

Minutes of the July 25, 2022 Regular Meeting of the City Council – City Council Chambers 3rd floor, West Haven City Hall

The Regular Meeting of the West Haven City was held on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers 3rd Floor, West Haven. Acting Chairman Mitchell Gallignano called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Members Present were Councilmembers: Gary Donovan, Colleen O’Connor, Ronald Quagliani (Late 7:50p.m.) Bridgette Hoskie, Meli Garthwait, Sarah Ackbarali, Robbin W. Hamilton, Victor Borrás, Robert Bruneau, Steven Johnstone, Acting Chairman Mitchell Gallignano. Council members absent –Kathy Tucker and Peter Massaro.

Public Hearing:

6:59 p.m. - 7:17 p.m. - REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE: Communication B: from the June 17, 2022 Agenda from Councilwoman Hamilton – Approval of the local redistricting map mandated by the 10 year census. See YouTube for comments.

7:17p.m. Public Session –See YouTube Live stream for Public Comments – 10:01 p.m.

RECESS 10:01p.m.

Acting Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order at 10:10p.m.

Councilman Quagliani amended the Minutes of May 31, 2022

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Hamilton presented a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 31 2022 which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O’Connor. Councilman Quagliani made a motion to amend pg. 1 spelling change “nominated” to “nominate” and on pg. 5 to include the remaining language on Communication A-15 “Public Works Infrastructure Paving an Improvements” which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O’Connor. All in favor. **MOTION** passed by **MAJORITY** Acting Chairman Gallignano Abstained

Councilwoman Hoskie present a **MOTION to APPROVE** the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 9, 2022, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O’Connor and Councilwoman Hamilton. All in favor. **MOTION** passed by **MAJORITY** Councilman Borrás, Councilwoman O’Connor and Councilwoman Hamilton Abstained

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK
OF WEST HAVEN
2022 AUG 26 AM 11:49
Colleen O'Connor
TOWN AND CITY CLERK

Councilwoman Hamilton present a **MOTION to APPROVE** the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 11, 2022, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O'Connor. Councilman Johnstone made a MOTION to amend on pg. 2 bottom of the pg. Communication A-4 Councilwoman Tucker and Councilman Johnstone Voted No. All in favor. **MOTION** passed by **MAJORITY** with Councilman Hoskie, Councilwoman Garthwait and Councilman Borrás abstained.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

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

Communication B: from Maureen Lillis Director of Health Department regarding a request for a refund of \$300.00 to made to Ben Vinci for Temporary Food Event Permit for two separate events that sere cancelled due to unforeseen circumstance

Communication C: from Maureen Lillis Director of Health Department regarding a request for a refund of \$200.00 to be made to Kenneth Sacco of Yankee Clippers for Barbershop permit late fee.

Communication D: from Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel regarding discussion and potential approval of the Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 610 Campbell Rear for \$18,000.00.

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 10:16 p.m.

FINANCE UPDATES

- 1. YTD Budget Review – Scott Jackson, Finance Director – NO UPDATES**
- 2. ARPA – Update - NONE**
- 3. MARB – Update - NONE**
- 4. Police Pension Study update – NONE**

Communication B: Councilwoman Hamilton presented a **MOTION** to recommend approval to the entire Council of Communication B: from Maureen Lillis, Director of Health Department regarding a request for a refund of \$300.00 to be made to Ben Vinci for Temporary Food Event Permit for two separate events that were cancelled due to

unforeseen circumstances which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O'Connor. All in favor. MOTION passed by MAJORITY. Councilman Quagliani and Councilman Johnstone opposed. **viva voce**

Communication C: Councilwoman O'Connor presented a **MOTION** to recommend approval to the entire Council of Communication C: from Maureen Lillis, Director of Health Department regarding a request for a refund of \$200.00 to be made to Kenneth Sacco of Yankee Clippers for Barbershop permit late fee which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Ackbarali. All in favor. **MOTION** passed **UNANIMOUSLY viva voce**

Communication D: from the June 13, 2022 Agenda from Lee Tiernan Corporation Counsel and Rick Spreyer, Purchasing/Procurement request for transfer of funds Police Vehicles/Police boat emergency. **WITHDRAWN**

Communication J: from the June 13, 2022 Agenda from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi 5 Year Plan. **HELD**

Finance Committee closed at 11:05 p.m.

