



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING – 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR 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
Gary Lafferty
Carina Noyd
Jonathan Ramsay
Robert Retallick
Rachael Ryan (Unable to vote due to remote technical issues)

ABSENT: Anthony DiBona

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

4. Recognitions – none.

5. Minutes.

a. January 23, 2024 – Special Meeting

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the Special Meeting minutes dated January 23, 2024 as presented.

Aye: 6 Rosa, Demirs, Desena, Noyd, Ramsay, Retallick

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Lafferty

Motion passes

6. Chairman's Report

a. Correspondence.

1. Email from Gary and Carla Saunders, dated January 25, 2024 regarding taxes.

2. Letter of retirement from Judge Domenick Calabrese to Governor Lamont dated, January 22, 2024 as Probate Judge for Region 22.

7. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance – Jonathan Ramsay, Chair – in your packet you have a list of the dates for the budget review.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa asked council members to make note of the dates to be present.

b. Ordinance – Anthony DiBona, Chair – Mr. DiBona is not here, we have the ordinance that he worked on, in the agenda tonight.

c. Public Works – Robert Retallick, Chair – none.

d. Elderly Tax Relief- Jonathan Ramsay, Chair – we had the hearing on that and I just wanted to make one comment, that the subcommittee has not been dissolved yet, so this ordinance here is for step one for the tax relief for seniors. We are still looking into the deferral for the program.

8. Town Manager's Report.

Mark Raimo reported:

1. We are in the second round of the budget review with all the department heads. We still have not received a lot of our revenue numbers so we may be giving you a partial budget book for the first meeting for February 20th and then hopefully by March 4th we will have those revenue numbers to be generated, the full booklet for everyone.

2. Update - our Park and Rec Director has integrated in, I met with him today. He started last Monday, I was not here last week, he is very happy moving to Watertown and is happy with staff. He is getting out there and he is committing to the 60-day plan that he had put in place during his second-round interview.

3. I would like to thank the Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief they had a public forum. We got front page news in the Waterbury Republican where the Chief and the Deputy and I believe the School Resource officers went to the high school and had an open forum with students. There was a lot of open discussion and we are hearing that there is a lot more discussion going on amongst our students to give positive reviews for their interaction with the Police Department, thank you Chief Bernegger.

9. New Business.

- a. Consider appointments to boards and commissions.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to appoint Laura Garay as the Town of Watertown Municipal Agent for a term to expire February 1, 2026.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- b. Consider approval of the proposed modifications of the ordinance concerning Property Tax Relief for Certain Elderly Homeowners.

TOWN OF WATERTOWN
WATERTOWN, CT

ORDINANCE NO.

REVISION TO
*REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN
ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS' ORDINANCE*

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WATERTOWN THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 28- TAXATION ARE HEREBY REVISED AND AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:
Sec. 28-121. Established.

A program for real property tax relief for certain elderly homeowners is hereby established pursuant to G.S. § 12-129n and § 12-170aa.

(Ord. No. 01-02-2007-275, § 1, 1-2-2007)

Sec. 28-122. Purpose.

The Town of Watertown hereby enacts, for the assessment year commencing October 1, 2023, and each assessment year thereafter a real property tax relief program for certain elderly homeowners pursuant to G.S. § 12-129n and § 12-170aa for eligible residents of the Town of Watertown, on the terms and conditions provided herein. This article is enacted for the purpose of assisting elderly homeowners with a portion of the costs of property taxation.

(Ord. No. 01-02-2007-275, § 2, 1-2-2007)

Sec. 28-123. Eligibility.

Any resident of the Town of Watertown who qualifies under the following requirements is eligible for property tax relief with respect to real property owned and occupied by such person as his or her legal domicile and principal, permanent residence.

