

Minutes of the February 28, 2022 City Council Meeting - Harriett North Court Room

The Regular Meeting of the West Haven City Council was held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6:51 p.m. in the Harriett North Court Rooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** Members present were Council members Ronald Quagliani, Colleen O'Connor, Gary Donovan, Bridgette Hoskie, Meli Garthwait, Sarah Ackbarali, Mitchell Galignano, Robbin Watt Hamilton, Trenee McGee, Victor Borrás, Robert Bruneau, Steven Johnstone, and Peter Massaro. Also present were Mayor Nancy Rossi, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Rossi, Lou Esposito, Chief of Police Joe Perno, Police Commissioner Ray Collins and Finance Director Scott Jackson.

**6:50-Public Lands Committee**-Public Hearing-Discussion of the Sale, lease, or transfer of 447 First Avenue. One speaker asked where the property was. Ended at 6:54

A moment of Silence for Cappetta. Ended at 6:55.

### **7:00 P.m. Public Session**

There were 10 speakers that came forward to make comments. Please refer to the Live Stream video on the City of West Haven's You Tube channel.

The Public Session Closed at 7:36p.m.

Chairman Massaro called the **Regular Meeting** to order at 7:36p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Regular Meeting of February 14, 2022. As Amended.

Councilwoman Hoskie presented a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2022. Which were amended by Councilwoman O'Connor pg1 "Ziada" Councilman Donovan Councilwoman/man pg.1, pg.2 pg. 5 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph Hamilton and Hamilton **Second** by Councilwoman Hamilton and **APPROVED** unanimously.

7:36 end

### **I. Council As A Whole—7:40**

Executive Assistant to Mayor Rossi, Louis Esposito to attend meeting to discuss the city of West Haven's Credit Card issue per Chairman Peter Massaro. Spoke about city's credit card misused he stated that the problem was with receipts being given to him in a timely fashion. No fraudulent use with anyone in the city.

Councilman Borrás read email into record that Lou Esposito sent out.

Councilman Bruneau only 1 card? Lou Esposito yes 1 card.

Councilwoman McGee – what systems have been put in place to avoid this in the future? Lou Esposito they must use form that he attached to the email.

Councilwoman Hamilton who has access to the credit card number? Lou Esposito the Department heads would call and I would give them the number again.

Councilwoman Hamilton person not giving receipts discipline?

Lou Esposito no we do not have the credit card.

Councilman Galignano why is Lou taking care of the credit card and not Finance Dept.?

Lou Esposito cut care down from 4 person Administers to one.

Council Galignano believes P card would be better.

Council Hoskie took letter from MARB to get credit card to be cancelled. Car has no name on it. Start running the city as a business with checks and balances. We need policies and procedures should be in place. Progressive discipline.

Lou Esposito Credit card has his name on it and city's.

Councilwoman Garthwait believes P card would work better and discipline. How long before we get another credit card.

Lou Esposito up to MARB.

Asst. Finance Director is administrator of the card. Lou Esposito is holder of the card.

Councilman Quagliani in favor of P card system.

Scott Jackson, Finance Director could put forward best policy going forward.

Councilwoman Ackbarali problem with wording in email "continue to abuse".

Lou Esposito receipts go back to day one. She can come in and review them.

Councilman Johnstone what is credit card used most for services or goods?

Lou Esposito a little bit of both.

Councilwoman Garthwait suggested approve that scans receipts for department heads.

Mayor Rossi why credit card isn't in the Finance Department. Concerned that previous Admin were of charges to Capital

Mayor introduced Scott Jackson, New Finance Director.

## II. Communication:

Communication A: from Commissioner Beth Sabo regarding Bid Waiver Request for the issuance of new beach stickers and the need to make sure they are again included in the tax bills to finance.

Ended at 8:28

8:29

## **III. Committee Meetings**

Finance Committee members: Colleen O'Connor, Ronald Quagliani, Sarah Ackbarali, Robbin Watt Hamilton.

## FINANCE UPDATES

1. Police Pension Study Update – No new information
2. ARPA Update- Mayor trying to have update on next meeting March 14, 2022

### 3. MARB Meeting Update -

Jumaine Samuels to speak – spoke of changes made through at the Information Technology.

