

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

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Debrah W. Reid, ATC

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 1

May 16, 2022

TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Pendleton called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Elizabeth Pendleton
Deputy Mayor Steven King Jr.
Councilor Jamie Gamble
Councilor Cesar Lopez
Councilor Marek Kozikowski
Councilor Andrew Paterna (Via WebEx)
Councilor Erica Evans

Others Present: Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager
Vanessa Perry, Assistant Town Manager/Director of H.R. (Via WebEx)
Scott Roberts, Assistant Town Manager/CIO/Emergency Mgmt.

4. Mayor's Remarks

In observation and recognition of National Public Works Week Mayor Pendleton presented the South Windsor Public Works Department with a proclamation and thanked members of Public Works for their service to the Town of South Windsor and proclaimed May 15 through May 21 as Public Works Week here in South Windsor.

Mayor Pendleton requested the Town Engineer, Jeffery Doolittle present the Public Works Week Awards on behalf of the Town at which time, Mr. Doolittle recognized the Town of South Windsor's business partner Connecticut Mulch Distributors, and thanked them for their efforts in helping Public Works support our leaf composite program along with helping process wooded debris from storm cleanup.

Recognizing the Public Works Week Citizens partnership of South Windsor, Mr. Doolittle recognized Stephan Wagner and informed members of the Town Council that Mr. Wagner has spent many years helping both the Department of Public Works and the citizens of South Windsor. Mr. Doolittle noted that Stephan Wagner has worked with the Clean Energy Committee, Water Pollution Control Authority, Walk & Wheels Way, Invasive Species Working Group, Planning & Zoning, and is a former member of the Town Council.

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 2

May 16, 2022

As part of Public Works Recognition Week, Mr. Doolittle recognized Brian Sullivan who is a member of our very own Parks Division. Mr. Doolittle noted that Mr. Sullivan is being recognized for his outstanding work with the Park Division and noted that Mr. Sullivan puts his best foot forward and goes above and beyond to do an outstanding job.

Mr. Doolittle informed members of the Town Council that in honor of Public Works Week there were a number of activities and events planned; including the displaying of a message on the Annex message board which would change daily; reminders on social media; a public works flag would fly at the Wapping Community House during the Week of May 15- May 22nd; second-grade students from Orchard Hill School would have an opportunity to visit the Town Garage and learn about Public Works; and lastly, in honor of Public Works Week members would be collecting non-perishable food items for the South Windsor Food & Fuel Bank.

Mayor Pendleton informed members of the community that May 15, 2022, was Peace Officers Memorial Day and that May 15th through May 22nd is Police Week, and that we acknowledge our fallen Police Officers. Mayor Pendleton reminded the residents of South Windsor that in observation and honor of Police Officers Week we remember the life and memory of South Windsor's fallen Police Officer Sgt. Matthew Mainieri.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Councilor Andrew Paterna made a motion to adopt the May 16, 2022 agenda. Councilor Erica Evans seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

6. Communications and Reports from Town Manager

- Mr. Maniscalco informed members of the Town Council that at the end of the Connecticut General Assembly legislative session that a new public act had been approved requiring municipalities with a population over 25,000 to pass an ordinance establishing a Fair Rent Commission. Mr. Maniscalco indicated that at the next Town Council meeting further updates would be offered.
- Mr. Maniscalco indicated to members of the Town Council that negotiations have been moving along with an effort to create a shared Building Department with the municipalities of Windsor and East Windsor and that both towns have draft agreements that are currently being reviewed by the Town Attorney. Mr. Maniscalco recommended that the Town Council set a Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the possibility of regionalizing the South Windsor Building Department.
- Mr. Maniscalco notified members of the Town Council and recognized Chief Kevin Cooney had recently retired from the Manchester Fire Department as a Lieutenant and

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 3

May 16, 2022

thanked Mr. Cooney for his many years of service and countless accomplishments over his tenure in Manchester and that the Town of South Windsor was fortunate to have Mr. Cooney as our Fire Chief.