- (1) Such resident at the close of the preceding calendar year has attained age 65 or over, or his or her spouse who is living with such resident is 65 years of age or over; or such resident is 60 years of age or over at the close of the preceding calendar year and is the surviving spouse of a tax payer who was qualified in the Town of Watertown under this program at the time of his or her death with respect to real property on which any such resident or spouse is liable for real property taxes under the provisions of G.S. § 12-48.
- (2) Such resident shall have been a taxpayer of the Town of Watertown and have paid taxes for a period of at least the six months immediately preceding his or her application for tax relief.
- (3) Such qualified resident may receive both tax relief hereunder and any veteran's tax relief that the taxpayer and his or her spouse may qualify for under the Town of Watertown Veteran's Tax Relief Ordinance.
- (4) The following income range and limits of tax relief shall apply for the assessment year commencing October 1, 2023:

	Percent	Maximum Tax Credit	Minimum Tax Credit
UNMARRIED			
\$0-22,000	40%	\$1,000	\$350
\$22,001-29,500	30%	\$750	\$250
\$29,501-36,700	20%	\$500	\$150
\$36,701- 43,800	10%	\$250	\$150
MARRIED			
\$0-22,000	50%	\$1,250	\$400
\$22,001-29,500	40%	\$1,000	\$350
\$29,501-36,700	30%	\$750	\$250
\$36,701-43,800	20%	\$500	\$150
\$43,801- 53,400	10%	\$250	\$150

A resident taxpayer must qualify under the within income range as of December 31 of the prior year. The amounts of qualifying income and the credit amounts as provided herein may be adjusted annually by vote of the Town Council based upon qualifying income criteria prepared by the State of Connecticut Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management as distributed to the Town of Watertown Assessor not later than the 31st day of December of each year pursuant to G.S. § 12-170aa(b)(2). The maximum tax relief limit shall not exceed a 75 percent reduction of the total property tax.

The assessor shall provide pro-rata tax relief for any assessment year in which property is transferred pursuant to G.S. § 12-170aa(i). (Ord. No. 01-02-2007-275, § 3, 1-2-2007; Ord. No. 05-16-16-294, 5-16-2016)

Sec. 28-124. Filing of application.

- (a) In order for an eligible resident to receive tax relief hereunder an application must be filed with the office of the tax assessor not earlier than February 1 and not later than May 15 of each year for the next fiscal year. This application for such tax relief shall be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's most recent Federal Income Tax Return for the previous calendar year and written documentation of all other income.
- (b) The tax assessor shall require all necessary documents to determine eligibility and may request additional or other income documentation and verification. The withholding of such

information, if reasonably available, shall be sufficient reason for the denial of tax relief.

- (c) The tax assessor shall establish such application forms and procedures as may be necessary to implement this tax relief program. The tax assessor, or his or her agent, shall determine what evidence of qualifying income is pertinent for the determination of eligibility under this article, and shall be responsible for requesting and reviewing the same.
- (d) All applications, including Federal Income Tax Returns filed under this program, as well as any and all additional evidence of qualifying income required by the tax assessor, shall be kept in strict confidence and shall not be open to public inspection in accordance with state freedom of information guidelines.
- (e) Each approved application shall be valid for two years and a new application process shall be required on a biennial basis in the same manner as the initial application.
- (f) All decisions by the tax assessor concerning eligibility and limits of tax relief shall be final.
(Ord. No. 01-02-2007-275, § 4, 1-2-2007)

Sec. 28-125. Limits of Tax Relief – This section is hereby repealed.

This ordinance shall take effect twenty-one days after publication pursuant to Charter Section 307.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this

Mary Ann Rosa, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to approve the proposed modifications to the ordinance concerning Property Tax Relief for Certain Elderly Homeowners to be incorporated into the Watertown Code of Ordinances which shall be published within ten days and effective twenty-one days after publication.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- c. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund to the Police overtime account in the amount of \$6,745.95. Funds received for Watertown Police Department participation in the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Motion: Robert Desena seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$6,745.95 from funds received for participation in the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Jonathan Ramsay asked does it normally take this long to get reimbursed?

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief answered depending on the agency that we are dealing with, some of the federal agencies have a significant backlog in getting those funds.

Robert Desena stated this comes up monthly at our meetings. The participation by Watertown PD along with the various departments such as Wolcott and Naugatuck and the DEA Task Force are well publicized as the result of the major arrests of drug trafficking through operational training, thank you sir.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief added you are very welcome, we definitely recognize that the town line really has nothing to do with the criminal element obeying the town lines for participating in regional and state efforts as well as cooperating with our federal partners is really important to the intent of willful crime, thank you for your support.

