

**WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 16, 2016
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER**

ITEM #1 - MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 P.M.

President Slifka: I don't know if it's evening or afternoon, but good day. Thank you for being here. This is a Special Meeting of the Town Council and we're going to start it now and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Slifka: Okay. Can we have a roll call please, Ms. Labrot?

ITEM #3 - ROLL CALL: ALL COUNCILORS PRESENT.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. So this is a little unusual in lots of reasons. One is that we, this was intended originally just as a ceremonial-type meeting so that the Council could change its leadership, shall we say, and do some more organizing for the rest of the term. And then, given what, what things are in this community, we had a very active item that we had to deal with in recent weeks, and it had to become the subject of this, this Agenda all of a sudden, so we have actual business and some of you may be here to speak about that. So as we get into this item, which, and I'm not, I don't mean to be vague, but it is on the, the UConn Resolution. We do have the first thing on here is Public Forum but I'd like to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Van Winkle to, well, I don't even have to, let's just, we'll have Mr. Van Winkle speak to address what procedurally the Council's going to do with this item tonight because we sense that maybe after you hear this, it's a little bit less exciting. Those of you that might be here to speak on that item may want to hold your, your comments until a future meeting because, in short, the Council's not going to vote yes or no on UConn this evening. It's actually, we're, we're going to do a technical issue, though we have kind of committed as a group that we would like to pursue the purchase. We actually have to first refer it to our Town Plan and Zoning Commission before we're allowed to do that, so Mr. Van Winkle's going to describe that process. But it's a long way of saying that you'll have another chance to come back. Now, Mr. Orr, I know you're here and we'd like to have you speak on it, of course, but for those in the public who think this is your one shot at it, there will be another chance in the, in the very near future,. So, Mr. Van Winkle.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm going to guess there's going to be lots of chances to speak to this issue in the future. Tonight there is a Resolution before the Town Council that authorizes the Town Manager to purchase the University of Connecticut property here in West Hartford through a purchase and sale agreement for an amount not to exceed \$5 million. It also authorizes an amount of \$250,000, which is the deposit. The process that we go through with the purchase of land, the sale of land or the lease either way, is that all of those decisions get referred to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. The TPZ looks at that proposed decision and makes their recommendation back to the Town Council. The Council would, will receive that, that recommendation and then vote on the Resolution. So tonight, what the Council will be doing is

referring this to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. They're not even discussing the Resolution tonight. The Town Plan and Zoning Commission will meet on the first Monday in June and they will make their decision on their advice to the Town Council. It will then come back to our first meeting in June, which is the second Tuesday as it always is, where the Council will receive this Resolution and vote on this Resolution that night, and I think that's June 14th that we...

President Slifka: It's not on my calendar.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. So the process just with UConn is, once the Council authorizes the Manager to go to a purchase and sale agreement, we will do so with the University of Connecticut. We're already working with them on that, that legal language. We would hope to have that in place before the end of the fiscal year, which ends June 30th. We then have 90 days to do our due diligence. We've already done a whole lot of that because we've been looking at this site for some time, but we'll have 90 days to determine if there's something that we don't know about the property that might cause a problem with this. I don't expect to find anything there. At the end of 90 days, we will sign a purchase and sale agreement. We will deliver them, to them another \$750,000. We will not close on the property until the fall of 2017, October 1, 2017. The University of Connecticut moves to the City of Hartford in their new campus downtown, and on October 1 of 2017, we will own the property. So we are going to figure out our process. We haven't done that yet, to reach out to the public, to reach out to the community. I don't perceive it's going to be one big meeting where we all come with ideas. I, I, I believe the best process for us is what we did somewhat with Blue Back Square is we talked to lots of groups about ideas, some of them here in Town Hall in discussions but reaching out to the neighborhood, reaching out to business groups, to the Bishop's Corner Neighborhood Group, all those sorts of things to kind of get input so we can advise the Council as to what direction might come. So I get asked this question. It's only been a few days, you know. So what are we going to do with the property? We don't know yet, but we're going to do something really interesting and we're going to work closely with everyone to do so.

President Slifka: It would be a shame if there was a tent up on the lawn there. It might blow away.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. Yes. So again, you're not voting on anything tonight. You're just referring. You won't even be discussing but it still, it's on your Agenda if someone wanted to speak to that, they're welcome to do that.

President Slifka: Thank you for the, the summary, Mr. Van Winkle. So again, we're not going to be considering on the merits. The vote when it happens in, in a few minutes will just be on the referral. But as you said, the first item is the Public Forum, so if there is anybody who wants to speak to it, and I know Mr. Orr you're here, and you're signed up first. Please come on up and do so, and we'll start. Our first speaker is Richard Orr.

ITEM #4 - PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mayor. If it please the Council...

Mr. O'Brien: Oh, push the button, the button there, on the mike. It trips up everyone.

Mr. Orr: This little red light. Thank you, Mayor. May it please the Council, my name is Richard Orr. I'm the Vice-President and General Counsel of the University of Connecticut. The Board of Trustees will not act for some period of time, so I want to use this opportunity to tell you that the University is fully supportive of this transaction. I know it's in the early stages, but the town and the University have worked together in a collaborative and constructive manner for a large period of time, and that kind of constructive collaboration is all too rare in the public sphere these days, and I want to applaud the town and the University officials for, for handling it in that way. This transaction makes a lot of sense for a lot of reasons. It gives the University the certainty we know we need, knowing that the property will be sold when we're going out the door and that we and the town won't have a, have a piece of property in limbo. It gives the town the control it deserves and that it needs because, regardless of the outcome, the decision about what ultimately happens with the property belongs with this town, which is where it should be, and more importantly this structure gives the town the time to make that decision in an orderly way through whatever process is best for the town without us having to be at the table. And we think that's the right outcome. And finally, the price term has been resolved constructively and creatively. A value of the property depends on the use of the property. The use of the property depends on the town's willingness to let it be a particular use, a decision which the town has not yet made and can't have made, frankly. But under this structure, we have agreed that if the town keeps the property for its own use, the, the price is \$5 million. If the town finds a private buyer that makes sense for the town at a price that makes commercial sense, then the market will set the price and we'll divide the proceeds; the University getting 90 percent, the town getting 10 percent. So that if the town found a buyer that was willing to pay 10, the University takes nine and the Town gets a million for its trouble. We think that's a fair outcome. So we are very pleased with where we are. I finally just want to thank the town staff, Kim Boneham, Mark McGovern and particularly the Town Manager for the way they have engaged with us over the last many months. Their professionalism is exemplary. Their passion for this community is unparalleled. They have been a pleasure to deal with. You are very lucky to have them and we look forward to bringing this to conclusion if it gets through P&Z and the Council. Thanks.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Orr. Mr. Van Winkle.

Mr. Van Winkle: I just want to correct, I'm sorry. I just want to correct something Attorney Orr said, that if it, we pay \$5 million, we sell it for \$10 million, they get 90 percent of the profit.

Mr. Orr: No, right.

Mr. Van Winkle: We don't lose \$5 million in that process and I know he understands that quite clearly. I just, the way he said it.

Mr. Orr: We, if it sells for ten we get nine, but the five you've already paid gets credited from the nine.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. Thank you. That's why we write, that's why we write documents.

President Slifka: Good luck with all that, guys. All right. Okay, the next speaker is Moe Fredette.

Mr. Fredette: Good afternoon. My name is Moe Fredette. I'm with the American Legion, Hayes-Velhage Post 96, 45 Raymond Road, here in West Hartford. The Post, and I think I speak for all the veterans of our community. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Slifka for the support that he has given to the veterans and the programs that we have since his tenure as Mayor, whether it be Memorial Day or Veterans' Day or the recognition programs we have for the police and for the fire. Whenever asked, the Mayor is always there and we'd like to present this Certificate of Appreciation. If I may, I'd like to read it. "This Certificate of Appreciation is gratefully presented to Mayor Scott Slifka in recognition of sincere appreciation of outstanding support and assistance, which contributed to the advancement of the American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and country. Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor."

President Slifka: Thank you, Moe. Wow. Thank you, Moe. That is a, that is a tremendous honor. Please convey my thanks to everybody at the, the Legion and every other veteran that you've, you come into contact with. That actually concludes the signup sheet that I have in front of me. I know there's a second one, and I know there might have been some people who did not sign up, but could somebody, can I just ask somebody to take a peek at that second sheet so I don't miss anything?

Audience Member: It's just an Agenda.

Mr. O'Brien: It's just an Agenda.

President Slifka: Oh, it took a former Council person to, to understand that. Okay. Well, then if there, is there anybody else who wished to speak who did not sign up? No pressure here but okay. Then we are going to move on with the meeting.

President Slifka: So we got up to number two, which Mrs. Cantor is recusing herself from. So can I entertain a motion from Mr. Davidoff?

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #5 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT – WEST HARTFORD CAMPUS PROPERTY

REFERRED TO TPZ

WHEREAS the University of Connecticut ("the University") owns approximately fifty-eight (58) acres in West Hartford on the north side of Asylum Avenue at the intersection of Trout Brook Drive; and

WHEREAS the University intends to relocate its operations from the Town of West Hartford to the City of Hartford in the fall of 2017; and

WHEREAS as a result of that relocation the University will no longer need the West Hartford campus and therefore intends to sell the property; and

WHEREAS the University desires to sell said property to the Town and the Town desires to purchase it from the University;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the Town Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the purchase of the University of Connecticut's West Hartford campus for an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Manager is authorized to appropriate a deposit in the amount of \$250,000 to be fully applied to the purchase price of the University of Connecticut's West Hartford campus and the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

33-910800-30506-9399 Use of Fund Balance \$250,000

Increase Appropriations

33-910800-30506-3031 UConn Property \$250,000

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of the University of Connecticut West Hartford Campus Property. I move we refer to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission.

Councilor Kerrigan: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Is there any discussion on the referral? It was pretty much summarized by Mr. Van Winkle earlier. So all those in favor?

All: Aye. (Councilor Cantor Recused)

President Slifka: Those opposed? One recusal. Okay. Motion carries. And now we can move to, now this is odd, I don't, who, who moves this? The item is receipt of the resignation of yours truly. I feel a little funny entertaining the motion but somebody want to move it?

ITEM #6 - FROM R. SCOTT SLIFKA (5-16-2016) RESIGNING AS MAYOR OF WEST HARTFORD

RECEIVED

Councilor Hall: I'll move it.

President Slifka: Okay.

Councilor Hall: I move that we receive the resignation of Mayor Scott Slifka.

Vice-President Cantor: So moved.

Councilor Davidoff: Did you want to second that on the other side to make it bipartisan?

Councilor Barnes: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Aye. Motion carries. So I guess I'm officially out. I know that, by tradition, I don't know what to do at this point. I'm usually the one who's the master of ceremonies and so I guess I will, the new master of ceremonies shall take over from this point. I don't know what to do.

Vice-President Cantor: I am, I am going to speak first, but I do have a few things and I know people are coming in, because I think there was a little confusion on 5:30 and 6:30. So I'm going to start with presenting you with a Proclamation or, or Certificate of, of Leadership, Public Leadership Citation. So I just am going to read. "From the State of Connecticut Office of the Treasurer, Public Leadership Citation, be it hereby known to all that the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut offers her sincerest congratulations to the Honorable Robert Scott Slifka, Mayor of the Town of West Hartford, in recognition of his 15 years of exemplary leadership, outstanding service and unwavering dedication to the citizens of West Hartford, especially 12 years as the longest serving and youngest Mayor, and promotion to Deputy General Counsel of LEGO Systems, Inc. The Treasurer extends her very best wishes on both of these most noteworthy occasions. Given the 16 of May, 2016." And it just says, "Best regards," on here from Denise Nappier, State Treasurer. I also have . . .

President Slifka: It must be from the federal government.