RE-DISTRICTING COMMITTEE: Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton
Chairwoman – Committee members, Bridgette Hoskie, Sarah Ackbarali, Meli
Garthwait and Robert Bruneau

Re-Districting Committee call to order at 11:07 p.m.

Councilwoman Hoskie presented a **MOTION** to recommend approval to the entire Council of Communication B: from June 27, 2022 Agenda from Robin Watt Hamilton, Chairwoman of the Redistricting Committee regarding approval of the local redistricting map mandated by the 10 year census which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Ackbarali. All in favor. **MOTION** passed by **MAJORITY**. Councilwoman Garthwait abstained. **viva voce**

Re-Districting Committee closed at 11:29 p.m.

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

Public Lands call to order at 11:29p.m.

Communication D: from Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel regarding discussion and potential approval of the Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 610 Campbell Rear for \$18,000.00. **HELD**

Communication H: from the June 13, 2022 Agenda from Lee Tiernan Corporation Counsel regarding the Potential Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 204 Jaffrey St. **HELD**

Public Lands closed at 11:31 p.m.

IV: UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Garthwait, Ackbarali and Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan had discussions pertaining the Investigative Committee. Garthwait indicated that she has been calling Attorney Burns with no response other than that he has not been retained by the City. Corp. Counsel Tiernan stated that he has not engaged Attorney Burns as of yet as he was waiting for direction from the Council. Garthwait stated that Tiernan should recuse himself from because of conflict of interest. Tiernan indicated that he would be discussing a fee agreement with Attorney Burns.

Councilman Johnstone asked for an update on the P Card system.

The Havens was discussed with Tiernan indicating that an email was sent to all Council members just prior to the meeting and that he would be checking with the Building Department daily. Councilwoman Ackbarali requested that the Council and the public be notified prior to any explosions, demolitions being performed at the site.

Councilwoman Garthwait stated that she is still requesting that the City Engineer come to the next Council meeting to discuss Phase I, Beach Street and requested the Clerk to send another email, with copy to the Mayor & Tiernan.

Councilman Quagliani asked when the NEBCO contract will be ready for Council approval. Tiernan indicated that will probably be ready for the next Council meeting.

V: COMMITTEE REPORTS 11:44 p.m.

Clerk to read Communications A into record

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

Communication B: from Maureen Lillis, Director of Health Department regarding a request for a refund of \$300.00 to be made to Ben Vinci for Temporary Food Event Permit for two separate events that were cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman O’Connor. All in favor. **MOTION** passed by **MAJORITY**. Councilman Quagliani and Councilman Johnstone Opposed and Councilman Borrás Abstained

RESOLVED: The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the

refund request to Ben Vinic for Temporary Food Event Permit in the Amount of \$300.00 for 2 separate events.

Communication C: from Maureen Lillis, Director of Health Department regarding a request for a refund of \$200.00 to be made to Kenneth Sacco of Yankee Clippers For Barbershop permit late fee. Councilwoman Hoskie made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY**

RESOLVED: The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the refund request of \$200.00 to Kenneth Sacco, Yankee Clippers Barbershop for permit late fees.