Motion passed unanimously

- d. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$37,241.23 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 items to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED, that the Town Council appropriates \$37,241.23 to line item 010-50341-043-0102 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 5th day of February, 2024.

Mary Ann Rosa, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Retallick: I move to approve a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$37,241.23 for tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- e. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Taxpayers have made application for the property tax refunds in accordance with C.G.S. Section 12-129 *Refund 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 5th day of February, 2024.

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair
Watertown Town Council

See attached listing

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Public Participation.

Franklin Pilicy, 235 Main Street talked about the Town's Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department and the Town Manager being amazing for their work done. Mr. Pilicy stated good government is when the leaders of our government have good personalities in key positions. He stated this council and the last council deserved a lot of credit you have consistently over the last two terms of putting really great leaders in key positions and thanked them.

Stan Everett lived in Watertown for many years and he is finding out he cannot stay in Watertown with higher taxes and higher insurance. He lives on a fixed income and cannot fix his home. He talked about his town assessment going up and asked how do we pay this?

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place asked about what constitutes emails getting into the packet? Ms. Camara talked about the Water and Sewer rates and the public having enough information. Ms. Camara talked about the part time and full-time positions and the money being budgeted.

Frankie Popilowski talked about comments made regarding property taxes and that she will contact human resource.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue stated he is looking forward to budget season and future information from ClearGov and asked what information will be given at the February meeting? Mr. Mickel ask for information on the job description for the Municipal Agent.

11. Adjournment.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk

Watertown Town Council
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2024
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Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fee	Refund
2022-03-0050047	ACAR LEASING LTD	PO BOX 1990	FORT WORTH, TX 76101	2020/KL4MMBS2XLB103512	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	89.81	-	-	89.81
2022-03-0050053	ACAR LEASING LTD	PO BOX 1990	FORT WORTH, TX 76101	2019/KL7CJPSBOKB875584	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	153.83	-	-	153.83
2022-03-0050107	ACAR LEASING LTD	PO BOX 1990	FORT WORTH, TX 76101	2020/KL7CJPSB3LB020380	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	88.03	-	-	88.03
2022-04-0080600	CHUNG CHRISTINE L	387 FALLS AVE	OAKVILLE, CT 06779-1413	2023/5TDKDRBH7PS030852	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	179.83	-	-	179.83
2022-03-0053951	COLEMAN JUSTIN A	191 CHERRY AVE	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2814	2012/1N4AL2EP1CC241846	Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property	171.71	-	-	171.71
2022-03-0053952	COLEMAN JUSTIN A	191 CHERRY AVE	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2814	2008/JTHCK262X85018417	Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property	217.48	-	-	217.48
2022-01-0006888	CONLON PATRICIA A	230 CHIMNEY RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-1622	230 CHIMNEY RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	169.72	-	-	169.72
2021-01-0007859	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019-9760	472 MT FAIR DR	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	3,708.88	-	-	3,708.88
2020-01-0006786	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	67 HUBBELL AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	10.38	-	-	10.38
2021-01-0006797	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	67 HUBBELL AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	10.49	-	-	10.49
2022-01-0000786	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019-9760	245 CHERRY AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	807.24	-	-	807.24
2022-01-0001598	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9203	COPPELL, TX 75019-9760	795 MIDDLEBURY RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	302.65	-	-	302.65
2022-01-0002437	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	170 FRANKLIN AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	2,008.87	-	-	2,008.87
2022-01-0002684	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019-9760	486 BASSETT RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	2,969.08	-	-	2,969.08
2022-01-0005128	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019-9760	97 CANNON RIDGE DR	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	2,047.58	-	-	2,047.58
2022-01-0006800	CORELOGIC REAL ESTATE TAX	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	67 HUBBELL AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	11.07	-	-	11.07
2022-03-0055749	DOGRAMATZIS VINCENT D	6226 BLUERY AVE	NORTH PORT, FL 34291-4673	2016/1HGCR2F73GA097574	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	173.92	7.83	-	181.75
2022-01-0002447	DUMAS GAETAN J	83 PLEASANT VIEW AVE	OAKVILLE, CT 06779-1530	83 PLEASANT VIEW AVE	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneousl	580.55	-	-	580.55
2022-03-0057077	FINANCIAL SER VEH TRUST	5550 BRITTON PKWY	HILLIARD, OH 43026	2019/WBXHT3C57K5L38104	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	605.67	-	-	605.67
2022-03-0057848	GEGHAN KENTON K	50 PORTER ST	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2212	2017/WDC7G4G64HJ333633	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	606.83	-	-	606.83
2022-03-0059434	HONDA LEASE TRUST	11675 GREAT OAKS WAY	ALPHARETTA, GA 30022	2020/3CZRU6H34LM712715	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	92.87	-	-	92.87
2022-03-0059503	HONDA LEASE TRUST	11675 GREAT OAKS WAY	ALPHARETTA, GA 30022	2021/3CZRU6H54MM704438	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	216.84	-	-	216.84
2022-03-0060281	JONUZI SEVDIL	93 BRIERWOOD DR	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2037	2003/1J4GL48K33W558777	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	19.71	-	-	19.71
2022-03-0062862	MARIANI DAVID	PO BOX 4	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-0004	2008/JHLRE48328C076721	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	88.61	-	-	88.61
2022-03-0062864	MARIANI KAREN A	PO BOX 4	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-0004	2012/JTDKDTB3XC1523983	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	101.92	3.05	-	104.97
2022-03-0062993	MARTICELLO JAMES A	95 NORTHFIELD RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2049	2011/1GCRKSE32BZ426092	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	126.70	-	-	126.70
2021-04-0082145	MARZELLA MORGAN P	15 REYNOLDS ST	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2516	2015/4S4BSACC8F3210489	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneousl	146.07	-	-	146.07
2022-03-0063096	MARZELLA MORGAN P	15 REYNOLDS ST	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2516	2015/4S4BSACC8F3210489	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneousl	146.07	-	-	146.07
2022-03-0063695	MENDES PATRICK A	1229 WINSTED RD U14	TORRINGTON, CT 06790	2022/3FMTK1SSXNMA18825	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	490.34	-	-	490.34
2022-01-0005647	MK SULLIVAN HOMES LLC	186 HARD HILL RD N	BETHLEHEM, CT 06751	245 CHERRY AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	7.38	-	-	7.38
2022-01-0005648	MK SULLIVAN HOMES LLC	186 HARD HILL RD N	BETHLEHEM, CT 06751	245 CHERRY AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	7.37	-	-	7.37
2022-03-0064817	NOLAN JOSEPH T 2ND	981 BASSETT RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-1107	2015/3GTU2UECXFG449194	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	106.46	-	-	106.46
2022-03-0058050	POST YOLANDA	61 LONGVIEW AVE	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2004	2015/1FAHP2D83FG112775	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	33.86	-	-	33.86
2020-01-0001581	RENNER RICHARD	102 STORE AVE	WATERBURY, CT 06705-1429	230 CHIMNEY RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	3,385.49	-	-	3,385.49
2022-03-0067098	RIDINGS OUELLETTE T	19 BREEZY KNOLL DR	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-1322	2014/1C4BJWDGXEL221045	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	158.66	-	-	158.66
2022-01-0006987	RITTMAN ELLEN M & JOHNSO	165 BLACK ROCK RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-1416	165 BLACK ROCK RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	5.00	-	-	5.00
2022-03-0067318	ROCHA SILVESTRE P	190 STONEY BROOK LN	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-1033	2003/1GBHG31U731128725	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	179.50	-	-	179.50
2022-01-0005777	SAVINGS BANK OF DANBURY	35 WEST ST	DANBURY, CT 06810	127 ECHO LAKE RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments	16,539.08	-	-	16,539.08
2022-03-0070667	VAULT TRUST	PO BOX 9001951	LOUISVILLE, KY 40290-1951	2019/1C4PMLB6KD378965	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments	464.80	-	-	464.80
TOTAL						37,230.35	10.88	-	37,241.23