

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, September 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Raymond Collins III at West Haven Police Headquarters, 200 Sawmill Road. All those present, rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Raymond Collins III, <i>Chairman</i>	Present
Paul E. Butler, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Present
John M. Carrano, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Christopher Suggs, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Deborah B. Wright, <i>Pension Board Chair and Commissioner</i>	Present
Joseph Perno, <i>Chief of Police</i>	Present
Carl Flemming, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present

Agenda

Chief Perno introduced item 8.8 regarding a correspondence request from the local 895 union and item 8.8 a with an Executive Session regarding the same subject.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add item 8.8 to the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright MOVED to add item 8.8 a to the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Perno also introduced item 10.4 regarding personnel and informational under the Executive Session portion of the agenda.

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to add item 10.4 to the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the agenda as amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Minutes for Approval

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to accept the minutes as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

John M. Carrano
TOWN AND CITY CLERK

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OF WEST HAVEN

2. Public Input

Sean Faughnan, Union President, from 200 Sawmill Road, spoke to congratulate Officer Justin Standish and K9 partner Cody on their retirement and to thank them for all that they have done for the department.

3. Communications

The following monthly reports:

- 3.1 Animal Control Report – July, 2021
- 3.2 Attendance Report – July 2021
- 3.3 Investigative Report – July 2021
- 3.4 K9 Report Sgt. Bloom/K9 Ike – July 2021
- 3.5 Traffic Report – July 2021
- 3.6 Training/Armorer Report – July 2021
- 3.7 Training Report – July & August, 2021

4. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno thanked Officer Standish and K9 Cody for their 7 years of service to the department.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief – No Report

6. Report of the Committees – No Report

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

8.1 City event on Allingtown Green – September 15, 2021

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the city event on the Allingtown Green on September 15, 2021; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 2021 Alzheimer's Walk – Sunday, September 26, 2021

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the 2021 Alzheimer's Walk on Sunday, September 26, 2021; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Dominate the Day 5K Run/Walk – Sunday, October 10, 2021

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the Dominate the Day 5K Run/Walk event on Sunday, October 10, 2021; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

8.4 Savin Rock ½ & Full Marathon – Saturday, October 30, 2021

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the Savin Rock ½ & Full Marathon event on Saturday, October 30, 2021; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.5 Ordinance Violations - #170-4 Tickets #14926-11054

Counselor Timothy Gunning addressed the board regarding the two violations his client has incurred. He explained that his client has done a lot for the community and providing for his family. As a result of the violations, his client's license was taken away and he hasn't been able to operate his business since August 11th. He stated that his client would like to ask the board to return his license to continue to operate, and that he is willing to engage in any dialogue necessary on different ways to manage his truck to avoid future problems. Counselor Gunning explained that the first incident was when his client parked on the Sea Bluff block in order to keep children who went to his business safe, but in doing so, it led to a violation. He also explained the second incident in which his client was told he was blocking traffic. He explained that his client is a long time West Haven resident and that he is asking for the understanding and consideration from the board to let him continue operating his business.

Chairman Collins noted that based on the reports, Counselor Gunning's client has received several verbal warnings and that the fines have not been paid. Counselor Gunning responded that he would review the verbal warnings with his client to ensure that the violations do not happen again.

Commissioner Carrano asked if the violations have been recurring issues every year. Chief Perno answered that this is the first time he has been ticketed, but in the past he has received numerous warnings.

Commissioner Carrano also inquired if there was anything that could be done, such as training, so that food vendors could be more aware of where they can park. Chief Perno answered that to his understanding, the vendors are told where they can park from the city, in terms of ordinances, every year when they renew their license in April.

Counselor Gunning asked the board if the verbal warnings documented were specifically directed toward his client. Chairman Collins responded that the verbal warnings were directed towards his client and that they go back two years ago with both the officer and the sergeant signing off on them.

Commissioner Wright MOVED for the fines to be upheld, and once they are paid, to allow Counselor Gunning's client to get his license back; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

8.6 Update on Blight Properties – All in Compliance

88 Meloy Rd.
71 Martin Street
128 Arlington St.
65 Nashawena Ave.

Chief Perno commented that great strides have been made towards improving these properties. He added that the Sergeant in charge has contacted all of the owners and that they all understand that if the issues continue or worsen, the fines will not be reduced.

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to accept the compliance of these properties; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously

8.7 Police Applicant Interview

Commissioner Butler MOVED to table item 8.7 for after Executive Session and to change the name of the item to “Action on the Interview”; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously

8.8 Correspondence Request

Chief Perno requested that since the executive board members from the local 895 union were present, that they be included in the Executive Session.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to go into Executive Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

8.8a Executive Session

The meeting was called back to public session at 7:39 PM.

9. Pension Board

Commissioner Wright provided updates on the status of payments for retirees and addressed Union President Sean Faughnan to make sure that he was informed on the updates since retirees may be contacting the union with questions or concerns.

She explained to the board that the retirees have had issues as a result of the loss of a position to handle their increases for the first time within the last three years. She stated that while sworn personnel got their increase, retirees didn't because there was no one in the position to put all the information together. After around 3 months of trying to resolve the issues, the retirees were finally able to get their September payment with an increase, but the increase that was included was not correct. Now there will be a retro payment that is going to have the July increase, the August increase, as well as the difference between what they should have gotten in September and what they actually received in September in terms of their increase. All of those increases

will be in one payment that they will receive either at the end of this week or beginning of next week, depending on how they receive their checks. If they are signed up for direct deposit, they should receive the payment on Friday. If they receive paper checks, it will depend on the mail. Their October payments will reflect the correct increase going forward.

Commissioner Wright also commented that although she has put in a lot of work into getting all of the payments set up and corrected, someone from city hall should have been put in charge of handling the situation. She emphasized the need for discussions regarding having a benefits person position in city hall to handle these types of situations in the future. She thanked the retirees for their patience and understanding during this process.

10. Executive Session

Commissioner Butler **MOVED** to re-enter Executive Session to discuss the following reports:

- 10.1 Special Victims & Firearms Report – July 2021
- 10.2 Street Crime Report – July 2021
- 10.3 Discussion of Action on the Interview
- 10.4 Personnel and Informational

Motion was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 8:15 PM the Commissioners returned to regular session.

Commissioner Wright **MOVED** to hire Tyler Hackett as Probationary Grade D Officer with a start date of September 9th; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously

The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Wright; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo
Recording Clerk