Vice-President Cantor: Yeah.

President Slifka. State government these days.

Vice-President Cantor: Oh my gosh, he's getting a little goofy, a little giddy. Okay. This Certificate of Special Recognition, he's right, Congressional Recognition to Mayor Scott Slifka for his service to the Town of West Hartford, signed Congressman John B. Larson, presented 5-16-2016.

President Slifka: Thank you.

Vice-President Cantor: I know there are more that are coming in on the next, I don't know, whenever, but we'll just stop and we will, we will, okay. I'm taking the, I guess the, the, I'm a little choked up. I'm taking the prerogative to go first and I know we're going to go back and

forth a little bit, but I know how difficult this has been for you. It's a very, very bittersweet time. You've enjoyed and cherished your many years of service as Mayor to the Town of West Hartford. You're historic, as we've heard and we will probably hear again, for being the youngest Mayor to serve at 27-years-old, wise beyond his years at that time, and the longest serving Mayor for a little over 12 years. Scott married Noel right after he was elected to the Council in 2001. Their whole marriage Scott has been in public service and the majority of it as the Mayor. This is a significant sacrifice to the family, the whole family. When a member becomes a public servant, the whole family, it really does become a family affair. I want to recognize and thank Noel. She's sitting in the audience. I think I saw her come in and thank her for all her support. And as we said, it is a family affair. Scott's parents, Janeace and Bob, have been incredible supporters, not just to Scott, but to many of us that have served with Scott. They have, they have helped us. They have cooked for us. They've brought things for us. They've walked for us. But they've also become our friends and we want to thank you for all that you do and all that you have done to support Scott and, and his family during this, these many years of service. Thank you. Thank you to Andrea and Jonathan. Andrea has supported all of us, but truth be told, she is a wonderful chef and baker and provides Scott with his many, many years of West Hartford's cooking treats, so know that it's coming from her and not from Scott. A lot of times we'll be like what're you making and he'll be like I don't know. So we, we also have, have enjoyed the cakes that she's made and we really are so grateful for all she's done for all of us as well. Jonathan has served as the whole Democratic team's campaign manager, as well as Scott's manager, and he has done so much for the Democratic, the whole Democratic Town Committee, and now he serves as Chair. He's also been such a contributor to the town and the Persons with Disabilities as Chair and now as Commissioner, so we are proud of you and we are so grateful for all you do. And I didn't see him but I hope he's here. Okay, there you are. And now for Elizabeth Grace Slifka, born on August 29, 2008. She has only known her dad as Mayor of West Hartford. She has marched in many parades, skipped along with me sometimes, accompanied him on weekend activities, the Mayor's Charity Ball, and I think she won the last one dancing at this past Charity Ball. And I know she's incredibly proud of her dad and I know her dad is of her, too, and I know this has been a really memorable part of her life. Now, we're, we're just going to play a little game, and I call it the Name Game and you can't cheat, okay? I'm going to give you a couple of hints of people that you've served with on the Council, both sides, either side, you can, you know, not everybody. We're not going to go that far. But I'm going to give you a couple little phrase, a little word, whatever, and we'll see where, see where you can go with it. "Entertaining post mortem emails"....

President Slifka: Art Spada.

Vice-President Cantor: Yep. Right on. I don't know, he's here. "A cheesehead and a gentleman"

President Slifka: Oh, that's Dave Lemkuil.

Vice-President Cantor: Yeah. Good job. "Passionate and brilliant, like a family member to you much of your life".

President Slifka: Well, so many.

Vice-President Cantor: I know.

President Slifka: Shari Cantor?

Vice-President Cantor: I know, right. Ha-ha-ha. I'm not on here. No current members are on here.

President Slifka: Let's see. Carolyn Thornberry.

Vice-President Cantor: That's right. Wow. Three for three and I have no prize for you, sorry. "Ping-pong and a tie and he's also tied for best hair on the Council".

President Slifka: Burke Doar.

Vice-President Cantor: Yeah. And then we have "green blank". Rhymes with green.

President Slifka: Well, green blank? Maureen?

Vice-President Cantor: Mm-hmm. Green Maureen, right there. She, she started the . . .

President Slifka: Maureen Kelly McClay.

Vice-President Cantor: Maureen Kelly McClay. That's true.

President Slifka: Gotta get the full, the full pronouncement.

Vice-President Cantor: Yes. Maureen Kelly McClay, and she started our Energy Task Force first person ever, right? The first one? You did a lot of work on that. Class of 2001 and you have been known to use "the blank test", referring to his name.

President Slifka: Oh, that's Harry Captain.

Vice-President Cantor: Of course. That's right.

President Slifka: Harry Captain.

Vice-President Cantor: "Mr. Elmwood" we also refer to him as R2D2 and I'll tell you why.

President Slifka: Well, I believe that would be Mr. Verrengia sitting in the front row.

Vice-President Cantor: It was, Republican to Democrat too, R2D2. Yeah, right, exactly. Sorry guys. Okay. "Conservation focus, Mom was your Spanish teacher and the other tie in, of best hair".

President Slifka: Tim Brennan, of course.

Vice-President Cantor: That's right. "Passionate, has been also referred to as being, like, really passionate and smartest on the Council", you referred to her as.

President Slifka: Oh, that's Clare Kindall.

Vice-President Cantor: That's right. Okay...

President Slifka: Present company excluded.

Vice-President Cantor: That's right. That's right. Yeah, this is all past. This is not, right. "Through you, Mr. Mayor, I have a question about the "SIP."

President Slifka: It's only Steve Adler. God bless you, Steve.

Vice-President Cantor: That's right. This is kind of a goofy one. "Had a similar mode of transportation to Paul Revere."

President Slifka: Joe Visconti.

Vice-President Cantor: Yes, good job. And one of your dearest friends. "You can disagree without being disagreeable."

President Slifka: Oh, that, there's only one person, Chuck Coursey.

Vice-President Cantor: That's right. A hundred percent. Yay.

President Slifka: You should know, I got a congratulatory call from Joe Visconti the other day, which might be a signal for some of you that it is time for me to go, right? So . . .

Vice-President Cantor: Hysterical. Okay. I was lucky to be appointed to the Council in 2004... That's okay. I was lucky to be appointed to the Council in 2004 when Scott became Mayor. It has been such an honor and a pleasure to serve with him and learn from him. There has been so much accomplished over these years. West Hartford has its place in the national rankings from quality of life to education. This doesn't happen by accident. It is leadership, hard work, commitment to values, and common sense. During Scott's tenure, he has led with civility. I know the people of West Hartford appreciated this and expect it, and rather actually now probably demand it. When one of our Councilors was under personal attack, Scott quickly came to the rescue. He did not lose his temper much, but the times he did, it was for unfounded and unfair personal attacks. During your reign, our longest, oh, yeah. So our longest meeting that we could that actually I had Essie's help on that and I know you've used her too for that stuff, so we started on 8/26/2014, 5:30 p.m., and ended on 8/27 at 3:27 a.m., and I think you had a flight like two hours later, right?

President Slifka: Yes

Vice-President Cantor: Something like that. Our shortest meeting was on February 24, 2015 and it started at 7:32 and ended at 7:45, so there probably were a couple people not in attendance that make it longer. We have said goodbye to many town staff, Town Manager Barry Feldman, Town Manager Jim Francis, Town CFO Chris Johnson, Town Planner Mila Limson, Police Chief Strillacci, Fire Chief Austin, Public Works Director Dana Hallenback, Parks and Rec Director Jim Capodiece, Mayor Administrative Assistant Ellen Guest, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sklarz, Dr. List, and Town Clerk Norma Cronin. Many Councilors have come and gone and some that have just stayed, like me. Joe O'Brien and Pat Alair are still here. I think Joe is the one who stayed with you the whole time. He's been here, well, Pat has, yeah, but on the Council. The biggest and the most important decision that the Council leader makes, the Mayor makes, ultimately with the Council but the Mayor makes the decision, is the selection of the Town Manager. And I will say the best decision that was made while Scott was Mayor was to select Ron Van Winkle as Town Manager. We have been so lucky to have his decades of service to the town, and as Manager since 2008. His expertise has been invaluable. So when Scott first came on board he was Deputy Mayor when Blue Back Square was being approved, right, and hearings were started. So Scott had to jump into that as Mayor. It took multiple years to come to fruition; multiple referendums, public hearings and even a lawsuit, which we ultimately won. But here are a sampling of things and it's quite a journey. We're going to take a trip down memory lane. Some have been approved, some not approved, some we lost sleep over, some, yeah, much anxiety, I must say. And as I was writing I'm, like oh, my heart. Okay. Pond House was approved and, and that was controversial and it ultimately also was approved for catering and liquor, family rates for families at all of our leisure service activities, Field of Dreams, outdoor dining, co-location of the Education Department at Town Hall, library renovations, police station and public safety improvements, the Golf Pro, remember that? Pedicabs. It didn't quite work out but you never know, Walgreen's drive through, public art and Bear. That one really made my heart pound.

President Slifka: Won't miss that one.

Vice-President Cantor: Busway, Stonebridge Crossing, Stone Ridge Condos, Chatfield Aging in Place, Westfarms Mall renovations, Anytime Fitness going 24 hours. That really broke the, broke the mold in West Hartford. West Hartford Housing Authority and the many improvements, including the Plant and the Goodwin; the Golf Practice Center, not so much, right? Liquor at Bow Tie Cinema. Again, not so much. Medical marijuana, paramedics working on bringing in-house since 2008 from Joe Verrengia, from Representative Joe Verrengia. Ultimately passed with Harry Captain's leadership. Paramedics working, the paramedics, I did. MDC, many, many things on MDC. Budgets, also, many things on budgets. I know that people have things to say. I could go on forever, but we won't. That will be another time. Taxpayer Association, referendums, pension, OPEB trust, elimination of leaf pickup. You guys had fun with that one. Automated trash pickup. Remember, Maureen? Traffic calming; Aldi's; Trout Book Trail; pool renovations, Beachland and Fern and Cornerstone; 2008 financial crisis, \$25 million of capital budgets eliminated quickly by Scott's leadership; ECS, many talks on ECS, many crying about ECS; New Britain Avenue Walgreen's; Quaker Green; FEMA floodplains; re-do on New Britain Avenue; the Miracle Field; renovations to Bishop's Corner; Marshall's Plaza; Maximum Beverage; the Blue Plate Kitchen Patio; Five Guys; CRRA Energy Task Force and the Energy Manager; saying goodbye to Canine Cora; Hurricane Irene; first time

the Emergency Operation Center opened and declared a state of emergency. Boy, did that, was that a foretelling experience. Elmwood Community Center Shelter; fire stations used as charging stations. You had taken that from another community that you had seen that in, Bloomfield.

President Slifka: No. Glastonbury.

Vice-President Cantor: Glastonbury, yeah. And then there was Alfred when Scott, most famous for cancelling Halloween, right...

President Slifka: Twice.