- Mr. Maniscalco enlightened members of the Town Council that the Town had been made aware of some trucking issues on Rye Street with delivery trucks to Aldi's distribution center. Mr. Maniscalco indicated that he had set up a meeting with Aldi's in an effort to resolve the issue and planned to ask Aldi's to not park on the street or in local business parking lots and that a further update would be coming soon.
- Mr. Maniscalco updated members of the Town Council that the Town had received several complaints regarding an odor coming from the area of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Maniscalco indicated that the WPCA commissioned a study to both evaluate the issue and then make recommendations. The study recommended taking a multi-step approach with the first step being to remediate and fix the biofilter on-site. Mr. Maniscalco further explained that the cost of this project is about \$200,000 and is included in the WPCA budget that takes effect in July and that over the course of the next several years additional work would be performed to help with odor control.
- Lastly, Mr. Maniscalco updated members of the Town Council and informed members of the Town Council that the South Windsor Rotary Club would be donating a \$100,000 grant towards the purchase of Splash Pad. Mr. Maniscalco explained that the money had come from the proceeds of the Rotary Clubs' recent auction and that a Splash Pad would be added at Nevers Park.

7. Public Input

Audrey Delnicki (*130 Felt Road*) inquired as to why members of the Town Council had not responded to her April 11, 2022 email. Ms. Delnicki further explained that the email had been distributed to members of the Town Council at previous Town Council meetings. During Ms. Delnicki's public comment Deputy Mayor Steven King, Jr. called for a point of order and indicated that Ms. Delnicki's appointment to the Economic Development Commission was not on the agenda and therefore, should not be addressed under agenda item #7 (Public Input for Items on the Agenda). After some discussion, Deputy Mayor King revoked his point of order allowing Ms. Delnicki an opportunity to finish her input. Ms. Delnicki went on to further inquire and explain that she was unaware as to why she was not being appointed to the Inland & Wetlands Commission as an Alternate, or the Blighted Appeals Board. During Ms. Delnicki's continued Public Input, Councilor Erica Evans called for a point of order and indicated that Ms. Delnicki's public input comments were not relevant to an item on the agenda. Further discussion pursued and Ms. Delnicki withdrew her comments allowing members of the Town Council to address items on the agenda.

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 4

May 16, 2022

8. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Councilor Jamie Gamble made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of May 2, 2022.

The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Steven King, Jr. which was passed by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Mayor Pendleton, Deputy Mayor King, Councilors Evans, Lopez, Kozikowski, and Gamble), 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Councilor Paterna). **MOTION CARRIES.**

Councilor Jamie Gamble made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves the Minutes of the Special Town Council Budget Meeting of May 9, 2022.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Andrew Paterna which was passed by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Mayor Pendleton, Councilors Evans, Lopez, Paterna, Kozikowski, and Gamble), 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor King). **MOTION CARRIES.**

9. Communications from Liaisons, Officers, and Boards Directly Responsible to Council

Ms. Daria Plummer speaking on behalf of the Patriotic Commission reported to members of the Town Council that she was the only non-military member of the commission and noted how proud Ms. Plummer was to serve alongside her fellow commissioners and especially thanked the members of our Armed Forces for their service to our country. Ms. Plummer informed members of the Town Council that Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 21, 2022, and that the Town of South Windsor was proud to observe this special day and noted that Armed Forces Day is a tribute and celebration to Armed Forces for all that they do. Ms. Plummer informed members of the Town Council that military vehicles would be on display, military recruiters would be present, a band would be present, and invited families of South Windsor to the event which would be held at Nevers Park between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

Ms. Plummer further updated members of the Town Council about the upcoming Memorial Day Celebration which was going to be held on Monday, May 30, 2022, and that a ceremony would be taking place at Memorial Park at 11:00 a.m. to honor our fallen veterans. Ms. Plummer noted that the Memorial Day parade begins at 10:00 a.m. and that the South Windsor High School band would be marching along with a number of various community organizations and a few floats. Ms. Plummer excitedly remarked that 25 banners honoring our veterans would be displayed at the Boundless Community Center.

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 5

May 16, 2022

Ms. Plummer informed members of the Town Council that the Patriotic Commission Essay/ Poster contest winners would also be marching in the Memorial Day Parade and that certificates of recognition would be given out to the contest winners at the Town Council Meeting Monday, June 6, 2022. Ms. Plummer went on to thank members of the Town Council for their hard work and support of both our Veterans and the Patriot Commission.

Councilor Erica Evans reported to members of the Town Council that the Human Relations Commission was hosting an event in observation of “Race Amity Day” which was scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 2022, and that more details would be coming forward. Councilor Evans also informed members of the Town Council that the Human Relations Committee had worked with the school system on a Stonewall Riot recognition event in honor of Pride Month and Pride Day which would be June 28, 2028.