Infrastructure- out of contract – end of life- Implemented. With previous Finance Director new server/updated servers. Email system updated. Currently migrating everyone to SharePoint and OneDrive.

Councilwoman Hoskie Citywide person for whole city who else does he oversee – Are we all on different systems.

Jumaine – city on completely different systems than fire and Police Department. Believes all should be on same system. Cheaper cost, when everyone on same platform. Other cities have larger IT departments with move employees.

Councilman Quagliani – span of control? What is under his control?

Jumaine – only city of West Haven.

Fiscal Plan- putting together. Upgrading network to different entities so everyone can talk to each other. Everyone under one umbrella.

Councilwoman Hamilton – are all council members emails and phone numbers on the website.

Jumaine – Should be – someone else does the website.

Councilman Johnstone – window 7 how much of network is on it.

Jumaine- at least 35%

Councilman Johnston – cost to update?

Jumaine- \$35,000.00 to replace some of this fiscal year going toward to replace the systems that lack windows 10.  
Councilwoman O'Connor – to replace just the windows 7 computers? – Just for City Hall  
Jumaine- yes just City Hall.  
Councilwoman Hoskie – work smarter –find out what other areas/departments also need to buy computers.  
Councilman Borrás – how important is it to update/upgrade – safe and secure.  
Jumaine – security biggest factor.

Communication A: Communication A: from Commissioner Beth Sabo regarding Bid Waiver Request for the issuance of new beach stickers and the need to make sure they are again included in the tax bills to finance.  
Councilwoman O'Connor made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hamilton. All were in favor, Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

Communication C: from the December 13 2021 agenda,- from Mayor Rossi regarding an emergency expenditure request for the police department's air conditioning system. This Communication was **HELD**

Communication J: From the January 10 agenda- from Mayor Rossi regarding the advance bonded expenditure request for electric vehicle purchases, bid waiver on charging infrastructure contractor. This Communication was **HELD**

Ended at 9:10

**Streets and squares committee:** Councilman Gary Donovan, Chairman, Committee members: Steven Johnstone, Sarah Ackbarali, Victor Borrás, Mitchell Gallignano.

Communication A: From the January 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 agenda: Regarding discussion concerning parking on Cellini place. Chief Perno and Ray Collins spoke.

Councilman Donovan – at the Police Commissioner meeting Acorn came be for them about 12 parking spots on Cellini Place giving to them for parking  
Chief Perno – public street  
Commissioner Collins- designated medical zone  
Chief Perno – spoke about dropping speed limit to 15 mph.  
Councilman Donovan – Turned 12 parking spaces on to the medical and will be dedicated with signs – Concern no parking for residents for the Green that's over there. Feels left side should stay open for the residents.  
Commissioner Collins – what would prevent UNH residents from parking there?  
Councilman Donovan – doesn't want to give up City parking for our City resident is what concerns him.  
Commissioner Collins – can't answer for Acorn.  
Councilman Borrás – daytime  
Commissioner Collins – have many events actual happened on the green. Can be revisited.  
Councilman Johnstone – loading zone only certain times of the day for the medical center is that possibility.  
Chairman Massaro – residents are calling him not happy- Green was done over for Allingtown people not the developers. OK with giving one side to medial and other side for residents.  
Councilwoman Hoskie- never did anything like this anywhere else- Did P & Z approve it.  
Chief Perno – done for the 14 mph zone.  
Councilwoman Hoskie- who is paying for rumble strip?  
Chief Perno – haven't gotten that for yet  
Councilwoman McGee – rumble strips – someone is going to be dissatisfied because someone will get them first.  
Councilwoman Hamilton – what was passed  
Commissioner Collins – read resolution for the Board of Police Commissioner that they passed.

Councilwoman Hamilton – time 8a.m.-4p.m. for residents not to be able to park in not acceptable.  
Councilman Quagliani – what was read indicates that no parking spaces were designed. What is the intention?  
Chief Perno – entire zone is medical zone.  
Councilman Quagliani – are there 12 designated spots for this use.  
Chief Perno – only unless they pull a permit for handicap parking  
Councilman Quagliani – asked for Lee Tiernan’s opinion  
Lee Tiernan – no street is city property. Streets are rights of way. Parking issues is preview of Board of Police Commissioners. They designated it as a medical zone.  
Councilman Quagliani – no request to charge the parking on the street.  
Lee Tiernan – established use for speed limit at potential for additional requests afterwards,  
Councilwoman Hamilton – can there be application with designated parking would go before police agree.  
Chief Perno – it was designated for that purpose.  
Councilman Donovan – Minutes are not what they are saying here today. Wants one side left open for residents with no signage for medical building.  
Councilman Donovan – Acorn- 1 Audolan St gave overview of process – had 4 public hearings – a lot time. Wanted with Mayor Rossi, Police Commissioner and Lee Tiernan - January 18<sup>th</sup> went before the Police Commissioner.  
Hartford Healthcare signed lease based on getting those 12 spaces- it will be an issue.  
Chairman Massaro – why would we do the green over and not have the resident be able to use it.  
Councilman Donovan – Acorn went through all the proper procedures.  
Councilman Donovan – only asking that we don’t designate the left side 6 spaces.  
Councilwoman Hoskie – should go back to P & Z and have them stop with the parking variances.  
Councilwoman Hamilton- still unsure of what is parking.

#### **LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE:**

Councilman Robert Bruneau, Chairman Committee members: Colleen O’Connor, Mitchell Gallignano, Victor Borrás, Sarah Ackbarali.

Communication I: from the January 10, 2022, agenda from Taxpayer, Patricia Bollettieri regarding the issuance of an ordinance preventing Eminent Domain abuse in West Haven.

Ended 10:04

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

10:05

Committee reports

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie, Chairwoman, Committee members: Colleen O’Connor, Ronald Quagliani, Sarah Ackbarali, Robbin Watt Hamilton.**

Communication A: from Commissioner Beth Sabo regarding Bid Waiver Request for the issuance of new beach stickers and the need to make sure they are again included in the tax bills to finance. Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Bruneau All in favor except Councilman Borrás abstains.

Communication C: from the December 13 2021 agenda, - from Mayor Rossi regarding an emergency expenditure request for the police department's air conditioning system. **HELD**

Communication J: From the January 10 agenda- from Mayor Rossi regarding the advance bonded expenditure request for electric vehicle purchases, bid waiver on charging infrastructure contractor. **HELD**

Communication I: Held again.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED: NONE**

Council Liaison Reports—10:25-10:45-

West Haven Police Department Awards tomorrow night, March 1, 2022 at 7:00p.m. in the Harriett North Court Room

P & Z last week approved SRR to allow for apartments over

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Hoskie – **MOTION** to have Lee Tiernan come up and speak **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan  
Update on comp time

Lee Tiernan – It's a legal memorandum. If you're going to have any changes.

Councilwoman Hoskie – thought we were updating document that we are not going to allow city employees to pay back comp time/vacation time.

The current resolution regarding comp time

Councilwoman Hoskie wanted the resolution updated regarding that they don't get it

Councilwoman Hoskie is speaking about elected officials.

Councilman Quagliani – Should have 2 separate resolutions to make it more understandable one for elected officials and for appointed officials.

Chairman Massaro Council pictures

Chairman Massaro – Meetings back in Council Chamber starting with the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in March.

Councilwoman McGee thanked council for where she is with her political career. Resigned as 7<sup>th</sup> District Council at end of this meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Quagliani to enter into Executive Session **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan

10:48. Public lands committee meets

Public lands committee reports:

1. Sale, lease, or transfer of 561 main street and 10 saw mill road (formerly Stiles school) Councilman Donovan made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hamilton All in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Donovan makes a motion, Hamilton Seconds, all in favor.

2. Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 66 Tetlow Street (former Blake building) Councilman Donovan made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman McGee. All in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Transfer, Lease, or Sale of 447 First Avenue. Councilman Donovan made a **MOTION TO APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hoskie. All in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Sale, lease, or transfer of 165 Richards Street (Thompson School) **HELD**

5. Sale, Lease, or transfer of 20 Helm Street. **HELD**

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman McGee. All in favor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The City Council meeting was **ADJOURNED at 10:55 p.m.**

165 Richards Street (Thompson School)

