



**TOWN COUNCIL  
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024  
SPECIAL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES  
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
61 ECHO LAKE RD.  
WATERTOWN, CT 06795**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

PRESENT:

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair  
Ken Demirs, Vice Chair  
Robert Desena  
Anthony DiBona  
Carina Noyd  
Jonathan Ramsay  
Robert Retallick

ABSENT:

Gary Lafferty  
Rachael Ryan

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Raimo, Town Manager  
Susan Zappone, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

4. Recognitions – none.

5. Minutes.

a. January 2, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 2, 2024 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

6. Chairman's Report

a. Correspondence.

1. Resignation letter from Loretta Lambert as a member of the Commission on Aging, dated December 29, 2023

Chair Mary Ann Rosa wanted to thank the Public Works Department for the great job they are doing with all the various storms and weather incidents we have had lately; we appreciate their efforts.

7. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance – Jonathan Ramsay, Chair – none.

- b. Ordinance – Anthony DiBona, Chair – we met today and we referred the proposed ordinance relating to Elderly Tax Relief to Town Council for discussion and approval.

- c. Public Works – Robert Retallick, Chair – we met last week and discussed ongoing projects within the community. Jerry Lukowski put together a booklet for us.

- d. Elderly Tax Relief- Jonathan Ramsay, Chair – we met today and voted to send the ordinance to the Ordinance Subcommittee which was subsequently sent to the Town Council. What we did was make the town tax rebate the same as the state, all the same requirements. The total costs of both the state and the town programs would come to roughly \$320,000 in total. In the past I believe it was around \$250,000 between the two programs, so it's bumping up a little.

8. Town Manager's Report.

Mark Raimo reported:

- a. The departments heads have finalized the budget submission for the 24/25 fiscal year and we have successfully concluded the initial review meetings for the departments. The second-round interviews will be conducted in early February.

- b. We have requested an extension for the 23/24 audit extending it through February 29<sup>th</sup>. This extension is necessary to ensure the proper balancing of additional projects currently being managed by the Finance Department. That is the implementation of our software's that we have discussed, ClearGov our time and attendance.
- c. In your package is included a capital improvement program booklet which was created by our Engineering Department headed by Jerry Lukowski. I would like to express my gratitude to Jerry Lukowski and his team for creating a dynamic document that serves as a foundation for our future initiatives. Moving forward we will continue to update any additional capital projects including those related to the Water & Sewer, Police Department and Community Center which will give us the ability to be updated and we'll have a resource to actually understand where we're moving as an organization in the town.
- d. I would like to make an announcement of a New Park and Recreation Director. I am delighted to introduce our newest team member Mr. Michael Ganem who will assume the role of Watertown's Park and Recreation Director starting on Monday, January 29, 2024. Mr. Ganem brings a wealth of experience having served as the Director of Park and Recreations in Southbury and Plymouth. In addition to his municipal roles, he boasts a strong background in the private sector as a business owner and has a commendable history of community involvement through volunteerism. Mr. Ganem emerged as the selected candidate through a rigorous selection process, which involved reviewing resumes and applications from 17 applicants. The process included a panel interview and concluded with a final interview with the Town Manager. I would like extend my gratitude to the members of the panel who conducted the initial round of interviews. Special thanks to council members Robert Desena, Carina Noyd, Park and Recreation Commissioner Joseph McGrail and Ray Lagasse our Director of Human Resources for their valuable contributions in the selection process, thank you. I would like to invite Mr. Ganem up to the front.

Michael Ganem stated good evening nice to see many of you again. I want to thank you all for your service, I know serving as an elected official can be challenging at times. I wanted to thank Mr. Raimo for his confidence in me to serve the Town of Watertown as its next Director of Parks and Recreation, Senior and Social Services. I also want to acknowledge all of whom have for years contributed towards my professional growth and have supported me through my journey to Watertown. High quality parks, recreation, senior and social services play an important role in each of our quality of lives we will strive to avail ourselves to each and every household in one way or another, at one time or another to visit us. I look forward to working with Mr. Raimo, team Watertown,

the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Commission on Aging, Town Council, public services groups and many others, thank you again for the opportunity.

9. New Business.

a. Consider appointments to boards and commissions.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Anthony DiBona: I move to nominate Heather Hayes, 103 Cutler Street, Watertown to be reappointed a Constable for a term to expire January 31, 2026.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated the only info I have on Heather is that she is a former Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee and is a long-time resident of Watertown.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to nominate Joseph Romano, 11 Howland Street, Oakville to be appointed as a Constable. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the expired term of Louis Esposito to expire January 31, 2026.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated Mr. Romano is a business owner which I believe everybody in town knows as well as being very active in the sports community.

Motion passed unanimously

b. Consider setting a public hearing date, time and place to hear public comment on a proposed modification of the ordinance concerning Property Tax Relief for Certain Elderly Homeowners.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to set a public hearing on February 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Watertown Town Council Chambers to hear comments on the proposed modification of the ordinance concerning Property Tax Relief for Certain Elderly Homeowners.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- c. Consider a resolution regarding the roof replacement project at Watertown High School.

