## **TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR**

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## TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING COUNCIL CHAMBERS – SOUTH WINDSOR TOWN HALL

## 1. Call Meeting to Order

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

## 3. Roll Call

Members Present:

Mayor Andrew Paterna

Deputy Mayor Liz Pendleton

Councilor Erica Evans (arrived 7:04 p.m.)

Councilor Steven King, Jr. Councilor Philp Koboski Councilor Cesar Lopez Councilor Karen Lydecker Councilor Lisa Maneeley Councilor Janice Snyder

Others Present:

Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager

Scott Roberts, Asst. Town Manager/ClO/Emergency Mgmt.

Vanessa Perry, Asst. Town Manager/Director of H.R.

## 4. Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Paterna explained that South Windsor celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this past weekend which was very successful. Mayor Paterna thanked the South Windsor 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, which Brenda Koboski chaired.

Mayor Paterna stated that he hates wearing a mask but hates the idea of his family getting COVID-19. The masks are necessary to help slow down this disease, and he will wear a mask to help the community.

# 5. Adoption of Agenda

Councilor King made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Pendleton made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Item 11.a.A. (Appointment of Madison Gonzalez (D) to the Board of Education and Postponing Consideration of this Motion until the Town Council's Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting) from the agenda entirely. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

(Adoption of Agenda Continued on Next Page)

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## ITEM:

## 5. Adoption of Agenda (Continued)

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

## 6. Communications and Reports from Town Manager

Town Manager Maniscalco reported on the following:

- There have been 1,973 South Windsor residents who have been infected with COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, with 1,880 past quarantine.
- There are presently 39 individuals in the Town of South Windsor with COVID-19, and 54 residents have passed away due to COVID-19.
- Town staff has started up the vaccination clinic at Evergreen Walk.
   Information can be found on the Department of Public Health website and the Town website.
- The State has advised the Town that booster shots will be occurring. More information will become available as the time gets closer.
- To end the mask mandate associated with private businesses in South Windsor, there would need to be a rate of yellow country-wide and community-wide for four weeks.
- Mr. Tim Adams from Eversource took a tour of South Windsor's Emergency Operation Center. The Town of South Windsor also hosted a training with Eversource, and other regional Town's in the area to help Eversource train everyone on new software.
- There have been several issues with lawn signs throughout the community.
   It is against the law to tamper with them, and the Police Department does actively look into these crimes.
- The Town has ordered flashing speed signs to be placed on Laurel Street.
   The order will not be in for approximately seven weeks. Once the signs are delivered, Town staff will work to get them installed.

Town Manager Maniscalco also informed the Council that he would be attending the International City Manager's Conference to get re-credentialed and would not be at the next Town Council meeting.

(Town Manager's Report Continued on Next Page)

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## ITEM:

## 6. Communications and Reports from Town Manager (Continued)

Answering questions from the Council, Town Manager Maniscalco explained that the Town received approximately \$7,000,000 in American Recover Act funds. The projects that can be done have specific criteria set by the Federal Government that have to be met. Town Manager Maniscalco explained further that there is a webpage that identifies all of the projects where individuals can go and see all of the information regarding the project; and how the projects are progressing. Town Manager Maniscalco stated that he would have this page put into an area on the website that is more visible.

Town Manager Maniscalco informed the Council that the Town had not held any COVID-19 testing site in approximately nine months because the Town has been told that there is not a significant need for this service since there is testing available other entities.

Town Manager Maniscalco stated that Eversource is giving key individuals within our municipality access to their software which will be used during storms.

Answering questions, Town Manager Maniscalco explained that the \$370,000 proposed for the Ellington Road and Pleasant Valley Road sidewalks is a combined cost for both roads. All of these projects will be bid out in accordance with federal guidelines because it is federal monies that will be used for these projects. All of the funds need to be spent by 2024. The funds in contingency will be used if a project comes in over budget. If projects come in under budget and there are funds leftover, the Town may use those funds to identify another project. If a resident comes forward with an idea for a project; and meets the set criteria, the Town can consider it.

Deputy Mayor Pendleton thanked Town staff, Brenda Koboski, and the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for the Jubilee. Councilor Koboski thanked Town staff, from the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, for the work they did at the Jubilee.

# 7. Public Input

Mr. Dave Macdonald, 79 Laurel Street, thanked everyone for the solution for the Laurel Street speeding and stated that he fully supports the mask mandate.

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## <u>ITEM:</u>

## 7. Public Input (Continued)

Mrs. Corrine Bordua, 373 Pleasant Valley Road, suggested to the Council that if they are concerned about the hearing impaired, they should remove the mask mandate so hearing impaired individuals would be able to read the speaker's lips. Mrs. Bordua also felt that the mask mandates hurt local businesses.

Mr. Joseph Kennedy, 81 Alison Drive, thanked the Town Council for their work and thanked the Town Manager for keeping the Town running during the pandemic. Mr. Kennedy also thanked the Town Manager for the mask mandate. Mr. Kennedy stated he is in opposition to the proposed gas station and truck stop at the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Rte. 5.

Mr. Adam Wood, 9 Rustic Lane, voiced his concerns regarding the shutting down of the last Town Council meeting due to someone lowering her mask to speak to the Council. There were people who came out to that meeting to be heard but did not get an opportunity because the meeting was shut down. Any individual who comes to the Town Council meeting to speak should be heard. Mr. Wood also felt that the mask mandate should be lifted for businesses because it is hurting South Windsor businesses. Residents are going to other Towns to do business.

Mr. Mike Ouellette, 2 Elmore Way, voiced his disappointment with how the Town Council has handled the epidemic of vehicle thefts and crime in Town. The Town Council should prioritize crime as an agenda item regularly until crimes subside. Mr. Ouellette suggested having the Town Manager read crime statistics at every meeting as he does for COVID-19. A Committee should be formed to discuss options inclusive of cost for the Council to consider. Mr. Ouellette also requested the Mayor and Chief of Police work with Manchester to solve the problem we have on the weekends with noise from racing cars at the State commuter lot off of Buckland Road.

Mrs. Mary Beaulieu, 2780 Ellington Road, stated that at the last meeting, the Town Council and Town Manager refused to honor her constitutional rights, threatened her, and no one stood up for her. A mandate is not a law. Mrs. Beaulieu explained that she had sent an email to the Council in June and July and wanted to know why Council members were not receiving her emails.

Mrs. Cile Decker, 91 Berle Road, stated that she supports the creation of an Arts Commission.

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## ITEM:

# 7. Public Input (Continued)

Mrs. Mary Beaulieu, 2780 Ellington Road (Exhibit A)

Mr. Marek Kozikowski, 863 Clark Street, came before the Council to speak about Public Act 21-01 concerning Responsible and Equitable Adult-Use Cannabis; reviewing Section 148. Mr. Kozikowski stated that he hopes that the Council does not insert itself into an issue that is a Planning & Zoning matter.

Mr. Thomas Anderson, 17 Carman Road, said that he feels South Windsor has been fortunate during the pandemic, unlike other communities in other States. Mr. Anderson thought it is imperative that individuals continue to wear masks to help protect themselves and their community.

Mrs. Lauren Chung, 265 Diane Drive, came before the Council to object to the mask mandate and stated that the masks everyone has on tonight in the meeting do nothing to protect anyone from COVID-19. Due to the mask mandates, she does not do her shopping in South Windsor and feels that the mask mandate is hurting businesses in South Windsor.

Mr. Dan Edwards, 131 Hilton Drive, objected to the mask mandate and the use of the plexiglass in the Council Chambers and felt that there are more essential items to discuss than the creation of a memorial and an Arts Commission. Mr. Edwards stated that he feels testing for COVID-19 is crucial, and the Town needs more transparency.

# 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 Meeting: Regular Meeting Minutes of <u>July 19, 2021</u> and <u>September 7, 2021</u>.

Was made by Councilor Maneeley Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pendleton

Councilor Koboski explained that in the September 7, 2021, minutes, the vote for adjournment says unanimous, and he stated that he did not vote in favor of adjournment.

Mayor Paterna called for a vote on the motion with the amendment on the September 7, 2021, minutes. They were approved unanimously.

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## <u>ITEM:</u>

# 9. <u>Communications from Liaisons, Officers, and Boards Directly Responsible to Council</u>

Mrs. Beth Burgess, 373 Deming Street, came before the Town Council and explained that the Clapp/Schweir house was built in 1808 and there is adjoining land at 1707 John Fitch Boulevard. At a previous meeting, there were multiple reasons shared why preserving the historic building through adaptive reuse could economically benefit the Town while maintaining the valuable character of East Windsor Hill National Register Historic District. The South Windsor Historic District Commission strives to maintain the historical character of individual properties and the district as a whole. The Schweir house stands just outside the national register and local historic district on Main Street and acts as a gateway. The two-story house has a strong presence situated high on a corner, providing a potential for a Members of the Historic District business opportunity within its four walls. Commission met with developer Michael Frisbee, Noble Gas, Inc., and the current owner of the 6.6-acre parcel adjacent to the Schweir house and understand Mr. Frisbee's plans for his proposed development to include a new 24-hour truck gas station with a deli, restaurant, and a convenience store, as well as the potential for an ice cream parlor in the renovated Schweir house. The Historic District Commission supports preserving the Schweir house through adaptive reuse, however does not support increased commercialization so close to the historic district. A gas station would alter the character of the intersection that leads into East Windsor Hill. Increased truck traffic and noise would most certainly build on its already detrimental effect on the neighborhood. Another proposal for using this historical building with less impact on the district has been brought to our attention. Due to this recent development, efforts to fill the vacant board positions of the Schweir house 501C3 are well underway. The Historic District Commission urges the Town Council to protect this prominent historical structure and surrounding land in its capacity so that future generations continue to understand our Town's diverse history and culture. The next use of the Schweir house deserves considerable attention.

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## ITEM:

## 11. Consent Agenda

## a. First Reading

Councilor Lydecker made a motion to approve Agenda Items 11.a.B. through 11.a.D as a First Reading on the Consent Agenda. Deputy Mayor Pendleton seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

B. Resolution Reappointing Ritu Goel (D) to the Human Relations 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 reappoints Ritu Goel (D) to the Human Relations Commission for a term ending November 30, 2023, and postpones consideration of this motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

C. Resolution Reappointing Craig Zimmerman (D) to the Cable Advisory Board 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 reappoints Craig Zimmerman (D) to the Cable Advisory Board for a term ending June 30, 2022, and postpones consideration of this motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

D. Resolution Appointing Damian Humphrey (D) to the Blighted Property Appeals Board 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 Damian Humphrey (D) to the Blighted Property Appeals Board for a term ending November 30, 2024, to fill the unexpired term of Erik Dabrowski (R) and postpones consideration of this motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

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## ITEM:

# 11. Consent Agenda (Continued)

a. <u>First Reading</u> (Continued)

Councilor Snyder made a motion to Approve Agenda Items 11.a.E. through 11.a.G as a First Reading on the Consent Agenda. Councilor Maneeley seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

E. Resolution Appointing Michael Lyon (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority and Postponing Consideration of this Motion to the Town Council's Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby appoints Michael Lyon (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending November 30, 2023, to fill the unexpired term of Ashwatha Naryana and postpones consideration of this motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

F. Resolution Reappointing Scott Andrusis (U) to the Redevelopment Agency and Postponing Consideration of this Motion to the Town Council's Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby reappoints Scott Andrusis (U) to the Redevelopment Agency for a term ending December 31, 2024, and postpones consideration of this motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

G. Resolution Reappointing Barbara Barbour (R) to the Redevelopment Agency and Postponing Consideration of this Motion to the Town Council's Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby reappoints Barbara Barbour (R) to the Redevelopment Agency for a term ending December 31, 2025, and postpones consideration of this motion until the Town Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

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## ITEM:

# 11. Consent Agenda (Continued)

## b. Second Reading

Councilor Lopez made a motion to Approve Agenda Items 11.b.A. as a Second Reading on the Consent Agenda. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion, and it passed on a roll call vote of 8-0 with Deputy Mayor Pendleton abstaining.

# A. Resolution Appointing Deputy Mayor Pendleton (D) to the Pension Committee

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby appoints Deputy Mayor Pendleton (D) to the Pension Committee for a term ending November 8, 2021, to fill the unexpired term of Mary Justine Hockenberry.

Councilor Koboski made a motion to Approve Agenda Items 11.b.B. as a Second Reading on the Consent Agenda. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

# B. Resolution Reappointing John Phillips (U) to the Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby reappoints John Phillips (U) to the Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission for a term ending June 1, 2025.

# 12. <u>Unfinished Business</u>

A. Discussion Item: the Creation of a Memorial to Honor Residents who have been impacted by COVID-19 (requested by Councilor Evans) (Previously discussed at the Town Council Regular Meeting on July 19, 2021)

Councilor Evans informed the Council that the Town is still waiting for more information about the grant and requested that this item be continued to a future meeting.

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## ITEM:

# 12. <u>Unfinished Business</u> (Continued)

B. Discussion Item: Creation of an Arts Commission (requested by Councilor Evans) (Previously discussed at the Town Council Regular Meeting on July 19, 2021)

Councilor Evans explained that the establishment of an Arts Commission is to make a commitment to our community and help these groups grow, foster, and be able to connect them to support one another going forward.

Mrs. Cile Decker came before the Council and stated that she fully supports the establishment of an Arts Commission, explaining that she has been advocating for this for a long time. The only representation through the arts in the last few years is the Classical Concerts. The Town desperately needs a Commission that will be supported by the Town that will be inclusive of all forms of art. In the past, there have been various efforts to form an Arts Commission. Mrs. Decker stated that arts apply to everyone, and everyone can participate. Most surrounding Towns have fully committed to an Arts Commission and thanked the Council for their consideration.

Answering questions from the Council, Councilor Evans stated that the Town Attorney will review the Ordinance. The Director of the Parks & Recreation has been included as a Liaison because the Director would be aware of places in Town that might be feasible to encourage or allow art, and the department can help the Commission with that. The Advisors could potentially be members of the community that are specifically involved in arts. They could advise the Commission but have no vote. Under the Liaison for the Board of Education, a teacher could be designated to this position.

Councilor Snyder suggested including Wood Library Director (or appointee) in the Ordinance.

Mayor Paterna explained that the next step is to have it reviewed by the Town Attorney and for that language to be brought back to the Council.

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## ITEM:

# 12. <u>Unfinished Business</u> (Continued)

C. Discussion Item: Legalization of Marijuana in the State of Connecticut and the Possible Impacts on the Town of South Windsor (requested by councilor Koboski and Mayor Paterna) (Previously discussed at the Town Council Regular Meeting on July 19, 2021)

Councilor Koboski explained that after speaking with Mr. Kozikowski, he understands the jurisdiction of the Planning & Zoning Commission in regards to this issue. Councilor Koboski requested that the Planning & Zoning holds a hearing to get public input regarding this issue.

Mr. Mark Kozikowski, 863 Clark Street, came forward and explained that he is the Director of Land Use and the City Planner for the City of Middletown. When it became apparent that the Governor was going to sign the bill enacting the new law, he was directed to develop a zoning code to address the public act. The public act required that every municipality create a zoning code, creating a special exception or special permit for adult-use cannabis retail spaces and micro cultivators, which are basically small-scale growing Middletown created a use in the zoning code for those things, defined uses, and established special exception criteria standards for those, so when an application does come into the Planning & Zoning Commission, it would have very specific standards and guidelines to evaluate the application. What is also required is that, through the public act, each municipality that has less than 50,000 residents can only allow one special permit, special exception for each of those uses so it gives municipalities a very selective process of where they would want to have those establishments if they so choose to have them. The alternative is that municipalities can prohibit them through the zoning code if they so choose.

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Kozikowski explained that in Middletown, certain existing zones within the city were identified where the Planning & Zoning Commission and community felt these establishments would be appropriate. Middletown has already established the code, and it has been approved.

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## ITEM:

# 12. C. (Continued)

Councilor Snyder explained that she feels that South Windsor should have a public hearing on this issue before any decisions are made regarding the code and questioned if the Town moves forward with the establishment of this, would a new zone be created? Mr. Kozikowski explained that it would depend on what the Director of Planning would like to do related to South Windsor. In Middletown, larger commercial corridors were identified, keeping away from the residential neighborhoods and schools.

Town Manager Maniscalco stated that, it is his understanding that the South Windsor Planning & Zoning Commission is currently considering a possible one-year moratorium on marijuana facilities to put together the appropriate regulations through a lot of public hearings and communications with the Council. Town Manager Maniscalco then informed the Council that in order to approve a hybrid permit for a facility in our community that serves both individuals with a medical marijuana card as well as for someone using it for recreational purposes, the applicant to the State needs approval from the There is currently a medical marijuana facility within our Town Council. community, and I have heard some communication from that business that they would be interested in doing something of that nature. Additionally, moving beyond that, with marijuana now being legal in the State of Connecticut, the Town can allow individuals to smoke marijuana on Town property. Town Manager Maniscalco suggested the creation of an ordinance or rule that either says no smoking or designating areas where to smoke on Town-owned property. The Town would be able to have public hearings on this issue, even if a one-year moratorium is placed on this issue, and when the Town is placing a one-year moratorium on this issue, a public hearing would be needed.

Mayor Paterna explained that he feels the Planning & Zoning Commission should be aware of concerns about a facility being placed near a school or religious organization.

Mrs. Stephanie Dexter, a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, informed the Council that the Planning & Zoning Commission has already discussed this issue at its last meeting. It was discussed about keeping a facility in the General Commercial Zone and nothing in a Residential Zone. The Planning & Zoning Commission seems to be leaning towards a moratorium to see what details the State proposes.

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## ITEM:

# 12. C. (Continued)

Town Manager Maniscalco explained to the Council what the Council's jurisdiction is in terms of the use on Town property. The location of a facility would fall under the Planning & Zoning Commission's jurisdiction. The number of locations in a community is based on population, and based on population, South Windsor could have two locations.

Mayor Paterna stated that the Council would wait for the Planning & Zoning Commission to announce their next step, and he encouraged Councilors to share input with the Planning & Zoning members.

## 13. New Business

A. Resolution Approving a Transfer of \$1,320.33 from the Fire Marshal Operating Account to the Building Maintenance Utilities Account

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves a transfer of \$1,320.33 from the Fire Marshal Operating Account to the Building Maintenance Utilities Account to cover costs for cell service for IPads.

Was made by Deputy Mayor Pendleton Seconded by Councilor Snyder

Mr. Walter Summers, Fire Marshal, explained that the Town had received a grant for \$2,300 to buy three cell-activated IPads. The Town will have to pay for the cell service. This transfer is to reimburse the Building Maintenance Utilities Account.

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

# B. Resolution Regarding DNR Laboratories

WHEREAS, the Town of South Windsor has a very complex audio-visual system that is used to hold, record, and broadcast public meetings; and

(Resolution Continued on Next Page)

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## ITEM:

## 13. B. (Continued)

WHEREAS, given the specialized nature and intricacies of the setup, all of the equipment in the meeting rooms and the control room has been installed, configured, and supported by the same vendor, DNR Laboratories of Watertown, Connecticut, to allow such equipment to seamlessly integrate; and

WHEREAS, an effort to continue to improve and expand the functionality of the system is ongoing, and the cost to add elements to the audio-visual system often exceeds the threshold for competitive bidding set forth in Section 714 of the South Windsor Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the continuity of the current audio-visual system and minimize costs, it is in the best interest of the Town to waive the competitive bid process each time elements are added to the audio-visual system. This will allow a single vendor to have complete knowledge of the system, thus providing more streamlined and efficient services to the Town

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby waives the competitive bid process as described in Section 714 of the Town's Charter and authorizes the use of a single vendor for the continuing purchase and installation of audio-visual systems equipment in South Windsor facilities.

Was made by Councilor Evans Seconded by Deputy Mayor Pendleton

Town Manager Maniscalco explained that DNR Laboratories has worked on the Town's visual equipment for a long period of time. They use some proprietary equipment, and have knowledge of how that equipment works which makes it a little bit difficult for the Town to bid these projects out. When the Town has tried to bid out projects on its visual equipment, it drove up the cost. At a previous Council meeting, there were discussions about putting in place a wavier for DNR Laboratories. The waiver will continue as long as the Town continues to use its services. The service contract that the Town has with DNR Laboratories does not cover these specific components.

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

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## ITEM:

# 13. New Business (Continued)

C. Resolution Waiving Competitive Bidding for the Tower at Veterans Memorial Park and Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute Any and All Contracts and Documents

WHEREAS, the Town of South Windsor is in the third year of a multi-year project to upgrade radio communications for all emergency services and Town departments; and

WHEREAS, the Town of South Windsor has approval from the Capital Projects Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission, and the Town Council to erect a communication tower at Veterans Memorial Park located at 575 Pleasant Valley Road; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Communications provides all Town emergency services and departments with communication equipment currently in use; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Communications has provided the Town of South Windsor reliable and consistent customer service for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of South Windsor has engaged Marcus Communications for construction consultant services for the communication project at Veterans Memorial Park; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Communications has researched and vetted contractors and suppliers for the communication tower, foundation, shelter, and radio equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Marshal's Office and South Windsor Volunteer Fire Department have maintained oversite and control of purchasing equipment for the upgrade of radio communications

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby waives the competitive bidding process for the construction of the communication tower, foundation, shelter, and radio equipment at Veterans Memorial Park; and

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## ITEM:

# 13. C. (Continued)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby authorizes Town Manager Michael Maniscalco to execute any and all contracts and documents necessary for the construction, foundation, shelter, and radio equipment for the communication tower project at Veterans Memorial Park.

Was made by Councilor King Seconded by Councilor Snyder

Mr. Walter Summers, Fire Marshal, explained that the tower at VMP will be Town-owned. The Town is structurally designing the tower to carry future cell carriers in that area and is hopeful to get some providers and create leases with them. Marcus Communications has done a lot of work in Town and has reliable services and reasonable pricing.

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

D. Discussion Item: Changing the Title of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Commission to the Agriculture Commission (requested by Councilor Lopez) (Chairman Joseph Kennedy to be present)

Mr. Joseph Kennedy, Chairperson of the Agriculture Land Preservation Advisory Commission, came before the Council and explained that the Commission would like to change its name to the Agriculture Commission because it has expanded functions in other areas such as preservation of farmland open space, support the agricultural community, walk Town-owned properties, make suggestions for walking trails and community gardens, apply for federal, state, private funds to improve Town-owned properties, have items go to referendums, work with the Planning & Zoning Commission, and work with Open Space Task Force. The Commission would like to expand its functions even further through community and home gardens, greenhouses, climate change, and creating a list of all of the small farm stands in Town to help support local farms.

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## ITEM:

# 13. D. <u>(Continued)</u>

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Kennedy explained that the Commission does much more than agriculture and preservation.

Councilor Snyder suggested that the Commission come back to the Council with all the necessary changes needed for the Ordinance because it sounds like the duties will be changed as well as the name itself.

# E. Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Edwina Futtner (R) from the Economic Development Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby accepts with regret the resignation of Edwina Futtner (R) from the Economic Development Commission effective July 1, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council extends its thanks to Edwina Futtner for the time she has dedicated to serving her community by her membership on the Economic Development Commission.

Was made by Councilor Maneeley Seconded by Councilor Snyder

Councilor Maneeley and Mayor Paterna thanked Edwina Futtner for her many years of service to the Town of South Windsor.

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

# F. Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Charles Margolis (D) from the Human Relations Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby accepts with regret the resignation of Charles Margolis (D) from the Human Relations Commission effective immediately; and

(Resolution Continued on Next Page)

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## <u>ITEM:</u>

# 13. F. (Continued)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council extends its thanks to Charles Margolis for the time he has dedicated to serving his community by his membership on the Human Relations Commission.

Was made by Councilor Lydecker Seconded by Councilor Snyder

Mayor Paterna thanked Charles Margolis for his great work on Human Relations Commission and all the great work he has done as Poet Laureate. The next poetry series is on October 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., at the Community Center.

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

G. Resolution Approving a Refund of Taxes to Fifty-Eight (58) South Windsor Taxpayers

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves a refund of property taxes to fifty-eight (58) South Windsor Taxpayers, the total of said refunds being \$11,325.95 and as more fully described on attached **Exhibit B**.

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

H. Discussion Item: Regional Report Regarding Car Break-ins (requested by Councilor Lydecker) (Chief Lindstrom, Police Department to be present)

Councilor Lydecker informed the Council that she had the opportunity to speak with some citizens regarding their concerns about juvenile car thefts. There were some ideas that citizens presented, such as limiting entrance and exits in neighborhoods, hiring private security by raising taxes, changing the shifts for the Police Department by having four shifts rather than three shifts, and forming a Committee. Chief Lindstrom will address these

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## ITEM:

## 13. H. (Continued)

ideas tonight. Councilor Lydecker also informed the Council that Councilor King had asked for the number of car break-ins for various years, which will also be addressed tonight.

Chief Lindstrom, Police Department, came forward and explained that the Capitol Region is in the process of setting up a task force to address the regional problem of the juvenile car thefts and break-in issue. The Town has applied to the State for some grant money that will help to fund the overtime that will be created for whoever is assigned to the task force. The Police Department is currently waiting for the Hartford Police Department to get approval for an MOU for the task force and also waiting for the job description, work hours, equipment needed, and resources required.

Chief Lindstrom reviewed the citizen ideas and his thoughts regarding them with the Council as follows:

- Putting jersey barriers up on entrances and exits to neighborhoods —
  It puts residents in the area at risk for delayed response times to their
  home, may impact property values, cause accidents which the Town
  could incur some liability, and would not be an approved modification
  to the roadway.
- Increasing nighttime patrols or hiring a private security company to patrol the higher crime theft neighborhoods it is hard to pin down a high crime neighborhood. There are a couple here and there, but what we believe to be happening is these juveniles come into the Town and target a particular neighborhood, and they get out on foot. That is why we see crimes happening in the same neighborhood that night, but there is no rhyme or reason to assume they will return to that neighborhood. Often they do not return to that neighborhood. Evening already has more patrols than day shift and midnight shift, and that has been in place for some time which is based on the assessment of the activity level on the three shifts. The midnight shift is by far the quiet shift, and evenings, 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. is the busiest.
- Adding a fourth shift some of the shifts, and scheduling is bound by collective bargaining agreements and there are three shifts set by contract. The Police Department has its K-9 handlers and administrative spot that help cover the gap.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

## **TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR**

**Minutes** 

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## ITEM:

# 13. H. (Continued)

- Creating block watch groups in higher crime theft areas It is imperative that the public know that they need to be careful engaging anyone and the best thing to do is call the Police Department. The Police Departments' goal is to have a police officer there in 3 minutes of an emergency being called in. There has been an increase in the last few months of civilian and suspect confrontations and also police and suspect confrontations, and the suspects are proven to be more brazen and dangerous. Citizens should not deal with any suspects. The best bet is to see something, say something. The Police Department is always busy, but are not so busy that we can't have someone call us.
- Forming a Committee this would be up to the Town Council.

Chief Lindstrom reviewed data requested by Councilor King, as follows: In 2019, there were 20 cars stolen in South Windsor and 42 cars burglarized. In 2020, there were 33 cars stolen in South Windsor and 94 cars burglarized. In 2021, there were 26 cars stolen in South Windsor and 52 burglarized. While work is being done to get the task force up and running, the police are visible, particularly in hours of darkness with high visibility patrols with cruise lights on. The police are also working on public education and information. So far in September, there have been no cars stolen and no break-ins. This leads the police to believe that maybe some of this public messaging is working. As this task force forms, there will be discussions with the Town Manager to ensure the benefit outweighs the risk.

Answering further questions, Chief Lindstrom explained that if anyone from the public sees something suspicious, they should call the Police Department. The Police Department also has a tip line on its website. If Council members hear anything from the public, they should contact the Town Manager to inform him. Chief Lindstrom stated that South Windsor's crime rate is very low, and he hopes that people can find some comfort knowing they live in a safe Town that is well policed.

Councilor Koboski informed the Council that he went to a presentation by Safe Streets Connecticut and is hopeful that this presentation could be given in South Windsor. He has reached out to the organization and will keep everyone informed.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

#### TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

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## ITEM:

# 13. H. (Continued)

Chief Lindstrom explained to the Council that locally it seems that there are more impacts on car thefts and anything in the vehicle and items in the garage. The residential burglaries that the police have seen are much fewer and further between than the car break-ins, and rarely is it a residence that is occupied.

I. Discussion Item: Proposed Revisions to the Town Council Rules & Procedures (requested by the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee)

Councilor Snyder reviewed all of the changes suggested by the Council and implemented into the Town Council Rules & Procedures, and additional changes that the Committee is proposing. The amended Town Council Rules & Procedures will be sent to the Town Attorney for review and come back to the Council for a final vote.

J. Discussion Item: Proposed Revisions to the Flag Flying Policy (requested by the Flag Flying Policy Working Group)

Deputy Mayor Pendleton explained that the Flag Flying Policy Working Group made changes to the policy which are in red. If there are no changes or suggestions, the policy will be sent to the Town Attorney to be drafted into an Ordinance which will come back to the Council.

Answering questions from the Council, Councilor Maneeley explained that this policy is being changed into an Ordinance because an Ordinance is more challenging to change than a policy. Town Manager Maniscalco added that an Ordinance requires a public hearing if any changes are proposed versus a policy only needing Council action.

Deputy Mayor Pendleton stated that a public hearing will be required after the Town Attorney drafts the Ordinance.

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## ITEM:

# 13. New Business (Continued)

K. Discussion Item: Safety Tips to be Put on the Town Website (Safety Sheets) (requested by Deputy Mayor Pendleton)

Deputy Mayor Pendleton suggested that the Town Manager contact department heads to create safety tips for their department. These tips can be put on the Town's website on the General Government page in alphabetical order under each department. South Windsor has a large and diverse community that may not know what our rules or safety features are within the community. This will not cost the Town anything and is a proactive measure to help educate our community. Council members gave consensus to move forward with this idea.

## 14. Passage of Ordinance

None

## 15. Public Input

Mrs. Mary Etter, Director of the South Windsor Public Library, announced that the Library (upper level) has had new carpeting installed. Mrs. Etter also informed the Council that the third poetry book reading would be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the back patio of the Community Center.

Mrs. Corrine Bordua, 373 Pleasant Valley Road, stated that she liked that the Chief of Police spent time tonight explaining that South Windsor is a safe community. The Town should do the same regarding COVID-19 and should talk about how many people are healthy.

# 16. Communications from Council

None

#### TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

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September 20, 2021

## ITEM:

## 17. Executive Session

At 10:08 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) (Griffin Road and Strong Road). Councilor Snyder seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The following individuals were invited into Executive Session, Mayor Paterna, Deputy Mayor Pendleton, Councilor Evans, Councilor King, Councilor Koboski, Councilor Lopez, Councilor Lydecker, Councilor Maneeley, Councilor Snyder, Town Manager Maniscalco, Assistant Town Manager Perry, and Assistant Town Manager Roberts.

The Executive Session ended at 10:26 p.m.

## 18. Adjournment

At 10:26 p.m., Councilor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Councilor Maneeley seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah W. Reid

Clerk of the Council

## Reid, Deborah

From: sully2764@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 8:48 PM

**To:** Reid, Deborah

**Subject:** [External]Fwd: 2 letters

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

----Original Message-----

From: mary beau <marybeauacm@gmail.com>

To: sully2764@aol.com

Sent: Sat, Sep 18, 2021 6:09 pm

Subject: 2 letters

#### (July letter)

Dear Council member Lisa Maneeley,

At the end of June I sent the message below the dotted line to all the Town Council members via the page on the town's website. I have been out of state for 2 weeks in July. Today reviewing the town meeting of July 6th my message was not read. I am wondering if anyone ever received the email I had sent to all the council members per the one click as suggested on the page. At your convenience, would you kindly read the message below and please let me know if my suggestions will be considered. I know you are busy with many town issues and concerns, but I would appreciate knowing if anyone is receiving my emails. I am also sending the same to Council member Jan Snyder.

Thank you for your service to our town.

Kind regards, Mary Beaulieu 2780 Ellington Rd. 860 644-3086

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#### (June letter)

Dear Town Council members,

This message is about what it means to be an American and the love, respect and appreciation for this great country of ours and all it stands for. My message is for all Americans no matter what nationality you are, ethnicity, religion or what your sexual orientation is.

I have learned about a new flag going on the town's flag pole. A rainbow flag doesn't represent America, it represents a group.

The only flag that should fly to unite us as Americans is the Red, White and Blue. The only other flags that are deserving and should only be permitted to be displayed on our town flag poles are ones that represent those who have sacrificed for our freedoms. Save our flag poles to fly the flags of the color guard representing all branches of our American military. Fly THE POW FLAG in remembrance of American prisoners of war who have never been rescued or recovered and fly them permanently.

Flag day is in June. It became a national holiday in 1949 when an Act of Congress declared June 14th "National Flag Day,"

If you want to dedicate a flag pole for the whole month of June, to people or an event truly unifying and deserving of the honor then dedicate it to the greatest generation - Those who were most noble when they answered the call to serve our nation, the courageous men who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in June in 1944. All people around the world who live as free men and women owe it to them and to that momentous effort. These are the brave men who gave their lives to stop the hunting, imprisonment and murder of those the Nazi's identified as undesirables, including gay men and women who they also targeted. So know your history and when our American heroes charged into battle to defeat such evil, they only carried one flag, the American Flag!

But if you still want to fly ones that represent other groups for other purposes, then do it equally. You can change flags every hour because I'm sure there are thousands and there are not enough days to dedicate one to each. You can start

by flying flags that symbolize the foundation of our Constitution, which protects our God given rights and freedoms... our human diversity.

I am of Italian heritage, proud of the monumental contributions Italian Americans have made to our country. You can also fly the Italian flag on Columbus Days, honoring the man that discovered America. Fly the flags of every other country on days of significance related to their history and culture.

I ask that you ban all political and divisive symbols from government property.

We must all unify again under the only true flag representing liberty, freedom and equality.

Proudly stand, honor and salute our Stars and Stripes, because if we don't unify as freedom loving Americans under the U.S. Flag, the enemy will again use division as their greatest weapon.

God bless America.

I am unable to attend the July council meeting and for this reason I ask that the message above be read at the next meeting and entered into the record.

Kind regards,

Mary Beaulieu

#### P.S.

Please pardon the lack of proper use of italics. I had originally typed this out putting Tony's words in italics, however with the town's format, unfortunately I don't see any option to do so.

Exhibit A

ollactor Of Revenue

KRALL JACQUELINE D KRALL JACQUELINE D KRAMER MARISSA K LEWIS JARED F

LOCKWOOD NICOLE A

MAHMOOD WASEEM MORAN JOHN M JR MARTIN DANIEL C MARTIN DAVID A

PUDELER MAUREEN E PANDITH NANDAN & MUCHOLLARI ELIDA ROUNCE ROBERT R

ROUNCE ROBERT R SAMSEL JOHN J SAMSEL JOHN J SANTA AMY TEDFORD SUSANNA J VANHORN DANIEL F