

Minutes of the April 11, 2022 City Council Meeting – Harriett North Court Room

The regular meeting of the West Haven City Council was held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7:01P.M.

In the Harriett North Court Room, 2nd floor, City Hall.

Roll Call Present were Council members: Quagliani, O’Connor, Donovan, Hoskie, Garthwait, Ackbarali, Gallignano, Hamilton, Tucker, Borrás, Bruneau, Johnstone, and Massaro. Also present: Scott Jackson, Finance Director and Lee Tiernan

Pledge of Allegiance

7:03p.m. Public Session – Clerk read letter from Attorney Falcone on behalf of Robert Bruneau. See YouTube Live stream for Public Comments – 9:34 p.m.

Chairman Massaro called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:35 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Quagliani presented a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes of Regular Meeting of March 28, 2022, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan and was **APPROVED** by Majority with Councilwoman Garthwait abstaining. Amend to minutes Paul Butler is Compliance Inspector not Superintendent and Councilwoman Garthwait was absent

Councilman Donovan presented a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes of Special Meeting of Meeting of March 29, 2022, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Johnstone and was **APPROVED** by a Majority with Councilwoman Garthwait abstaining. Amend to minutes Councilwoman Garthwait was absent.

Councilwoman Hamilton presented a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes of Redistricting Committee Special Meeting of April 6, 2022, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Garthwait and was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication A: from the Tax Collector in regards to Overpayment refunds for March 2022

Communication B: from Joseph Perno, Chief of Police of the West Haven Police Department in regards to the Animal Shelter Donations.

Communication C: Discuss the Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 610 Campbell Ave Rear

Communication D: from the Registrar of Voters in regards to the approval the map presented to the City Council setting forth districts for the elections of 2022 and subsequent even year elections until replaced pursuant to Section 9-169 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 7 of Chapter I of the charter of the City of West Haven.

Communication E: from Mayor Nancy Rossi regarding the employment contract for Jennifer A. Amendola, Director of the City of West Haven 911 Communications Center (PSAP) contract

Communication F: from Wilma Petro and Joe Perno Chief of Police regarding Bid wavier for weapon purchase.

In 9:40 P.M.

Councilman Gallignano called Majority Caucus which was SECONDED by Councilwoman Hamilton

Out 9:55 p.m.

III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

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

Finance Committee was called to order at 9:55 p.m.

FINANCE UPDATES

1. Scott Jackson, Finance Director gave update on the Cohn-Reznick Audit. A detailed response is being prepared. See Livestream for full comments. Attorney Lee Tiernan-City has engaged Attorney Grudberg for the city to present at MARB meeting on Thursday, 4/14/22.
2. YTD Budget review by Scott Jackson, Finance Director HELD
3. ARPA Update – HELD
4. MARB Meeting update – Scott Jackson, Finance Director voted to accept the Audit. Will attend Thursday, 4/14/22 MARB Special Meeting.
5. Regarding Compensatory time for elected/appointed officials- Attorney Tiernan will have at next meeting changes to the Resolution on Compensatory time.
6. Police Pension study update – Attorney Tiernan – people in place who are actively working on study.

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 in favor. Motion Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

Communication E: from Mayor Nancy Rossi regarding the employment contract for Jennifer A. Amendola, Director of the City of West Haven 911 Communications Center (PSAP) contract. Councilwoman Hamilton made a **MOTION to APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O'Connor. All in favor. Motion Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

Communication F: from Wilma Petro and Joe Perno Chief of Police regarding Bid wavier for weapon purchase. Councilwoman Hamilton made a MOTION to APPROVE rescinded MOTION which was SECONDED by Councilwoman O'Connor, took back Communication withdrawn per Rich Spreyer, Procurement Director

Finance Committee closed at 10:55 p.m.

COUNCIL-AS-A-WHOLE

Called to order at 10:56 p.m.

ARPA Plan – Food Pantry- A handout was passed out asking Council to take home and look at it and possible vote on it on Thursday.

Closed at 10:57 p.m.

PUBLIC LANDS: Councilman Gary Donovan, Chairman-Committee member, Colleen O'Connor, Ronald Quagliani, Robert Bruneau and Robbin Watt Hamilton

Public Lands Committee was called to order at 10:58 p.m.

Communication C: Discuss the Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 610 Campbell Ave Rear Public Hearing requested for next regular City Council Meeting April 25, 2022 at 6:55 Councilwoman O'Connor made a **MOTION to APPROVE** and which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hamilton. All in favor. Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

Public Lands Committee Closed at 1058 p.m.