Vice-President Cantor: ...2011. Yeah, twice. And we received nightly calls from Scott on the long and arduous path back and his working with our utilities to make things happen. Conard was opened as a shelter with 400 cots; FEMA, 15,000 pictures, 5,000 branch hangers; emergency contingency for elections. Who knew we were going to have to quickly do that? Twelve million dollars, and it was a 300-year storm. But then there was Nemo; 30 inches of snow, 2013. It was a, it was a crazy, it looked like, yeah, it looked like we were in an apocalypse. The Senior Job Bank Lease, bringing that back; Pepe's Pizza; the Art League lease; Delamar Hotel; New Park zoning changes; Park Road ramp; heliport; PassportParking; 2432 Albany Avenue. I was going to make a poem about out of it, but I'm like, no, kind of does have this rhythm, though. The Gent renovation, which you said was transformative and it has proved to be; 24 North Main Street; Kaoud Brothers and their incredible investment; Farmington Avenue Walgreen's; Complete Streets; Jared Jewelers; Acadia Crossing; DEEP, And now we're getting current, Tennessee Gas Pipelines; Niagara and UConn. Scott has also had so many proclamations and community activities. The Bicycle Advisory Commission, the Veterans' Commission, Veterans Day in School Decision, Noah Webster 250th Anniversary in 2008, Dial-A-Ride, ITN, Heart Safe Community, Senior Fitness Center, Relay for Life, the Newtown, post Newtown, the Safety, the Vigil; Be the Media; Build No Fences Awards and Breakfast; Lose the Training Wheels; West Hartford's cooking. Remember, Andrea cooked for him. Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools, right? Unified Theater, when that was started and then all that Michaela did. Magicians; Playhouse on Park; distracted driving and DUI; the Pink Party Autism Awareness Month; poet laureates; Lose the Training Wheels; Parent Leadership Training Institute; the many sports teams that have come before us, State Girls Hockey in 2012 was a, was a big one, state champ and four years of undefeated Hall girls' swimming; the Mayor's Ball, the changes that were made to that; the tent that hopefully didn't blow down; and then, and the Town that Cares now benefitting it. And then there were the call-ins, there were all the things that you were on at WHC-TV and I know I'm missing a million of them but call-in shows; the Mayor's Report; going before the Old Guard; the regents; the police and fire awards; American Legion and Moe came and honored you for that; the police safety retirement; Eagle Scout awards, numerous; Feast on the Farm; and then your speeches at Martin Luther King Days, the State of the Town, Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. You enlightened us and you challenged us. Many losses of people that are no longer with us, and I hope you all take a minute to remember them. I'm afraid we will forget some, so I'm not going to list them in fear of that, and please think about those you are missing today. But I will say that Scott was at every funeral and honored them by a moment of silence. A big heart and a good man. It has been an awesome journey. You have left a legacy of civility, engagement, good governance, respect, honorable and ethical service,

and commitment to your community. It's truly a message we need now. I have been incredibly honored to serve with you. I am eternally grateful for your leadership, your friendship, your guidance and your service. I wish you all you want in life. God bless.

President Slifka: That was amazing.

Vice-President Cantor: I brought tissues. I'm a little perplexed. We're going to go on to Mrs. Hall.

Councilor Hall: Thank you, and Shari, that was very well done. That was a, a very nice recap of, of these years. So I would also like to express my thanks to Scott for his years of public service. The uncountable hours of community volunteerism and the infinite patience he has shown as new Councilors have come and gone over the years during his tenure. For my first meeting in 2009, Scott and I worked together, while not always agreeing, to do what we thought was right for the town. I will very sincerely miss the institutional knowledge that you bring to the Council and I will miss the skill with which you have conducted the meetings, keeping us all in good stead with Roberts Rules of Order, which is that set of rules that, that governs the way we hold our meetings. We have definitely been through some tumultuous times over the years together on the Council, and I can completely see why the Comedy Parks and Rec was created by a West Hartford resident writing about town government. Some of the things that we have experienced, you know, as I look back, are really hard to believe. They've run the gamut from worrying about public safety and meeting with the Chief of Police to see whether we can make this bullet proof when there had been a rash of shootings of public officials, the public hearings that went until, I said 3:00. I didn't realize it was 3:27. That probably because we had the fire drill in the middle of it. And then that storm Alfred that, that the removing tons and tons of debris and taking a picture of the size and shape of every single piece of debris that had to be removed to satisfy FEMA. So Scott, these are the things that you've excelled at; your ability to deal with any situation, diffuse heated moments, empathize with upset residents, and find a way forward when things didn't develop or turn out as we thought they were going to. But I am most grateful for your assistance over the years in regards to veterans' projects. So some of you may not know this but my parents and Scott's parents have been friends through the years and we all grew up going to St. Peter Claver Church. So this pretty much meant that my mom and dad felt that they could call on Scott whenever they needed anything and I know they did but especially when it came to building the memorial for our veterans, getting the moving Vietnam Wall to West Hartford, getting the showmobile to come to Fairview Cemetery for our Memorial Day or Veterans' Day ceremony when we were placing the flags. So neither Scott nor his predecessor, Mayor Jonathan Harris, ever failed my parents when it came to anything to do with the veterans. So every year when my parents ask, Scott graciously said he would speak at our program at the church hall after we finished placing all the flags. I'm sure there were family events that he would have preferred to attend but he never said he couldn't make it that day. When thanked, he said, he would have been hurt if he hadn't been asked. So time, times change. Life moves on. Without my dad, without South Main Pizza to, to provide the lunch, and without Mayor Slifka to be the speaker, my mom and I decided not to do the program, and I'm going to cry, too. I'm sorry. But we are going to do the flags on May 28th, Saturday, at 8:30, so I'm getting my, my little spiel in on that. Please come to Fairview Cemetery at 8:30, Saturday, May 28th. So, but this seemed like the right time to go in another direction while preserving the most important

aspects of the day. I guess this is a little bit like today. Scott will be moving on and what feels like a tradition with him sitting here next to me making speeches will be over. But the town will preserve and build upon his successes and the projects he spearheaded while Mayor. We will miss you, Scott, and I know that our residents thank you. I wish you great success at LEGO, and most importantly, more time with your family, for that is the biggest sacrifice you have made, precious time with them..

Vice-President Cantor: Okay, Ben, Mr. Wenograd.

Councilor Wenograd: Scott, just a few months ago the Council said goodbye to three members, Harry Captain, Clare Kindall and Burke Doar, and I was there with my family, the way Dallas Dodge is today, waiting to get sworn in. It promised to be a long night. Three Council people times nine speeches was a daunting thing to behold. But of all the speeches we heard that night, the one that stuck with me the most was the one you gave in tribute to Harry, who was in the front row, there he is, second row. You talked about his accomplishments and his debating skill and the like but then you told a really moving story about how he was there for you at a low point in your political career, really as an, as an illustration of the intensity of your friendship. I think you may have shed a tear, I know Harry did, and it was at that moment that I realized how deeply service on this Council really had impacted your life and would perhaps impact my own. We all go into this knowing that it can be an intense experience. The importance of the issues we face on behalf of this wonderful town and the strong desire of all of us to do the right thing for our residents can create some strong emotions. You know, politics can be a messy process and I can easily see how enemies can be created, present company excluded, of course. But I don't think I realized until that night really just how strongly true friendships could grow as well. Despite the late hour, it made me even more excited about the prospect of serving with people who had developed those emotions for each other. You know, Scott, we've known each other for a good number of years. I was always proud of your accomplishments and proud of my own efforts as a Town Committee member to elect you and your colleagues. But you know, we were never really that close. You were the Mayor, the leader, the guy we rallied around and threw hard questions at Town Committee, and cheered for you as you racked up victory after victory. Your view of me? I'm not sure but it's okay. I won't quiz you like Shari did. But then I got nominated and was part of your team and I got to work with you up close. We had fun taking pictures for our campaign here and in Blue Back, which seemed particularly apropos. We talked campaign strategy and we prepped for our debates. You prepped us but that's okay. And after, after the election I got to see you truly in your element. You showed fierce intellect and passion for the issues in a way I'd really never noticed before as just a part of the observing public. You thought through things in a way that I both admired and frankly, recognized that the way I thought to do it as well. We had a connection, man. So I started really looking forward to a long period of serving with you, learning from you, sharing ideas with you but...well, here we are. Many Council members got to serve with you and most had more time than me but I am truly grateful for having had my turn. I consider myself lucky to have had this chance to learn from such an awesome public servant and privileged to have had this opportunity to thank you, not only for your personal friendship and support, but for your service to this Town on behalf of all of your colleagues over the years, who have sat in these chairs, and for all the residents of our great town. Thanks very much.

Vice-President Cantor: Chris Williams.

Councilor Williams: Sure, thank you. Thank you, Shari. Mr. Mayor, I did some research and I believe, though, though I'm not sure, that I am the only individual to serve with you who is actually younger than you over the course of your tenure here. Is that right?

President Slifka: I think you're right.

Councilor Williams: I was actually a teenager when you were first elected.

President Slifka: So was Dallas.

Councilor Williams: So was Dallas. Dallas is younger than me, so, so you had 15 years and I have three minutes. I'd like to point out that you are actually, I believe now, the second youngest person on this Body. You've accomplished a remarkable amount in your life and you're, you're still so young. It's remarkable. So anyways, I come at this from a different perspective than some of my colleagues. In a time when our leaders so often disappoint us for character flaws or indiscretions, I can say that you've always been a good ambassador for this town. You've always been a good representative for us, and as a resident here, someone who loves the town, I've always really appreciated that about you. When I was first elected this past November, you and I went out for a beer to sort of introduce ourselves and talk about the town and what followed was really a great conversation during which you candidly shared your thoughts with me about the town, good policy, and what I most appreciated was your experiences. It was clear to me that you were sharing your experiences with me not as a political move or some sort of political gesture but from the perspective of not only developing a working relationship with me but also with an eye towards helping the town by sharing your experiences with a junior Council member. To me it showed, showed me how much you truly do care about the town. And we have since had some policy differences and your position towards me has not changed. You recently gave me some very welcomed and thoughtful advice that you didn't need to do and you've, you've told me that in, in the future, you know, if I have a question and you think you can be of help to me that I can contact you. And that's just a testament, again, to the fact that you care about the town and its future. Thank you for your service. You've done it for so long. You've done it so, so well. You sacrificed a lot for the town, and as someone who's lived here most of my life, I really appreciate that. I'm like Ben, I'm very disappointed that I will not be able to serve the whole term with you but I know I have not seen the last of you, and given the fact that you've been the Mayor so long, it's going to be hard for me to ever call you anything but Mr. Mayor. So thank you.

Vice-President Cantor: I, I do see our Governor in the back and I wanted to, to know if you, I don't know if you want to come up and say a few words? We're going to be a little loose tonight. Sorry, Scott, I know he's probably going to sweat.

Governor Malloy: As, as a non-resident of West Hartford, I'm allowed to speak? Is that...okay. Well, thank you.

Vice-President Cantor: We're making an exception.

Governor Malloy: If I'm not, thank you for making the exception. I know that, that this is a bittersweet moment for many folks and one also of celebration of what has been a distinguished public career. Scott and I have gotten to know each other, worked with each other, came to appreciate and have a deep and good friendship and I wanted to stop by as a neighbor, you know, right on the border, I wanted to stop by and extend my thanks and congratulations. But I also want to say on a broader basis, it's important that we lift up extraordinary public servants and the Mayor certainly is one of those in our state. We need great role models and he has been just that. His ever striving for a bipartisan and inclusive model for West Hartford has, has really been quite extraordinary, first from a distance down in Stamford and now as a neighbor living just across the other side of Prospect Street, I've grown to appreciate it that much more. Now, one of the things I get to do, and I don't even need the permission of the Legislature to do it, thank God, otherwise we'd be debating it until all hours of the night. No, no, I, I saw you. You don't, you don't think sitting in the first row gets you off, do you? One of the things I do get to do is, is issue official statements and proclamations and I, I have touched on some of the things that I wanted to say about the Mayor, but, but two other things not in this proclamation I want to add. I can't imagine that one of my very good friends and most important public servants in my administration, Jonathan, could have a better brother. And I can't imagine your lovely daughter could have a better father. And, and having witnessed how she has such great control over you, I suspect she's also going to be Mayor someday. But as the Governor of the State of Connecticut, honoring all of your public service as a Councilor, Deputy Mayor, and as a Mayor, and understanding that you've made the decision, a professional decision to give up this position, I am in a position to declare May 16, 2016, as Mayor Scott Slifka Appreciation Day in the whole of the State of Connecticut not just in West Hartford. Congratulations and best of luck and I know the person who follows you will do an equally great job.

