

Meeting minutes of the City Council of the West Haven City Council held on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6 p.m. via electronic means  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beisnB5roiY>)

Chairman Quagliani called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

Present were Council Members: Donovan, O'Connor, Hoskie, Conlon, Johnston, Gallignano, Hamilton, Massaro, McGeé, Fanelli, Bruneau, Cohen and Chairman Quagliani.

Also in attendance: Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, Doug Coulter, Grants, and Finance Director Frank Cieplinski were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. Public Lands Committee – Renaming of Chamber of Commerce/Ralph Eberly Park

Councilman Donovan – There was no communication received. Public hearing closed. Committee Council Members - Donovan, Gallignano, Fanelli, Conlon and O'Connor. There was a quorum.

2. Charter Revision Committee - Ordinance amending Chapter 6 Veterans' Advisory Committee

Councilwoman Hamilton – Committee Council Members - Hoskie, Gallignano, Massaro and Cohen. No public comments were received. Charter Revision hearing is closed.

Recessed: 6:47 p.m. For Finance Committee

Resumed: 6:50 p.m.

3. Legislative Matters – Ordinance amending Chapter 81 Building Department Fees

Councilwoman Fanelli Bruneau – Committee Council Members - Gallignano, Bruneau, Johnston, and Cohen. There was no public comments. Committee hearing is closed.

4. Finance Committee – Ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$6,313,100 bonds plus additional financing costs of the city to meet certain 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 capital budget appropriations and pending the issuance of the making of the temporary burrings for such purpose.

Chairwoman Hoskie – Committee Council Members - Massaro, Bruneau, Cohen and Hamilton. One public comment in opposition from Mark DeGennaro, 71 Ames Drive, public does not have all the access and information is vague and incomplete. Requested

bonds seem to be for already paid for items that don't have a 20 year life span. Finance Committee public hearing is closed.

Recess: 6:58 p.m.

Resumed: 7:00 p.m.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clerk read the following letters into the record:

Brandon Patterson, 66 Chestnut St., stated the organizers of the recent peaceful protest requests permission to assist with the installation of a semi-permanent public mural to assist in the racial equity. Artists have been identified to implement the mural through August with finalization in September. Supplies will be supplied by Gavin, Inc. The goal is to unify West Haven around a strong public statement regarding values as a positive community. Asks for support for this mural and to suggest an appropriate location.

Laura Lingrin, 30 Lucy Ave., is in support for the black lives mural in West Haven, which will show solidarity in West Haven.

Olivia Powers, 30 Ivy St., is in support of the black lives mural in West Haven.

Kayla Toole, Mohawk Dr., is in support of the black lives mural in West Haven.

Katherine Fornier, 42 Hillside, is in support of the black lives mural in West Haven.

Kara Patterson, is in support of the black lives mural in West Haven.

Samantha DeGennaro, 97 Holcomb St., is asking when the City of West Haven such as city hall and public meetings will resume to normal operations. Asks why Board of Ed can hold meetings and no other commissions can. Would like to know what the rules are. Would like to have transparency on the Savin Rock Conference Center.

Mark DeGennaro, 71 Ames Dr., minutes are not available within the 7 days as required by law. They were not on the website in a timely fashion. More information and descriptions need to be part of the agenda. More transparency is needed regarding city council members. He asks for more information on city owned properties which have been on the agenda for a couple of meetings. He questions the timing and method of the Savin Rock Conference Center. The public has not been included in this process.

Chairman Quagliani stated when city property is being sold, there is a public hearing. Savin Rock Conference Center has been put out to bid and closed and will come before the council in an open meeting. City government employees are working with Mr. Patterson regarding the mural.

## REGULAR MEETING

1. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2020  
Motion to approved Councilman Cohen/Gallignano and seconded by Councilman Bruneau and Massaro. Chairman Quagliani, page 10, resolution for Paul Skirosky vote was not in the minutes. Minutes will be revised. Motion to approved as amended, Councilwoman O'Connor and Bruneau, seconded by Councilman Donovan and Hamilton.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

