman Johnstone

Communication C, from the April 28, 2025, meeting, from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding an ordinance amending Chapter 178 of the Code of the City of West Haven: Posting of Bills. Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN
CHAPTER 178 POSTING OF BILLS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN, Chapter 178 of the Code of the City of West Haven is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 178

POSTING OF HANDBILLS

§ 178-1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the words and phrases used herein shall have the following meanings unless otherwise clearly indicated by the context:

COMMERCIAL HANDBILL - Any printed or written matter, any sample or device, dodger, circular, leaflet, pamphlet, paper, booklet, or any other printed or otherwise reproduced original or copies of any matter of literature which:

- A. Advertises for sale any merchandise, product, commodity, or thing.
- B. Directs attention to any business or mercantile or commercial establishment, or other activity, for the purpose of either directly or indirectly promoting the interest thereof by sales.
- C. Directs attention to or advertises any meeting, exhibition, or event of any kind, regardless of whether a fee is charged for the purpose of private gain or profit.
- D. Contains reading material that is predominantly and essentially an advertisement, and is distributed or circulated for advertising purposes, or for the private benefit and gain of any person so engaged as advertiser or distributor.

NON-COMMERCIAL HANDBILL - any printed or written matter, any sample or device, dodger, circular, leaflet, pamphlet, newspaper, magazine, paper, booklet, or any other printed or otherwise reproduced original or copies of any matter of literature not included in the definitions of a "commercial handbill" or "newspaper" in this section.

§ 178-2. Posting of handbills.

Notwithstanding the provisions of CHAPTER 142 – LITTERING, and in addition to the regulations and prohibitions provided therein, no person shall affix or cause to be affixed a handbill to a telegraph, telephone, electric light, or other public utility pole, or any other public structure or to a tree, shrub, rock or other natural or artificial object in any public way or grounds, or visibly adjacent thereto, within the limits of the City of West Haven, except for the purpose of protecting it or the public, or to give notice of a missing person or domesticated animal or pet. A notice of tag sale or similar non-commercial event shall be permitted upon written approval from the Police Department, which such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, provided that the notice is freestanding, shall not exceed three (3) square feet of area in size, and posted not prior to forty-eight (48) hours before the sale and removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the sale. Any educational or school-based program or activity, youth-based program or activity, nonprofit organization, or religious organization may, with the permission of the Police Department, which such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld, erect a freestanding sign on City owned property, or affix a non-permanent sign on City owned property, for the purpose of advertising a program or event, so long as such sign is not posted, erected or affixed more than one (1) calendar month prior to the program, activity or event and removed within seven (7) calendar days after the program, activity or event.

§ 178-3. Penalties for offenses of this chapter.

Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not more than Fifty Dollars (\$50) for each offense involving the posting of a non-commercial bill, and a fine of Two-Hundred Dollars (\$200) for each offense involving the posting of a commercial bill.

§ 178-4. Enforcement.

The Police Department of the City of West Haven shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON: _____

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR: _____

DATE: _____

PERSONNEL & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE, Councilwoman Melton, Chairwoman – Committee members: Councilman Laucks, Councilman Vargo, Councilman Donovan and Councilman Johnstone

Communication F: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding the appointment of Paula Cappuccia, RN, 787 First Avenue, West Haven CT, to the West Haven Seniors Commission. Ms. Cappuccia's appointment will be for a term of 5 years effective immediately and will expire on June 30th of 2030. Councilwoman Melton made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Vargo. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the appointment of Paula Cappuccia to the West Haven Senior Citizen Commission for a term of five (5) years to commence on the date of the passage of this resolution.

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

Communication G: from Mayor Dorinda Borer, regarding a request for approval of the sale of the following two (2) properties to West Haven Housing Authority d/b/a Savin Rock Communities, Inc. ("SRC") for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000): A 0.25-acre property located at 1185 Campbell Avenue with a City map/lot designation of map 60 and lot 124; and A 0.18-acre property located at 1189 Campbell Avenue with a City map/lot designation of map 60 and lot 122 with an Open Space deed restriction. **Public Hearing set for July 28, 2025 at 6:55 p.m.**

Communication H: from Michael Ajello, Deputy Corporation Counsel, regarding an offer to transfer title to the real property located at 164 Roosevelt Avenue from Donnamarie Chappine and Marino Limauro to the City of West Haven. **HELD.**

VI. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS-None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Pascale thanked the council for the unanimous decision on our unfinished business. Councilwoman Callahan asked to keep the daughter of Marybeth Prete, who is missing, in prayer. Councilman Vargo spoke on the WHPD street takeover, where 1 officer was injured and is in everyone's prayers. Councilman Johnstone stated that the officer is doing fine and issued a reminder that this behavior won't be tolerated in our city. **See remarks on City's website.**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:00 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.**