Communication D: from the June 13, 2022 Agenda from Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel and Rick Spreyer, Purchasing/Procurement request for transfer of funds Police Vehicles/Police boat emergency. **WITHDRAWN**

Communication J: from the June 1, 2022 Agenda from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi 5 Year Plan. **HELD**

RE-DISTRICTING COMMITTEE: Councilwoman Robin Watt Hamilton, Chairwoman-Committee members, Bridgette Hoskie Sarah Ackbarali, Meli Garthwait and Robert Bruneau

Communication B: from June 27, 2022 Agenda from Robin Watt Hamilton, Chairwoman of the Redistricting Committee regarding approval of the local redistricting map mandated by the 10 year census. Councilwoman Hamilton made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Hoskie. All in favor. **MOTION passed by MAJORITY.** Councilwoman Garthwait Abstained.

RESOLVED: The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the local redistricting map mandated by the 10 year census. Map Attached.

PUBLIC LANDS; Councilman Donovan Chairman, Committee members: Councilwoman O'Connor, Councilman Quagliani, Councilman Bruneau and Councilwoman Hamilton

Communication D – from Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel regarding discussion and potential approval of the Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 610 Campbell Rear for \$18,000.00. **HELD**

Communication H: from the June 13, 2022 Agenda from Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel regarding the Potential Sale, Lease, or Transfer of 204 Jaffrey St. **HELD**

VI. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED: NONE

VII. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Hoskie asked the Clerk to send out emails regarding several items below:
Email to Chair people of each Board/Commission to remind them that their meeting minutes need to be filed within 7 days of their respective meetings.

An email asking if the City hired a lawyer to fight the FOI request for the credit card records.
An email requesting information on the Lake Street bid asking for status.

An email to Public Works regarding the pot holes on 2nd Ave and May Street.

An email to Economic Development Commission as to the make of their commission and how many open positions as well as requesting them to provide the Council with their vision as to what they would like to see done with the ARPA funds.

An email requesting information as to the Farmer's Market & West Fest being moved to the beach.

An email regarding information as to why the City still has a Security Guard at the front door.

An email requesting the balance of the Animal Shelter bottle donations - Councilwoman Garthwait indicated that she has already requested the information last week and has been waiting for the information.

Councilwoman Garthwait made a **MOTION** to Subpoena the last 5 years of the City of West Haven's credit card records, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Borrás. Motion passes by **MAJORITY** with a Roll Call Vote as follows:

- DONOVAN – NO
- O'CONNOR – YES
- QUAGLIANI – YES
- HOSKIE – NO
- GARTHWAIT – YES
- ACKBARALI – YES
- GALLIGNANO – NO
- HAMILTON – YES
- BORRAS – YES
- BRUNEAU – NO
- JOHNSTONE - YES

Councilwoman Garthwait made a **MOTION** for the Mayor made formal demand of past/present employees that were named in the Cohn Resnick Audit that received bonuses inappropriately to return those COVID payments back to the City of West Haven, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Borrás. Discussion took place with Councilman Quagliani being concerned that those individuals are entitled to due process. Councilwoman Hoskie also added that there may be other individuals that received comp time that are not in the audit report. There was also discussion with Councilman Borrás about the two council persons on the Investigative Committee, however the attorney has not yet been hired. Councilman Borrás took back his **SECOND**.

Councilman Bruneau gave information about the need for the security guards explaining that there were people entering the building walking into city department offices which was causing problems and that he feels there is still a need for the security guards.

Amended

Councilman Borrás asked if the City or Park Rec could look into getting handicap mats on beach.

Councilman Borrás also asked if Tom McCarthy, Commissioner of Public Works could be at the next City Council meeting to address the problems at Lake Avenue.

Councilwoman Garthwait stated that she is interested in being the Council liaison for the Economic Development Commission.

Councilman Johnstone stated that he is interested in being the Council liaison for the Beautification Committee.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman O'Connor made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN** which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan. All in favor. **MOTION** passed **UNANIMOUSLY**.

The City Council meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:24 a.m.

Mitchell Gallignano
Acting Chairman of the Council

Stacy Riccio
Clerk of Council

Diane Ascenzia
Admin. Asst. City Council

These minutes were approved by the City Council on August 22, 2022