- A. Mayor Nancy R. Rossi – The appointment of Troy Tapin to the West Haven Allintown Fire Commission being assigned to the personnel and service committee – Chairman Massaro
- B. Mayor Nancy R. Rossi – renaming of the Chamber of Commerce/Ralph Eberly Park to Ralph Eberly Park being assigned to the public lands committee – Chairman Donovan
- C. Councilwoman Fanelli – amendments to the code of the City of West Haven Chapter 89 Dogs being assigned to the Legislative Matters Committee – Chairman Gallignano
- D. Chief Joseph – animal shelter donations being assigned to the finance committee – Chairwoman Hoskie
- E. Corporation Counsel – sale of the city owned property, 100 Wilson Ave., 122A Wilson Ave., 124 Wilson Ave, 742 Washington Ave being assigned to the public lands committee – Chairman Donovan
- F. Grants writer Doug Colter – Edward Berner Memorial Assistance Grant being assigned to the Finance Committee – Chairwoman Hoskie
- G. Tax Collector - overpayment refunds for August 2020 filed with tonight's minutes
- H. City Engineer Abdul Quadir – resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection being assigned to the Finance Committee – Chairwoman Hoskie

## COMMITTEES

FINANCE – Chairwoman Hoskie, Hamilton, Massaro, Bruneau and Cohen.

1. Communication F - Grants writer Doug Colter – Edward Berner Memorial Assistance Grant.

Motion to approve by Councilman Cohen, seconded by Councilman Bruneau and passed unanimously.

Discussion: None

Motion to approve by Councilman Cohen, seconded by Councilman Bruneau and passed unanimously.

2. Communication F - City Engineer Abdul Quadir – resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Motion to approve by Councilman Bruneau, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: None

Councilman Cohen asks if the city has been able to reach or go above the minimums especially with female and minority enterprises with the Clean Water Fund.  
Motion passes unanimously.

3. Communication D - Chief Joseph Perno – animal shelter donations

Motion to approve by Councilman Bruneau, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

4. Ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$6,313,100 bonds plus additional financing costs of the city to meet certain 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 capital budget appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of the temporary burrings for such purpose.

Motion to approve by Councilman Cohen, seconded by Councilman Bruneau

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Finance Committee closes at 7:29 p.m.

PUBLIC LANDS - Councilman Donovan, Councilman Galignano, Fanelli, Conlon and O'Connor

1. Communication B - Mayor Nancy R. Rossi – renaming of the Chamber of Commerce/Ralph Eberly Park to Ralph Eberly Park.

Motion to approve by Chairwoman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Fanelli and Councilman Gallignano

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Corporation Counsel – sale of the city owned property, 100 Wilson Ave., 122A Wilson Ave., 124 Wilson Ave, 742 Washington Ave

Motion to approve by Councilwoman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Gallignano and Councilwoman Fanelli.

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously

Public Lands Committee closed.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE – Chairman Gallignano, Councilman Bruneau, Councilwoman Johnston, Councilwoman Fanelli and Councilman Cohen

1. Councilwoman Fanelli – amendments to the code of the City of West Haven Chapter 89.4 and 89.1 Dogs

Motion to approve by Councilwoman Fanelli, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston.

Discussion: Councilwoman Fanelli stated this was done because of safety issues. This specifies the lease length of 6 ft. Complaints for property owners that dogs have been on their lawns. Councilman Cohen stated New Haven or Milford does not have written in their codes. The only town that does is Madison. This should be left up to the dog owners and feels that it cannot be enforced. Doesn't feel that this will increase safety and feel it is over legislating.

Motion passes by majority.

2. Ordinance amending Chapter 81 Building Department Fees

Motion to approve by Councilman Bruneau, seconded by Councilwoman Fanelli

Discussion: Councilman Cohen stated he did not get all the rationale in the packet and information was incomplete in order to make a decision. In the future more information is needed to expect a vote. Chairman Quagliani stated if there was not enough information

he suggested to Councilman Cohen to either abstain or vote against the item. Mayor Rossi asks for the support for the changes to this ordinance. She feels that people who do not get a permit should be penalized and opposed to people who do get a permit ahead of time.

Motion passes unanimously.

Legislative Matters Committee closed.

PERSONNEL AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE – Chairman Massaro, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilwoman McGee, Councilman Bruneau and Councilwoman O’Connor

1. Appointment of Troy Tapin to the West Haven Allingtown Fire Commission.

Motion to approve by Councilwoman O’Connor, seconded by Councilman Bruneau.

Discussion: Councilwoman Hamilton is in favor and is a good choice. Councilman Massaro also feels it’s a good choice and stated Mr. Tapin has some fire experience

Motion passes unanimously.

Personnel and Civil Service Committee closed.

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE – Chairwoman Hamilton, Councilwoman Hoskie, Councilman Gallignano, Councilman Massaro and Councilman Cohen.

1. Charter Revision Committee - Ordinance amending Chapter 6 Veterans’ Advisory Committee

Motion to approve by Councilman Massaro, seconded by Councilwoman Hoskie

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Charter Revision Committee is closed

TAX DEFERRAL COMMITTEE – Chairman Massaro, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilwoman O’Connor, Councilman Conlon, and Councilman Gallignano

Chairman Massaro has rejected this due to not enough information.

Motion to reject by Councilman Conlon seconded by Councilwoman O’Connor

Discussion: None

Motion passes as rejected.

## CORPORATION COUNSEL

Attorney Lee Tiernan gave an update on the Haven. The preliminary hazmat has been performed to do demolition. He needs to confirm whether Fire Marshall Flood has signed off. Once that is confirmed, demolition will begin. A landscaper has been hired and Commissioner Messore will be involved in the monitoring of this landscaping.

Chairman Quagliani asked how quickly the demolition will begin once it is signed off. Attorney Tiernan stated within days or weeks. He would also like to see a representative for the developer to come before the council to get a timeline of the projection and possibly a completion date. Attorney Tiernan will reach out to them and possibly in September.

Councilman Donovan – Questions the number of buildings that will be demolished. Attorney Tiernan state the demolition that will be done will be along Elm and the waterside. The DOT is not looking for contractor to begin traffic along Elm St. at this time.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Tax Collector - overpayment refunds for August 2020 filed with tonight's minutes.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chairwoman Hoskie

Animal Shelter Donations – Chairwoman Hoskie made a motion on behalf of the committee and read a resolution into the record and reporting on the donations that were received, seconded by Councilman Galignano. Motions passes unanimously.

Edward Bern Memorial Assistance Grant – Chairwoman Hoskie made a motion on behalf of the committee and read a resolution into the record in the amount of \$16,176, seconded by Councilman Bruneau.

Discussion:

Motion passes unanimously.

CT DEEP – Chairwoman Hoskie made a motion on behalf the committee and read a resolution into the record to enter into contracts with DEEP, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

CAPITAL BUDGET – Chairwoman Hoskie made a motion and read a resolution into the record on behalf of the committee for an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$6,313,100 in bonds plus additional financing costs of the city to meet certain 2018-2019, 2019-2020,

2020-2021 capital budget appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of the temporary burrings for such purpose, seconded by Councilman Gallignano.

Discussion: Councilman Massaro wanted confirmation that the MARB is aware of this. Councilman Donovan wanted to know what the additional costs would be. Mr. Cieplinski stated approximately \$200,000 or \$300,000. Chairman Quagliani confirmed that this is in the five year plan and approved in the budget.

Motion passes unanimously.

Finance Committee is closed.

## PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

Renaming Chamber of Commerce Park/Ralph Eberly Park - Councilman Donovan made a motion on behalf of the committee and read a resolution into the record renaming this park to Ralph Eberly Park, seconded by Councilwoman Hoskie.

Discussion: Mayor Rossi stated this is a great way to honor Ralph Eberly. Chairman Quagliani stated it's a wonderful tribute and it took a long time coming.

Motion passes unanimously.

Sale of the city owned property, 100 Wilson Ave., 122A Wilson Ave., 124 Wilson Ave, 742 Washington Ave - Chairman Donovan has made a motion on behalf of the committee to bring this out to the council.

Discussion: Attorney Tiernan stated the adjoining property owner of the Wilson Avenue properties is requesting to purchase these properties for \$2000 for the purpose of a pool. They are adjoining and half are wetlands. These properties would be sold with a deed restriction that no building of any structure or foundation. Attorney Tiernan has suggested a sale price of \$3500. The Washington Avenue adjoining land owner has requested to purchase it. He is looking for an approval of the \$25,000 purchase price. This property would be advertised to see if more than \$25,000 would be offered. Attorney Tiernan recommends going forward with the sales. The city has no use for these parcels. He feels the quicker you get the money the better.

Chairman Donovan agrees with the \$3000 purchase price and doesn't think it should be any lower than that.

Councilwoman O'Connor – asks if the two issues can be separated so we can see if the Wilson Ave property owner will increase her offer.

Councilman Conlon – He agrees with the \$3000 purchase price.

Councilman Massaro – He doesn't want to lose it. Possibly offer \$2500



Councilman Donovan – He agrees with the \$2500

Councilwoman O'Connor – Made a motion to separate 742 Washington Avenue from Wilson Avenue, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

742 Washington Avenue – Councilman Donovan made a motion to approve the sale of 742 Washington Avenue for \$25,000, seconded by Councilman Bruneau.

Discussion: Councilman Massaro wants to confirm that it will go into the paper and if more is offered, it can be taken.

Councilman Massaro made a motion to amend the original motion to sell 742 Washington for \$25,000 or more with the stipulation of a legal ad.

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Wilson Avenue properties – Councilman Bruneau made a motion to sell Wilson Avenue properties for \$3,000, seconded by Councilwoman Hoskie.