Vice-President Cantor: The Lieutenant Governor just walked in, too. Do you want to say anything?

Lieutenant Governor Wyman: I heard his voice.

Vice-President Cantor: Would you like to say something?

Lieutenant Governor Wyman: No.

Vice-President Cantor: Okay, you're good. All right. We are now, Beth, Mrs. Kerrigan, do you want to?

Councilor Kerrigan: Following the Governor, egads. Not too much pressure. I am truly honored to be at this memorial time, I mean, geez. Seeing as I, I came on the Council in November and I happened to be sitting at the table at the State of the Town in January a few months later when you announced that you were stepping down, I can only take it personally that our political relationship was never meant to be. So I don't have a lot of material about you since we had a very brief relationship, maybe by design, I don't know. So I went to look for what could I say about you and I decided to start with your letter of resignation to see maybe if there was some material there. And I read it. It said, "Ms. Labrot, I hereby submit my resignation as Mayor and member of the West Hartford Town Council to be effective as of tonight's Council

meeting. Sincerely, Mayor Scott Slifka.” I’m like, a lot, a lot of emotion in that, Scott. I, I have always appreciated and respected your wit and your smarts. I remember when you were talking at one time, you mentioned you were the, you came in as the youngest and you stayed the longest, which means you came in too early and stayed too long. I remember that line and I loved it. In honor of you, I am wearing my St. Patrick's Day socks and I'm doing that because on St. Patrick's Day when we marched, we marched by the MDC and Scott, acting as my bodyguard, said he would take a bullet for me in front of the MDC, which I had such admiration for because I appreciated his ability to add levity to something that I was so passionate about. I appreciate you diffusing the volatility of the situation. I'm wearing a yellow jacket. Do you know where it's from?

President Slifka: The, the shop we did the ribbon cutting at.

Councilor Kerrigan: I happened to be at the last ribbon cutting that Mayor Slifka was at, the ribbon cutting for Panache where he told me that his family likes to celebrate with fine wine. Is your dad here?

President Slifka: He is here.

Councilor Kerrigan: It's Tisdale, and I understand the motto is, Get dizzy with Tizzy. Is that?

President Slifka: And there is no year.

Councilor Kerrigan: There is no year, no. Enjoy. Exactly. It's funny, when I went to the package store to, to get it, I said, I don't remember the name of this wine, but what is the cheapest wine that could really make you sick? The funny thing was he said to me his dad was a connoisseur of wine, which made this story so interesting. Anyways, so I don't know a lot about you but, but I do know this. Before Mother's Day, I happened to be at Home Depot and I was buying some mulch and your mom was there and she started telling me if I waited until after Mother's Day this mulch would be on sale for 50 cents less, and I said, you know, I might wait. But I ended up buying my 11 bags of mulch and as I pushed it out on this flatbed where they loaded it up, I realized that I was with my car, 11 bags of mulch, and here comes your mom with her Gucci bag and she's all dressed up, not like myself, and she said, let me help. And I said no, no, no, don't help, and she goes no, I must help. She put down her Gucci bag or Ferruci bag, whatever it is, I'm not a fashionista and all dolled up she managed to pick up 11 bags, her and I, and put the mulch on the, on the flatbed and I know from where you come. You come from a mom and a dad, perhaps he drinks cheap wine, but your, but your mom clearly has done an amazing job raising someone that I admire so much and I, I feel the same way. I feel like I'm really losing a lot. I try not to take it personally that you've chosen to leave. That being said, I can only say I thank you for all your years of service. I thank you for all the smart decisions that you made to be the number on the, number 10 of the recent list of 10 top towns. We are considered the dream town, so I thank you for your service, your leadership, and I thank you for dreaming big.

Vice-President Cantor: Thank you, Mrs. Kerrigan.

Councilor Kerrigan: No tears. No tissue needed.

Vice-President Cantor: I don't know where the tissue box went. Anyway. Oh, okay. Oh, okay. Mr. Barnes.

Councilor Barnes: Thank you. Looking around the packed room, I think we made a mistake in not putting this in the auditorium, Ron, so next time.

Mr. Van Winkle: Who knew?

Councilor Barnes: Who knew? And as I, as I look around the room, I'm waiting for President Obama to show up. So he is the only dignitary...

Mr. Van Winkle: 7:00.

Councilor Barnes: 7:00, so I'll make my comments quick because he's about to arrive. So the Mayor frequently says during debates and out in public and here in our meetings that he and the rest of the members of the Council are volunteers. We do it because we love the town and because we want to serve our community. And the Mayor has taken this concept of community service to a whole new level. Some residents in our community know the Town Council meets twice a month and that we have subcommittee meetings that meet roughly once a month as well, but it's all of the other things that we do, and particularly the Mayor has done over his long tenure that people don't know about. And instead of going through my whole list, Mrs. Cantor covered, gave you a flavor of all of the things that the Mayor does and, and truly sometimes you get the sense that he is everywhere. Wherever it is, he is there. He's giving a speech. He's giving of his time and serving his community and it's, it's tremendous. It's been amazing to, to watch. There is one event that Mrs. Cantor didn't cover because she wasn't there. Scott also gives a lot of speeches at school functions and so it was a Saturday last year, maybe two years ago at a cultural celebration day at Charter Oak. And one minute I'm there with my daughters and we're listening to Javier Colon, who is a parent down in the Charter Oak School, performing a new song and the next thing I know the Mayor comes out from behind the curtain and starts talking to the audience and the teachers and the kids and I thought this guy truly is everywhere. And it would have only been made better if you had maybe entered into like a duet with Javier Colon and, and sung along with him. So you are everywhere, you've been everywhere, and we are the better for it and we thank you. Thank you for your years of service. Thank you for your leadership. You will be missed. Thank you.

Vice-President Cantor: Thank you, Mr. Barnes. Mr. Davidoff, oh no, I'm sorry. Mrs. Casperson, sorry about that.

Councilor Casperson: Scott, thank you for 15 years of dedication to West Hartford and its people. Let's talk about the time. My first meeting with you was at the Mayor's Charity Ball when I was on the Board of Directors for the Bridge Family Center, which brings to light how much awareness and support you raise for nonprofits in our community. West Hartford has grown since 2001. Thank you for your leadership through the development of our town in 2005, most notably, the fight for Blue Back Square. I moved to West Hartford in 2000 and felt that a

place for entertainment was missing for families. Having to drive to other communities and putting our retail dollars there just didn't seem like we were supporting the economic development of our town here. And the buildings that were housed in Blue Back were not representative of where our community was heading. You've led us to a town that's award-winning, and through your talents as a thought leader, community mobilizer, negotiator, bipartisan relationship builder, you've led through challenges with a clear, calm presence. Your presence at the state level, advocating for our state funding and speaking to former and sitting Presidents to speak about municipal government and our needs, is very much appreciated. You earned those opportunities through managing local disasters, which have been mentioned this evening, and gaining positive recognition for holding service providers accountable and staying connected and in communication with the community through the Bridge Line. Your talents have been recognized near and far, 40 under 40, Youngest and Longest Serving Mayor, and many more that our Deputy Mayor really helped us all out with. I'm so glad you went first. Now let's talk about the treasure. I know you'll treasure the fact that you have led West Hartford to many accolades. With you as Mayor and Council leader, we are the best town, coolest suburb, best place to live, safest place to live, best schools, both high schools in the top 100, to name a few. Thank you for sharing that treasure of your time and your talents. But most of all, I want to thank you for sharing your family with us. It's been fun watching Betsy grow. Some of my best memories are of her dancing in my kitchen for a fundraiser and also for Noel for, I know the hours that you watch your husband on TV when you haven't seen him all week because you've both been traveling.

President Slifka: She's not watching...

Councilor Casperson: She just looks to see if you're skinnier, if you've eaten, if you're wearing a good shirt. You always are. You're always so dapper. But I also want to thank Janeace and Bob Slifka for being part of the Council parent squad. Your love and support and being there for all of us, as well as Scott and the whole Slifka family, is greatly appreciated. And we won't leave out Jonathan and Andrea because you bring light and laughter and great cakes to all of us. I and my family and we as a Council wish you the best in the future. Feeling like we would keep you here much longer would be selfish. We need to give you some time back for your family but also for the bigger and better things to come because now we know the sky's the limit. Thank you so much for all that you've done for us. Me, personally, bringing me on the Council and being a great friend and mentor. Thank you so much.

Vice-President Cantor: Okay. Now, Mr. Davidoff.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. Mayor Slifka, we're not at a zoning hearing. Even though we have a full room of people, I think everybody's here for the same purpose and they're all on the same page here, so things should go pretty well. The first time I met you in a board or commission role was I was Chairperson of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and you had just been appointed as an alternate. And the way that we've done things back then was, we just take turns. If somebody was missing, the next alternate was, regardless of party affiliation and things just fit in and I don't think you liked it because before long you had moved on to get onto this Body as a Town Councilor and I, I stayed on the, the Zoning Board. But our paths would cross again when we both sat on the Blue Back Square hearings for many, many

hours. But what we had in common was we had the same vision and the same concept of what was in the best interest of our community in the long run. And that's always been the way that you have seen things here in town. Just this past November, I pulled out the minutes of what I said to second your nomination and I'd like to reiterate them and I don't like to reiterate what other people say around the table but I'll reiterate what I said was that I think that one of your greatest attributes, Scott, is the way that you govern and the sense of respect, the ability to listen to others, the ability to build consensus, to make certain that our town always seeks the right course without regard of political advantage and the highlight of the way that you serve our community is you do it with the utmost integrity, honesty and with a, a sense of civility. Your style, your grace, your ability to listen, your leadership skills have made attending Town Council meetings worthwhile and give purpose to what public service means in today's age. I'd like to thank your family; your wife, Noel, your daughter, Betsy, your brother Jonathan and your sister-in-law Andrea, your parents, Janeace and Bob, for giving you to us during these many years of service. Because as I often say around this Council table when we sit here for many long hours, the most important people live within the four walls of our home and that's one's family. So you have your Council family and you have your related family and your, your family. And Mr. Mayor, I just wish you all the best. I wish you good health. I wish you the best in your career and it won't be goodbye. It will be until we serve again. Thank you.

Vice-President Cantor: Actually, there was somebody from the Noah Webster House who was supposed to deliver something. I don't know if...

Audience Member: It's right in the hallway.

Vice-President Cantor: Okay, great. So we can go get that. Okay. Thanks, Vinny.

Audience Member: Ask Chief Allyn if we can still have people in the room.

Vice-President Cantor: All right. Ms. Labrot.

Ms. Labrot: Thank you. The Clerk gets to talk. I am so excited. As one of the few here who has been involved in the back room and knows of the effort that you've put into this job for the last 15 years, I found some interesting statistics. You've attended roughly 282 Town Council meetings, 323 public hearings, hundreds of subcommittee meetings, received over 10,000 pieces of mail with requests and comments that range in everything from ribbon cuttings, proclamations, dog parks, chickens, clean water, clean air, parking tickets, which by the way the Mayor cannot fix parking tickets and even something regarding lectures of Russian cosmonauts. That was in 2001. I have no idea what that was about. With the use of the Internet, you probably have received close to 20,000 e-mails or more. I've seen how much you care about the residents of this town from the way you responded to their questions, comments and concerns. Although this is a volunteer position, you have given so much of yourself and it's no wonder people were surprised to find out that you have another job. However, there is one thing I found very annoying over the years. No matter how long our meetings have gone, midnight, 1:00 a.m., 3:00 a.m., you're back the next day at 8:00 in the morning for a Finance Committee meeting. Then you get on a plane and you fly halfway across the world to your other job, back on Friday to present an Eagle Scout award. You never looked tired. I don't think there is a bad photograph

of you out there. I've looked. Your hair's never messy. But I forgive you for that. I will miss you. Thank you for your friendship, your service to the town, and I'm looking forward to seeing what your next adventure might be.

