

**December 28, 2020**

The regular meeting of the West Haven City Council was held on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 7:05 P.M. via electronic means pursuant to City Council Rule #30.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present were Council Members: Quagliani, Donovan, O'Connor, Gallignano, Johnston, McGee, Hamilton, Massaro, Fanelli, Cohen, Conlon, Hoskie, and Bruneau. Mayor Nancy R. Rossi was also present.

Chairman Quagliani presented a moment of Silence for Judy Florio and Raymond Ceccarelli.

7:12P.M. Public Information Session

(1 Letter Regarding Public Health Resolution read into the Record See Tape)

Chairman Quagliani called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF JOURNAL:**

Councilman Bruneau presented a MOTION to APPROVE the Journal of the December 9, 2020 special meeting which was SECONDED by Councilman Cohen and APPROVED unanimously viva voice.

Councilman Conlon presented a MOTION to APPROVE the Journal of the December 14, 2020 special meeting which was SECONDED by Councilwoman O'Connor and APPROVED unanimously viva voice as amended (See Tape).

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Communication from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi in regards to a Special Taxing District for the Haven Project.
- B. Communication from City Engineer Abdul Quadir in regards to the application of D.E.C.D. Grant Dollars for the Beach Street Project.
- C. Communication from Chief Joseph Perno in regards to animal shelter donations.
- D. Communication from the Tax Collector in regards to Overpayment refunds for the month of December 2020.
- E. Communication from Taxpayer/Trina Nelson in regards to an abatement of interest and penalties on taxes.
- F. Communication from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi in regards to a Public Health Resolution.
- G. Communication from Building Oversight Chairman Carney in regards to the Molloy School Solar Field Project.

**December 28, 2020**

H. Communication from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi in regards to a resolution for the Office of Policy and Management for the COVID-19 grant application.

**RECESS: 7:38PM**

**Finance Committee, Councilwoman Hoskie, Chairwoman**

**Committee Members Present: Hamilton, Bruneau, Massaro, Cohen**

Communication B. Committee Member Hamilton presented a MOTION to recommend the APPROVAL of Communication B. to the entire Council which was SECONDED by Committee Member Massaro and APPROVED unanimously by the Finance Committee.

Communication C. Committee Member Massaro presented a MOTION to recommend the APPROVAL of Communication C. to the entire Council which was SECONDED by Committee Member Cohen and APPROVED unanimously by the Finance Committee.

Communication H. Committee Member Massaro presented a MOTION to recommend the APPROVAL of Communication H. to the entire Council which was SECONDED by Committee Member Cohen and APPROVED unanimously by the Finance Committee.

**Legislative Matters Committee, Councilman Gallignano, Chairman**

**Committee Members Present: Bruneau, Johnston, Fanelli, Cohen**

Communication A. Committee Member Bruneau presented a MOTION to recommend the APPROVAL of Communication A. to the entire Council which was SECONDED by Committee Member Johnston and APPROVED unanimously by the Legislative Matters Committee.

**Tax Deferral Committee, Councilman Massaro, Chairman**

**Committee Members Present: Hamilton, Conlon, Gallignano, O'Connor**

Communication E. Committee Member Hamilton presented a MOTION to recommend the APPROVAL of Communication E. to the entire Council which was SECONDED by Committee Member O'Connor and APPROVED unanimously by the Tax Deferral Committee.

**Sustainability Committee, Councilwoman Fanelli, Chairwoman**

**Committee Members Present: Hamilton, Hoskie, Johnston, O'Connor**

Communication G. Committee Member Gallignano presented a MOTION to recommend the APPROVAL of Communication G. to the entire Council which was SECONDED by Committee Member O'Connor and APPROVED unanimously by the Public Lands Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**RECONVENE: 8:55 PM**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**December 28, 2020**

Clerk read Communication D. into the record.

Councilwoman Hoskie Chairwoman of the Finance Committee presented the unanimous reports of the committee in regards to Communication B. from City Engineer Abdul Quadir in regards to the application of D.E.C.D. Grant Dollars for the Beach Street Project.

Councilwoman Hoskie presented the following MOTION which was SECONDED by Councilman Gallignano and APPROVED unanimously viva-voice.

**RESOLVED:** Whereas, pursuant to PA 79-607, as amended Sec. 21 the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the City of West Haven make an application to the State for \$5,200,000 in order to undertake the Beach Street Reconstruction Project and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City Council that it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by P.A. 79-607, as amended Sec. 21;

That the filling of an application for the State financial assistance by the City of West Haven in an amount not to exceed \$5,200,000 is hereby approved and that Mayor Nancy R. Rossi is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of City of West Haven; that is adopts or has adopted as its policy to support the following nondiscrimination agreements and warranties provided in subsection (a)(1) of Connecticut General Statutes sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a respectively, as amended.

Councilwoman Hoskie Chairwoman of the Finance Committee presented the unanimous reports of the committee in regards to Communication C. from Chief Joseph Perno in regards to animal shelter donations.

Councilwoman Hoskie presented the following MOTION which was SECONDED by Councilwoman Hamilton and APPROVED unanimously viva-voice.

**RESOLVED:** That the following donation to the Department of Police Service be approved and deposited into line item #1010000028285 Animal Shelter donations:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Catherine Iaccarino	3527	\$100.00
Maureen Fallon	232	\$50.00
Ann Bartiss	3146	\$25.00
Karen Swaim	2554	\$25.00
Patrick Kelly	6869	\$150.00
Wheat Inc.	12030	\$25.00

**December 28, 2020**

Councilwoman Hoskie Chairwoman of the Finance Committee presented the unanimous reports of the committee in regards to Communication H. from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi in regards to a resolution for the Office of Policy and Management for the COVID-19 grant application.

Councilwoman Hoskie presented the following MOTION which was SECONDED by Councilman Massaro and APPROVED unanimously viva-voice.

**RESOLVED:** The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby authorizes Mayor Nancy R. Rossi or her designees (Frank Cieplinski/Michael DiMassa) to submit to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy Management all documentation and applications necessary for the reimbursement of all C.O.V.I.D. related expenses incurred by the City of West Haven.

Further Resolved: Mayor Nancy R. Rossi or her designees (Frank Cieplinski/Michael DiMassa) are further empowered to allocate the designated C.O.V.I.D. dollars pursuant to the requirements of the Office of Policy Management for the reimbursement of departmental line items where such C.O.V.I.D. expenses have been incurred. She is further authorized to expend such dollars for the costs associated with Emergency Management C.O.V.I.D. operations concurrent with the guidelines established by the Office of Policy Management.

Councilman Gallignano Chairman of the Legislative Matters Committee presented the unanimous reports of the committee in regards to Communication A. from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi in regards to a Special Taxing District for the Haven Project.

Councilman Gallignano presented the following MOTION which was SECONDED by Councilman Bruneau and APPROVED unanimously viva-voice.

**RESOLVED:** The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the Concept Bill #5478 from the 2020 Connecticut General Assembly Session and hereby authorizes the Mayor to submit to the West Haven State Delegation such document for consideration and passage during the 2021 Connecticut General Assembly Session.

Councilman Massaro Chairwoman of the Tax Deferral Committee presented the unanimous reports of the committee in regards to Communication E. from Taxpayer/Trina Nelson in regards to an abatement of interest and penalties on taxes.

Councilman Massaro presented the following MOTION which was SECONDED by Councilman Gallignano and APPROVED unanimously viva-voice.

**RESOLVED:** That the request for an abatement of interest and fees, currently due as of the date of this Council Meeting on the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 Grand Lists from Trina Nelson of 14 Easy Rudder Lane, West Haven, be approved based on the following:

- Tax Balance must be paid within 24 weeks from the date of this meeting.
- All tax bills issued from this date forward must be paid when due.
- A good faith effort to pay a minimum of \$100.00 a week must be established.

**December 28, 2020**

Councilwoman Fanelli Chairwoman of the Sustainability Committee presented the unanimous reports of the committee in regards to Communication G. from Building Oversight Chairman Carney in regards to the Molloy School Solar Field Project.

Councilman Gallignano presented the following MOTION which was SECONDED by Councilwoman O'Connor and APPROVED by majority viva-voice with Councilwoman Hoskie abstaining.

**RESOLVED:** The City Council of the City of West Haven hereby approves the attached lease for approximately 2.5 acres of vacant land at 255 Molloy Road, for a Solar ground array. The terms and conditions are hereby set in the attached lease (Communication G). Mayor Nancy R. Rossi is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.

Councilwoman Hamilton presented Communication F. from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi in regards to a Public Health Resolution. All Council Members participated in reading the following resolution:

WHEREAS, racism is a structural system. with multiple layers that oppress Black, brown. Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in intersectional areas such as. but not limited to: education. employment criminal justice, housing, civil service, municipalities mental health, and medical practices;

WHEREAS, anti-racism is the active process of identifying and eliminating racism by committing to building healthy systems, Structures, attitudes and policies so that power is redistributed and shared equitably;

WHEREAS, by acknowledging that systemic racism is a structural disadvantage to the conditions of our city. we commit to being anti-racist;

WHEREAS, structural racism perpetuates disparity in job opportunities. therefore

We will work to prevent exclusionary hiring practices and ensure the active recruitment for BIPOC;

WHEREAS, racism involuntarily places youth at an increasing disadvantage when faced with unequal educational resources and recreational opportunities, which jeopardize human development and cognitive growth, academically, physically, mentally. and emotionally:

WHEREAS, racist practices such as redlining have contributed to segregated and separated communities resulting in disparate living conditions, restricted mobility, and unequal access to services.

WHEREAS, racism restricts access to public spaces;

WHEREAS, racism has created climate injustices for BIPOC with disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards including. but not limited to: air pollution, (contributing to a higher rate of asthma), toxic gases and lead poisoning;

WHEREAS, racism contributes to disparities in health conditions, including, but not limited to: asthma. cancer. infant mortality, Covid-19, mental health. traumas diabetes, high blood pressure, and, heart disease;

WHEREAS, anti-racist work encourages the growth and success of every resident and improves community culture in the City of West Haven;

**December 28, 2020**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor, and City Council commit all administrative departments to dismantling racism in formal and informal structures and declare racism a public health crisis in West Haven;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we are collectively committed to the following action that will help to both inspire and realize the full potential of BIPOC and every resident of the City of West Haven:

1. Prohibit hostile, or abusive attitudes and discriminatory practices in the work environment, classrooms, municipal entities and all public spaces by promoting anti-racism: thereby creating an inclusive, welcoming, and safe environment for BIPOC.
2. Dismantle and dissect every racist structure within our community by strengthening our leadership functions, training, anti-racist policies, and diversity exercises.
3. Research and present transparent data to create guidelines that dismantle systematic racism, and that will promote diversity throughout city governance and civil service.
4. Mobilize city leadership to adopt the aforementioned policies and guidelines for creating equity in appointments, Employment, child & youth services, access to public spaces, and recreational activities, thus ensuring a quality of life and livelihood for all residents.
5. Establish policies and procedures with informative resources in areas such as, but not limited to, human resources, social and economic development, health and welfare services, and public safety.
6. Collaborate with the Board of Education to provide resources for establishing, writing and implementing a balanced and anti-racist curriculum (one that confronts stereotypes, biases, prejudice, and discrimination). An anti-racist curriculum teaches the economic, structural, and historical roots of power inequality. In addition to being multicultural, it also challenges the existence of the single Euro-centric lens of education.
7. Create a community support network with collaborative partners from neighboring communities to expand our local, state, and federal leadership outreach to help advance our cause by creating a culture of racially diverse interaction.

Submitted by: Community Alliance of West Haven

After discussion, Chairman Quagliani called for a MOTION to end discussion SECONDED by Councilman Gallignano and APPROVED following a roll-call vote.

Councilman Donovan - Yay  
Councilwoman O'Connor - Yay  
Councilwoman Hoskie - Yay  
Councilman Conlon - Yay  
Councilwoman Johnston - Yay  
Councilman Gallignano - Yay  
Councilwoman Hamilton - Yay  
Councilman Massaro - Yay  
Councilman McGee - Yay  
Councilwoman Fanelli - Yay

**December 28, 2020**

Councilman Bruneau - Yay  
Councilman Cohen - Yay  
Chairman Quagliani - Yay

Yay 13 | Nay 0 | Abstain 0 | Absent 0

Following the MOTION to end Discussion a roll call vote on the resolution was taken:

Councilman Donovan - Yay  
Councilwoman O'Connor - Yay  
Councilwoman Hoskie - Yay  
Councilman Conlon - Yay  
Councilwoman Johnston - Yay  
Councilman Galignano - Yay  
Councilwoman Hamilton - Yay  
Councilman Massaro - Yay  
Councilman McGee - Yay  
Councilwoman Fanelli - Yay  
Councilman Bruneau - Yay  
Councilman Cohen - Yay  
Chairman Quagliani - Yay

Yay 13 | Nay 0 | Abstain 0 | Absent 0

The Motion to APPROVE the Public Health Resolution passed unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:** None

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:** Councilwoman Johnston thanked everyone who participated in West Haven High School's Toys for Joy event.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilman Cohen asked for an update from Attorney Tiernan on the Armstrong Building. Attorney Tiernan advised two meetings from the date of this meeting he would have more information to report.

Councilman Galignano presented a MOTION to adjourn SECONDED by Councilwoman Hamilton and APPVORED unanimously viva-voice.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:38 PM

**ATTEST:** Stacy Riccio, Clerk of the Council

**BY:** Michael A. DiMassa, Administrative Assistant

These minutes are subject to City Council approval.