Discussion: Councilman Donovan agrees with the \$3,000

Motion passes unanimously.

Public Lands Committee is closed.

#### LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Amendments to the code of the City of West Haven Chapter 89.4 and 89.1 Dogs – Councilman Donovan made a motion on behalf of the committee and read a resolution into the record setting a leash length of 6 ft. and setting a public hearing date of September 14, 2020, seconded by Councilman Massaro.

Councilman Cohen amended the motion to extend not beyond 10 ft. in length rather than 6 ft. in length, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor.

Discussion: Councilman Massaro prefers 6 ft. Councilwoman Fanelli stated her research showed 4 to 6 ft. in length and agrees with 6 ft. Councilman Donovan does feel that there should be a regulation on the length. It is not going to be enforced and it is the responsibility of the dog owner. Councilman Cohen agrees with Councilman Donovan.

Councilwoman O'Connor removed her second, and Councilman Cohen removed his amendment.

Discussion on original motion: Councilwoman O'Connor doesn't feel leash length matters and the owner is responsible. Councilman Conlon requested a roll call vote.

Councilman Donovan made a motion to separate communications 89.4 and 89.10, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Roll call vote:

Donovan – Y

O'Connor – Y

Hoskie – Y

Conlon – N

Johnston – N

Galignano – N

Hamilton – Y

Massaro – N

McGee – N

Fanelli – N

Bruneau – N

Cohen – Y

Quagliani – N

Motion fails 4 – Y; 8- N

Discussion for Original Communication: None

Roll Call Vote on Original Communication

Donovan – A

O'Connor – N

Hoskie – Y

Conlon – Y

Johnston – Y

Galignano – Y

Hamilton – Y

Massaro – Y

McGee – Y

Fanelli – Y

Bruneau – Y

Cohen – N

Quagliani – Y

Motion carries 9 – Y; 2-N; 1-A

2. Ordinance amending Chapter 81 Building Department Fees – Chairman Gallignano made a motion on behalf of the committee and read the second reading into record, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: Councilman Massaro thanks Doug Coulter for his hard work. Councilman Cohen also thanked Doug for his hard work. Chairman Quagliani stated the building fees go into the general fund but a portion will be earmarked for the necessary software.

Motion passes unanimously.

Doug Coulter stated it took from 2013 to get to this point and thanked Attorney Tiernan and Mayor Rossi.

Legislative Matters Committee is closed.

#### PERSONNEL AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Appointment of Troy Tapin to the West Haven Allingtown Fire Commission – Councilman Massaro made a motion on behalf of the committee and read a resolution into the record, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Discussion: Mayor Rossi stated Mr. Tapin will be a favorable addition.

Motion passes unanimously.

Personnel and Civil Service Committee is closed.

#### CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE

1. Charter Revision Committee - Ordinance amending Chapter 6 Veterans' Advisory Committee

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion on behalf of the committee on ordinance amending Chapter 6 Veterans' Advisory Committee and read the second reading into the record, seconded by Councilwoman Johnstone.

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Charter Revision Committee is closed.

#### TAX DEFERRAL COMMITTEE

Chairman Massaro made a motion to unanimously deny this tax deferral, seconded by Councilman Conlon.

Discussion: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Tax Deferral Committee is closed

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED – None

#### COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Councilwoman O'Connor – If Allingtown residents need anything from the library, they will get them from the main branch and hand them out in the parking lot of Carrigan on certain days.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman McGee – cities across the nation and in CT are declaring racism a public health crisis. She would like the council to place the resolution on the next meeting agenda. She urges the council to research and learn why this is important. She has been contacted regarding a new playground on Glade St. Councilwoman Hoskie questioned whether this playground was to be upgraded by either the city of the VA. Councilman Gallignano doesn't remember anything being said about the park. Chairman Quagliani asks the clerk to send a letter to Corporation Counsel as to who owns the property.

Councilman Cohen asks if a report from Mr. Messore has been received as requested. Clerk will send a letter to Mr. Messore. Councilman Cohen informed the council that he is looking into non-resident parking passes and is considering having a special meeting with Public Works when it's possible to meet in person to assess how the city did in past storms.

Councilwoman Hoskie asks she can have the Clerk find out if the study for the IT if it has gone out. She would like to find out if the Police Department purchased the five hand held machines. Clerk will look into this.

Councilman Massaro asks about car registration enforcement if someone is living in West Haven with out of state plates.

Councilman Donovan suggested council members ride with the WHPD. It was very beneficial.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:28 p.m.

Councilman Massaro made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Hoskie and passed.



