

Meeting minutes of the Special Meeting of the West Haven City Council held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 via zoom.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0fgqxMwMqk&t=330s>)

Chairman Quagliani called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Quagliani asked the Clerk to administer a Roll Call for attendance.

Councilwoman Hamilton is serving as temporary chair.

Present were Council Members: Donovan, O'Connor, Galignano, Johnston, Hamilton, Massaro, McGeé, Fanelli, Cohen, Hoskie, Bruneau, and Councilman at large Quagliani. Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Finance Director Frank Cieplinski were also present. Councilman Conlon was absent.

Chairman Quagliani read into the record the call of the special meeting.

Chairman Quagliani asked for any deliberations.

Chairman Cohen thanked everyone for their kindness this week.

Councilman Cohen made a motion on behalf of Councilwoman O'Connor on page 38, Personnel Department, 110001051000, Regular Wages, make HR Generalist proposed start for October 1st for full-time and make it part-time adjusting budget to \$30,000 making the adjusted total for the Personnel Department \$267, 837, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor.

Discussion: Mayor Rossi stated this is a mandated position by MARB and will act on this next week. She is asking members to not vote for this. A new personnel director will be hired on July 1st and would like the new director on board before a new position starts. Councilwoman Hoskie would like more details on why this motion is being put forward. Councilwoman O'Connor stated there is going to be flux in that department and need to figure what types of people are needed to make this department work. Councilwoman Hoskie is surprised because MARB has talked about this several times. Deficiencies have been well documented in that department. She does not support this motion. Councilman Cohen stated this position is not being eliminated but making this part-time. He is not sure if MARB indicated that it be a full-time position. Mayor Rossi confirmed it was always stipulated as full-time position and she did ask for the position to be delayed until October 1 rather than July 1. Councilman Quagliani also agrees that it should be a full-time position and he is opposed to this motion. Councilman Quagliani called for a vote.

All in Favor: None

Opposed: Councilwomen Hoskie, O'Connor, Hamilton, Fanelli, , Johnston, McGeé
Councilmen Galignano, Donovan, Massaro, Bruneau

Abstained: Councilman Cohen

Motion fails.

Councilman Cohen made a motion, Page 34, Mayor's Office, Budget 110500105100, Regular Wages, reduce by \$4,740, adjusted total to \$235,480, making a 3% increase rather than the 10.3% for the Executive and Administrative Secretaries, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor.

Discussion: Councilwoman Hoskie is questioning the consistency of this motion and a study by CCM showed certain salaries were underpaid for municipalities of this size and then look at everyone and do it across the board and look at other salaries. She is opposed to this motion. Councilman Massaro asks Councilman Cohen if the wages are going to be looked at again tonight. Everyone should be looked at which should include the whole city and not just certain departments. Councilman Cohen stated he was addressing individual salary lines not people or departments and the consistency of increases. He is not asking to lower any salaries just be consistent with other city hall increases of 3%. Councilwoman Fanelli pointed out the salary in question is \$39,000. A 10.3% increase sounds large but it is based on the \$39,000, which is not that much of an increase. Councilman Quagliani stated it's about equity and compared these positions with a union classification, this increase is appropriate for the duties that they have. Additionally, in past administrations positions have been eliminated, therefore he is not in favor. Councilman Bruneau called for a roll call vote, seconded by Councilman Massaro.

Councilwoman Hamilton called a roll call vote:

Donovan – No
O'Connor – No
Hoskie – No
Johnston – No
Gallignano – No
Hamilton – No
Massaro – No
McGee – No
Fanelli – No
Bruneau – No
Cohen – Yes
Quagliani – No

Motion fails 11N – 1Y

Chairman Quagliani made a motion to create a new account in the City Council Office Budget #11000010 for a Safer City Initiative for \$15,000, seconded by Councilman Bruneau and Councilwoman Johnston. Chairman Quagliani stated for years they have been trying to create an ordinance for a sustainable program that the housing stock in West Haven is up to code and housing is safe for their tenants. Mayor Rossi would like to see this move forward and would work together with the council. Chairman Quagliani stated the \$15,000 is coming from prior deliberations.

