

**TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR**

Action Minutes

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July 20, 2020

**TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Paterna called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

3. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Andrew Paterna
Deputy Mayor Liz Pendleton
Councilor Audrey Delnicki
Councilor Erica Evans
Councilor Mary Justine Hockenberry
Councilor Cesar Lopez
Councilor Lisa Maneeley
Councilor Janice Snyder

Members Absent: Councilor Karen Lydecker

Others Present: Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager
Vanessa Perry, Asst. Town Manager/Director of H.R.
Scott Roberts, Asst. Town Manger/CIO/Emergency Mgmt.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Councilor Hockenberry made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.
Councilor Lopez seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Pendleton made a motion to amend the agenda by moving Item 17. A. after Item 5. Councilor Hockenberry seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mayor Paterna called for a vote on the amended motion; it was approved unanimously.

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17. Executive Session

At 7:14 p.m., Deputy Mayor Pendleton made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending claims and litigation (460 Miller Road). Councilor Hockenberry seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The following individuals went into Executive Session: Mayor Paterna; Deputy Mayor Pendleton; Councilor Delnicki; Councilor Hockenberry; Councilor Lopez; Councilor Maneeley; Councilor Snyder; Attorney Richard Carella from Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.; Scott Roberts, Assistant Town Manager/CIO/Emergency Management; Vanessa Perry, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Human Resources; and Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager.

At 7:56 p.m., the Executive Session ended, and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves the Minutes of the following Town Council Meetings: Virtual Public Hearing Minutes of July 6, 2020; and Virtual Regular Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2020.

Was made by Councilor Hockenberry

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pendleton

The motion passed on a roll call vote of 7 to 0 with Councilor Maneeley abstaining.

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves the Minutes of the following Town Council Meeting: Virtual Special Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2020.

Was made by Councilor Maneeley

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pendleton

The motion was approved unanimously

12. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion item: Tax Abatement for 240 Ellington Road (*requested by Town Manager Michael Maniscalco*)

Mr. Maniscalco explained that this item would be an action item at the Special Meeting that is being scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2020. Council members were emailed all of the financials for this tax abatement.

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ITEM:

12. A. (Continued)

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Maniscalco explained that a title search is being done. There will be a resolution to set a public hearing on July 27, 2020, to transfer the property from the Town to Scannell Properties.

13. New Business

C. Resolution Supporting the Use of Absentee Ballots for the General Election in November 2020

WHEREAS, there currently is a global pandemic of Coronavirus (COVID-19), and, COVID-19 is spread from person-to-person through contact with a person, surface or object that has the virus on it; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can be particularly severe for older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions, and, there are currently no effective vaccines or treatments available to the public for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in-person voting carries a greater risk of spreading disease than voting via absentee ballot, and, no person should be required to risk their health in order to exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, absentee voting offers a proven method of secure voting that reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 by allowing individuals to vote by mail and by reducing the density of in-person voting at polling places; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7QQ, which allows any eligible elector to vote by absentee ballot for the August 11, 2020, primary election if an individual is unable to appear at his or her polling place during the hours of voting due to serious concerns about COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is important that this change in the definition of reasons for using absentee ballots due to the risk posed by the COVID-19 also be applied to the General Election in November 2020

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ITEM:

13. C. (Continued)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council will hereby send a letter to Governor Lamont in support of expanding the use of Absentee Ballots in the November 2020 General Election and calls on the Governor and General Assembly to adopt the changes to absentee voting procedures made by Governor Lamont in Executive Order No. 7QQ for the November General Election and appropriate funds to municipalities to defray the increased cost of holding elections during the pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council calls on the General Assembly to (1) convene in special session for the purpose of adopting a joint resolution to amend the State Constitution to permanently allow any elector to vote by absentee ballot for any reason and (2) submit such joint resolution to the popular vote for ratification in the November election.

Was made by Councilor Lopez

Seconded by Councilor Hockenberry

The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 to 3 with Mayor Paterna, Deputy Mayor Pendleton, Councilor Evans, Councilor Hockenberry, and Councilor Lopez voting in favor; and Councilor Delnicki, Councilor Maneeley, and Councilor Snyder voting in opposition.

D. Resolution Waiving Competitive Bidding for the Lease/Purchase of Two (2) Vehicles for the South Windsor Police Department

WHEREAS, the approved 2020/2021 budget included the leasing of two (2) vehicles for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Police went through the normal RFP process, but only received one response for a lease buyout for Dodge vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department wishes to stay with a Ford-based vehicle per the recommendation of the Town's Fleet Manager and because Ford has offered a lease/purchase

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ITEM:

13. D. (Continued)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby waives competitive bidding for the lease/purchase of two (2) Ford Explorers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council authorizes Town Manager Michael Maniscalco to sign an agreement and any necessary documents on behalf of the Town of South Windsor to secure the lease/purchase of two (2) vehicles for the South Windsor Police Department.

Was made by Councilor Delnicki
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pendleton
The motion was approved unanimously

E. Resolution Approving the Transfer of \$2,000 from the Contingency Account to the South Windsor Mini-Grant Professional Account

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves the transfer of \$2,000 from the Contingency Account to the South Windsor Mini-Grant Professional Account to cover costs associated with the Citizens Matching Mini-Grant program.

Was made by Councilor Evans
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pendleton
The motion was approved unanimously

F. Resolution Approving a “South Windsor Citizen Matching Mini-Grant Program” Donation Request from the Wood Memorial Library Association

WHEREAS, the South Windsor Town Council created a “South Windsor Citizen Matching Mini-Grant Program” on June 20, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jessica Glass, who is the President of the Wood Memorial Library Association has submitted a proper application for matching funds in the amount of \$5,000 and Kathy Kerrigan, who is the Secretary of the Board of the Wood Memorial Library and Fundraising Chair, is in the process of raising funds to replace the antiquated and malfunctioning security and fire systems at the Wood Memorial Library & Museum; and

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ITEM:

13. F. (Continued)

WHEREAS, the total cost for this project is \$10,116, and the amount raised to date by the Wood Memorial Library Association is \$5,000; and

WHEREAS, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Town Attorney Kari Olsen have reviewed and approved this project and application and has determined that it meets the criteria of the "South Windsor Citizen Matching Mini-Grant Program"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby authorizes Town Manager Michael Maniscalco to issue \$5,000 of matching funds to the Wood Memorial Library Association from the "South Windsor Citizen Matching Mini-Grant Program" to help fund this project.

Was made by Deputy Mayor Pendleton
Seconded by Councilor Maneeley
The motion was approved unanimously

G. Resolution Setting a Virtual Public Hearing to Receive Citizen Input on a Proposal to Quit claim a Utility Parcel at 240 Ellington Road to Scannell Properties

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby sets **Monday, July 27, 2020, at 7:15 p.m.**, as the time to hold a Virtual Public Hearing to receive citizen input on a proposal to quit claim a utility parcel at 240 Ellington Road to Scannell Properties for economic development purposes.

Was made by Councilor Snyder
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pendleton
The motion was approved unanimously

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ITEM:

17. Executive Session

At 10:14 p.m., Deputy Mayor Pendleton made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the possible purchase of real estate for the Town pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-210 (b) (7) (124 and 150 Chapel Road, to discuss the possible purchase of real estate for the Town pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-210 (b) (7) (Desmond Duck Pond), to discuss the possible purchase of real estate for the Town pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-210 (b) (7) (137 Pheasant Way), and to discuss personnel issues (Annual Evaluations of Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager and Deborah Reid, Clerk of the Council). Councilor Lopez seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The following individuals went into Executive Session: Mayor Paterna; Deputy Mayor Pendleton; Councilor Delnicki; Councilor Hockenberry; Councilor Lopez; Councilor Maneeley; Councilor Snyder; Scott Roberts, Assistant Town Manager/CIO/Emergency Management; Vanessa Perry, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Human Resources; and Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager.

At 10:55 p.m., the Executive Session ended.

18. Adjournment

At 10:55 p.m., Councilor Maneeley made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Councilor Hockenberry seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council