Vice-President Cantor: You are a bit of a history buff and I know Essie helps you. And sometimes I'm like, wow, where, how does he get all that information? But you really are a student of history and I know the Noah Webster House has really been and West Hartford Historical Society is very important to you, so we have a couple little things. One, this is from the Noah Webster House. It's Excellence in Office. It's an old-fashioned sort of certificate, sorry about that, and it just says, "Excellence in Office, West Hartford, Connecticut, R. Scott Slifka, Mayor of West Hartford 2004 to 2016. We the undersigned, do hereby recognize R. Scott Slifka as the longest serving Mayor in West Hartford's illustrious history, as well as the youngest person to serve in this office having faithfully fulfilled his duties. We thank him for his service on behalf of a grateful public." And it's signed by the Executive Director of the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society and then our Town Historian is also going to sign it for you. And then, we, we actually have a, an old map and it has some very cool names on it of people that we recognize today. There's, you know, Ellsworth, there's Steele, Porter, Shepard, it's a, it's and Whitman. It's very, very interesting and I think you'll look at it, appreciate it and remember. You're, you don't go back this far but kind of anyway, so.

President Slifka: Thank you.

Vice-President Cantor: I want to thank Jennifer for helping pull all this together. We have an incredible gift for Scott, you know, that we do for all of our Town Councilors.

Councilor Barnes: A new car

Vice-President Cantor: A new car. Yeah. No. Oh, Representative Fleischmann to present a Proclamation?

President Slifka: And Joe.

Vice-President Cantor: And Joe. I'm sorry. Come on up.

State Representative Fleischmann: So contrary to the traditions of the Legislature, Joe, would you like to go first?

State Representative Verrengia: I'm just happy to be part of this, this moment. You know, one thing about serving the public and being a public servant is you have the opportunity to make a positive difference in one's lives and Scott certainly has done that for me. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think or appreciate or am grateful for Scott Slifka, because if it wasn't for him, I probably wouldn't be in political office. And it was really through our relationship that we started here in the Council and Shari brought up the subject, an R and a D, but it was really working beside Scott that I had the opportunity to know him and there was no question that, in any decision that Scott made, it was with the best interest of the town and personally, I will miss you, but I will continue to see you and I wish you and your family the very best. Thanks, Scott.

State Representative Fleischmann: Unlike Joe, I did not have the pleasure of serving with you on this Council, but it has been a pleasure to work with you and the rest of the Council to make sure that the Legislature and the town stay in sync. Now, I didn't start as young as you and I, I continue to age and so I got nominated to read this because neither Joe nor I has our reading glasses so hopefully I'll pull it off despite my geriatric situation. This is an official Citation from Senator Beth Bye, myself, Representative Brian Becker, and Representative Joe Verrengia. "Be it hereby known to all that the Connecticut General Assembly hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to the Honorable Scott Slifka in recognition of your distinguished public service as West Hartford's longest serving Mayor. Under your stewardship West Hartford has enjoyed incredible development while retaining its unique character, ensuring that WE-HA continues to be the best place to live. We express our deep appreciation for your community involvement, leadership and public service and take great pleasure in honoring you here today. The entire membership extends its very best wishes on this memorable occasion and expresses the hope for your continued success." Congratulations, Scott.

Vice-President Cantor: We also, I know Senator Bye had a, a bit of an emergency, so I don't know. I know she was headed over here. Does anybody have the Senate proclamation? No. President Slifka: She's on that one.

Vice-President Cantor: Oh, she's on that one? Oh, I'm sorry. Okay, great. Perfect. All right. Then we're up to the big gift. You. No. First we'll give, first and you, you will speak.

President Slifka: I'm sorry.

Vice-President Cantor: I think, do you want to do, get your chair first and then you can speak.

President Slifka: Sure. Whatever you think.

Vice-President Cantor: I think so. All right. So we're going to do the chair first. Do the chair. I just wanted to read it. We, we, this is a tradition. This is for 12 years of service, actually 15 years of service, 12 years as Mayor, huge donations for years and years and years, this guy gets a chair. So it has a very nice plaque on the back, though, and it reads. Scott, you want to read it?

President Slifka: R. Scott Slifka, Mayor of West Hartford, 11/9/2004 to May 16, 2016; Deputy Mayor, March 12, 2002 to November 9, 2004 and Member of the Town Council from 11/20/2001 to today.

Council Cantor: Hope you get a chance to sit in it. All right, Mr. Slifka.

President Slifka: Thank you. This is, this is overwhelming, absolutely overwhelming. I'm thinking of, I actually have written down my thoughts because I didn't want to go on too long and allow everybody to get on with the night because I, you know, I'm keenly aware that tonight is as much about in with the new as out with the old and I don't want to stand in the way of, of that. I never realized having sat through all these goodbyes how uncomfortable it was for all my colleagues until, until now but it's absolutely overwhelming. I can't thank you guys enough for, for the comments. I have, I'm going to depart from the text for a second because I just, for two

reasons. One, as Shari just mentioned the chair, and Larry Price is sitting in the front row and I feel compelled to share a humorous story, which is during 2001 as Jonathan Harris and I were running for the first time, we were at a meeting at Larry's house and it was, the chair was sitting in his living room. And Larry was a former Deputy Mayor, a member of the Council and Jonathan walked over to the chair and put his arm around it and he said, oh, hey, Larry, is this the chair that you got for being on the Council? And Larry walks over to it and says, yeah, eight years of service and all I got was this damned chair and he, he proceeded to sit in it and it immediately split. So it's true. Jonathan can attest to it. It was true. Second thing is I do feel compelled for a moment to defend my father in his, his wine choices. He, he is actually quite a cultured man and, and does know his wine but the, the joke that Beth is picking up on was is that one day in our weekly Friday pizza night at my family where my father usually supplies the wine, he, there was a bottle on the table that he had opened and one of us picked it up to look at it, I think it was Noel, and said, there's no year on it. What is this? And then my mother, as is her habit, proceeds to pick up on that and make fun of my father for buying a wine with no year on it. How good could it be? And my father said, my gosh, I actually thought it was excellent. And that's not where the joke ended. We just thought that's where it was and then a couple months later I happened to visit my old college campus with a, with a friend from West Hartford and we walked into a little corner store that was sort of the place on campus you'd buy your beer and I said for old time's sake let me walk in here and we walked in and learned this wine's name was Tisdale as was shared tonight. They're probably their ads, this is more advertising than they've ever gotten before. We went into the store and, and immediately at the register there was a handmade sign above this case of Tisdale wine and it said, remember this is the audience are the undergrads at George Washington University, it says, Get Dizzy with Tizzy, and I knew what a taste my father had for wine. But generally it's fantastic, so. Anyway, though, so time for me to, to go on. I had said I'd try to keep this brief, which would probably be for the first time since I've been at this table, but it is incredibly hard to summarize 15 years in just a few minutes. My main recurring thought is that it all went so fast. It feels like it was yesterday that Jonathan and I got elected together and, and came to this room and we did, for the first weeks we were organizing. We didn't even have access to what's the Mayor's office and you know, what's it like in there? Oh, my gosh. And now to be cleaning up things over the last couple days, I, I just can't explain it. I actually first came to this table not literally this table but its functional equivalent in the other building and it was not at 27, it was at 17. The first office that I actually ever held was I was the Board of Ed rep for Hall High School and got to interact with, with, with the elected officials of the town on that level back then. And so for me, it's, I'm saying as I go today, I spent part of my teens, the end of my twenties, all of my thirties and part of my forties at this table and in this building. In Essie's spirit, I had some statistics and other facts to share. I was Mayor for 4,206 days. I served with 29 Council members, including my friends here at the table tonight. It would have been tough. I had four Deputy Mayors; Art Spada, Chuck Coursey, Tim Brennan and, and Mrs. Cantor. Three Town Managers. No other Mayor has served with more than two. Two Town Clerks and one Corporation Counsel in all that time. How about that?

Mr. O'Brien: We started at the same time.

President Slifka: We did. But you beat me, actually, but I was, I was blessed to be invited into every school and house of worship in West Hartford, and I, I actually spent my last night in office, not the whole night but part of the night late last night, in the office. And so you don't

think I'm a terrible parent, Betsy decided she wanted to be with her aunt and her grandparents that night and so I, I came over here late to pick up some things and then I hope Chuck will get a chuckle out of this but I was sort of walking the halls like Nixon and talking to pictures of Ellsworth Grant and you know, all that. And I, and that was before I signed my resignation letter. There were some parallels. It was just as curt as I think President Nixon's was. And I actually re-read four histories of West Hartford in that time. Now, these are not giant books, mind you, but they, we do have quite a library here that Nora Cronin started years ago. And as some of you know, I know Ron knows this, but I've always been a big fan of the history of West Hartford series that Nelson Burr, who was the Town Historian many years ago, put together, I think, around the Bicentennial. And it reruns on the holidays on WHC-TV and I am probably one of the three people who watches it religiously. But I, I really like it and, and Shari's right, that I, I am a history buff. But it was just something that made me feel good about the town and I appreciate, I guess on some level I appreciated it. It gave me a sense that I was part of something historic within our community, but also that I'm just a very small part of, of the timeline. So I, I thought I'd leave my colleagues with a few bits of history that I had picked up just last night. You know, you can learn something even in the last of your 15 years. Did you know that the basis of West Hartford's independence was really its separation from the Hartford electors by four miles of woods? They couldn't get access to them. The Council originally had 15 members who were elected from four districts. Shari referenced this earlier, but they're actually in the books. There was a time when there was a list of the prominent families of West Hartford; Stanley, Sedgwick, Whitman, Flagg, including Colonel Solomon Flagg, who was the first First Selectman, as it was known, of West Hartford. And I don't think at that time they ever envisioned that there would be Mayors with names like Slifka and Cantor. I'm glad things have, have moved on. The 1838 layout for West Hartford Center had a hotel at the intersection of Farmington and Main Streets. For those who think we're, you know, we're changing history, we're actually just repeating it at this point. For my Republican friends, in particular, I've got two for you guys. In 1854, the first tax rate was 20 mills. It hasn't gone up as much as everybody's claimed. And post Civil War, did you know there were big town, right after the Civil War, big town meetings were held about us being a major rail stop with a station at Farmington and Main. It was all the rage then. Starting in 1878, there was something called the West Hartford Village Improvement Society, which was a volunteer organization that performed most of the functions of town government, and then were turned over to the town around 1919. In 1923, the first Town Plan, we had the first ever Town Plan in Connecticut and one of the first in the U.S. and the quote, the take-away quote from it was, "The primary problem in the future will be finding space for autos in the various business centers."

Vice-President Cantor: Wow.