Councilor Erica Evans updated members of the Town Council regarding the South Windsor Alliance for Families (SWAFF) and noted that the Library was preparing for summer reading programs and that in-person and virtual options would be available. Councilor Evans also informed members of the Town Council that the Library’s summer reading program registration would start on June 20, 2022, and that programs would begin July 1, 2022.

Councilor Erica Evans updated members of the Town Council regarding the Youth & Family Services and that the SAD group was hosting a trail for charity event on Sunday, May 22, 2022, and was in the process of raising money in recognition of mental health and support. Councilor Evans also informed members of the Town Council that the Teen Center was beginning their rising stars program again and that they work towards leadership and volunteerism. Councilor Evans also noted that the 5th & 6th-grade open house was going to be held on June 7, 2022, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Lastly, Councilor Erica Evans reported to members of the Town Council that she was excited to see a name on the agenda for the Arts Commission and that Councilor Evans believes that with this progress we are moving forward. Councilor Evans further explained that by the end of the month if the Social Justice Racial Equity Commission was still unable to meet and move forward that Councilor Evans would be bringing the ordinance forward to reexamine the language.

10. Reports from Committees

Councilor Andrew Paterna updated members of the Town Council on the activities of the Energy Committee and noted that Councilors had received a letter on behalf of the Energy Committee. Councilor Paterna requested that members of the Town Council review the letter regarding incentives to private businesses to use more solar energy. Councilor Paterna indicated that the energy committee had reviewed recent legislation that had been passed allowing more flexibility. Councilor Paterna indicated that further information would be coming forward regarding the energy committees’ initiatives at the next Town Council meeting.

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 6

May 16, 2022

Councilor Marek Kozikowski updated members of the Town Council that Planning & Zoning adopted the South Windsor Affordable Housing Plan on April 26, 2022, and that a Public Hearing was held for the purpose of receiving citizen input on the proposed Zoning Text Amendments regarding the moratorium on recreational cannabis which was being extended to a future date. Councilor Kozikowski informed members of the Town Council that on May 10, 2022, the Planning & Zoning Commission had a Public Hearing regarding zoning text amendments and that an application had been received regarding the expansion of allowed residential development at Evergreen Walk general plan.

Lastly, Councilor Marek Kozikowski updated members of the Town Council that the Open Space Task Force met on May 2, 2022 and that several properties were discussed to be added to the Open Space acquisition priority list.

11. Consent Agenda

Councilor Jamie Gamble made a motion to approve Agenda Item 11. A.1. as a First Reading on the Consent Agenda.

A. First Reading

- 1. Resolution Appointing Natalie O'Brien (U) as a member of the South Windsor Arts Commission and Postponing Consideration of this Motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Windsor Town Council hereby appoints Natalie O'Brien (U) to the South Windsor Arts Commission for a term ending December 31, 2022, and postpones consideration of this motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

Councilor Marek Kozikowski seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. **MOTION CARRIES.**

2. Second Reading

None.

3.- Miscellaneous

None.

12. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion Item: Potential Amendment to Local Preference Ordinance

Councilor Marek Kozikowski informed members of the Town Council that Councilors were requested to provide feedback regarding the Local Preference Ordinance and that the proposed

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 7

May 16, 2022

amendments had been provided to members of the Town Council including reach provided by the Town Managers' office which included a list of similar ordinances that had been adopted by various towns in Connecticut. Councilor Kozikowski specified that the percentage differential range was still being factored into the local bid preference and that discussions were ongoing. Councilor Kozikowski noted that he would like to see the amendments to the preference adopted.

Answering questions from the Town Council, Town Manager, Michael Maniscalco explained the process of how the local bid preference process works and explained that references and work history would be reviewed if two applications came forward with similar qualities. Mr. Maniscalco suggested that if members of the Town Council were agreeable, at the next Town Council meeting a date for a Public Hearing should be set to receive citizen input regarding the amendments.

13. New Business

A. Discussion Item: Police Department Solar Carport Project

Jefferey Doolittle, Town Engineer, speaking as a member of the Energy Committee reported to members of the Town Council regarding the Police Department Solar Canopy Project. Mr. Doolittle explained that the project had been worked on for quite some time by the Energy Committee and that the project went out to bid and a company called Greenskies Clean Energy had won the bid. Mr. Doolittle further explained that an agreement had been signed to provide a solar canopy at the police station twenty-year agreement of fixed-rate energy at the rate of 10.3 cents per kilowatt-hour. Mr. Doolittle indicated that during the course of the discussions the Police Department had a number of concerns regarding the height of the canopy and issues as they relate to snow and ice. Mr. Doolittle also informed members of the Town Council that the price of steel had gone up and that the expenses were beginning to outweigh the savings over the life of the project.

Answering questions from the Town Council, Town Manager, Michael Maniscalco explained that at this time the Town was not agreeable to moving forward with this particular solar project as there would not be cost savings for the Town.

Councilor Andrew Paterna added and explained to members of the Town Council that the Energy Committee had voted unanimously to support Mr. Doolittle's recommendation to table the project until further details could be resolved.

Mayor Pendleton called for a consensus vote at which time the vote passed by a unanimous voice vote.

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 8

May 16, 2022

B. Resolution Approving a flag to be flown in honor of National Pride Month.

Councilor Andrew Paterna made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves a request to fly the LGBTQ+ Progress Pride Flag from June 1, 2022, through June 15, 2022, and asks the Town Manager, Michael Maniscalco to have the flag raised on the flagpole at the Wapping Community House on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, and lowered on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, in honor of National Pride Month.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Erica Evans which was passed by a unanimous voice vote.
MOTION CARRIES.

14. Passage of Ordinance

None.

15. Public Input for Any Matter

Audrey Delnicki (*130 Felt Road*) inquired as to why members of the Town Council had not responded to her email that was sent on April 11, 2022, and was also distributed at the April 18, 2022, Town Council meeting. Ms. Delnicki requested a response as to why she was denied the appointment to the Inland & Wetlands Commission as an alternate and as a full member of the Blighted Properties Appeal Board. Ms. Delnicki further explained that ignoring or not responding to an email is rude and wrong and not the high standards that Councilor Evans has referred to at the April 4, 2022, Town Council meeting. During her public comment, Ms. Delnicki submitted a Freedom of Information Request to Town Manager, Michael Maniscalco, regarding her appointment within the last sixteen days. Ms. Delnicki further commented that she believed that her appointment was not discussed at the May 9, 2022 agenda-setting meeting as she had received communication that agenda items were set at the discretion of the chair. Ms. Delnicki inquired about the rule and requested that it be presented by the Town Manager or the Mayor and that the minority parties' right to make recommendations to fill vacancies was being violated.

Stephanie Weintraub (*155 Skyline Drive*) speaking as Chair of the South Windsor Republican Town Committee informed members of the Town Council that she had recently had conversations with Mayor Pendleton and Democratic Town Committee Chair, Tony Duarte. Ms. Weintraub thanked both Mayor Pendleton and Mr. Duarte for their willingness to discuss the reasoning for the recent opposition to the appointments concerning Richard Balboni and Audrey Delnicki. Ms. Weintraub explained that she had recently been informed that due to Mr. Balboni & Ms. Delnicki's behavior and how they conduct themselves were the reason that members of the Town Council were not able to resolve their appointments at this time. Ms. Weintraub questioned the ethics of the Town Council and expressed concerns that one party

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 9

May 16, 2022

was being held accountable and not the other. Ms. Weintraub indicated that the South Windsor Republican Town Committee would be seeking legal advice from the State GOP as the issue was not able to be resolved in a bipartisan manner.

Nick Jones (*33 Palmer Drive*) spoke to members of the Town Council that he had sent an email to Scott Nolan, Clerk of the Council regarding the Republican Town Committees nominees which was well before the deadline. Mr. Jones informed members of the Town Council that volunteerism is the lifeblood of the town and is rare. Mr. Jones explained that members of the community might lose interest and that this might disincentivize them from serving on various boards and commissions. Mr. Jones further explained his disappointment to members of the Town Council and that while members of the Council may not like the recommendations he believes that they are qualified candidates.

Matthew Odell (*115 Pine Tree Lane*) spoke to members of the Town Council regarding his concern about various intersections in the Benedict Drive neighborhood area which are missing five yields or stop signs.

Dan Edwards (*131 Hilton Drive*) indicated to members of the Town Council that as a member of the South Windsor Republican Town Nominating Committee that he anticipated being available to speak in support of Natalie O'Brien for the Arts Commission; Audrey Delnicki for the Economic Develop Commission; and Richard Balboni for the Inland & Wetlands Commissions and Blighted Properties, however, he was appalled that while listening at home members of the Town Council made an effort to stop a member of the public from speaking under item #7 (Public Input). Mr. Edwards went on to indicate that the Town of South Windsor needed to be more transparent and noted that the municipalities of East Hartford and East Hampton were more transparent than the Town of South Windsor. Mr. Edwards argued that the appointments of Audrey Delnicki for the Economic Develop Commission and Richard Balboni for the Inland & Wetlands Commissions and Blighted Properties were in fact on the agenda and the two points of order that were called on a resident by Deputy Mayor King and Councilor Evans was disgusting. Mr. Edwards urged members of the Town Council to put aside party politics and stop shutting down qualified people. Lastly, Mr. Edwards thanked members of the Town Council that a discussion item regarding a proposed gun ordinance was NOT¹ on the agenda.

Lauren Chung (*265 Diane Drive*) spoke to members of the Town Council about the need for qualified candidates and that Councilor Evans was specifically looking for qualified candidates for the Social Justice Committee and that Ms. Chung inquired whether or not a request for candidates had gone out to the public. Ms. Chung indicated that the Republican Town Committee had tried to make recommendations to add people to the Social Justice Committee

¹ CLERK NOTE: The Town Council Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 16, 2022 were revised on June 3, 2022 as it was noted that a typo was made by the clerk under Item #15 Public Input as the word "NOT" was missing from the sentence.

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

Page 10

May 16, 2022

and explained that she had personally spoken to three different individuals and that they were not registered, republicans. Ms. Chung explained that members of the Town Council should take people's lack of interest that the Social Justice Committee is a failed project and that people don't want to be on it. Ms. Chung further claimed that if Councilor Evans were ever to get into the Connecticut State Legislator that she would simply change the rules when Councilor Evans didn't get her way and that this was a scary thought. Ms. Chung further explained that local politics wasn't a game and that people were not going to be willing to come forward if members of the Town Council were simply going to take the party recommendations off the agenda. Ms. Chung clarified to members of the Town Council that she felt they were too petty to move forward with the business of filling vacancies on various boards and commissions. Ms. Chung asked members of the Town Council to grow up and specified that it was sad to see who the Town of South Windsor had elected to represent our town and felt members of the Town Council don't represent us very well. Ms. Chung went on to inform members of the Town Council that there were more registered Independent voters in the Town of South Windsor than Democrat voters and that the Independents were watching how members of the Town Council conduct themselves. Ms. Chung noted that members of the Town Council were not going to win any more votes; by trying to change the rules; trying to steal things; playing the race card; or by any silly, immature, ridiculous behavior that members of the Town Council display. Ms. Chung said that members of the Town Council shouldn't "throw stones" when it comes to talking about high standards because no member of the Town Council has displayed high standards in her opinion.

Alan Cavagnaro (83 Pine Knob Drive) spoke to members of the Town Council about his support of the Fair Housing Commission that was being proposed as he expressed concerns regarding the cost of rent in the Town of South Windsor. Mr. Cavagnaro explained that the Town of South Windsor has roughly 1,230 rental units which is barely above the threshold and that Mr. Cavagnaro is excited about this commission.

16. Communications from Council

No report was given.

17. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Steven King, Jr. made a motion to go into executive session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss item # 17(A) to discuss a personnel matter (Town Managers Performance Evaluation) and invited the Town Manager, Michael Maniscalco into executive session. Councilor Erica Evans seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

(Continued on Next Page)

TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes – Revised 6/3/2022

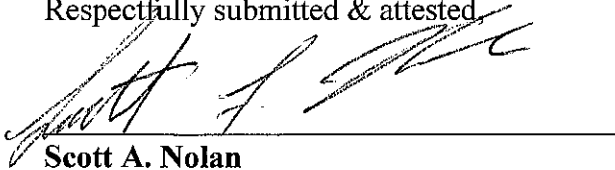
Page 11

May 16, 2022

18. Adjournment

There being no more business to come before the meeting, Deputy Mayor Steven King, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the Regular Town Council Meeting at 8:45 p.m., which was seconded by Councilor Erica Evans and passed by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully submitted & attested

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Nolan", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott A. Nolan
Clerk of the Council

