

Minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular Meeting of the West Haven City Council in the Council Chambers 3rd floor, West Haven City Hall

The Regular Meeting of the West Haven City Council was held on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 7:00p.m. in the City Council Chambers 3rd floor. Chairman Pascale called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Nicholas Pascale, Anne Heffernan, Edward McMillian, Gary Donovan, Christopher Vargo, Jr., Dawn Callahan, Kathleen Mueller, Brian Laucks, Katherine Tucker, Ruby Melton, Meli Garthwait and Steven Johnstone. Absent: Sarah Ackbarali. Also present: Mayor Dorinda Borer, Rick Fontana, Director of Emergency Management, Michael Gormany, Finance Director, Ken Carney and Ann Marie Gradoia, Tax Assessor.

7:07p.m. to 7:08 p.m. Public Session

See City's website for remarks.

Chairman Pascale called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to APPROVE** the Regular Meeting minutes from the March 10, 2025, meeting, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Heffernan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication A: from the Tax Collector regarding Overpayment of refunds for March 2025.

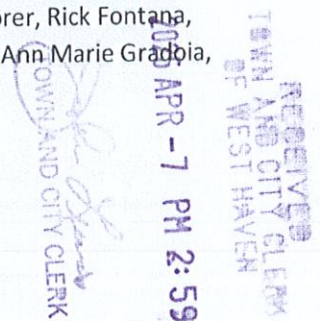
Communication B: from Chief Joseph Perno regarding Animal Shelter donations.

Communication C: Rick Fontana, Director of Emergency Management regarding Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security authorizing resolution for FY 2024 grant submission.

Communication D: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding the re-appointment of Kathleen Krolak, 176 McKinley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515, as Director of the Greater New Haven Transit District Board of Directors. Ms. Krolak's re-appointment will be effective immediately and will expire on April 8, 2026.

Communication E: from Abdul Quadir, City Engineer, regarding an ordinance appropriating \$538,000.00 for the costs associated with the planning, design and rehabilitation of the sewer pipes and manholes related to Contract 2-citywide high priority areas, and the issuance of bonds thereon.

Communication F: from Ann Marie Gradoia, Tax Assessor, regarding a resolution to adopt a modified depreciation schedule for the assessment of motor vehicles pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-63, as amended by Bill No. 7067 of the General Assembly, effective 2014.



III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Council-as-a-Whole- called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Rick Fontana, Director of Emergency Management regarding notification of the acceptance from the State of Connecticut of the City of West Haven's Emergency Operations Plan-Mr. Fontana provided an overview of West Haven's Emergency Operations Plan and provided the same to the City Council.
2. Ken Carney-ARPA updates-Mr. Carney provided a detailed update on ARPA projects including updates to the camera systems, which Rick Fontana commented on also.
Washington School update-Mr. Carney provided the City Council with a handout on the project, which is targeted for opening the 1st week of June. The outdoor playscape has been updated from mulch to rubber materials.

See City's website for remarks.

Council-as-a-Whole- closed at 8:26 p.m.

Finance Committee called to order at 8:26 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Chairman Vargo- Committee members; Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Tucker and Councilman Johnstone, Councilwoman Ackbarali- (Absent)

FINANCE UPDATES

1. Finance updates from Michael Gormany, Finance Director-Mr. Gormany provided a YTD monthly report for February 2025, which trended in a positive direction and similar collection rates to the last fiscal year.
2. MARB Meeting update-Mayor Borer provided an update on the March 21st Special Meeting and reported that the next Police Pension mediation will be on April 10th. An agreement could be voted on by the next MARB meeting of April 24th.

See City's website for remarks.

Councilman Johnstone presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication B**, from Chief Joseph Perno regarding Animal Shelter donations, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Tucker. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Councilman Johnstone presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication C**, from Rick Fontana, Director of Emergency Management regarding Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security authorizing resolution for FY 2024 grant submission, which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Tucker. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Communication E: from Abdul Quadir, City Engineer, regarding an ordinance appropriating \$538,000.00 for the costs associated with the planning, design and rehabilitation of the sewer pipes and manholes related to Contract 2-citywide high priority areas, and the issuance of bonds thereon.
Public Hearing to be set for April 14, 2025 at 6:55 pm.

Councilwoman Tucker presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication F**, from Ann Marie Gradoia, Tax Assessor, regarding a resolution to adopt a modified depreciation schedule for the assessment of motor vehicles pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-63, as amended by Bill No. 7067 of the General Assembly, effective 2014, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Johnstone. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Finance Committee closed at 8:37 p.m.

Personnel & Civil Service called to order at 8:38 p.m.

PERSONNEL & CIVIL SERVICE: Councilwoman Melton, Chairwoman- Committee members: Councilman Laucks, Councilman Vargo, Councilman Donovan and Councilman Johnstone

Councilman Vargo presented a **MOTION** to recommend the acceptance to the entire Council regarding **Communication D**, from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding the re-appointment of Kathleen Krolak, 176 McKinley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515, as Director of the Greater New Haven Transit District Board of Directors. Ms. Krolak's re-appointment will be effective immediately and will expire on April 8, 2026, which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY viva voce.**

Personnel & Civil Service closed at 8:40 p.m.

IV: UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -None.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS-8:40 p.m.

Clerk to read Communication A into record

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Chairman Vargo- Committee members; Councilman Laucks, Councilwoman Tucker and Councilman Johnstone, **Councilwoman Ackbarali- (Absent)**

Communication B: from Chief Joseph Perno regarding Animal Shelter donations. Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Garthwait. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resolved: The West Haven Police Department has received the following donations totaling \$ 475.00.00 to the Animal Shelter. Per Connecticut Statutes 7-148(c) (3) (A&B) and General Order 98-04, we are forwarding these donations for approval. The City Council approved the following motion at a regular meeting held on March 24, 2025.

RESOLVED: The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the Animal Shelter Donations to be deposited into the Animal Shelter Donations account # 10100000-28285.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.	Richard A Vergoni	6173	\$ 10.00
2.	Michele P Steinlauf	157	\$ 50.00
3.	William L. Gilbert Jr.	5635	\$ 25.00
4.	Alice F Montz	5117	\$ 15.00
5.	Angela Russo	724	\$100.00
6.	Lucia Pannella	5062	\$ 25.00

7. Angela Russo	738	\$100.00
8. Nancy J Waslewski	1090	\$ 50.00
9. Virginia Lynch	125	\$ 50.00
10. Maureen Fallon	146	\$ 50.00

Communication C: Rick Fontana, Director of Emergency Management regarding Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security authorizing resolution for FY 2024 grant submission. Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Donovan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLVED: that the City of West Haven may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dorinda Borer, as Mayor of The City of West Haven, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the City of West Haven and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate; relating to the Emergency Management Performance Grant for Fiscal Year 2024 to carry out the terms of such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Dorinda Borer now holds the office of Mayor of the City of West Haven, and she has held that office since December 3, 2023.

Communication E: from Abdul Quadir, City Engineer, regarding an ordinance appropriating \$538,000.00 for the costs associated with the planning, design and rehabilitation of the sewer pipes and manholes related to Contract 2-citywide high priority areas, and the issuance of bonds thereon. **Public Hearing to be set for April 14, 2025 at 6:55 pm.**

Communication F: from Ann Marie Gradoia, Tax Assessor, regarding a resolution to adopt a modified depreciation schedule for the assessment of motor vehicles pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-63, as amended by Bill No. 7067 of the General Assembly, effective 2014. Councilman Vargo made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Tucker. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves and authorizes the Assessor for the City West Haven to adopt the modified depreciation schedule for the assessment of motor vehicles based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price of such motor vehicles, as outlined in House Bill 7067, amending Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-63, to ensure that the tax assessment of motor vehicles align with their values as they age.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dorinda Borer, as Mayor of The City of West Haven, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the City of West Haven and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Dorinda Borer now holds the office of Mayor of the City of West Haven, and she has held that office since December 3, 2023.

PERSONNEL & CIVIL SERVICE: Councilwoman Melton, Chairwoman- Committee members:
Councilman Laucks, Councilman Vargo, Councilman Donovan and Councilman Johnstone

Communication D: from Mayor Dorinda Borer regarding the re-appointment of Kathleen Krolak, 176 McKinley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515, as Director of the Greater New Haven Transit District Board of Directors. Ms. Krolak's re-appointment will be effective immediately and will expire on April 8, 2026.

Councilwoman Melton made a **MOTION to APPROVE** which was which was **SECONDED** by Councilman Vargo and Councilman Donovan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resolved: The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the re-appointment of Kathleen Krolak, 176 McKinley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06510 as Director to the Greater New Haven Transit District Board of Directors. Ms. Krolak's appointment will be effective immediately and expires on April 8, 2026.

VI. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Vargo reported that the Fair Rent Commission was finalizing their proposed ordinance. Councilman Donovan reported the Planning & Zoning meeting scheduled for March 25th will have The Kelsey will on the agenda. Councilman Johnstone reported there was a promotion at the Police Department and 119 Police officers are active, with 103 available due to maternity leave or injuries.

See remarks on City's website.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Garthwait reported the huge Sandy Point cleanup in the gardens, thanked the mayor and asked her for an update on The Havens. Mayor Borer stated that she spoke to several developers interested in residential units, and the city is pushing for over 65 units. Councilwoman Callahan and the mayor spoke about the legal battles and roof structure concerning the coffee shop. Councilman Vargo announced the Steeple Rededication at the First Congregational Church on the green is scheduled for April 6th at 10:30 am. Mayor Borer discussed the UNH Partnership which will enable free tuition for first responders and students. She thanked Councilwoman Garthwait and Tommy Green for their work at the Sandy Point cleanup and reiterated that \$500,000.00 for the North End field will come before the City Council. Mayor Borer spoke about the budget and announced that on April 3rd the Budget Hearing at the West Haven High School will take place. The city is having good discussions with Fire Commissioners about their budgets. Home values in the city have increased 56%. She reminded everyone about the tax freeze for senior citizens and tax exemptions for Veterans.

See remarks on City's website.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Tucker made a **MOTION to ADJOURN** which was **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Heffernan. All in favor. **MOTION passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

The City Council meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:16 p.m.

Nicholas Pascale
Chairman of the Council

Stacy Riccio
Clerk of the Council

Carlotta M. Serrini
City Council Administrator

****These minutes are subject to City Council approval.**