

**TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR**

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September 18, 2017

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

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

4. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Carolyn Mirek
Deputy Mayor Janice Snyder
Councilor M. Saud Anwar
Councilor William Carroll
Councilor Lisa Maneeley
Councilor Liz Pendleton
Councilor Matthew Riley

Members Absent: Councilor Cindy Beaulieu
Councilor Edward Havens

Others Present: Matthew B. Galligan, Town Manager

Mayor Mirek presented a proclamation to Mrs. Anjeli Sabade who was the logo contest winner for the Priest Property project.

5. Communications and Reports from Town Manager

Mr. Galligan reported on the following items:

- The 8-24 referral for the Bark Park was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Town will continue to work with the plaintiffs to help mitigate their concerns regarding sound.
- A budget was approved by the Senate, and it now is in the hands of the Governor. The Governor can veto the budget, sign the budget or sit and do nothing with the budget. If the Governor does nothing, after fourteen days the budget would be in effect. If the budget stays as approved, South Windsor will receive more money than what is proposed through the Governor's budget.
- There have been thirty-two requests for recycling bins since the July 3, 2017 Town Council meeting. There have been twenty recycling carts delivered, eight requests have been denied, and four requests are still

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ITEM:

5. Communications and Reports from Town Manager (Continued)

pending. It is the company's discretion if residents will get a second recycling cart. The company will go twice to the property of the resident requesting the additional recycling bin on recycling collection day and if there is no cross-contamination in the container and it is full both days, the resident will get an additional recycling container.

- The Town has closed on the Collins Sledding Hill and is now the owner of this property.
- The Festival of Lights was held on Saturday, September 16th. It was a great event, and Mr. Galligan thanked the Diverse and Strong Committee, any company who supported this event, and Town staff who did a great job.

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Galligan explained that he has been in contact with Senator Larson, Representative Currey and Representative Delnicki regarding the budget. He does not know how everyone voted on the budget but would find that out and report back to the Council.

Council members had a lengthy discussion regarding the State budget and decided, by consensus, to send a letter to the South Windsor Legislators informing them that the South Windsor Town Council is in support of the approved budget, and it is important that the Legislators knows how important it is to approve a budget before the first of October, otherwise South Windsor will have a deficit of \$12 million dollars. Mr. Galligan stated he would draft a letter and send it to the Town Council before sending it to the Legislators.

Mr. Galligan explained that it had been decided that the Town will use 37 mill rate for motor vehicles. If a 32 mill rate was used and the State came back with a 37 mill rate, the Town would then be approximately \$1.1 million dollars short in the budget.

Mr. Galligan then explained to the Council that Ashley Summers is in the process of setting up a meeting regarding crumbling foundations. The meeting will be for the public also. If the approved budget passes, there would be \$20 million dollars in the first and second year. The one item that needs to be determined is who would control the funds.

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5. Communications and Reports from Town Manager (Continued)

Councilor Anwar informed homeowners with crumbling foundations to contact the Assessor's Office before October 1st so their house can be reassessed. Due to the crumbling foundations, homes are being assessed at a lower value, and therefore the amount of taxes would decrease. If the approved State budget does not get vetoed by the Governor, homeowners can also get reimbursement for testing of their concrete.

Answering questions from Councilor Pendleton, Mr. Galligan explained that the residents should contact the Assessor's Office for the reassessment of their homes.

6. Public Input (Items Not on the Agenda)

Mr. Mark Cabbot, 37 Kelly Road came before the Council to thank them for the Festival of Lights event that took place over the weekend. It was wonderful to see so many people with diverse backgrounds come together.

Mr. Tiernan Cabbot, 37 Kelly Road came forward and thanked the Council for their support of different events in Town. He has been able to have a table at each event trying to help individuals who are less fortunate. He has sent supplies to Texas and will be sending supplies to Florida.

Mrs. Rita Goel, 80 Cornerstone Drive thanked the Town Council for the Festival of Lights event and requested that the resolution addressing bigotry be brought back before the Town Council. Mrs. Goel informed the Council that she would not have a problem paying more in taxes to help people with crumbling foundations and would like the \$12 surcharge put back into the State budget. Mrs. Goel then announced that the South Windsor Alliance for Progress would be holding a seminar regarding the future of food waste in Connecticut. The event will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the South Windsor Public Library, Friends Room.

Mr. Doug Nation came before the Council and stated that the Festival of Lights was an unbelievable event and he looks forward to this event next year.

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ITEM:

6. Public Input (Items Not on the Agenda) (Continued)

Mr. Sudip Bhattacharjee, 77 Clearview Drive stated that being at the Festival of Lights event was a great way to show support. It was a great event, and he thanked the Town Council for their support.