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Watertown Town Council, by Ordinance No. 09-06-22-308, appropriated the total sum of \$12,861,000 for various Watertown Board of Education Capital Projects, and authorized the issuance of Bonds and Notes to finance that appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the appropriation was properly noticed and introduced by the Town Council on July 18, 2022; a public hearing was held on August 30, 2022; the Ordinance was adopted on September 6, 2022 and published on September 15, 2022 with an effective date of October 6, 2022; and the funding was approved at referendum vote on November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the appropriation is allocated specifically to the Partial Roof Replacement Project for Watertown High School;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes the expenditure of \$4,971,500 to complete the Watertown High School Partial Roof Replacement Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes the financing of the local share or approximately \$2,100,000 of the Watertown High School Partial Roof Replacement Project cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council authorizes the Watertown Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at the Watertown High School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Capital Project Committee is hereby established as the building committee for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at the Watertown High School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at the Watertown High School.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut, this 23rd day of January, 2024

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair  
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize the resolution regarding the roof replacement project at the Watertown High School.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- d. Consider a resolution regarding the roof replacement project at John Trumbull Primary School.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Watertown Town Council, by Ordinance No. 09-06-22-308, appropriated the total sum of \$12,861,000 for various Watertown Board of Education Capital Projects, and authorized the issuance of Bonds and Notes to finance that appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the appropriation was properly noticed and introduced by the Town Council on July 18, 2022; a public hearing was held on August 30, 2022; the Ordinance was adopted on September 6, 2022 and published on September 15, 2022 with an effective date of October 6, 2022; and the funding was approved at referendum vote on November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the appropriation is allocated specifically to the John Trumbull Primary School Partial Roof Replacement Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes the expenditure of \$4,510,000 to complete the Partial Roof Replacement Project at the John Trumbull Primary School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes the financing of the local share or approximately \$1,900,000 of the John Trumbull Primary School Partial Roof Replacement Project cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council authorizes the Watertown Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at the John Trumbull Primary School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Capital Project Committee is hereby established as the building committee for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at the John Trumbull Primary School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at the John Trumbull Primary School.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut, this 23rd day of January, 2024

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair  
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize the resolution regarding the roof replacement project at John Trumbull Primary School.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- e. Consider appointments to the School Capital Project Committee.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to modify the resolution passed on March 6, 2023 appointing the members of the School Capital Project Committee to reflect the modification of the Voting Member to replace the Vice Chairman of the Watertown Town Council with the designation Chairman of the Watertown Town Council.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated I was appointed when I was Vice Chair, I have continued to remain on the committee but we want to correct the language so that it properly reads the Chairman is attending the meetings not the Vice Chairman. This is a housekeeping motion.

Motion passed unanimously

- f. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund to the Police overtime account in the amount of \$5,556.84. Funds received for Watertown Police Department participation in the Statewide Violent Crime Task Force from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Motion: Robert Desena seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund to the Police overtime account in the amount of \$5,556.84. Funds received for Watertown Police Department participation in the Statewide Violent Crime Task Force from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- g. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$1,100.75 for tax refunds.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Section 12-129, Refund of Excess Payments; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommended that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-129; and

WHEREAS, in order to refund taxpayers who have been approved for their refunds, monies must be appropriated into the budget line item to expend the funds.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates \$1,100.75 to line item 010-50341-043-0102 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair  
Watertown Town Council

Discussion: none.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to approve the resolution authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$1,100.75 for tax refunds.

Motion passed unanimously

- h. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made applications for property tax refunds in accordance with C.G.S. Section 12-129 *Refunds of Excess Payment*:

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-1298;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the attached listing of tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair  
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to approve the resolution authorizing tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Executive Session. (In 7:12 p.m.)

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to enter into executive session for the purposes of Pending Litigation regarding the Tax Appeal, Siemon Realty Company vs. Town of Watertown and regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Watertown Board of Education and the Watertown Education Association. Members present will be the Town Council, the Town Manager, the Town Attorney and Dr. Villanueva.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Out of executive session 7:39.

11. New Business Continued.

- a. Consider authorizing the settlement of a tax appeal by Siemon Realty Company.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to authorize the settlement of the tax appeal by Siemon Realty Company – any credits due to Siemon Company will be in the form of credits on future taxes due.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to add to the agenda Consider the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Watertown Board of Education and the Watertown Education Association.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Consider the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Watertown Board of Education and the Watertown Education Association.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move that the Town Council vote to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Watertown Board of Education and the Watertown Education Association.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

12. Public Participation

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place asked questions in regards to the audit and how we pay the auditors due to the extension, the FOI procedure for requests, the receipts back not having the details of the requests, and Facebook responses. Ms. Camara asked about the sign removal for P & Z, if the applicants could removal them when the application is over.

13. Adjournment.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ann Rosa, Chair  
Watertown Town Council

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan King, Clerk

Town Council Regular Meeting January 23, 2024 Line item 9h

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fee	Refund
2021-03-0067890	SEVILLA CAMILA D	2650 W UNION HILLS DR LOT 28	PHOENIX, AZ 85027	2012/1C4PJMAKOCW192167	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - ACCOUNT PRORATED	173.34	4.93	-	178.27
2021-04-0080737	COUTINHO HILDA E	245 COLONIAL AVE APT 9A	WATERBURY, CT 06704	2020/JTDKARFP13153245	Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property Assessed In more than one M	169.28	-	-	169.28
2022-03-0054267	COUTINHO HILDA E	245 COLONIAL AVE APT 9A	WATERBURY, CT 06704	2020/JTDKARFP13153245	Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property Assessed In more than one M	748.20	-	-	748.20
2022-03-0055791	DONAIS NORMAN	31 ELM ST	OAKVILLE, CT 06779-2233	1984/CTUNKNOWN39559311	Sec 12-129 Refund of Excess payments (DUPLICATE PAYMENT)	5.00	-	-	5.00
TOTAL						1,095.82	4.93	-	1,100.75