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE: Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton – Committee members, Bridgette Hoskie, Sarah Ackbarali, Meli Garthwait and Robert Bruneau

Called to order at 10:59 p.m.

Communication D: from the Registrar of Voters in regards to the approval the map presented to the City Council setting forth districts for the elections of 2022 and subsequent even year elections until replaced pursuant to Section 9-169 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 7 of Chapter I of the charter of the City of West Haven. Councilwoman Ackbarali made a **MOTION to APPROVE** and which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Garthwait. All in favor. Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

Closed at 11:01 p.m.

IV: UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Schedule date for Havens to come before Council for update

V: COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Clerk to read Communication A into record

Councilwoman Hoskie read statement on Cohn-Reznick Audit/ARPA-

Official Statement of the West Haven City Council

1. The West Haven City Council expresses its deep concern regarding the findings of the Cohn-Resnick Audit report. The City Council has been clear that once the audit findings were released the Council, based on these findings, would take whatever action it deems necessary to address the issues.
2. The West Haven City Council recognizes and shares the public's anger, frustration, and embarrassment this issue has caused our community. As the Legislative Body for the City of West Haven, we recognize our duty to investigate these findings to determine the truth by confirming wrong doing and/or clearing those that may be named inappropriately.
3. The West Haven City Council recognizes that the elected position of Mayor, as CEO of the daytime government, is responsible for the actions of all City of West Haven employees. Audits dating back to at least 2014 have included findings in the area of improper controls including specific items such as vendor list management and segregation of duties that still need addressing.
4. The West Haven City Council recognizes that our residents and business owners have been denied economic and programmatic support to help mitigate the COVID-19

pandemic due to alleged illegal conduct. The city council strongly supports the effort by the administration to submit additional documentation to qualify for the reimbursement of corona virus funding previously denied.

Based on the above, I would like to make the following motion:

· The West Haven City Council invokes Chapter 4, Section 9 of the West Haven City Charter entitled “Investigation” which states in part “The City Council shall have power, by nine votes of its entire membership, to investigate any officer, department or board and shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of data at any meeting of the City Council or any committee thereof, and to the extent allowed by law, for that purpose may issue subpoenas, which shall be signed by the Chairman of the Council. The investigation may be conducted by a committee appointed by the Council for that purpose, provided that not more than half of the members of such committee shall be members of the same political party. The Chairman of the Council may as he deems necessary and appropriate, request and be given the aid of counsel by and through the office of the Corporation Counsel. The City Council also puts forth a vote of “no confidence” for Mayor Nancy Rossi.” Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION to APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilman Gallignano. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY via roll call vote.** Councilman Gallignano Amendment “No Confidence” vote on Mayor in the **MOTION** which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O’Connor. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY via roll call vote.**

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

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 Councilman Gallignano. All in favor. Motion Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

Communication E: from Mayor Nancy Rossi regarding the employment contract for Jennifer A. Amendola, Director of the City of West Haven 911 Communications Center (PSAP) contract. Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION to APPROVE**, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O’Connor. All in favor. Motion Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

Communication F: from Wilma Petro and Joe Perno Chief of Police regarding Bid wavier for weapon purchase. **WITHDRAWN**

ARPA Plan – Food Pantry- A handout was passed out asking Council to take home and look at it and possible vote on it on Thursday. HELD

PUBLIC LANDS: Councilman Gary Donovan, Chairman-Committee member, Colleen O’Connor, Ronald Quagliani, Robert Bruneau and Robbin Watt Hamilton

Communication C: Discuss the Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 610 Campbell Ave Rear Public Hearing Schedule 6:55 p.m. April 25, 2022

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE: Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton – Committee members, Bridgette Hoskie, Sarah Ackbarali, Meli Garthwait and Robert Bruneau

Communication D: from the Registrar of Voters in regards to the approval the map presented to the City Council setting forth districts for the elections of 2022 and subsequent even year elections until replaced pursuant to Section 9-169 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 7of Chapter I of the charter of the City of West Haven. Councilwoman Hamilton made a **MOTION to APPROVE** and which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hoskie. All in favor. Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:

NONE

VII. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hokies – Two Seniors at West Haven High School got in to Yale University

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Massaro appointed Councilman Gallignano to represent the City Council at the next MARB meeting to be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Chairman Massaro made a **MOTION to APPROVE**, and which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan. All in favor Passed **UNANIMOUSLY**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:20 p.m.

**Peter Massaro
Chairman of the Council**

**Stacy Riccio
Clerk of Council**