

**TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR**

Minutes

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July 13, 2020

**TOWN COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Paterna called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

3. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Councilor Karen Lydecker

Others Present: Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager
Vanessa Perry, Asst. Town Manager/Director of H.R.
Drew Guild, Systems Administrator/Project Leader

3. Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Paterna stated that presently there are 198 COVID-19 cases in South Windsor. One hundred and sixty-four of those cases are beyond the fourteen-day quarantine. There have been thirty-two deaths in South Windsor. Many services are beginning to open up in South Windsor, such as the Town pool at Veterans Memorial Park and all park facilities.

4. Communications and Reports from the Town Manager

Mr. Maniscalco informed the Council that the following is the attendance at Veterans Memorial Pool since it has opened:

- Monday - 157
- Tuesday - 72
- Wednesday - 25
- Thursday - 289
- Friday – 18

(Communications and Reports from the Town Manager Continued on Next Page)

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ITEM:

4. Communications and Reports from the Town Manager

In attached, **Exhibit A**, Mr. Favreau, provided the Council with numbers related to residents and non-residents that were in attendance at the pool. He also provided the Council with participant numbers of in-house camps and specialty camps.

Phase II regarding the reopening has been pushed back with no date being identified at this time.

Mr. Maniscalco stated that moving forward, the only public comments that will be read into the records during Public Comment will be those that come from TownCouncilComments@southwindsor-ct.org. Comments will only be received until 12:00 p.m. on the day of the Council Meetings. All other comments that are received after 12:00 p.m. on the day of the Council Meeting will be emailed to the Council. The public is welcome to call into the meetings to make comments. The number to call into a Council meeting can be found at the top of the Town Council agenda. This will allow the Council to finish the business of the Town at each meeting.

Answering questions from the Council, attendance at the pool is done on a first-come, first-serve basis. At this time, the Town has not come close to meeting the maximum capacity. The public can call in multiple times to make public input if they would like, but it would be best to only call in once. The Town has not been keeping time for each person's public input, but on a usual basis, individuals are given five minutes to make a public comment.

5. Public Input

Scarlett Alcazar (**Exhibit B**)
Mindy Gold (**Exhibit C**)
Christopher Bernard (**Exhibit D**)
Mary Lou Clark (**Exhibit E**)

6. Communications

Councilor Hockenberry informed the Council that the Crumbling Foundations Committee would be scheduling a meeting in the near future. A program to assist families who are dealing with crumbling foundations will be established through the Committee, Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. When a meeting has been scheduled, Councilor Hockenberry said she would inform the Council.

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ITEM:

7. Special Business

A. Resolution Waiving Competitive Bidding for the Lease of Two (2) Vehicles that were Approved in the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget

WHEREAS, the approved 2020/2021 budget included the leasing of a vehicle for the Building Department and a vehicle for the Fire Marshal's Office; and

WHEREAS, if the Town were to go through the normal State Bidding Process, the Town would not receive these vehicles until at least December and possibly later, which would result in a significant loss in productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Fleet Manager has requested various quotes and found that the lowest quote would result in each vehicle being about \$800.00 more than what would be received through State Bidding

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby waives competitive bidding for the leasing of two (2) 2020 GMC Terrain vehicles at the best available pricing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council authorizes Town Manager Michael Maniscalco to sign an agreement and any necessary documents on behalf of the Town of South Windsor to secure the two (2) leased vehicles for the Building Department and Fire Marshal's Office.

Was made by Councilor Snyder
Seconded by Councilor Delnicki

Councilor Snyder stated that she is very cautious about waiving competitive bidding; however, when you are talking about purchasing vehicles, and you have to get into the production line in order to get the vehicles that you spec out, it could take a long time to get a vehicle. Councilor Snyder stated that she feels it is a sound thing to do at this time.

(Resolution Continued on Next Page)

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ITEM:

7. A. (Continued)

Mr. Maniscalco explained that one of the biggest drivers for waiving competitive bidding is due to COVID-19. A number of automobile factories have shut down production at different points during the pandemic. As a result, there is a shortage through the State bidding proprietors that the Town usually works with, so the Town is having to find the vehicles through other avenues.

