

Meeting minutes of the Public Hearing of the West Haven City Council held on Monday, May 24, 2021 via zoom.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-gq8aKIefo&t=11s>

Chairman Quagliani called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Present were Council Members: Donovan, O'Connor, Hoskie, Conlon, Johnston, Gallignano, Hamilton, Massaro, McGeé, Fanelli, Bruneau, Cohen and Councilman at large Quagliani. Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Council Clerk Riccio were also present. Absent was Councilman Conlon.

Council Clerk Riccio read into the record the call of the special meeting.

Chairman Quagliani turned the meeting over to Finance Chair Councilwoman Hoskie.

No public comments

Recess: 6:38 pm.

Resumed: 6:55 p.m.

Chairman Quagliani stated for the record that public hearing notices for Finance and Legislative matters were advertised.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE – Councilman Gallignano – No comments

Recess: 6:56 p.m.

Resumed: 7:00 p.m.

Council Clerk Riccio stated there are no public comments.

Recess: 7:01 p.m.

Resumed: 7:05 p.m.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Councilman Bruneau approved the meeting minutes from May 10, 2021, seconded by Councilwoman Conlon.

Discussion: Councilwoman Hoskie stated on pg. 2, second paragraph, Councilwoman Hamilton should be replaced with Councilwoman Hoskie's name.

Favor – All

Opposed – None

Minutes approved as corrected.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Mayor Nancy R Rossi – Adjusting Conveyance tax – assigned to Finance Committee, Chair Hoskie
- B. Mayor Nancy R Rossi - Appointment of Eleanor Salamba replacing Stefano Coletta, assigned to Personnel and Service Committee, assigned to Chair Massaro.
- C. Tax Collector – overpayment refunds for the month of May 2021
- D. Finance Director – inter-department line item transfers for Dept of Public Works assigned to Finance Committee, Chair Hoskie
- E. CDA Housing Specialist– John Bernardo - 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Act, assigned to the Finance Committee, Chair Hoskie
- F. CDA Manager – Mark Bisaccia – relocation of funds from the Citizens Advisory Commission, assigned to Finance Committee, Chair Hoskie
- G. Chief of Police – Joseph Perno, Animal Shelter Donations, assigned to Finance Committee, Chair Hoskie.
- H. Commissioner Beth Sabo – Community Development Block Grant Funds assigned to Housing, Planning & Recreation committee, Chair McGeé
- I. Withdrawn

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE – Chairwoman Hoskie – Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilman Massaro, Councilman Cohen, Councilman Bruneau and Chair Hoskie.

- 1. Communication A from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, adjusting conveyance tax. Councilman Massaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Discussion: none

Favor – All
Opposed – None
Absention – None
Motion carries

- 2. Communication D from Finance Director for inter-department line item transfers from the Dept of Public Works. Councilman Bruneau made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: Councilwoman Hoskie stated it is appreciated the extra money is going to the parks and fields. They have been neglected over the years.

Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion carries

3. Communication E - CDA Housing Specialist– John Bernardo - 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Act. Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to bring it out favorably, seconded by Councilman Massaro.

Chairwoman Hoskie would like a motion to separate West Haven Community House in the amount of \$114,800 to separate that into its own, Motion by Councilman Massaro, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. This will be Communication E1.

Discussion on E1: None

Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – Councilman Cohen
Motion carries to separate

Councilman Massaro made a motion to approve the original motion for West Haven Child Development \$15,000 and Ward Heitman House Foundation \$25,000, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Discussion:
Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion carries

4. Communication F – CDA Manager Bisaccia - Reallocation of Funds from the citizen Advisory Commission (CDA) – Councilman Cohen made a motion to bring it out favorably, seconded by Councilman Bruneau.

Communication F1 – Councilwoman Hoskie would like a motion to separate out West Haven Community House Fire Alarm system renovation for \$64,000. Councilman Massaro brought the motion forward, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Discussion: None

Original motion Communication F is for Living Word Ministries, Asbestos Dept of Engineering.
Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – Councilman Cohen
Motion carries

Communication F1
Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion carries

5. Communication G - Chief of Police – Joseph Perno, Animal Shelter Donations – Councilman Cohen brought motion out favorably, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Discussion: Councilman Cohen thanked the people who donated on behalf his dog’s passing.

Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion carries

PERSONNEL & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE – Councilwomen Hamilton, O’Connor & McGeé, Councilman Bruneau and Chair Massaro.

1. Communication B - Appointment of Eleanor Salama to the EDC replacing Stefano Coletta, assigned to Personnel and Service Committee. Chair Massaro would like to bring this motion out favorably. Councilwoman Hamilton made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman O’Connor.

Discussion: Councilman Massaro recommends Eleanor. Councilwoman Hamilton stated Eleanor will be an asset to the commission

Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstention: None
Motion carries

HOUSING, PLANNING & RECREATION COMMITTEE – Councilmen Galignano and Donovan, Councilwomen Johnson and O’Connor, and Chair McGeé.

1. Communication H – Commissioner Beth Sabo, Community Development Block Grant Funds. Chair McGeé would like to bring this motion out favorably. Councilman Donovan brought the motion forward, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston.

Discussion: None
Favor: All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion carries

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE - Councilmen Cohen and Bruneau, Councilwomen Fanelli and Johnston and Chair Gallignano

1. Communication A – May 10, 2021 Ordinance Amendment to OPED Trust. Chair Gallignano would like to bring this motion out favorably. Councilman Cohen made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Fanelli.

Discussion: None

Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstention – None
Motion Carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

Council Clerk Riccio read Communication C into the record and filed with tonight's minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE -

Councilwoman Hoskie reported the Finance committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider adjusting the conveyance tax and it's the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of West Haven to adjust the City of West Haven's conveyance tax to .50% in concurrence with the adopted City of West Haven budget for fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This rate will take effect July 1, 2021 and remain in place beyond June 30, 2022 unless adjusted by the City Council, seconded by Councilman Bruneau.