President Slifka: Sound familiar? 1930s, when Sedgwick was proposed, before it was named it was known as Proposed Modernistic School, all right? For those that are questioning a round school that will open soon we have, we had a Proposed Modernistic School that served us very well. We had something called the Woodridge Lake Project, I couldn't figure out the year but it sounds like the 1920s or so, where the town once proposed building a football stadium that in part would be rented to professional teams. So we beat Hartford's efforts on the Patriots by about 100 years. The 1930s, the old Town Hall, the Town Manager shared an office with five other people. Maybe some budget-cutting suggestions for next year. Again, my other, my last

one for my dear Republican friends. From 1919 to 1954, the town budget increased by 12 times and one year the town had to borrow its full tax funding for a year due to disputes about how to collect it. So again, it hasn't gone up that much. So why am I sharing all this stuff? I hope, I hope that, you know, you'll find it humorous and interesting, but my point is the town's always changing and Blue Back and recently the Wei Ming are far from the first contentious issues we've had that fill a room or an auditorium. So I leave you with a couple, one particular thought, two particular thoughts. One is don't govern by Facebook. Put your head down, make your best judgment and this town will give you the benefit of the doubt if they know you're sincere. And always remember our great heritage but remember it has been our courage to change just ahead enough of the curve that has kept us successful over the years. I have a lot of thank yous tonight, and there's too many but I'll do my best to, to summarize them. Obviously, and, and thank you guys, my friends, for mentioning my family so many times. You have no idea how, how much that means to me and now I don't feel like I'll do as good enough job as you guys did. But first to Noel and Betsy. As some had referenced, tomorrow will be the first day they know me, well, as a husband and well, Betsy at all, without an elected office and that's going to be, that's going to be unusual. But I, I hope that they will look back some day after all the, you know, the time I've taken away to do this and, and be proud of the work that I accomplished here, particularly Betsy. And to Noel, I, I, she never asked for this, never complained, never told me not to do it, and, and all the way to this very day supported me in it. So I love you and thank you for all of this. And she's, she shares Mrs. Cantor's affliction, so I can't quite see her as I'm saying it, so I hope she, there she is. To my parents and John and Andrea, I'm often asked, I was often, now I won't be asked anymore. I was often asked how did I do it? How was I in all these places? How did I do this work? Well, two reasons. I had a, great role models and a fantastic support system. That's the real secret. And I love you guys and thank you for everything. There's too many Council colleagues to, to name them all but I'll try a few. The Class of 2001 and that includes my friends from the Board and, and Harry Captain's here tonight, Jonathan Harris, obviously here tonight, who, who reclaimed the majority on the, on the Council and the Board and I think helped transform the town for the good in ways we never dreamed of. My fellow and, and right up front, Larry Price and Maureen Magnan who ran those campaigns. I thank you guys for this. The, my, my fellow Democrats who are here tonight and also all the ones who've served over the years who actually, notwithstanding the public vote, actually had to vote me in to be the Mayor every time and kept their faith in my leadership and, you know, it came on and, and we're, like Ben so well illustrated, you know, I, I could always learn from somebody new and it wasn't just me learning from them and they were willing to do that, and I, I can't thank you guys enough for, for your support over the years, those who are here and those who are here in the audience. And I forgot to mention, because she's now blocked for a second, Maureen Kelly McClay from the Class of 2001. It's so wonderful to see you here tonight. Kevin, who's blocking her, Kevin Sullivan. He didn't mean to. It was just coincidence. Kevin, who, who took me in as a roughly 15-year-old intern, inspired me to go into public service, helped me get elected and since then has never wavered in his guidance and support, and his wife, Carolyn, who is almost a member of the Class of 2001 because she joined us right after and, you know, I'll get into this a little bit more in a moment, but you've no idea what it's like to have, you know, the analogy of your parents serving with you on this. It, you can't put that into words. Jonathan Harris, my predecessor and our fantastic Senator, he did an incredibly big thing for me and, and showed incredible maturity in his leadership when he got elected. And he could have hogged the spotlight for himself as the new Mayor and a young guy, and instead he allowed, he brought me

in as his partner and I ended up being his Deputy and he gave me responsibility for things and trusted my judgment and, and really made it a, a team, and I don't think I've ever really seen something so selfless in a, in a leader like that, and I wouldn't have been here if he hadn't opened that door back then. And he also taught me something, which was the, the value of addressing every resident's problem as the most important one in front of you. Not, it sounds cliché but it's, it's serious because it's the most important thing to that resident. So Jonathan never really differentiated between, say, the budget, Blue Back Square and the little complaint that came in from somebody wanting something fixed in their front yard. In fact, I think he, he was so even over the top good on those small ones that I never think I, I measured up on that, so thank you, Jonathan. So I'm going to extend the analogies to my, my family members or new family members that I got to serve with here, so I'll introduce you to my surrogate parents. Then there was Chuck Coursey. It was like having my best friend as the Deputy Mayor. He, he taught me how to communicate, and most importantly, to make sure that I smiled when I did it and, and learned that it wasn't just, when you're, when you're the Mayor it's not just the message you convey. It's whether people think you're happy and then they, they get confidence in you and that didn't come naturally to me but Chuck always taught me that. Then there's Mrs. Cantor as my older sister as the Deputy and not much older, but older. But can't get around that. It's true. I...her, you know, today somebody said that the best decision I made with, as Mayor was appointing Mr. Van Winkle, and it's awfully hard to dispute that, but I will at least contest it a bit, put it on par in that her appointment to the Council was really the first decision I made as Mayor and I said it was the best that I ever made. I did bring her a small, not a gift but a memento that I found in cleaning out the office, which was how I got to meet her. I didn't know Shari before we, we appointed her. I got to know her in that process, but this was the resume and cover letter she sent in to apply to be interested to be on the Council. And here, what struck me was, you know, first that this was just a person I once knew as a piece of paper and, and nothing more, and, and I read what she'd done, and that if we hadn't had the foresight to, to learn who this person was and, and I hadn't had the gift of getting to know her and know everything about this, and see everything that comes from it, that we would've missed the opportunity to have our next great Mayor and I'm so glad to have been a small part of that. And I, I leave, you know, very comfortable now, knowing the town is in fantastic hands with Shari at the helm and well, whenever I get done speaking with this and you're, you're eager for that. Harry Captain who's here. As some have spoken about, he was my, my dear friend and partner in bringing the, I knew it. I knew it. But he was my partner in helping to bring the, the town and the Board of Ed together and we now have, say we have the best town-gown relationship that you're ever going to find and that's not normal, and it took a long time but it started with the work Harry was able to do with me way, way back when. To Essie, who is the one who is always, we always forget to mention Essie, which is a horrible thing, but as she said today, she's the one who sees this side of the service and then the stuff back here, and there's very few that have and I, I can't name the countless things that she's done for me over the years. But she's kept me, kept my sanity, kept me organized and is another sister that I've gotten to have in the, in the back room there. We have an incredibly professional town staff, too many to mention, but just a few; Chris Johnson, John Phillips, Rick Ledwith, Chief Gove, Chief Allyn and God help me if I've forgotten anybody because we've been so blessed to, to have them. The men and women of the West Hartford Police Department, Fire Department and our Public Works in particular, they're the people who our residents interact with the most and, and make us look fantastic. Barry Feldman, who was the First Town Manager when I, when I joined, and we had an interesting relationship because

Barry was closing in on 20 years of service when I became the Mayor, and you've heard reference to my age so obviously I had a lot to learn and was not one who would say, so Mr. Feldman, I think we should do it this way. And he really, in a sense, he taught me how to govern and to do it in the most ethical, responsible way possible and that's a gift like no other. Tom Moore, our current Superintendent who is my friend but also I, who can explain the importance of education to the community as a whole better than anyone I have ever seen and I hope you'll continue to listen to him. Pat Alair, our Deputy Corporation Counsel, who simply put, his judgment I trust implicitly and I, I, you don't know how often I called him and I have a funny thing to say about him in just a moment. And to Ron, you're the epitome of professionalism, my constant partner over I guess nine or so years at this point, and the man who deserves most of the credit that I have received from these kind people tonight. Thank you. I, I promise we're, we're coming to the close but just a couple quick memories. I remember missing my first swearing-in because I was on my honeymoon and, and that was great. It was the right choice, obviously, but there was this but I mentioned Pat Alair because there was this funny little moment and I don't know if I've even shared it with Noel to this day because I think she would've reconsidered the wedding had she heard about it, which was that I got a call from, a couple days when I realized, after the election, we, we got married 10 days after the election. And so right after the Election Day, we started getting the information from the Clerk who says, well, this is the meeting schedule, et cetera, et cetera and you get organized and, and Norma Cronin sent me the date of the swearing in. I went, oh my God, I'm on my honeymoon. What do I do? So I called her up and said, Norma, what do I do? And she said, you know, you can't get sworn in if you're not here. I said, you've got to be kidding me, right? So, and we were at a far-away island. So for about five minutes I actually thought about, forgive me, Noel, what would it take to fly back and forth for, like, half a day? And then I, I mentioned it to somebody who's like, you know, that's a bad idea. You shouldn't've even entertained that thought. Call Pat Alair. And I wish I could remember who told me. I didn't know Pat at this time, and I said, Pat, you don't know me. I look forward to working with you. I'm in a desperate situation. What do I do about this? And he immediately said, you, you don't have to be there. That's, that's not the law. You just get sworn in before you go or when you come back. You can relax. So Pat, you not only have given me great advice, you saved my marriage. Thank you. I, I remember taking over the budget, the Finance and Budget Committee at age 27 with a wealth of financial experience behind me and, but going to school, essentially with Madeline McKernan and Sandy Klebanoff, who had been a long-time Council member and, and Mayor, and they took me and Jonathan in and they had us bring in all the recent budget books and they, they took, they taught us everything we needed to know and I know you guys might disagree of some of what we were taught, but it was, they were trying. They were trying. Blame me for that. Of course I'll remember Blue Back, the storm of 2011, all the phone calls, of course. But what will I most miss? I'll miss being able to wake up each morning and to be able to do something good for someone in need. I'll miss the access to all the local records and, and history, having it, you know, at my fingertips and I could walk in and look at a, you know, old history book any time when I felt inspired here. I'll miss the relationships, Ron, Pat, and all the business and community leaders, all of you guys at the table. I leave thinking I, I just played a small part in making a great town even better. I leave having governed the best town in Connecticut. I'm most proud of the fact that we, we came in, I'm sorry, I'm most proud, I'm starting to lose it, that we combined economic success and social responsibility. I came into office, and something that's really long forgotten, I'm glad Shari mentioned it in her remarks. It was a time when West Hartford's inclusiveness was questioned,

and in the time I've, I've been at this table we've had our first African-American member, first openly gay member, first Asian-elected official and we've become the most diverse community, perhaps, in all of Connecticut. And you know what? When all those things happened, it wasn't that big a deal and it shows what a great place we are. We've, we've come a very long way since 2001 but you know what? We've retained our essential identity. We're still a community that is focused on education and public safety. That's our core, and that's who we continue to be, and I trust who we'll be when I leave this table in another half an hour. Just kidding. I, I'm very proud also that we've done it with civility, which is the one thing I think makes us different than almost everywhere else. That, that has disappeared this year in the national political scene and federal political scene and at some level, I guess, even at the state try as our good colleagues might, to not make it so. But at this table, we have our moments but we've, we've kept it as it should be. So I'm going to leave you with three final thoughts, and they're, they're essentially quotes. My Democratic friends are going to be upset. Hopefully my Republican friends will be happy, pleasantly surprised today because two of the three come from Republicans. One was a very famous elected Republican official named Kevin Connors, who was serving at this table with me when I first came here and was the first Minority Leader I worked with after I became Mayor. And I asked Kevin, I don't have the exact quote, but I'll just explain the context to you. We had a, we had an issue. It was rather contentious and I didn't think Kevin and his caucus were going to vote for it. I don't remember what it was, and Kevin, Kevin voted in favor and I think his colleagues voted against it, and he was very passionate about being in favor. And after the meeting we were talking as we often would, and I said, gee, Kev, how come, you know, how come you came along with us on that one? And he said, remember something. You're going to live here a lot longer than you govern here and the people that you work with and the people that you vote on something for, you're going to run into them at the grocery store, at the school yard, the Little League field. They're your neighbors and keep that in mind always, and, and don't make any decisions that you're going to regret when that moment comes, which I think was another way of saying, always keep the town's best interest in mind and get past these petty squabbles. Don't make them more than that. The second was from a political strategist who I've only agreed with on this statement. Her name is Peggy Noonan and my dad gave me this book when I was in high school and, and first working for Kevin and he said, you ought to read this. It's a different perspective on your view of the world, but it's probably beneficial. And I found a fantastic quote which I've used to this day, which is this. She said, "It's practical to do what you think is right and keep talking to the people honestly about it. It's practical to believe in something because the people can tell. They're distracted, but they're smart and they can tell as time passes when you're sincere and led by principle." And the last one, wow, actually I just realized it's a third Republican. Oh my God. Wow. You know, my, my brother is going to take my party card away, I think. But it's from Abraham Lincoln. Perhaps you'll forgive me that one, guys. It was, it's my favorite quote of all. My dad gave it to me years ago and, and many of you didn't know the secret that my, I like to think I can speak well but my, my father had a hand in some speech writing for me over the years, and I don't know if I ever publicly thanked him for it. But he gave me this quote. It was this. "I like to see a man proud of the place where he's from and I like to see a man live so that his place is proud of him." Thank you all. God bless the Town of West Hartford and goodbye.