Councilwoman Hamilton called a roll call vote:

Donovan – Yes
O’Connor – Yes
Hoskie – Yes
Johnston – Yes
Gallignano – Yes
Hamilton – Yes
Massaro – Yes
McGee – Yes
Fanelli – Yes
Bruneau – Yes
Cohen – Yes
Quagliani – Yes

Motion approved unanimously 12Y – 0N.

Councilman Cohen made a motion, for the following:
Pg 48 Planning and Development, Overtime,
#11900010-51500 decrease from \$2500 to \$1700
Pg 82, Building Maintenance, Overtime
#14606075-51500 \$5500 decreased to \$5000
Pg. 96, Health Department, Overtime
#14704010-51500 \$10,000 decrease to \$5,000
Total decrease in overtime of \$11,700
Seconded by Councilwoman O’Connor

Discussion:

Councilwoman Hamilton asked where the savings would go. Councilman Cohen stated it would go into the rainy day fund. He stated a motion can be made to make it go into the contingency fund. Councilman Massaro does not think \$11,700 will make a difference and it’s a waste if it needs to be transferred. Councilwoman Fanelli agrees with Councilman Massaro and it shouldn’t be decreased. Would also like the rationale why these departments. Councilman Donovan stated if the money is not used it goes back into the general fund anyway. Chairman Quagliani agrees with Councilman Donovan. The budget is reviewed every month by several parties. Councilman Cohen stated everything helps and the council has to be fiscally responsible and it is rare when overtime is not spent because they consider it part of their budget. If it’s not in the budgets, the departments would need to explain why they need this additional money for overtime. Councilwoman Johnston stated most council people are open to listening to all motions. This budget was approved by MARB and she doesn’t feel qualified to make any judgments on whether the Health Department’s budget. Councilwoman McGee would like a roll call vote, seconded by Councilman Massaro.

Councilwoman Hamilton called a roll call vote:

Donovan – No
O’Connor – Yes
Hoskie – No
Johnston – No
Gallignano – No

Hamilton – No
Massaro – No
McGee – No
Fanelli – No
Bruneau – No
Cohen – Yes
Quagliani – No

Motion fails 2Y – 10N

Councilman Cohen made a motion, Pg 51, Controllers, Administrative Clerk Floater, decrease full time position to part time, 24,700
Councilwoman O’Connor seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilwoman Hoskie spoke with Frank and it’s an 80/20 position and will be used in other departments. This position was recommended by the auditor and if this position is to become part time, the overtime will increase. Councilman Massaro stated two positions have been eliminated for \$151,297 and adding a full time position for 80% for \$47,000. This is a win. Councilman Cohen stated one of the positions Councilman Massaro pointed out was transferred to another department.

Councilwoman Hamilton called a roll call vote:

Donovan – No
O’Connor – Yes
Hoskie – No
Johnston – No
Galignano – No
Hamilton – No
Massaro – No
McGee – No
Fanelli – No
Bruneau – No
Cohen – Yes
Quagliani – No

Motion fails 2Y – 10N

ACTION ON MAYOR ROSSI’S BUDGET

Action on Mayor Nancy R Rossi recommended budget for fiscal year July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022 and set the mill rate thereto including the appropriation and the laying of taxes for the City of West Haven including the West Haven Fire Department Allingtown.

RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of West Haven authorize the amended fiscal 2021- 2022 city expenditures and capital non-recurring of \$165,916,149 plus \$15,000 from tonight and sets the mill rate at 34 mills. Allingtown Fire Department expenditures of \$8,657,821 and sets mill rate at 11.62 mills. Sewer expenditures of \$11,827,836 with sewer use fees \$426 and car tax of 37 mills. Councilwoman Hoskie and Councilman Massaro and seconded by Councilman Bruneau and Donovan.

Discussion: None

Councilwoman Hamilton called a roll call vote:

Donovan – Yes

O'Connor – No

Hoskie – Yes

Johnston – Yes

Gallignano – Yes

Hamilton – Yes

Massaro – Yes

McGee – Yes

Fanelli – Yes

Bruneau – Yes

Cohen – No

Quagliani – Yes

Budget passes as amended by the council, 10Y- 2N

Mayor Rossi thanked the City Council for their hard work. She informed the City Council that the House of Representatives has passed the special taxation district for The Haven. It now has to go to the Senate for passage.

Councilman Massaro made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Hoskie and passed 12Y – 0N.

ADJOURNED: 7:03 p.m.