Mr. Manu Mazumdar, 33 Stonehenge Road, stated he was honored to have been asked to Chair the Festival of Lights event, but this event would not have happened without the partnership with the Town. Mr. Mazumdar thanked everyone involved.

Mr. Tom Delnicki, State Representative, came before the Council and discussed the State budget explaining that the budget that was approved holds South Windsor harmless for the first year. Crumbling foundations is a critical issue and is in the bipartisan budget. The issue is being addressed, and even though it will take additional resources, it is a good start. State Representative Delnicki requested that the approved budget from the State be put on the Town's website.

Councilor members gave consensus to extend the Public Input by ten minutes.

Mr. Andy Paterna, 301 Strawberry Lane requested that the Town Council look at the entire budget because there are cuts to higher education that could affect South Windsor residents.

Mrs. Nancy Yario, 20 Andreis Trail came before the Council and stated that there are homes on Andreis Trail that are being affected by crumbling foundations. Mrs. Yario then explained that she has spoken to the Council for years about the Bark Park which is an issue that affects her quality of life every day. There is an error on the Special Minutes from August 28th, which states there was no cost to the Town for the Bark Park. Mrs. Yario stated that there were different costs to the Town.

Deputy Mayor Snyder made a motion to suspend the rules to go to Item 15. B. on the agenda. Councilor Anwar seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

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ITEM:

15. New Business

B. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of a 1988 Emergency One Cyclone Pumper

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to sell, through an invitation to bid process, a 1988 Emergency One Cyclone Pumper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to sign and execute any and all documents necessary to facilitate the sale of this fire engine.

Was made by Councilor Anwar
Seconded by Councilor Snyder

Fire Chief Kevin Cooney came before the Council and explained that since this resolution was drafted, there have been discussions regarding the opportunity to donate this vehicle to Houston, Texas who has lost a lot of their equipment during Storm Harvey. The Town could receive between \$5,000 to \$12,000 for this truck, but it is felt that donating it would be a better option. The Town's goal is to get rid of the truck which will save money.

Mr. Galligan informed the Council that it would cost the Town \$1,500 to advertise for the sale of this truck so he would be inclined to go with Chief Cooney's recommendation of donating the fire engine to Houston, Texas.

Councilor Anwar made a motion to amend the resolution as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to sell, through an invitation to bid process, a 1988 Emergency One Cyclone Pumper **or donate it to a community in the United States in need;** and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to sign and execute any and all documents necessary to facilitate the sale **or donation** of this fire engine.

Councilor Pendleton seconded the amendment

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ITEM:

15. B. (Continued)

Answering questions from the Council, Chief Cooney explained that the truck is in decent shape and is still usable. South Windsor presently has a new truck being built, and it would save the Town money to get rid of the 1988 pumper. This is just a suggestion. The final decision can be made by the Town Manager after all options are explored.

Councilor members discussed the option of donating the fire engine to Houston, Texas and all felt it was a good idea.

Mayor Mirek called for a vote on the amendment; it was approved, unanimously

Mayor Mirek called for a vote on the amended resolution; it was approved, unanimously.

7. 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: Special Meeting of August 28, 2017; and Regular meeting of September 5, 2017.

Was made by Councilor Pendleton

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Snyder

The motion passed on a roll call vote of 6 to 0 with Councilor Carroll abstaining.

8. Public Petitions

None

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

None

10. Reports from Standing Committees

None

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ITEM:

11. Reports of Temporary Committees

None

12. Public Participation (Items on the Agenda)

Mr. Roy Normen, Homestead Drive came before the Council and stated that the property on Clark Street would be a great addition to open space for the Town. This property abuts Wapping Park, and the Open Space Task Force feels this is a desirable piece of property. Mr. Normen then stated that he would hope that when someone is proposing to sell any property to the Town, that the person would seek advice from someone who can explain the tax implications.

13. Consent Agenda

Councilor Carroll made a motion to approve Agenda Items 14. A. through 14. B. as the Consent Agenda. Councilor Anwar seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

14. Unfinished Business

A. Resolution Reappointing John Phillips (R) to the Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby reappoints John Phillips (R) to the Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission for a term ending June 1, 2021.

(Approved by Consent Agenda)

B. Resolution Appointing James MacDonald (R) an Alternate to the Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby appoints James MacDonald (R) an Alternate to the Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission for a term ending December 1, 2019 to fill the unexpired term of Daniel Seypura.

(Approved by Consent Agenda)

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ITEM:

15. New Business (Continued)

A. Resolution Approving the Transfer of \$18,000 from the Contingency Account to the Public Works Rental Leases Account

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves the transfer of \$18,000 from the Contingency Account to the Public Works Rental Leases Account to cover costs associated with the repair and replacement of the current crosswalk signal on Rte. 30 at The Mill on the River Restaurant.

Mr. Galligan requested that no action be taken on this item. The Department of Transportation is reviewing this project so the cost could change.

Mayor Mirek requested that this item be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

C. Discussion Item: 625 Clark Street (Kelley Property) (requested by Town Manager, Matthew B. Galligan)

Mr. Galligan explained that Mr. Bruce Kelley offered this property for sale to the Town. The property abuts the Wapping Park. The Open Space Force has reviewed this property and feels it is a good piece of property for the Town to purchase.

Mrs. Pat Botteron, 34 Victor Lane came before the Town Council representing the Open Space Task Force. Mrs. Botteron reviewed the property for the Town Council and explained that the Open Space Task Force is enthusiastic about this property and highly recommends the property for Town acquisition.

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Galligan explained that negotiations for a purchase price would begin and then at the next meeting the Council will be apprised of the cost and make a decision whether to move forward with the purchase of this property. Mr. Galligan informed the Council that there are approximately two million dollars left in the funds to purchase open space.

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ITEM:

15. New Business (Continued)

D. Resolution Adopting a Tax Rate for Motor Vehicles

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby adopts a tax rate of 37 mills for motor vehicles to be levied on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2017 and terminating on June 30, 2018.

Was made by Councilor Maneeley
Seconded by Councilor Carroll

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Galligan explained that it would be prudent for the Town to use the 37 mill rate. If the Governor passes a budget using the 32 mill rate, South Windsor would be over one million dollars short in our budget.

Mayor Mirek called for a vote on the motion; it was approved, unanimously.

E. Resolution Approving the Transfer of \$14000 from the Contingency Account to the Human Services Department, Senior Bus Service Division – Department Equipment Account

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby approves a transfer of \$14,000 from the Contingency Account to the Human Services Department, Senior Bus Service Division – Department Equipment Account to cover costs associated with the purchase of a new bus.

Was made by Councilor Riley
Seconded by Councilor Pendleton

Mr. Galligan explained that the cost of a new bus is \$65,000. The Town will be receiving a grant from the State and will pay \$14,000 for a new bus. There is approximately \$114,000 left in contingency after this purchase.

Mrs. Andrea Cofrancesco informed the Council that this purchase would replace a bus that is about ten years old, and no additional staff is necessary.

Mayor Mirek called for a vote on the motion; it was approved, unanimously.

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15. New Business (Continued)

**F. Discussion Item: On-Line Permitting and Payment for Department Fees
(requested by Town Manager, Matthew B. Galligan)**

Mr. Galligan explained that on-line permitting and payment of Department fees would save time for residents and contractors by allowing them to make payments for various Town services without having to come to Town Hall. Mr. Galligan informed the Town Council that CRCOG has a program called, Back Office Program, which could be used by the Town. The process should begin with commercial first, and then the Town can see where it goes from there. This is felt to be a great program.

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Galligan explained that the Town would have to first ensure that MUNIS is compatible with the CRCOG system. If the systems are not compatible, the Town would have to search for another program that would be compatible.

Councilor members discussed the charge that is applied to credit card users, and there were concerns expressed regarding that charge to residential users.

Mayor Mirek stated that this would be a business-friendly approach because there are times when it is difficult for people to come to Town Hall.

G. Resolution Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Vehicles

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby declares the vehicles to be "Surplus Equipment", as shown in attached **Exhibit A**, and authorizes Town Manager, Matthew B. Galligan to sell, or otherwise dispose of.

Was made by Councilor Pendleton
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Snyder

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15. G. (Continued)

Answering questions, Mr. Galligan explained that the Ford Crown Victorians that are on the surplus list are police vehicles that have already been replaced. These vehicles do a lot of idling all year round. The Town had looked at the new hybrid cars for police vehicles but after all of the equipment necessary for police vehicles are put in, the car loses its efficiency.

Mayor Mirek called for a vote on the motion; it was approved, unanimously.

H. Discussion Item: Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Commission Ordinance (requested by Town Manager, Matthew B. Galligan)

Mr. Galligan explained that this Ordinance had been reviewed by the Town Attorney. The proposed changes are trying to get the appropriate amount of people to serve on the Commission. Another concern with the Ordinance is the makeup of the Commission with certain backgrounds that would be appropriate and be able to be fulfilled.

Council members reviewed the Ordinance, as shown in attached, **Exhibit B**. A lengthy discussion ensued, and Council members requested clarification or changes to the following items:

- The number of members should be less, possibly ten rather than twelve.
- The Council feels that the number of members at large should be less than six, feeling that four would be better.
- Council members requested clarification of Item c.
- Number 5 should read "A resident of the town, preferably employed by or associated with a banking or other financial institution." This would make this item consistent with number 4.
- The number of members that make up a quorum should be corrected.

I. Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Gary Bazzano (R) from the Planning & Zoning Commission

(Resolution Continued on Next Page)

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ITEM:

15. I. (Continued)

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby accepts with regret, the resignation of Gary Bazzano (R) from the Planning & Zoning Commission, said resignation to be effective immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council extends its thanks to Gary Bazzano for the time he has dedicated to serving his community by his membership on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Was made by Councilor Carroll
Seconded by Councilor Anwar

Council members thanked Gary Bazzano for his service to the Town

Mayor Mirek called for a vote on the motion; it was approved, unanimously.

16. Passage of Ordinance

None

17. Public Input/Participation (Any Matter)

None

18. Communications and Petitions from Council

Deputy Mayor Snyder informed the Council that she had the pleasure of bringing a proclamation to the Residence at South Windsor Farms recognizing National Assisted Living Week stating it was a fantastic experience. The Residence at South Windsor Farms presented the Town with a certificate. Deputy Mayor Snyder requested that the Clerk of the Council have the certificate placed on the wall of the Council Chambers.

Councilor Carroll reported that there was a 9-11 service held that was sponsored by the Fire Department. The service was great, and he hopes that the Town continues to hold this event.

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18. Communications and Petitions from Council (Continued)

Councilor Anwar stated that the South Windsor Chamber of Commerce had an event for Business Person of the Year. It was a great event, and Councilor Anwar congratulated Tim Shepard on being named Business Person of the Year.

Deputy Mayor Snyder also reported that the Wapping Fair opened its gate at the Barton Property which was a perfect fit for the fair. A proclamation was read which recognized the 125th Anniversary of the Wapping Fair. Also held was the Festival of Lights which was a terrific event. Councilor Carroll added that it is a pleasure to see that the new location of the Wapping Fair is conducive to those who have trouble with mobility.

Mayor Mirek announced that there would be an event to raise money for the South Windsor Public Education Fund on September 30, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Councilor Anwar announced that the South Windsor Police Department had to deliver a baby. He would like to see the Officers come to the next Town Council meeting to be thanked publicly.

19. Executive Session

At 9:46 p.m. Deputy Mayor Snyder made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue (Town Manager's Evaluation; and to discuss a draft agreement which would result in disclosure of public records for information which is exempt from disclosure at this time pursuant to C.G.S. §1-210(b)(1) and §1-210(b)(4). Councilor Pendleton seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

The following individuals went into Executive Session: Mayor Mirek, Deputy Mayor Snyder, Councilor Anwar, Councilor Carroll, Councilor Maneeley, Councilor Pendleton, Councilor Riley, and Town Manager Matthew B. Galligan (for item 19. B.).

At 11:00 p.m. Councilor Maneeley made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Councilor Carroll seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

(c) The commission shall establish a schedule of regular meetings. Special meetings may be called at any time by the chairman or upon written request of any ~~seven~~five members. ~~Seven~~Five members shall constitute a quorum.
(Ord. No. 141, §3, 2-3-97)

Sec. 2-398. Purpose.

The purpose of the agricultural land preservation advisory commission shall be to act in an advisory capacity to the town council by establishing farmland preservation priorities for the town and conveying these priorities to the town council with specific recommendations as to what the town council, town agencies and/or the town government administration can or should do to maintain and promote a viable agriculture industry within the town in accordance with such priorities.
(Ord. No. 141, §3, 2-3-97)

Sec. 2-399. Duties.

~~The duties of the~~ The agricultural land preservation advisory commission shall be as follows have the authority to:

- (1) Inventory and develop information and maps that show active and inactive farmland, prime and important farmland and farms in relation to zoning, inland wetlands, drainage basins, surface water and groundwater, flood hazard areas, aquifers and recharge areas, and any other environmentally or resource sensitive areas.
- (2) Conduct surveys to gather information from farmers and others in the agriculture industry concerning attitudes, conditions and opinions about the future of farming and related activities and what actions would be required to maintain or enhance agriculture within the town.
- (3) Promote the use of local agriculture products through displays, fairs or any other method deemed appropriate by the commission.
- (4) Sponsor an agriculture day or days to educate local citizens concerning the multiple benefits of a local agriculture industry and encourage the participation in such events by schools, farmers and community organizations.
- (5) If the town at any time establishes an agricultural land preservation fund pursuant to C.G.S. §7-131q, act as an advisory to the town council regarding that fund.
- (6) Keep records of its meetings and its activities and submit an annual report to the town council.
- (7) Appoint advisors to assist it in the fulfillment of its duties as it deems appropriate.

| ~~(7)(8)~~ Take any other actions necessary and proper to exercise its authority.
(Ord. No. 141, §4, 2-3-97)