APPOINTMENTS:

ITEM #7 - APPOINT DALLAS DODGE TO WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING 11/21/2017. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE.

Vice-President Cantor: We're, we're going to break but I first want to, I want to swear in our new Town Councilor and sort of complete our circle, and I, but first, I, you know, we're really going to miss you and you are, you are an impossible act to follow. But we're, we're going to swear Dallas in and then, and then we're going to take a break. You people can, you know, give your best to Scott. There is some cake in the back and we're going to then we're going to continue our, our nominations for President and Vice-President or Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council. So we'll take like a probably a 15-minute break. While Dallas is coming up to be sworn in, I'm going to tell you a little bit about our new, our new little guy here. We are so, we're so lucky to have so many wonderful and talented people to volunteer to serve their community. I am thrilled to have Dallas Dodge come up to be sworn onto the West Hartford Town Council. Number one, he's doubling as my bodyguard. I get him, and I could fit in his pocket, but Dallas is a tremendous addition. He's a native of West Hartford, went to Webster Hill, Sedgwick and Conard. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and UConn Law School. While in law school, he worked on the Human Rights Clinic, G.E. Corporate Treasury and for the Urban League. After law school, he was a Law Clerk for the Honorable Lubbie Harper, Jr. and then was hired in the coveted job as law clerk for U.S. District Judge Ellen Burns. He became an associate at Shipman and Goodwin, worked there for a couple of years. Dallas had a real interest in serving in government and decided to make a pretty remarkable change. He became the legal counsel for the Speaker of the House and served in this capacity for almost three years. Dallas is now counsel to the Insurance Association of Connecticut. He's already been a long-time volunteer of his home town. He served on the Conservation and Environment Commission since 2012, resigning today, I think, and has been a basketball coach on the West Hartford Youth Basketball League since 2009. He is married to his college sweetheart, Jessica. She's smart and beautiful and she is a Senior Program Associate for CTNext at Connecticut Innovations venture capital and private equity around the state, we are welcoming her into our family, too. They have two beautiful children. I guess you decided not to bring them, huh? No. Three-year-old Dallas Anthony Dodge, who will be bigger than me at age five, I think, and Felicity Dodge, who's five months, six months?

Mr. Dodge: Five months.

Vice-President Cantor: Five months. Dallas is smart and hard working with a big heart and a great sense of humor. He is ethical and honest and I am thanking him in advance for his increased service to the town and I know you will come to really, really enjoy working with Dallas. So we're going to, right, we're going to vote on welcoming Dallas on his appointment to the Council. All those in favor. Aye, right?

All: Aye.

Vice-President Cantor: All those opposed? Okay. So now he can be sworn in.

ITEM #8 - OATH OF OFFICE GIVEN TO DALLAS DODGE.

Ms. Labrot: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully perform your duties as a member of the West Hartford Town Council according to law and to the best of your ability, so help you God?

Mr. Dodge: I do.

RECESS

Vice-President Cantor: Okay, we are going to, right now we are currently almost leaderless. Bye, Scott. He's very, that was a really big smile. I just want to let everybody know that on June 22nd we have a big Committee working on a very festive and fun goodbye for Scott and it's incredibly well-deserved and I hope you will join us for that. Okay, so we are back to the Council, and we are up to Election of Mayor/President of the Town Council.

ITEM #9 - CALL FOR NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT.

ADOPTED, 9-0

Vice-President Cantor: Does anybody have a motion? Yes, Mr. Davidoff.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. It is my privilege and honor this evening to nominate Shari Cantor as President of the West Hartford Town Council. Since 2011, Shari has served as our Deputy Mayor and she has done so with distinction. Shari is a lifelong West Hartford resident. She grew up here, and along with her husband, Michael, they have raised their four sons here; Josh, Sam, Ben and Jacob. Three generations of her family currently call West Hartford home. The Cantors take an active role in making West Hartford the best place to live, to work, and to raise a family. They volunteer many hours of their time for so many in our community. Shari Cantor is a very compassionate person, who cares deeply about making a difference in the lives of those in need in our community. With her exceptional organizational and leadership skills, Shari mobilizes a team of volunteers to get the task done. Shari has been a leader on the Town Council since she was appointed in 2004 to fill a vacancy. Over the years, she has demonstrated that she has the knowledge, the skill set, and the ability to get the job done. Shari has a deep knowledge of the town's operation and its people and she has earned the trust of our residents, the town administration and her fellow elected officials at all levels of government. Since first being appointed to the Town Council, Shari has been Chair of the Town Council's Finance and Budget Subcommittee, a Council responsibility that she takes very seriously. With her CPA background, she has worked diligently on many budgets that are fiscally responsible in order to meet the needs of our fine Town. As a liaison to the town's Pension Board, she keeps her colleagues abreast of what is being discussed with respect to our pension liability. Shari currently serves on the Board of the Trustees for her alma mater, the University of Connecticut, go Huskies; the Board of Directors of the UConn Hillel; the Board of Trustees of the American School of the Deaf; and has served on a variety of other boards. All of these organizations have been beneficiaries of her commitment of time, energy and leadership. When Shari's sons were younger, she was a very active participant with the Morley PTO, the activities at KP and with the music program at Hall High School. She was always there doing whatever was necessary to be done and always encouraging others to join her. Shari Cantor has accomplished so many things

as a member of this Body. To name a few, Shari worked hard to make West Hartford a Heart Safe Community and to raise the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. She was instrumental in the town implementing the pink trash cans we see on trash day. Shari, along with her Council colleagues, residents and town staff, brought an award-winning Complete Streets policy to our town. Shari's played a key role in the lives of our seniors by attending the monthly Senior Advisories, Senior Citizens Advisory meetings and advocating for programs and services for our elderly population, such as the recently reinvigorated Senior Job Bank. West Hartford is so fortunate to have Shari Cantor serve as the next Mayor of West Hartford. With her vision, her dedication to our community, and her love of our town, West Hartford's future is bright. She will be an amazing leader for our community. Shari will be ready on day one for all the responsibilities associated with being our Mayor. Shari is a very capable, very honorable, very warm and caring individual. And for all these reasons, I proudly nominate my colleague and my friend, Shari Cantor, to serve as the next President of our Council and to be the next Mayor of the great Town of West Hartford.

Vice-President Cantor: Thank you. Thank you. It does feel very weird. Okay, Mrs. Casperson.

Councilor Casperson: Thank you, President-Elect. It's always a challenge to go after Leon, so it's nice that I won't be repeating most of what he shared. But Shari Cantor is one of the first women that welcomed me to be a part of the West Hartford community when I moved here in 2000. We were part of a women's crew team, and if you know crew, you can visualize the average height of five-seven women, and Shari carrying the boat. Some of our teammates are here. But Shari was there, arms outstretched, ready to catch the boat if she could touch it. She never gave up. I was struck by her strength, power and focus. She's also an avid runner with marathon credentials under her belt. It's easy to forget her size once you experience her presence. I was first struck by her joining the Council. She was very involved in raising her four sons and being very active in the community volunteering. I remember that she was a part of the Heart Association in schools, senior centers, just to mention a few. I watched intently as she started to influence positive change in our community. For me, again, most notably, Blue Back. I was impressed that Shari was an active participant in fighting to change our town for the better. She was a career woman, who was spending time as CEO of her family as so many people do when they're staying at home. When she donned her CPA hat as Chair of Finance and Budget, Shari began shedding light on how we could positively impact our pension deficit. She worked closely with our Town Manager, Ron Van Winkle, Peter Privitera and his staff, to lay a foundation so that we can go to the rating agencies where we've been awarded and maintain our AAA bond rating. Those decisions lead to great schools, town services, economic development and also higher home values. Shari is also very tech savvy and is harnessed, and is very interested in harnessing technology for our schools, businesses and owners in our town. Leading the charge to utilize the fiberoptic technology that we have at our hands, fingertips and has been gifted to the town, Shari feels that high-speed internet is crucial to 21st Century global economy and would like to bring 10 gigabyte capabilities to West Hartford and the State. While Shari has a global vision, she is deeply rooted and invested in West Hartford. She seeks bipartisan input in solutions and invites all to be a part of the government here. This could be seen in her creative and promotion of programs, services to benefit people in the entire community, Complete Streets, the Senior Job Bank, having advocated and worked for this with volunteers and grants for funding. She's always looking for ways to save us money, as well, and Dial-A-Ride as well.

Developing a relationship with the state and getting to know them better has also helped us on a municipal level. It helps to have friends in high places. Her service to all who are here and who were, during the ice storm when everyone was displaced at Conard, she made sure that basic needs were met. She slept very little and wanted to do more than she was capable of doing with limited energy but she would not stop. And that just really goes to show that she wants every person in West Hartford to be cared for. Shari's been supporting Scott as his career demands have called him away and she's been there to ensure that the needs and vision for West Hartford kept moving forward. It prepared her for what's ahead. But Shari is supported tremendously by her husband, partner, best friend, Michael, her sons, Josh, Ben, Sam and Jacob and soon to be a new daughter-in-law and her mom. She loves you. We hear all about you. And her mom and other family. And, but the thing that I want you to remember is that it is her intellect, think AAA bond rating, her heart. Many of you know how she reaches out to take care of people and I'm going to share that in my two times of deep loss that she reached out to me in Colorado to make sure I felt her love and care and support while I was there. Think her compassion, staying up all night with whomever, wherever is needed. Think energy, Energizer Bunny and non-stopping. Think her vision, for her work with the UConn Foundation, with her family, technology, and all that she brings to the table, that all of those things and more have earned her our support here. And as the person and the woman that she is, it is my honor to second the nomination for President of our Council and Mayor of the Town of West Hartford, Shari Cantor.

Vice-President Cantor: Thank you, Judy, really. All right, so all those in favor, is that what I say?

Councilor Davidoff: Are there any other nominations?

Vice-President Cantor: Oh, any other nominations? Thank you.

Councilor Davidoff: Seeing none . . .

Vice-President Cantor: Seeing none, all those in favor?

All: Aye.

Vice-President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carried. All right.

Councilor Davidoff: Congratulations.

President Cantor: Oh, this is really awkward. All right. Okay, I'm sorry, Leon has a proclamation.

Councilor Davidoff: I know this is off the Agenda, but we did get a proclamation from the Office of the State Treasurer's Office, and let me just read it for you, Shari. It says, "State of Connecticut, Office of the Treasurer. It's a public leadership citation. Be it hereby known to all that the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut offers her sincerest congratulations to the Honorable Shari Cantor, Mayor, Town of West Hartford in recognition of her being elected Mayor of West Hartford by Town Council vote. The Treasurer extends her very best wishes on

this most noteworthy occasion, given this 16th day of May, 2016. Signed, Denise L. Nappier, State Treasurer.”

President Cantor: Thank you.

ITEM #10 - CALL FOR NOMINATION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT BY NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT.

ADOPTED, 9-0

President Cantor: That’s a first. Okay, now we're moving on to election of Deputy Mayor, Vice-President of the Town Council and I am going to start. I am nominating Leon Davidoff for Deputy Mayor/Vice-President of the Council. Leon has taken a non-traditional route. He grew up in Newington, educated as a lawyer, became a small business owner, served on the Newington Town Council as a Republican. He won and he lost. He moved to West Hartford, was appointed to our Town Planning and Zoning as a Republican, presided over many hours of Blue Back Square hearings, and he was an integral part of the approvals for this transformative development. He ran on the Republican slate for Council in 2007, and although he was the second highest vote-getter, he, they decided, the, the team decided that he had the most experience and he would become the Minority Leader. We worked with Leon well, and although we did not see eye to eye on everything, there was always mutual respect. Scott Slifka and I went to visit the rating agencies in New York and Boston, I think we did both, and we invited Leon to be a part of our presentation. The agencies were impressed with our bipartisan cooperation, unified support for the town's financial position, and helping, and that helped to maintain our AAA bond rating during incredible difficult financial times in 2008. Leon changed his party registration to participate in a federal primary vote in 2010. He decided for several reasons he needed to switch parties and became a, become a member of the Democratic slate for 2011. Not an easy thing to do. He spent many hours meeting with the Democratic Town Committee leadership and, and elected officials on, on the Democratic side, and explained his case. He earned their approval and their support. Leon was elected as a member of the Democratic team on, in 2011 and has served and chaired the Community Planning Committee for a long time. Recently since November, he's chaired the Public Safety Committee. But as a Community Planning member, for those of you that watch our Council meetings, it should come as no surprise, Leon is our zoning expert. He reads applications from front to back and back to front and knows exactly what, what questions to ask, how to challenge. He loves delving into the plans, researching the history, and he will admit he is a bit of a nerd. But we love it and he's a valuable, really valuable resource to the, he's been to the Council and to the town, and to the history of the town in these many years of service. Leon has committed much of his adult life to public service. We are proud that he is the kind of public servant that treats everyone fairly and honestly. He is respectful and thoughtful. His reputation is very important to him, probably most important to him of anything, and he will not compromise it. He means what he says and says what he means, and for me, he is also that rare drop everything, I will come running friend. If I played the name game with Leon, if you were here early enough, I played it with Scott, the clue would be, guess, the most important people reside within the four walls of his house and that's so, he always tells us that. He is a devoted husband, father, and brother. He was the son that we hope our sons will be. He and his sister were the sole caregivers for his ailing mother as she declined from Alzheimer's. He ran his life around these incredible daunting responsibilities,

but he was never angry. He did it out of loyalty, duty, and just plain love. He adores Lexie, his, Becky and Lani. Lexie is his best friend and they make each other better. Thank you, Lexie, for lending him to us. He could not be proud, prouder of his two wonderful daughters, Becky and Lani. Lani, your prom pics were beautiful and congratulations on your trivia event. And Becky, what a remarkable young lady. I know you've worked hard to make significant changes in your life and you look awesome. Thank you for supporting Leon in his many years of service to the public. It is a sacrifice all of our families make and we appreciate your willingness and support. We have in Leon an ethical, thoughtful and a good man. He takes his Council responsibilities very seriously. He is thorough and focused, especially on zoning matters. He has continually stepped up to leadership roles. I've increasingly depended on him as Scott started to travel more. He is ready, willing and able to be our next Deputy Mayor and I know the role pretty well. I am grateful for his service and enthusiastically nominate Leon for Vice-President of this Council.
Mrs. Casperson.

Councilor Casperson: Thank you, Mayor Cantor. It is my honor to second the nomination for Vice-President of this Council and Deputy Mayor to Leon Davidoff, otherwise known as public servant. Leon has been dedicated to public service, having been on New Britain Town Council. Oh, Newington, sorry, I know one of the, and your business is in Newington, too, prior to moving to West Hartford. He, like many of us sitting up here, has, was invited to a lunch or event that led to a nomination for Town Council but, and with his experience as Shari noted, he was voted Minority Leader in his first term. The message that has come through the entire time of this public service is his process for providing the best information, public awareness and consistency of vision. Leon is also a small business owner, co-owner with his sister of The Paper Station in Newington. He knows and understands the challenges of business owners and he is an attorney as well that adds value and insight when problems arise. We do seek his counsel for many, many things. He's a Councilor who always tries to speak to issues as a member of our community. He stands and advocates for a livable budget and works in a bipartisan manner to move us forward. Leon has strong community principles. When there is zoning involved, we all know that Leon loves zoning. The place where business, law, public impact and the legacy and the responsibility of who we're going to be as a town rests there and Leon takes every application seriously. I'm always interested in his input on applications. He invests time, thought, energy on each one. He's helped us to make great decisions about the look, feel and function of the developments that we have here. Think Pond House, the Goodwin, Steele Road and Blue Back. Leon chairs Public Safety and I sit on that Committee with him as a sub, as a other chair and he works with the police, firefighters and first responders to have a safe town. I'm sure zoning comes into this as well. When Leon moved to this side of the aisle, it was easy because he's earned my respect as someone who is concerned for the well-being of our town and our community. Caring for his parents, being a great husband to his wife, a great dad to his daughters, small business owner, neighbor, community advocate, he never forgets how important it is to be who you are every day, unwavering, and a person who can look in the mirror every day and like who he is and the decisions that he's made for us and for his family. Seeing Leon in action, staying true to himself in the community, keeping the most important people, his family, his priority, knowing that his actions are for the community that we're all a part of, that leads me to be humbled, humbly honored to support you as our Vice-Chair, Vice-President, and Deputy Mayor, Leon Davidoff.

President Cantor: Any other nominations? Seeing none, all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries. Leon is Deputy Mayor.

ITEM #11 - APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

President Cantor: We are going to do Appointments and then I just, I just need to address people, so if you'll just give me that privilege and, and leeway. So we are, I'm just going to read through the Standing Committees of the Council and the Appointments. We really only had one change, so it's pretty much the same, but I'm just going to read them as is. Administration and Technology Committee chaired by Judy Casperson and the other Councilors, Beth Kerrigan and Chris Barnes. Community Planning and Physical Services Committee chaired by Ben Wenograd, Dallas Dodge, Chris Barnes. Education Liaison Committee, Shari Cantor, Chair, Leon Davidoff and Chris Williams. Finance and Budget Committee, Shari Cantor, Chair, Leon Davidoff, Chris Williams. Government Liaison Committee, Shari Cantor, Chair, Leon Davidoff, Chris Barnes. Human Services Committee, Beth Kerrigan, Chair, Ben Wenograd, Denise Hall. Public Safety Committee, Leon Davidoff, Chair, Judy Casperson, Chris Williams. And Rules Committee, Shari Cantor, Chair, Leon Davidoff, Denise Hall. I move that we adopt.

Vice-President Davidoff: Second.

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

All: Aye.

President Cantor: All those opposed? Okay. Motion carries. Before we adjourn, I just want to take a minute to just say a few words. This is a, a pretty historic night. I mean, Scott's been Mayor for the longest serving Mayor in West Hartford, so this transition is, it's, it's, it's unusual and it's a little, it's difficult for me because I've served with Scott for so long, he's such a dear friend. I kind of feel like one of my arms has been chopped off. But he's, he's ready to move on and, and I'm ready to step in. But first I want to start by thanking my incredible husband and best friend, Michael Cantor. He is my partner in everything and I am his and I, we, we have developed, I think we have created a really wonderful home and I just, I adore you. Thank you. My four sons, Josh, Sam who flew in from Chicago, barely made it, Benjamin and Jacob, for allowing me the time and providing me with the support to serve and my mom, Rose Granow, for her patience and understanding when sometimes I can't be where I need to be or I'm very, very late. I just want to share a few thoughts with you. As Ron always says, this community is special, and he means it when he says it, like to his core, and I see it every day. I've seen it in my role as Council member, as Deputy Mayor, but I've also seen it all of my life. From my earliest years of growing up in West Hartford as a first grader in 1966, we were one of the first, I know, I'm dating myself, we were one of the first few communities in the country to partner with a neighboring city school in Project Concern when we had little racial and economic diversity in our own schools. I participated in musicals at University of Hartford and learned square dancing and French class with Mrs. Collins. I participated on female sports when they were just coming

on line but there was a wide variety to choose from in West Hartford. I participated in Inter-El and the Jazz Show, and I could do it all because it was all here for me. It has always been a very special community focused on excellent schools, safe neighborhoods and vibrant commercial centers. I grew up when the per pupil spending was the highest in the State of Connecticut. Bishop's Corner had Lord and Taylor, Service Merchandise and Pier 1. The Mall was built when I was in high school, and as a result, West Hartford Center had many empty storefronts. Park Road had retail gems like Hall's, A.C. Petersens, Friendly's, Prospect Café and our high school hangout Cypress Arms. The drinking age was 18. New Britain Avenue had the Elm Theater, Fernwood and Epstein's. Much has changed but also some cherished businesses have remained, many with new ownership and new life. My 87-year-old mom, sorry mom, lives in my childhood home. Now two of our four sons, Josh and Ben, are living in West Hartford. Josh, as you heard, recently engaged to Theresa, a history teacher at Conard, has a two-family house near Morley Elementary School, the school that he attended as a, for under, whatever, elementary school. My third son, Ben, just completed his first year of UConn Law School. My four sons had incredible opportunities. They performed in jazz shows, played sports, served on student government, coached, refereed, volunteered and made lifelong friends. This community is a place where people are invested in their neighborhoods and their town. They advocate for their passions and voice their concerns. They donate time and energy to help neighbors and friends by volunteering in so many ways. When my youngest son was born with congenital heart disease and had several open-heart surgeries in his young life, my neighborhood, my friends that are sitting right here, many of them, supported our family by providing rides and dinners, prayer vigils and calls. This is our norm. I have seen this numerous times throughout my life. I am honored and grateful and truly humbled to serve as Mayor of this special community. West Hartford is rich in diversity and cultures, celebrated in many international and, I missed one, okay, I'm sorry, throughout town and through Hello West Hartford. We are proud of the national accolades for our schools and quality of life. This success has been made possible because of Democratic leadership that has been open and accepting, supportive and encouraging, pragmatic and responsible. We have governed with civility and respect for each other led by our Mayor. And for a community that even when we do not see things the same way, we respect each other. I was brought up to value, respect, trust and work hard. I have lived my life this way putting all my all into whatever I do, whether it be school, sports, work, family, community. We are on the right path. Let's build on this success. We have to remain vigilant, staying true to our priorities, as Scott said, excellence in education for every student, safe streets and neighborhoods, great quality of life, including parks and libraries, golf courses and senior centers, while keeping our town affordable for young families, seniors, families paying for college tuition and young professionals. Our residents have invested in their quality of life by choosing to live or run a business here. We have a responsibility to them to be efficient and productive, strategically invested to keep West Hartford one of the best communities in the country. In the next few weeks I will be posting open office hours to meet with residents to give me a chance to listen to you and then we will have a conversation on a more direct way of where we're going. As Mayor and leader of the Majority Party, we will govern with respect and common sense. I promise three things. I will work hard. I will listen. I will always choose the path that I believe is in the best long-term interest of the Town of West Hartford. I have been so honored to serve with, West Hartford for the past 12 years and with so many wonderful people. I'm excited, ready and humbled to serve you as Mayor. You will have the best of me. Thank you and may all of you in West Hartford be blessed. Sit. Okay. All right. Okay.

ITEM #12 - ADJOURNMENT

President Cantor: I make a motion that we adjourn the meeting.

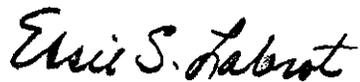
Vice-President Davidoff: Second.

President Cantor: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Cantor: All those opposed? Motion carries. We are adjourned. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

ESL/pt

ADOPTED AT JUNE 14, 2016, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING