

**WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2016
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER**

ITEM #1 - MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 8:55 P.M.

President Slifka: Okay. Let's call the Council Meeting to order, and we're going to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Slifka: As we begin, I would like to, in a moment, ask my colleagues for a moment of silence, and I'm going to have to do some reading as I, as I describe it. We had, last week, the passing of someone who served this town in a number of great ways but also at this table as Deputy Mayor for two terms, and that gentleman was Art Fay. Art passed away last week, and among his, his myriad of accomplishments were that he served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II. He participated in the Philippine liberation in the occupation of Japan. He came home and, and went to Trinity College and was, for almost 30 years, I'm sorry, almost 40 years, worked for the New England—what was then known as the New England Telephone Company. And during that period of time he somehow found the, the free time to serve five terms on the West Hartford Town Council with two of those as Deputy Mayor. And I'm—in his obituary, the family cites amongst his favorite accomplishments were working to build the Veterans Memorial Ice Rink and being part of the application process for West Farms Mall. So that really tells you, I mean, when you talk about somebody who touched many of the things we take for granted here in the community, Art sure did. Art then left and became the Chairman of the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority, and I think perhaps not with—or with a bit of irony, his family noted that he left the CRRA in excellent financial condition when he ended his term in 1997 because, obviously, it's not now, and it's missed him. It's not in his obituary, but Art many times wrote to me, wrote to other members of this body, came to meetings for a long time to give us just friendly advice, and it was always useful. It, it was actually—it was very in-depth, it was thoughtful, and, and very useful. And then in the classic form of many of our retired residents, Art then became a member of the Old Guard and was very active in that in many years, and then even in his last few years in Chatfield, it says he led the Headlines and Deadlines Group and was an otherwise active resident. But I will remember him fondly from the—his—my first days here, making me feel very welcome and, and sending me so many beautiful hand-written letters over the years and sending many great ideas. So for that reason and also we will add in for the, the tragedy today in, in Brussels, if I could ask my colleagues to join in a moment of silence. Thank you very much. So, that gets us to the Roll Call please, Ms. Labrot?

ITEM #3 - ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Judy Casperson, Leon Davidoff, Denise Hall, Beth Kerrigan, Scott Slifka, Ben Wenograd, and Chris Williams.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. I'll get to #4, Mrs. Cantor?

ITEM #4 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES - RECEIVED

Councilor Cantor: Number four. I move that we approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes dated 3-8-2016, Public Hearing Ordinance Revising the Composition of the Historic District Commission, 3-8-2016.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Slifka: The motion's made and seconded. Any discussion? Ms. Hall has recused herself. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries.

ITEM #5 - PUBLIC FORUM

President Slifka: We're up to Public Forum. And, I already had looked at the sheet before the meeting, and all those who had signed up had otherwise crossed an—I, I took it, Pat. They'd already either crossed their names out or it was the gentleman we allowed to speak during the hearing, so if, unless there's someone else in the audience who'd like to speak? Then we will move to Report from the Town Manager. Mr. Van Winkle.

ITEM #6 - REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It is actually spring. We've had a great winter. The forecast for the next seven days doesn't show snow, so I think we're, we've made it. Our snow budget is well under. And if you happen to be out cleaning up your yard, we will begin our spring yard pick-up. Yard waste is defined as leaves, pine needles, pine cones, acorns, twigs, dead plant material from last year's annuals and perennials, and thatch. You place it in a 30-gallon paper bag and put it at your curb, and on your trash collection day we will pick it up. Don't put in soil, rocks, or grass clippings. So April 11, the week of April 11 to the 15th we'll be picking up in your, your area and then the next pick-up is May 9 to the 13th and the last pick-up is June 6 to the 10th. The weather is great. You should be out there working in the yard anyway. We now take e-waste at our Public Works Yard. If you have an old computer, a monitor, a VCR. If anyone still knows what a VCR is. Any electronics, PDAs, microwaves, telephones, small appliances, you can take'm to our recycling center at Brixton Street, our Public Works Yard if you are a resident. We will now take that material at the Public Works Yard. Drop-off is between 8 and 4:30 weekdays, and starting April 1, we will open at 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. But the most important thing is that our Director of Community Services will be doing a speech for the Chamber at Wampanoag Thursday, this week, at 12 o'clock. If you don't have tickets you should get them. He is going to tell, talk about town economic development, what's going on, what's being built, and you can see it being built and what is not yet announced. A lot of new things coming in the next few months to West Hartford. New stores, new restaurants, new

activities around our community, so it should be a very interesting speech. Thursday at Wampanoag at 12 noon. If you want to get a ticket, call the West Hartford Chamber. That's really all I have. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

President Slifka: I'm shocked. Okay, Ms. Hall has a question.

Councilor Hall: Actually, two questions. First of all, in regard to the electronic waste, do people need to get a permit ahead of time? Or can they just show up?

Mr. Van Winkle: No, we no longer require you to get a permit for any disposal at our, our recycling sites. The—but you will need a permit. So you'll need to prove that you're a resident, show a license, and then get a permit at the site when you drop off. We do them that day.

Councilor Hall: Thank you. And then since we had a, a lot of people earlier this evening talking about MDC, I know personally, I feel like over and over again I have talked about the ad valorem tax and how it disproportionately is being borne by the Town of West Hartford over other municipalities, and so I was wondering if we could take this opportunity once again to talk about how the West Hartford ad valorem tax from the MDC works.

Mr. Van Winkle: Certainly. I actually have a page in my budget that is called "Tax Computation Schedule for the MDC." Our, our taxes in West Hartford from the MDC, and I just picked two years, so 2005, we paid \$5.8 million and in this coming year we'll almost pay \$9 million. It's increased substantially. And we pay 24.4 percent of the total tax levied on the eight communities that are part of MDC. Because our grand list is done well, that tax is done based on the strength of your grand list, and so, as I look around in other communities in this area, some have seen that decline because they have not had the growth that we've had. So we end up paying a larger portion based on the, the grand list, the value of the properties in the Town of West Hartford. Not on the, how much water you use. If you use a lot of water, your community doesn't pay more than another community. In 2005, we actually did an analysis of if we shifted to a straight water—your water bill would pay for that. Our payment would drop substantially. It's only memory I'm aligning—relying on, but it dropped perhaps in half from where it was if we went to just the amount of water you use versus your grand list. This is the MDC's charter from the state legislature that gives them the power to be, in fact, a municipality. That's what they're set up as. Their power to tax and their power is to tax the towns around it, and so this structure is set up by that charter and their actions. Because we are growing, we're paying a larger portion.

Councilor Hall: So I, I know I have brought it up to the MDC, but if residents don't like the way this is being done, the best way for them to try to get this changed is to contact our legislators directly?

Mr. Van Winkle: I'm going to—I'm not a legal authority on how you change the MDC charter. I don't know if either of you might have—no, they're not going to go...

Mr. O'Brien: Well, the MDC Charter would have to be changed by the legislature. Yep.

Councilor Hall: So, for those of our residents that are listening and are upset with the increase to our budget based upon the MDC, then what they should do is contact their legislators and Beth Bye, our senator, and bring that up to them because that's the only way it's going to change.

Mr. Van Winkle: And I would just point out that if we were to move to some other system, it would shift the taxes from West Hartford to poorer communities in the region. So it is a form of a subsidy, if you will, if you believe it should be on water taxes, so it's a very difficult thing for our legislature today to say, "West Hartford, we're going to give you a break, and City of Hartford, we're going to charge you more." Difficult thing to get through the legislature in this fiscal situation that the city is facing, so, I, it's one we look at, but I'm not sure you're going to have much success.

President Slifka: Maybe I can—I thought you were going to say something else, Mr. Van Winkle. I appreciate that spin on it, which I agree with, but, you know, there was a comment we had from, from a speaker earlier this evening that suggested that we, the Town, does, just rolls over and accepts this, and I know that on both sides of the aisle, that is not—has not been the case, but to give a little history to this, this is something that I pursued a change in several times, and quite aggressively some years back, and there's an even more obvious problem to this, which is, I, I'm glad you answered the question about the charter. From my memory, I couldn't remember if the charter could be changed by the vote of the members or by the legislature, but you have a simple math problem is, West Hartford is paying more than the other seven, eight member towns, and there is no motivation for any of those other towns to allow West Hartford to pay less. They're getting a good deal and they know it, so either their MDC representatives would not support it, their mayors, who I worked with on this, certainly would not support it. And their state representative, senators would certainly not support it. So I would not discourage our residents to complain to, to our state representatives, but would want to acknowledge the, the reality that you start adding up the people representing all those communities have absolutely zero interest in helping anyone else pay less to their expense, let alone a community that's viewed as successful as West Hartford. It's quite the uphill battle, and it's an unfortunate result. I wish it were different, but it is, that explains probably why it's very hard to change.

Councilor Hall: I realize that, but I just wanted that discussion out here at the table because it is such a frustrating experience for us. And I would commend the Town Manager on his efforts to influence MDC's budget. One of the problems with a Regional Authority is that everybody sort of abdicates responsibility and just doesn't show up at the budget meetings, and that's not something that West Hartford does, so thank you for your continued efforts and hopefully we'll be able to make an impact with MDC in regard to the town's feelings around the ways that the Niagara Bottling issue can be addressed to handle residents' concerns about priority for water in any drought situation and fairness around the pricing. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Hall. Mrs. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: I, I just wanted to add also that for the past, well, a number of years, when MDC did their allocation, we did go to meet with them and we did talk about and push back, and have had results some years. This year was a funny year. Because they didn't—they gave us the allocation after they already voted on it, and usually they give us notice and we go in with other

towns, and actually, Peter Privitera was wonderful in organizing other Town Managers to push back last year because it was a very substantial increase, and they did come off of it. But it's still—it's still high, and, but they like, one of the things I, I did learn was, you know, they've had to take a lot of measures on security and safety as well as some other dynamics that've changed but, you know, that doesn't justify a high—the high increase, but I, it is a more complicated—their obviously energy costs were an impact to them and, but, but anyway, we do get involved and we fight and we talk and we try to protect our community, and I, you know, to say that we, we haven't tried this and we've, like the mayor, we've, we've talked about this ad valorem with our commissioners in length, and the numbers are not there, and the will is not there to change it yet, although we saw a slight bend because of several of the communities had increased allocations this year and last year, I think, so we are seeing a little bit of, of at least an understanding of the allocation and how it happens and who bears the burden, so.

President Slifka: Ms. Kerrigan.

Councilor Kerrigan: As you all know, I am struggling with respect to the MDC and Niagara and the position that we're taking on this. I know that Bloomfield and Windsor have both passed resolutions at least allowing the, at least allowing MDC to know where the town stands, so I would welcome, and I don't know proper protocol, but I would welcome any discussion amongst the Town Councils as a whole to say priority of water, subsidy of sewer discharge for Niagara as well as the price of water, and how that happens, I don't know, but I, I think it's important. Most of you are aware there's a lot of residents really, really, really concerned about this, and the more you learn about it, I think the more you find out that a decision that has this magnitude requires a conversation in the public, as Representative Miller said, in the spotlight, and the way that this was done was behind closed doors intentionally in secret with permits under false names. I, I'm just, I'm asking for a conversation with all the facts on the table so that we can decide whether we should have a resolution to support Beth Bye's bill, so thank you for bringing it up, because quite frankly, it makes me so emotional, I wasn't going to bring it up, but, but I'm glad that you did. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Beth. Anybody else? Mr. Barnes.

Councilor Barnes: I agree with you, Beth, and I will be happy to join that conversation and get more involved on the issue.

President Slifka: Okay. Mr. Williams.

Councilor Williams: Likewise, Beth. I think it's an important issue and it'd be good, I think, and we discussed this as well, to have some sort of position as a group, West Hartford, with respect to Niagara and its implications for the town.

President Slifka: Ms. Casperson.

Councilor Casperson: I think that, as everyone is seeing, we are never a Council that would sit back and just let things happen. We work diligently to bring things before the public. We try to work within the system that is here, and I am very concerned about the water issue, and wouldn't

want anyone to ever think that we as a Council or myself personally would sit back and, you know, they're, besides the fact of the water itself, then there are the plastic bottles, and, and what that does to our environment and beyond, and then the cost, which we are bearing the brunt of because we are a successful community, and I understand that, but at the same time, should we be penalized? And they're—you know, everyone in our community can't necessarily afford some of the things that do happen, so I, I just want us to be able to look thoughtfully and do what we can to advocate for our community and our taxpayers. Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. Procedurally, we are still in the Manager's Report, so I just, if nothing further—I don't know if there's anything else for the manager? Mister, Mr. Williams.

Councilor Williams: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Van Winkle, I wanted to know—a couple weeks ago we had the press release from Weiming about their interest in potentially purchasing the UConn property and developing a school there. I wanted to know if there was any update as to specifics, timelines, the scope of the development on the town end.

Mr. Van Winkle: Well, let me start with the Town's analysis. We have completed our study of, of the property. We've mapped the wetlands. We've mapped the correct boundaries. The flood plains, we've researched their underground piping to make sure it's in good shape. We've done a hazardous search of records and the site to see if there was an abandoned oil tank somewhere. So we've done that kind of external kind of analysis. The—we've shared that information with the university, and we have been exchanging terms. If the Town were to make the decision to purchase this property, under what terms would that occur? And we've been exchanging those. At the same time, they've had a, a potential buyer in the form of Weiming looking at the property and expressing interest. As you suggested, they did a press release saying they expressed interest, and so they're also doing some due diligence. They've asked us for the documents we've, we have. We signed an agreement with UConn saying that they get to look at them first before we release them, so I spoke with UConn today. They said, "We're going to send you an email that says you can release that information." So we'll re—we'll have that information. It's, in truth, we didn't find anything. Anything that would be remarkable on the site, so, it's not such a, a great secret sort of thing, but Weiming has asked for whatever we have. So I think they're, like anybody who's looking at a, buying a house or a site for a school, they're doing their due diligence trying to figure out if it works for them. As you know, there's a process here in which they, if they were to go to the university and say, "We're interested in buying. We'd pay you this." They don't close that deal. They come to us for their zoning work. There's wetlands on the site, and they'd need wetlands permits. There's, you know, there's special use permit zoning on this site for a school that would require the town to approve, and there is some undocumented relationship to our public school system. We've seen nothing that says here's how that would work or here's what we're looking at other than small conversations many, many weeks, maybe months now, ago. So we're waiting for something to happen on that front. I think they are serious. In talking to them, they do have architects that are working for them. They do have legal assistance and they're, I think, seriously interested in the site, but again, before you buy a house, you make sure everything's there that you need that, figure out what it's going to cost you to live there. They're doing the same thing, trying to figure out, all right, can we use these buildings? Can they, what'll it cost us to turn them into the kinds of spaces they need. So I think that's coming. I think, if I were to guess, I think they're close to a

“We’re interested” kind of letter to the university. They’re not close to a, “We’re willing to buy if we can get zoning approval,” but they’re close to “We’re interested.”

Councilor Williams: So, just so I understand how this is, is going to work, sort of procedurally and timeline, we, the Town, would purchase the property from UConn hypothetically, and then Weiming or any other investor would then purchase the property from us?