Discussion: None

Favor: All
Opposed: None
Absention – None
Motion passes unanimously.

Councilwoman Hoskie reported the Finance committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the matter of inter-department line item transfers for the Public Works Department and reports that it is the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the following inter-department line item transfers. Line item 14704010-51400s Temps decreased by \$24,000; Line item 14704010-52550 Ground Maintenance increased by \$24,000, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: None

Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstention: None
Motion passes unanimously.

Councilwoman Hoskie reported the Finance committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the matter of the Neighborhood Assistance Act and reports that it is the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, the City Council hereby approves that the following programs for 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Program under the Community Development Administration. West Haven Child Development \$15,000, Ward Heitmann House Museum Foundation Inc \$25,000, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Discussion: None

Favor: All
Opposed: none
Abstention: Councilwoman O'Connor
Motions passes by majority

Councilwoman Hoskie reported the Finance committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the matter of the Neighborhood Assistance Act and reports that it is the majority opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, the City Council hereby approves that the following program for 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Program under the Community Development Administration. West Haven Community House \$114,800, seconded by Councilwoman Fanelli.

Favor: All
Opposed: none
Abstention: Councilwomen O'Connor and Johnston, Councilmen Cohen and Quagliani
Motions passes by majority.

Councilwoman Hoskie reported the Finance committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the matter of the reallocation of funds for the citizen advisory commission and reports that it is the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, the City Council hereby approves that the following changes to the Citizens Advisory Commissions program year 46 Department of Engineering, sanitary sewer installation be reduced by \$200,000, asbestos removal at Carrigan School at \$120,000, Living Word Ministries architectural services at \$16,000, seconded by Councilman Cohen.

Discussion: None

Favor: All
Opposed: none
Abstention: Councilwoman O'Connor
Motion passes by majority

Councilwoman Hoskie reported the Finance committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the matter of the reallocation of funds for the Citizen Advisory Commission and reports that it is the majority opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, the City Council hereby approves that the following changes to the Citizens Advisory Commissions program year 46 West Haven Community House Fire Alarm System renovation adds \$64,000, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Discussion: None

Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstention: Councilwomen O'Connor and Johnston , Councilmen Cohen and Quagliani
Motion passes by majority

Councilwoman Hoskie reported the Finance committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the matter of the Animal Shelter donations and reports that it is the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, that the following donation to Department of Police Services be approved and deposited into line item 10100000-28285 Animal Shelter Donation. Angela Russo \$100; Florence Palermo \$25; Sharon Molster \$100; Falcon Art Studio \$100; Janice Creevy \$50; Steven Johnston \$20; Ariana Wort \$20 and Thomas Tubka \$50, seconded by Councilwoman Fanelli.

Discussion: None

Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstention: None
Motion passes unanimously

PERSONNEL & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Councilman Massaro reported the Personnel & Civil Service Committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the matter of appointing Eleanor Salama to replace Stefano Coletta on the Economic Development Commission and reports that it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of Eleanor Salamba, 18 Fourth Avenue, West Haven, to the City of West Haven Economic Development Commission to replace Stefano

Coletta, effect immediately to expire January 31, 2025, seconded by Councilman Gallignano.

Discussion: Councilman Donovan stated she is a hard worker and very qualified and dedicated. Councilman Cohen agrees that she is a dedicated hard worker. Councilman Gallignano and agrees with the other council members. Councilwoman McGeé stated Eleanor has great vision for this city.

Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstention: None

Motion passes unanimously

HOUSING, PLANNING & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilwoman McGeé reported the Housing, Planning & Recreation Committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the Community Development Block Grant funds and reports that it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the Commissioner of Personnel to apply for and accept \$10,000 in community development block grant funds for emergency support services, seconded by Councilman Gallignano.

Discussion: None

Favor: All

Opposed: None

Absentions: None

Motion passes unanimously

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Councilman Gallignano reported the Legislative Matters Committee met on the May 24, 2021 to consider the amendment to the OPEB Trust ordinance and reports that it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the following motion be presented:

SECOND READING: Amendment to OPEB Trust ordinance,

Section one: In accordance with CGS 7-450 that the City of West Haven shall establish a trust to provide for other post-employment benefits of the city's retired employees and their qualified dependents other than pension benefits including employees in the department of fire protection a/k/a the City of West Haven Fire Department Allintown, which may include medical, dental and vision insurance and such benefits as the city may provide in the future known as the City of West Haven retiree medical program OPEB trust.

Section two: The trustee for the OPEB trust shall be the Personnel Director for the city or the Finance Director

Section three: The city council of the city may amend or terminate the OPEB trust at any time and from time to time in his direction, the plan administrator shall be the finance

director of the city or his or her designee who shall be responsible for instructing the trustee in the disbursement of benefits of the OPEB trust, seconded by Councilman Donovan.

Discussion: None

Favor: All

Opposed: None

Absentions: None

Motion passes unanimously.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Bruneau updated the council that the Police Department are looking into body cams and patrol car cams. Companies are being interviewed at the present time. Parking enforcement will begin Memorial Day weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman McGeé reported that the American Legion building is being sold. There are important artifacts in that building. She suggests paying respect to those who have served

Councilman Cohen thanked everyone that contributed on the success of the animal shelter food and supply drive and sponsored by Apple Oil and Star Distributors.

Councilwoman Hoskie asks for a request to the Attorney Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel for a FOI compliance review of the CDA.

Councilman Massaro made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Conlon and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 7:02 P.M.