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

B. Discussion Item: Location of a Community Flagpole (*requested by Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Councilor Delnicki*)

Mr. Maniscalco explained that four locations had been identified to locate three flagpoles. These flagpoles would be used to fly the American Flag, the State Flag, and the Town Flag. If the Council approves an organizational flag to be flown, the Town Flag would be taken down, and the organizational flag would go up. The three locations are as follows: The corner of Sullivan Avenue and Ellington Road; the corner of Sand Hill Road and Nevers Road; directly across the street from the Police Department on Sand Hill Road; and at the Community Center. Mr. Maniscalco explained that at the location on the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Ellington Road, there is electricity to have lights on the flags, and there would be a lot of visibility. A couple of trees may need to be taken down. The two locations on Sand Hill Road and Nevers Road would have visibility but would have challenges with electricity. The locations at the Community Center already has one flagpole and would only need two others added. This location has electricity, but limited visibility.

Councilor Snyder felt that having the most visibility is important, so she would be in favor of placing the flagpoles on the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Ellington Road.

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Maniscalco explained that there are two trees that would need to come down in the location of the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Ellington Road.

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7. B. (Continued)

Councilor Snyder said that she would like to see some landscaping done on the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Ellington Road.

Councilor Maneeley agreed that the flagpoles should be put up on the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Ellington Road. This area is considered the center of Town and would be viewed by a lot of individuals, and there is electricity available in that area.

Councilor Hockenberry also agreed that the flagpoles should be placed on the corner of Sullivan Avenue and Ellington Road. This location is where most people come into Town and leave Town. The three flagpoles will be very welcoming to passing motorists. The trees need to be removed, and the illumination would be nice.

Councilor Delnicki stated that she would like to locate the flagpoles at the Community Center because there is already one flagpole up, the location is centralized, and there is electricity. Councilor Delnicki reminded the Council that Mr. Shepard has offered to donate \$5,000 toward this endeavor. If there is going to be a flag-raising ceremony, more individuals would be able to come to an event there.

8. Public Input

The public is welcome to email comments to TownCouncilComments@southwindsor-ct.gov. Town Council members will not respond to any public comments/questions.

None

9. Communications from Council

None

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ITEM:

10. Executive Session

At 7:30 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) (1645 Ellington Road), to discuss pending claims and litigation (Environmental Services, Inc.), and to discuss personnel issues (Annual Evaluations of Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager and Deborah Reid, Clerk of the Council). Councilor Snyder seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The following individuals went into Executive Session: Mayor Paterna, Deputy Mayor Pendleton, Councilor Delnicki, Councilor Evans, Councilor Hockenberry, Councilor Lopez, Councilor Maneeley, and Councilor Snyder.

11. Adjournment

At 10:50 p.m., Councilor Maneeley made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Councilor Lopez seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council



**SOUTH WINDSOR
Parks & Recreation**

Exhibit A

(860)648-6355 ext. 317
Fax: (860)648-5048
raymond.favreau@southwindsor.org

Memo

To: Mike Maniscalco, Town Manager
From: Ray Favreau, CPRP, Director of Parks & Recreation
CC: Vanessa Perry, Assistant Town Manager/HR Director
Date: 6/22/2020
Re: Summer Programs Update during COVID Conditions

Now that we have a couple of weeks of modified program operation under our belts I am pleased and proud to offer the following update in the midst of the current challenging COVID situation.

1. **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK** – less than favorable weather conditions certainly impacted the daily attendance for our first 5 days:
 - a. Monday, July 6th – Total attendance 157 of which 38 were Non-residents (24%)
 - b. Tuesday, July 7th – Total attendance 72 of which 12 were Non-residents (16%); 2 successful distressed swimmer saves by lifeguard staff.
 - c. Wednesday, July 8th – Total attendance 25, 0 Non-residents (0%)
 - d. Thursday, July 9th - Total attendance 289 of which 68 were Non-residents (23%)
 - e. Friday, July 10th Total – Total attendance 18 of which 3 were Non-resident (16%)

2. IN-HOUSE DAY CAMP, SPECIALTY CAMPS & TENNIS LESSON

Week of:	Camp Evolution-Wapping	Camp Evolution- Old Orchard Hill
6/29/2020	31	31
7/6/2020	37	23
7/13/2020	45	28
7/20/2020	46	25
7/27/2020	55	43
8/3/2020	49	26
8/10/2020	53	36
8/17/2020	50	28
	TOTAL- 366	TOTAL- 240

Week of:	Specialty Camps	
6/29/2020	6	
7/20/2020	12	
7/20/2020	14	
7/27/2020	10	
7/27/2020	3	
7/27/2020	1	
	TOTAL - 46	
Week of:	Sports Camps	
6/22/2020	7	
7/6/2020	14	
7/13/2020	5	
7/20/2020	2	
7/20/2020	2	
7/27/2020	6	
8/3/2020	1	
8/10/2020	2	
8/10/2020	7	
8/17/2020	25	
	TOTAL- 69	
Week of:	Tennis lessons	
6/22/2020	6	
6/22/2020	7	
6/22/2020	1	
6/22/2020	10	
6/22/2020	10	
6/22/2020	5	
6/22/2020	7	
6/23/2020	5	
6/23/2020	3	
7/6/2020	6	
7/6/2020	8	
7/6/2020	4	
7/6/2020	6	
7/6/2020	19	
7/20/2020	1	
7/20/2020	2	
7/20/2020	1	
7/20/2020	6	
7/20/2020	5	
7/20/2020	7	
8/3/2020	1	

8/3/2020	1	
	TOTAL- 126	

Exhibit A

3. **SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

- a. Our first three shows steamed live from the local TELEFUNKEN sound stage have been enjoyed by 3,700 viewers so far! Our next performance is Thursday July 16th at 7pm featuring classic rock tunes of the 60's, 70's and 80's by the Nightshift Band.

4. **DRIVE-IN MOVIES**

- a. The first of three scheduled outdoor movies modified to a socially distanced drive-in format kicks off Friday, July 17th at 8:30pm from the student parking lot at South Windsor High School! Frozen II is the featured film.

I will provide periodic updates as the summer progresses.

Reid, Deborah

From: TownCouncilComments,
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:41 PM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: FW: BLM

From: Scarlett Breton [scarlettbreton@icloud.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:13 AM
To: TownCouncilComments,
Subject: BLM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the "Black Lives Matter" sign in front of the Town Hall. It is a powerful and important symbolic statement to say that the town stands in solidarity with the Black community and will fight against systemic racism. It is disappointing that some people are opposed or feel threatened by the sign. However, it is important that the town support equality and justice for community members, especially those who are marginalized. Thank you for standing on the right side of history.

Sincerely,
Scarlett Alcazar

Sent from my iPhone

Reid, Deborah

From: TownCouncilComments,
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:41 PM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: FW: Does SW think that Black lives matter?

From: Mindy [mindy.alysé@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 9:09 AM
To: TownCouncilComments;; Paterna, Andrew; michael.maiscalco@southwindsor.org; Audrey Delnicki
Subject: Does SW think that Black lives matter?

Dear South Windsor leadership,

I am writing in support of the "Black Lives Matter" sign in front of the Town Hall.

I grew up in South Windsor and would often describe my hometown, and 18 years in it, as idyllic. When I think about where I would like to raise my own kids one day, there's something lovely about moving back to this place that feels like home. Right now though, I really don't think I could.

I fear what a disservice it would be to my children to raise them in a place that has to debate the value and validity of a Black Lives Matter sign. A symbol of support, of justice, of community, of standing in solidarity with our neighbors, near and far, who are systematically oppressed under the laws that non-Black people feel served and protected by every day. If South Windsor isn't a place where we look injustice in the eye, head on, and strive every day to reflect and learn and grow and change—where we force ourselves to understand the way that even "good white people" (myself included) actually participate in and benefit from the racist powers of white supremacy and capitalism—then it is not a place I want to live or raise a family.

This symbol is just that—a symbol. The real power is in changing the education we give our children in South Windsor. Re-framing "manifest destiny" and telling the truth about Christopher Columbus. Investigating the flaws of our founding fathers. Re-examining our more recent post-Jim Crow history to really teach and understand that "separate but equal" has never been more alive and well than it is today. No one should be wasting their time debating words on the pavement or a sign when there's SO MUCH more important work to do. Accepting that Black Lives Matter is the absolute absolute bare minimum and I'm deeply embarrassed that anyone in my hometown could disagree. Fix our curriculum, stop over-policing Black communities and kids, and then we can have a conversation about whether South Windsor does or doesn't think that Black lives matter.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Thank you,

Mindy Gold
860-803-4598
mindyalysé.com

Reid, Deborah

From: TownCouncilComments,
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:41 PM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: FW: THREATENED WITH BEING A RACIST IF I DID NOT SIGN PETITION SENT BY LEADER OF SOUTH WINDSOR BLM

From: Christopher Bernard [cbernard8344@outlook.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 1:35 PM
To: TownCouncilComments,
Cc: Maniscalco, Michael
Subject: THREATENED WITH BEING A RACIST IF I DID NOT SIGN PETITION SENT BY LEADER OF SOUTH WINDSOR BLM

I wish to speak to the town council and or have this email read to the town council, especially to the Mayor and the leader (she) of the South Windsor BLM, I was sent a petition to sign from Change.Org and it specifically stated that if I did not sign the petition I will be considered a racist. I found this threatening and as I own a local business I am nervous now about retribution towards me, my business and family. I would like this investigated as this could be libeled as bullying and slander. I did not sign petition for my own reasons, mostly because I support Police and I do not support looting, burning, defacing, and the killing of police officers. I wish to be called on this matter (860) 424-6056 as a resident of South Windsor I demand some sort of action to be taken in this matter, if not I will put an attorney on retainer and sue the town, the person who sent this and anyone else involved

Christopher J Bernard LLC
(860) 424-6056

Reid, Deborah

From: TownCouncilComments,
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: FW: COPY OF PETITION THREATENING ME WITH RACISM IF I DO NOT SIGN

From: Christopher Bernard [cbernard8344@outlook.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 1:44 PM
To: TownCouncilComments,
Cc: Maniscalco, Michael; Sen. Anwar, Saud
Subject: COPY OF PETITION THREATENING ME WITH RACISM IF I DO NOT SIGN

Here is copy of petition calling all residents of South Windsor “racists” if we do not sign petition, I would like to know if we are now targeted, I do not want my house or family or business targeted due to BLM as I am in favor of equality but not looting, burning, defacing and killing of police officers and harming first responders as well as killing of innocent children.

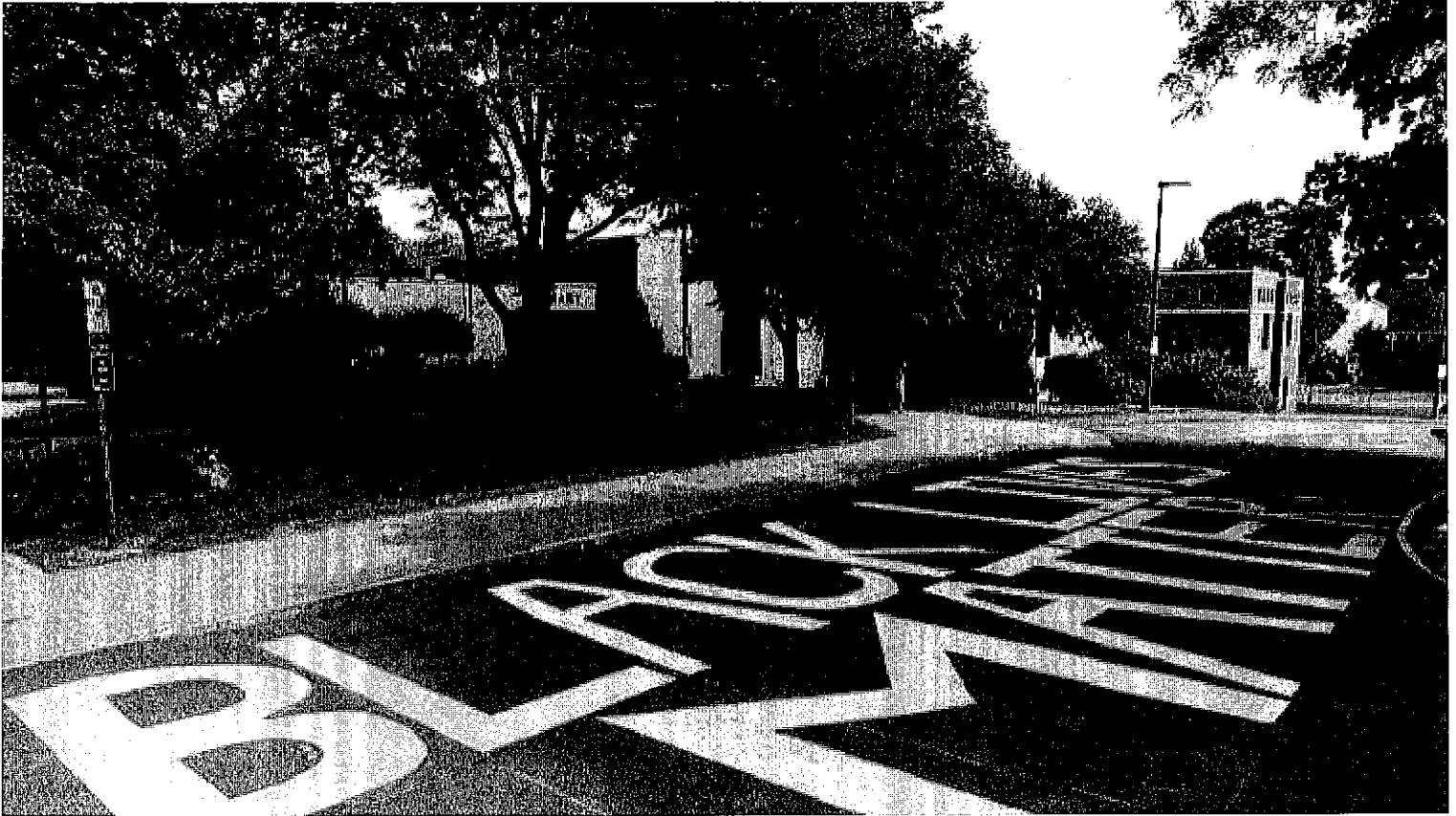
From: Christopher Bernard
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 5:40 PM
To: Sen. Anwar, Saud <Saud.Anwar@cga.ct.gov>
Cc: Sen. Anwar, Saud <Saud.Anwar@cga.ct.gov>; Cain, Sean <Sean.Cain@cga.ct.gov>
Subject: FW: This petition is taking off in your neighborhood: Keep BLM Paint in Front of South Windsor Town Hall

Here is petition claiming if you do not sign you are racist


From: Change.org <change@e.change.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Christopher Bernard <cbernard8344@outlook.com>
Subject: This petition is taking off in your neighborhood: Keep BLM Paint in Front of South Windsor Town Hall

change.org

Christopher, a lot of people in your local area are signing this petition right now – join your neighbors in supporting this issue by adding your name:



Keep BLM Paint in Front of South Windsor Town Hall

 South Windsor for BLM started this petition to The Mayor and it now has 1,728 signatures

Sign now with a click

On June 12th, 2020, a group of young former and current students of South Windsor schools spent close to 3 hours painting "Black Lives Matter" in front of the Town Hall. It was powerful and important for a small suburban town to be involved in a national movement. Prior to doing this, we had permission from the Mayor, and he was able to support us throughout the entire process.

Unfortunately, many residents have expressed that they are vehemently against this movement, and therefore are racist. They are very upset that the Town Hall has been "defaced" and claiming that all lives matter. They are blaming our Mayor for speaking for the town (which is his responsibility), and they believe that the paint should be removed. Town Hall, for reference, is not in a residential area and has recently been closed due to COVID. Residents have only recently been coming to the building in order to obtain dog licenses.

We will clearly have to prove to our residents and surrounding towns that South Windsor does not stand for the racism that exists in our community. Please consider signing this petition, as we want our paint to exist on this property for as long as possible.

We also have a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/swforblm/> and Instagram @sw.for.blm.

Sign now with a click

[Visit petition page](#)

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Reid, Deborah

From: TownCouncilComments,
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: FW: BLM

From: clarkmarylou5 [clarkmarylou5@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:43 AM
To: TownCouncilComments,
Subject: FW: BLM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Mary Lou Clark <MClark@dhill-law.com>
Date: 7/10/20 8:40 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "clarkmarylou5@gmail.com" <clarkmarylou5@gmail.com>
Subject: BLM

Good morning. I understand that there is a proposal to paint the driveway near the town hall with the proclamation of Black Lives Matter. I strongly believe that our town should be inclusive of all minorities including African American citizens and other groups. However, I am diametrically opposed to painting the area. BLM founders are admitted train Marxists and if you look at their platform, **they espouse the ideals of ant-police, anti-family and anti-jail.** In fact, their NY City President stated on National TV, that the organization wanted to "burn down the system" and he then added that you could take that figuratively or any other way. I do not want to see our police defunded and I fully support all lives, including those individuals who uphold the law and faithfully serve and protect our community. I urge all of the members of the Council to review the policies of this fringe organization whose ultimate goal is to fundamentally change our democracy. **We all pay taxes to live in South Windsor and the proposal should be put to a vote.**

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Clark