Mr. Van Winkle: It certainly could happen that way.

Councilor Williams: Okay.

Mr. Van Winkle: The question is, is that the right procedure for us to do? Weiming right now can purchase it directly from UConn if they wish. But they still need to come to the Town with their plan and say, “This is what we want to build,” and get approval from the Town. If it gets turned down or in that process they find, well, this is not the right thing for us, we are certainly ready to have more serious discussions with the university to, to get to that final piece. The, you know, we, we did an estimate today of demolition—I mean, you know, we’re trying to look at, you know, for all the kinds of uses you might decide—before we decide to buy it, for whatever, we should really understand what we’re going to do with it. We don’t need it, as a town, and don’t need for a school site or a Town site, so we’d need to do something with it. You could turn it into a park. Our estimate for taking down those buildings is somewhere north of \$5.5 million just to remove the buildings, so maybe \$8 million to turn it into a park of some sort. We certainly will, and a controlling, and we intend, we do intend to own the properties where we build fields, and the university has acknowledged that, that they understand that we’re interested in, in owning those properties, and so I think that’s going to happen. That piece is going to happen. How that other plan plays out, it’s somewhat simpler if they buy it directly from the university. The university has written a bunch of things if we bought it, some claw back if we sell it to someone else, they want some of the profit from that, so we’re working on those kinds of things, but I think it’s right now more likely that Weiming will approach the university for—to ask them if they would pause and give them an opportunity to purchase and come to the Town with a proposal. Take a, take a swing, see if you hit the ball. If we turn them down, then, you know, our next—there is no one else standing in the sidelines, going, “I’ll go in,” if they don’t. So if they don’t, I, my guess is we’re going to come back to you with some significant numbers, saying this is the kind of thing we might look at, and we’ll get—we’ve done some community planning. We looked at, all right, if it was all subdivided into single family lots, what would it look like? How many houses could it yield? Spend 5.5 million to take down the buildings and build roads, sewers, and then build houses. We’ve done all that kind of work to understand, because at some point you either are going to own it and keep it or own and sell it, and we should kind of understand what those are and so we’ll continue to do that.

Councilor Williams: As I understand it, Weiming, forgive the pronunciation error, has representatives actively at some of the community associations talking about potential scopes, and there is this, and you referenced it earlier, a possibility of an interplay between our public school systems and Weiming. Now I understand that it’s very early on in the process, and there’s been nothing, as you say, laid out, but I do understand that ha—there has been communication between the Town and Weiming...

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes.

Councilor Williams: ...and what I'd like to know is sort of what the framework, as communicated and as contemplated by the parties, looks like at this point in time.

Mr. Van Winkle: Sure. And, you know, I wasn't, sent—it's the superintendent and his office. We certainly have talked about this, and he's apprised me of where they are in those discussions. There was a discussion, and I think the superintendent has spoken about this in Board meetings. It's not something that's he's, you know, sort of kept to himself, that Weiming would build an international institute that would draw students from all over the world. They would be high school students. Their early discussions were that, you know, some of those students might be educated on campus just like any private school, but some of those students would go to school in our public high schools and pay the Town of West Hartford a tuition fee. The, I don't want to use a number here, but the number I heard was, was certainly high enough that it's a good number to cover those kinds of costs. So that's the discussion. There hasn't been a proposal, a letter of intent or anything put on the table to say, "Yes, this is what we want to do." All it was was a discussion of, "We're interested in something like this." So, I think we—potentially will see something, though, soon, because they're, they have hired a lot of professionals to help them put those ideas together.

Councilor Williams: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle.

President Slifka: Okay. Thanks, Mr. Williams. Anyone else? Ms. Hall.

Councilor Hall: Just a follow-up on Mr. Williams' question. One of the other possibilities would be that, you know, the Town could say, "I'm worried that we go out and buy it thinking we're going to sell it to someone and then we don't sell it to them and then we're stuck with property that's not paying taxes that we're also maintaining and have responsibility if we were to take it down." So conceivably, the, the State could just have it out there for sale, we say no, and then they're dealing with whoever might come down whether it's Weiming or whether it's some other organization, and we would still have the power of zoning so that we could control it without having to put ourselves financially into the mix.

Mr. Van Winkle: You'll always have zoning, because the use of the site for a school is a special use permit, which is the TPZ. The use of the site for any commercial purpose is, requires your zoning approval - you have to change the underlying zone, which is the Town Council. The use of the site for a single-family residential neighborhood is a subdivision approved by the TPZ. So those outcomes could certainly come. We still have the, the right to buy out someone else. I always say IBM, but IBM says they're going to build a headquarters, we don't want them to build a headquarters, they offer a million dollars. We still have the right to turn to the university and say, "We'll give you the million dollars....we don't want IBM in our community."

Councilor Hall: But in that scenario, IBM would only want to do that if they thought that we would change the zoning to business. So...

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. So it's, either way, zoning is the, is the real lever in this because they, you can't use the property unless you got the Town's permission for the use that you're going to put on, outside of...

Councilor Hall: Residential.

Mr. Van Winkle: ...single-family residential, which is a technical subdivision, not an approval, a, an approval, but they can't be denied if it's done correctly.

President Slifka: We're now still in the Town Manager's hour. Is—anything else for him at this point? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Up to #7, Mrs. Cantor.

ITEM #7 - CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 14-18 TO RECEIVE

Councilor Cantor: Number seven, excuse me. Consideration of Consent Calendar. I move that we place Items 14 through 18 on Consent.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEM #8 - ORDINANCE PERMITTING INCREASED DENSITY IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS (BC) ZONE

TABLED TO APRIL 12, 2016. HEARING CONTINUED TO APRIL 12, 2016, AT 7:25 P.M.

President Slifka: Number 8, we're just going to table to the next meeting, so let's go to #9 under New Business. Mrs. Cantor.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #9 - RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) – ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$147,710 AND IDENTIFY TOWN MATCHING FUNDS

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Fire Department applied for and was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency-Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$147,710 with required Town matching funds of \$14,770, and

WHEREAS, the grant application requested funding for vehicle and machinery rescue technician training, certification, and materials, and the purchase of hydraulic and machinery rescue tools, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of training, certification and materials is \$112,940, with grant funds of \$102,674 and a required Town match of \$10,266 said funds being available within existing appropriations in the General Fund, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of hydraulic and pneumatic rescue tools is \$49,540, with grant funds of \$45,036 and a required Town match of \$4,504 said funds being available for appropriation in the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure (CNRE) Fund,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the FEMA-Assistance to Firefighters Grant is hereby accepted, the purchase of equipment is authorized, and the fiscal year 2015-2016 budgets of the General Fund and CNRE Fund are hereby amended as follows:

General Fund

Estimated Revenues

01-200202-20201-9049	FEMA Grant	\$102,674
----------------------	------------	-----------

Appropriations

01-200202-20201-1010	Overtime - Training	\$61,914
01-200202-20201-2049	Training	\$40,760

CNRE Fund

Estimated Revenues

33-910800-30506-9049	FEMA Grant	\$45,036
33-910800-30506-9399	Use of Fund Balance	\$4,504

Appropriations

33-910800-30506-3187	Hydraulic and Pneumatic Rescue Tools	\$49,540
----------------------	--------------------------------------	----------

Councilor Cantor: Number nine, Resolution to Appropriate a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Assistance to Firefighters Program Grant in the Amount of \$147,710 and Identify Town Matching Funds. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle.

Mr. Van Winkle: This is something you've seen before. FEMA began giving grants to communities for public safety issues probably fourteen years ago. I think twelve of the fourteen years we've received a grant from FEMA. And this case, you know, the grant is for \$147,710. Unusual number, but that's what they gave to us. We have a ten percent match on that. And this grant will be used for fire department training and the purchase of hydraulic and pneumatic rescue tools, which are what they use to pry open a car if you have an accident or something.

President Slifka: The Jaws of Life.

Mr. Van Winkle: The jaws of life, yes, thank you. And so we'll pay for employee training and for those tools with a modest \$14,000 local match that will come from partially a small amount from CNRE, but the other, rest of the money comes from the fire department budget and the funds that they have in the budget already for this.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Is there any discussion on this? Okay. Seeing none, all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to #10, Ms. Cantor.

ITEM #10 - RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$10,400 FROM ANGELO'S ON MAIN ROCKLEDGE RESTAURANT TO BE APPLIED TOWARD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT ROCKLEDGE GOLF CLUB

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford entered into a lease agreement with Rockledge Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Angelo's on Main, for the premises known as Rockledge Clubhouse and Rockledge Snack Bar for the purpose of operating a restaurant and snack bar operation, and

WHEREAS, the lease agreement calls for Angelo's On Main to provide certain capital improvements to the premises, and

WHEREAS, the Town has agreed to accept a contribution of \$10,400 toward the cost of certain improvements rather than requiring the Lessee to make these improvements directly, and

WHEREAS, said payment has been received and the Town wishes to appropriate this contribution to fund capital improvements at Rockledge Golf Club in accordance with the agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the \$10,400 contribution from Angelo's On Main is hereby appropriated for the purpose of making capital improvements at Rockledge Golf Club and the fiscal year 2015-2016 Capital Projects Fund budget is amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

41-811610-91048-9361 Contributions \$10,400

Increase Appropriations

41-811610-91048-3073 Building Improvements \$10,400

Councilor Cantor: Number ten. Resolution to Appropriate \$10,400 from Angelo's on Main Rockledge Restaurant to be applied toward Capital Improvements at Rockledge Golf Club. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. Motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, back to you.

Mr. Van Winkle: This is the Angelo on Main Restaurant at Rockledge Golf Course. Part of his lease requirement is he makes a contribution for improvements to a 250 square foot addition to the restaurant that the Health Department is asking us to improve the storage on the site, and so it's a modest change, 250 square feet. It's not a whole lot of square footage. This went before the TPZ January 4 and was approved, and we are ready to accept appropriate this portion of money. The rest of the money is coming out of the Town Building Improvement funds, and just for your reference, the one-story, 250 square foot addition is on the north front side of the building. The building kind of curves back and it just squares off like it is on the other side in order to create some, a small amount of additional storage on the site.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Any further discussion on this? Okay. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? The motion carries. We're up to Announcements.

ITEM #11 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Slifka: The Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood presents a lively cabaret evening with singers, dancers, pianists, and others hosted by special guest and MC Max Reiss, and wine tasting and elegant desserts. This is their "Cabaret Night: We've Got Talent," Saturday, March 26, at 8:15. For ticket information, go to emanuelsynagogue.org. "Refugees, Asylees, and Immigrants in West Hartford: Why They Are Here And What Can We Do To Help?" is a program that will help explain the difference between the terms refugee, asylee, and immigrant, take a look at what is happening in the world that is causing people to leave their homes, and discuss measures being taken by West Hartford organizations and individuals to help the situation. This event is free and is held at the Noah Webster House on Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. and cosponsored by our own West Hartford Human Rights Commission. "Taste of Bishop's Corner" on Thursday March 31, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The list of participants is growing. Get your advance ticket now for only \$25. It's 30 at the door, and the event is held at Mercy Community's St. Mary Home Auditorium, which is on 291, Steele Road. The Intergenerational—

Intergenerational—excuse me—cast of the Universalist Players is staging the award-winning musical comedy “Disney’s the Aristocats KIDS” on Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3, both at 1:30 p.m. at the Universalist Church at 433 Fern Street. Tickets are available at the door or otherwise contact uuplayers.org. “West Hartford’s Cookin’” is on April 2, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Join your “favorite,” and it’s in quotes, celebrity chefs from the Town Council, Board of Education, town officials, and school principals for an evening of food, fun, and silent live auction on April 2. It’s in the Town Hall Auditorium. The West Hart—I’m sorry, the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools funds innovative programs from pre-K through high school to enhance the excellence of West Hartford’s public schools, and it is a terrific event if you haven’t been before. For tickets and more information, please visit fwgps.org. And last on my list, the Connecticut Fastrak will have an Open House on Monday, April 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. This is hosted by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. It is a transit-oriented development open house at the Elmwood Community Center. Everyone is invited to attend this free event to help share ideas that will help shape future development along the CT Fastrak Corridor. Most importantly, the event will allow everyone the opportunity to provide input that will help guide recommendations for real estate and economic development around the CT Fastrak stations in Hartford, West Hartford, Newington, and New Britain. For more information, please visit the CTDOT website at ct.gov/dot. Anyone else? You can’t top that one. Okay. Nothing. Wow, not a very festive meeting tonight. Mr. O’Brien, any report from the Corporation Counsel?

ITEM #12 - REPORTS OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

Mr. O’Brien: We do not need Executive Session, and I’ll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

President Slifka: Thank you. Are there questions for Mr. O’Brien at this time? Thank you. Excellent job. Okay, we’re up to Appointments. Mrs. Cantor, we’ll start with you and then move to...

ITEM #13 - APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Cantor: Okay. Appointments. I move that we appoint—reappoint Kevin Ahern to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission for a term ending date 12/31/2018, appoint Lee Reynolds to the Housing Authority for a term ending date 1/31/2019, reappoint David Siegel to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities for a term ending 12/31/2018, reappoint Megan O’Neill to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities for a term ending 12/31/2018, appoint Deb Polun to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities for a term ending 12/31/2018, appoint Terry Schmidt to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term ending 12/31/2017.

President Slifka: Okay. And Ms. Hall.

Councilor Hall: I would like to add to that that we appoint Patricia Groves to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities for a term ending 12/31/18. I do want to just point out that for the new appointees, I don’t think resumes were shared with the Council.

President Slifka: I'm sorry. I thought Essie had emailed them. We had that—somebody—there was a notice put up on the town website looking for these people, and they responded.

Councilor Hall: I'm just double checking.

Ms. Labrot: I'm sorry...I thought they were at your seats. You can hold on them if you want until next time.

Councilor Hall: No, I'm okay with everybody, it's just... I didn't know whether I missed something, but...

President Slifka: Thank you. Did you have anything other than—?

Councilor Hall: Just that one.

President Slifka: Okay, I think we need a second to go with...

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Slifka: Okay, all those in favor?

Councilors: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? The motion carries. We're up to Consent Calendar.

ITEM #19 - CONSENT CALENDAR

ADOPTED

**ITEM #14 – FROM CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CRCOG) –
RE: ORDINANCE PERMITTING INCREASED DENSITY IN THE CENTRAL
BUSINESS (BC) ZONE – FINDING NO APPARENT CONFLICT**

**ITEM #15 – FROM DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION – 2015 ANNUAL
REPORT**

**ITEM #16 – MINUTES FROM WEST HARTFORD CENTER SPECIAL SERVICES
DISTRICT – 3-8-2016**

**ITEM #17 – MINUTES FROM FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE – 3-7-2016, 3-
10-2016**

ITEM #18 – MINUTES FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – 3-7-2016

Councilor Cantor: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. No Communications, no Petitions. No need for Executive Session, so I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

ITEM #36 - ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cantor: So moved.

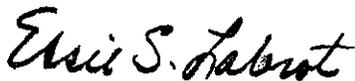
Councilor Davidoff: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're adjourned. Good night.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

/jw

ADOPTED AT APRIL 12, 2016, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING