

**MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 12, 2009 LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AGENDA No. 32**

President Scott Slifka called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

President Slifka: We're going to call the Council Meeting to order and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Slifka: Okay. The roll call, please, Ms. Labrot?

ITEM #3: ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Steven Adler, Tim Brennan, Shari Cantor, Chuck Coursey, Leon Davidoff, Scott Slifka, Carolyn Thornberry, Joe Verrengia and Joe Visconti.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. Before we begin our official business I'd like to entertain a motion to suspend the rules for consideration of a change in titles I guess would be a way to put it.

Vice President Coursey: So moved.

Councilor Brennan: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're going to discuss this as a whole and then we have two separate motions that go along with it. I...as you've read recently two of my colleagues on the Democratic side will be departing us at the end of their term. This is not a night for goodbyes but it has been in the news. Dr. Thornberry... It was announced in the paper this morning that she will be leaving and she is the second longest serving person here to me and I... Well, we'll talk about that another time but boy, that really brought it home for me and the other one is Mr. Coursey, our Deputy Mayor, and he has an announcement that will be followed by another one.

Vice President Coursey: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And I also too want to salute Dr. Thornberry's service to this council and you're not only the second longest serving member of this body, you're now the second smartest next to me. (*Laughter.*) I know Carolyn would agree and everyone at the table would agree that being elected by your friends and neighbors to the Town Council is just an absolute tremendous honor, one that I will always cherish. I love this town and it's been an absolute joy to serve. It's also been a tremendous honor to serve as Deputy Mayor of West Hartford, something I never would have imagined, and that's an extra special privilege that I cherish because I was chosen by my peers in my own caucus and that...it means an awful lot to me. It's a little known fact and not many people realize it but the office of mayor and deputy mayor

aren't necessarily always the top vote getter or the second top vote getter. There's been plenty of precedent for that and in my instance that was the case. In the last election our friend Tim ran a terrific campaign, did very well and I'm sure... I can't remember how many votes you beat me by Tim but I'm sure that will roll right off your tongue, but he did a great job and what meant a lot to me was shortly after the election the entire caucus had signaled that they wanted me to sit in this chair. I think now after some 16, 17 months here Tim has gone over and above. He has certainly demonstrated himself as a hardworking councilor. He has done a tremendous job in particular his area in promoting clean energy. He is a true asset to this council. I'm proud to call him a friend and he is more than qualified to sit in this chair and I look forward to seeing him in this chair and seeing him on this council for many years to come. So with that I would like to announce my resignation as Deputy Mayor and I guess we...

President Slifka: But not as a member of the council.

Vice President Coursey: But not as a member of the council. You're still going to have to see me for a few more months but I don't know if we have to move that...

President Slifka: Well, we'll move it at the end. I thought it would be appropriate at this time also to not just thank you for this. I've had... In my time as mayor I've had two deputy mayors now. I've had Mr. Spada, your esteemed predecessor, and yourself and Artie was fantastic but as we all know, and we loved to kid him, and he was not huge on attending events and doing the things the deputy mayor tended to fill in on when the mayor needed to be in two places at once but Chuck in all sorts of ways stepped up in those roles but more importantly has been about as close an advisor as I could have and although we all reluctantly accept your departure tonight it's not goodbye so you'll still be here. We're equally excited to have Tim step up. He has had a great run here in his first term and I'm sure it will only continue and his family is here. We ought to announce that Deb and Jack and Madeline are all in the audience tonight to see their dad do this and with that, Tim, I don't know if you'd like to add anything to that.

Councilor Brennan: Well, thank you both, Mr. Mayor and Mr. Deputy Mayor. Those comments were very gracious, very kind, and I do want to say about Chuck that you've served the town very well as Deputy Mayor. I said this recently before and it's... You know, when I think about you, Chuck, I think of sort of the calming voice on the Council. Sort of the one who, you know, is great at just keeping us all level. To me that is...that is leadership and, you know, it doesn't mean that it should ever stop but that's an attribute I'd like to emulate so, you know, I thank you for that and I again thank you for the kind words.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Brennan. So with that I'd like to entertain a motion to accept the resignation of Chuck Coursey as Deputy Mayor

Councilor Verrengia: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries and if I could entertain a motion to accept the nomination of Tim Brennan as Deputy Mayor.

Vice President Coursey: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Congratulations to both of you. Okay. I promised my colleagues we'd keep this brief so I hope that was efficient. The Celtics are playing tonight so I have my own concerns. Okay. Well, Mr. Brennan, Number 4 to you.

Vice President Brennan: Number 4, Mr. Mayor. I think that's what Mr. Coursey would say.

ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

***TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS 4-14-09 AND 4-23-09**

***PUBLIC HEARING ON 4-2-09 ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010
BUDGET**

***PUBLIC HEARING ON 4-14-09 ON ORDINANCE ON PROJECTS FOR THE
CIP**

***PUBLIC HEARING ON 04-14-09 ON 40 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 15 NEW
STREET, 65 AND 85 MEMORIAL ROAD, AND 75 ISHAM ROAD**

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: The motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Well done, Mr. Brennan. That was a seamless transition. And speaking of not seamless, myself here, Number 5 is the Public Forum.

ITEM #5: PUBLIC FORUM

President Slifka: The Public Forum section of our Town Council meeting provides our residents with the opportunity to address items on the Town Council Agenda, those items that we will act upon at tonight's meeting. To ensure that everybody has an opportunity to be heard and that the Council can efficiently administer its business, certain rules have been traditionally followed by the Council over the years. They're fairly simple. If you are to speak at the Public Forum, first please state your name and address for the record. In the event that you're not from West Hartford, if you're not a taxpayer or a resident, please let us know. We may entertain a motion to suspend the rules to allow you to speak.

You have up to 3 minutes to speak and you are allowed to speak to any item that is on the agenda which is not the subject of a Public Hearing. And our speaker is Gary St. Amand who I see is a resident of Newington so we will invoke the suspension of the rules.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Mr. St. Amand? Hit the button on the mike, sir.

Mr. St. Amand: Gary St. Amand. 23 Copperbeach Lane, Newington. Tonight I'm here representing the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. The Department of Public Health is supporting the efforts of Councilor Shari Cantor and others to achieve HEARTSafe Community designation for the Town of West Hartford. That's Item 13 this evening. A HEARTSafe Community encourages the training of citizens in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and the placement of AEDs in public venues such as schools, malls, town buildings and businesses. CPR and AED training are the first two critical links in the American Heart Association's chain of survival. The other links are CPR and AED trained and equipped first responders and the availability of pre-hospital advanced life support. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the nation and Connecticut. Each year approximately 4500 people die from sudden cardiac arrest in Connecticut. Most people die before help arrives. The HEARTSafe Community Program is designed to promote awareness of the signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest and help family members, friends and bystanders provide care until the emergency medical care providers can arrive. At this time there are 30 town and cities in Connecticut that have been designated as HEARTSafe. West Hartford would be the first in the Hartford area to achieve this voluntary three year designation. Many of us in this room have experienced those long moments that occur after 911 has been dialed and you hear the first siren in the distance. They are truly some of the longest moments in our lives. The HEARTSafe Community Program helps increase the chances of survival for victims of sudden cardiac arrest by giving bystanders an opportunity to act until help can arrive. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the proposed resolution this evening for the Town of West Hartford to pursue HEARTSafe designation. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you very much. That concludes the sign up sheet. Is there anybody who did not sign up who wished to speak to an item that's on the agenda? Yes, please come up and just state your name and address for the record as well.

Ms. Ovia: Good evening. Linda Ovia. 16 Whitman Avenue and I'm here to followup on Gary's comments. I have been a resident here for 10 years in West Hartford, also on the American Heart Association, the board, for over three years and I am employed by Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield for over five years and the reason why I'm here tonight is really to comment about HEARTSafe and I think it really comes down to probably two

essential areas in terms of this designation. I think education and empowerment so the... We all know that West Hartford does many positive things for, you know, for the community and for the people. People do for each other. However, I think that this is a huge way that we can empower people so from an education perspective many people may already have CPR designation or be involved in programs but I don't know that they're necessarily getting credit for that. This program really offers that incentive. We have lots of places in town where people gather. I don't know that they're really aware of the defibrillators, where to find them, how to access them, what to do, you know? So Gary was just mentioning the first moments. I mean, you call 911. There is a very long lag time there and I see the statistics all the time having been working at Anthem about what happens during those moments and people can literally save each other's lives if they have the tools and the education so I think education is the first part of it, getting the proper training and those that are trained getting credit for it, and then I think it's empowering people to actually seek out each other and really take care of each other as opposed to waiting for other folks that we know are very well-trained to do that but there's more than enough residents I think in this town to take advantage of this program. Time is precious and so I think when we talk about education and empowerment it's a way to get everybody involved in a way that some may be right now but some would like to be and we all know that I think when it comes to this topic fear is maybe one of the biggest factors. I think it's difficult for people to react because they're afraid of not doing the right thing. That's why training is so important, okay? So I think the training will then empower the people to be able to help each other and I think ultimately we need to take the challenge on and become the HEARTSsafe community because many people are already doing it and I think it's an incentive for those that are to take care of each other. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you. That concludes the Public Forum. We move to Number 6, Report from the Town Manager.

ITEM #6: REPORTS OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Van Winkle: Good evening. Thank you. I have the Director of Health in the audience, Steve Huleatt, and although H1N1 has sort of gone off of the TV screens it's still a concern for us. I wanted Steve to come up to the podium and just describe where we are with that, what our expectations are, and to reassure you and the town that we are ready for these things. We have spent a lot of time planning and being ready for what hopefully won't be needed so Steve, please?

Mr. Huleatt: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council. I'm Steve Huleatt, Director of the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District and I'm sorry to be here to talk about H1N1. I'd rather talk about the comments you just heard but my task here today is to give you an update. My intention is to give you a quick situational report as to where we are with H1N... novel H1N1, where we are here in West Hartford as part of that, and then to let you know where we are on a preparedness side - what we've been doing and why we're in the solid situation that we find ourselves right at the moment. First and foremost, unfortunately today there are three more new cases. That

brings the total to 28. There's one other case that's what's called a probable so that's 29. You'll start to not hear those reports perhaps in the near future. The fact that we're reporting individuals in various towns is not really that important at this point. We now know or certainly public health knows that H1N1, novel H1N1 is here in Connecticut and has been here for awhile so you're seeing a little bit of a shift from that. I think as Ron mentioned perhaps the media is not following it quite as closely as it was. Really not much has changed from that standpoint except it's just not the leading story anymore.

So basically what is this and what is the situation? We do not have any reported cases here in West Hartford at this point in time. We do not have probable cases in West Hartford at this time. We most likely and probably most assuredly do have cases. It just means no one has been tested for it and nothing has been confirmed. There's plenty of seasonal flu still out there. A presentation on that this morning was very interesting from the standpoint of it shows this incredible spike in the seasonal flu reporting. They do that every year and what that is is just the fact that there's over-testing going on right now as everybody looks... Normally this time of year people start to stop doing that much clinical testing for it so H1N1 is here. As Dr. Matthew Carter said on conference call over the weekend perhaps we're a little bit dodging a bullet. He referred to this as the first wave. What we have is a time frame in which flu starts to stop being as infective as it normally is. We don't usually hear about the flu during the summertime. It usually sort of fades away, heads down into the southern hemisphere. It likes the more wintery months and that's when we'll see H1 and/or whatever other seasonal variants come back and that will be in the fall of 2009 as we prepare for what will be the flu season for 2009 and 2010. H1N1, some perhaps potentially good news is it has been here before. Not this particular strain all the way down to what it is. It's a little bit of swine flu, it's a little bit of avian genetic material and it's a little bit of human genetic material so it is... it is a new virus. I mean, that's why they're calling it a novel virus now. The swine industry got a little upset with trying to, you know, make us worry about our pig industry so it's being called something more scientific. Most times you'll see flu vaccines often get labeled by where the virus started from and you're not seeing Mexico step forward and saying call this the Mexico flu, nor are you seeing Texas or southern California step forward so, as Dr. Carter would say if he was here, we'll wait to see what history will call this bug by the time we get to the fall but it is still H1N1 and because it's been here before perhaps that's why you're not seeing the outbreak of the disease right now in our elderly population. There's some speculation that perhaps persons born pre-1957 may have had some exposure to a variant like this at some point in time so you might not be seeing that severe illness that normally you'd see in seasonal flu in what we usually look for more in our seniors and our very young and individuals with underlying health conditions.

So far there have been now three deaths. There was a third death this past weekend out in Washington state but it's not showing up to be anymore severe than perhaps we had expected. Certainly seasonal flu is severe. It causes 36,000 deaths annually in the United States. That's why we're always out promoting flu shots, encouraging flu shots, asking you all as leaders to come and get flu shots to show the public it's safe. This fall we'll be looking towards doing that even probably more so. So the current status is we do not

have H1N1 in town at this time. It is certainly here. The issues of closing schools are no longer a recommendation by the Center for Disease Control. The issues of trying to follow each individual case as it pops up is no longer necessarily the strategy that will be employed by the State Health Department. We will now be going back into just looking for clusters or abnormal numbers of cases perhaps in a location, in a community, in a school, in a group so we will be reporting that.

Within our own status our nursing staff has been identified as case investigators. Their names were put into the Department of Public Health right at the very start, the onset of this surveillance process. They are the ones to be tasked. If we do get a case, probable or confirmed, they would be the ones who would be looking into that case, following up that situation with the individual. The present current status if somebody should be sick is go to your physician. Don't go to the hospital but if you think you have the flu go to your physician. If you think that you have...you're not sure if you have the flu the flu comes on pretty suddenly, those of us that have all had it some place in our lifetime. It's one of those diseases you pretty much know like the minute boy, at 3:30 all of a sudden I felt terrible. It's also usually accompanied by a slight fever, a fever of 100 or more so it's not a cold so you'll know it. You'll know like you've pretty much been hit by something and all of a sudden you've got a little bit of a fever. You'll generally be sick for about four to six days and that's why the seven day recommendation is what's out there. If you're ill, stay out for seven days or for a period of 24 hours until your symptoms are gone. The recommendations are if you are a parent and your child is sick keep them home from school. If you're a worker, you're at a workplace and you're sick, stay home until you get better. Just simple precautions to stop the spread of the disease. It will continue to move forward because, you know, depending upon the 1957 findings most people do not have an immunity to this so it will be the type of virus that will spread pretty quickly through the population. It is passing now person to person. Of those 29 cases, only 5 of which actually have I believe been found to have ties to Mexico, so it is passing person to person here in Connecticut now but again it's no more severe than what seasonal flu would be so I don't want to cause anxiety for the Council or the members here with us or to the viewing audience back home. But if you do feel like you're getting sick, go to your physician. The antivirals are effective. Of the 29 cases, no one's been hospitalized in Connecticut so far. Everybody has resolved on their own so that's all good news. So that's pretty much our status right at the moment.

From a preparedness point of view going quite a ways back you might remember lots of issues about smallpox planning going on. That was back in 2004. Public Health got an influx of money to do public health preparedness planning and what that's generated is really one overall All Hazards Plan and three annexes or tabs to that plan and the All Hazards Plan is what's called the Public Health Emergency Response Plan. It also gets called as a PHERP. Not a very attractive name but that's what it gets called. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health also has a Public Health Emergency Response Plan and in both cases from our local side and the state side both of those are tied into the Local Emergency Operations Plan here in West Hartford as well as Bloomfield if there's viewers from Bloomfield and also the state level is tied to the state's Emergency Operation Plan.

Then down...as we drill down through that plan what we have is we have three specific annexes, one of which is for mass vaccinations that came from our smallpox planning. That is something that we have been very diligent with over many years. You all know that we run our flu clinics every year. One of those flu clinics for the past four of five years we've always run as a drill. We've run it with a little bit more formality, a little less perhaps on the customer service - people in vests, people with names across their chests - but that's because we've been drilling every year and getting ready for a time where perhaps we have to have that kind of response. We also have a place...a dispensing drill which in case of anthrax which here in Connecticut we did experience anthrax and did have an experience...a death from anthrax so we have a separate plan for how we dispense pills to people throughout the town and then finally we have what's called a pandemic plan and that's really where we somewhat find ourselves now. In a pandemic, that's basically a disease that's currently spreading, as I said, person to person or it's been defined as spreading person to person. We do not have a pill for it and we do not have a vaccination for it so our pandemic planning basically looks more at how do we slow it down. How do we get it so it just doesn't spread as quickly to either overload our healthcare system or cause disruption in our businesses or cause disruption here in our government? So they use concepts called community mitigation or a concept called social distancing and that's what you've heard Public Health respond with right from the get-go with this. The message has stayed the same. The media has just changed the message around on us but I don't think the message has changed from when it first got identified by the tri-nations of Mexico, the United States and Canada. It hasn't changed since the World Health Organization came onboard with it. It's really just a function of trying to make sure we slow this down.

Making a vaccine unfortunately takes about six months' timeframe. The technology to do that or the methodology to do that has been around for about 50 years and it requires actually culturing the virus into eggs so first... It's sort of like the old Steve Martin joke, you know? First get 300 million eggs so it takes a little time to get that done and then to process that, to get that prepared, to get that into vials and to get that out into the marketplace so the quickest that the vaccine can come is about six months. So that process is out there so the reason why we try to slow it down is so that we can be ready. In six months we want to be able to have that vaccine, be able to switch over from a pandemic plan to a mass vaccination play, and be able to address the needs of our public and hopefully our medical community and get our volunteer staff up and running and make it through the winter in a healthy way. So those are the ways our plans work and that's sort of the situation as it stands right now. As we wane into the summer months the higher pay grade people and myself will certainly be watching what that virus does as it heads into the southern hemisphere, as it starts to come back. I can assure you that Public Health in the United States will continue to lean forward to be ready for when it returns back here next flu season and we hope that certainly the manufacturing industry of the vaccine has the right vaccine for us when we come around next fall.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Steve. Suffice it to say that there is a lot of planning going on in all these things and there is a lot of thought in the background to be ready for something if it should come and at the height of this discussion there were multiple

conference calls every day to update the Health Director and others on what was going on. Every organization was sending emails, the CDC and others, so we were getting a lot of data coming in during that first week where everyone was very concerned. You know, we're one community but we are tied into this whole organization from our State Health Department to the CDC so hopefully this does go away and hopefully it is not something that we're going to worry about but I just wanted you to understand where we were with it and that we have a plan in place to deal with it.

President Slifka: Can I just ask one question, Mr. Van Winkle. Um, for either one of you but maybe Mr. Huleatt does have the answer. There was a...one of these conference calls a few weeks ago. The Governor had convened a call with all the state officials, the first responders, the health directors, etc..., and I happened to be on it and the first two questions that popped up I thought were interesting and maybe they had to deal with trying to address misinformation. The first one was about what was the availability of flu shots that were in response, and the second was there seemed to be a perception, and I'm not sure where it came from but this was the second question asked, that maybe localities were stockpiling the...what do we call it?

Vice President Brennan: Tamiflu?

President Slifka: The Tamiflu. I'm sorry, the Tamiflu, which was not true but it may have... Well, one issue just address and...

Mr. Huleatt: Certainly. The initial phase of what went on was very dynamic. Again, this disease wasn't even recognized. Four weeks ago it didn't exist so think in terms of how quickly actually the surveillance and monitoring systems actually kicked into place. It caught my eye because of some of the systems Ron mentioned. Probably about six weeks ago there was just this unusual report of two cases of swine flu in California on a secured system I have with...that I'm on with the CDC, a sort of list serve if you will, and I thought well this will be interesting to see what happens. So sure enough two weeks later that gets tracked down to Mexico and really what was going on in Mexico looked very severe so what you had was a lot of concern about how severe, you know, that meaning the impact of your health so, you know, how much impact does this have on your health, the severity? And then how communicable was it? And initially the first sort of week or so there was some heavy efforts on what's called epidemiology to try to go down into Mexico and study that disease. Is it really, you know, causing that much mortality or death? Is it really causing that much morbidity or illness that you were seeing or you were hearing coming out of Mexico in the first stages? So it took about a week to get that kind of study done and during that timeframe there were a lot of...a whole lot of high anxiety. A way that I phrased the question to the school board last week was it's sort of like having an intruder in your school. Do you wait until you find the intruder or do you lock down your school and make sure the kids are safe first? And really that's somewhat what happened with this virus. There was a virus that nobody knew what it was. Nobody knew how dangerous it was so first let's try to lock things down as quickly as we can to try to understand that. So that was sort of part of what was

that anxiety in those initial calls because it was...so many things unknown in a dynamic nature.

The Tamiflu side of things, the State of Connecticut had purchased a reserve of Tamiflu and Relenza that they were able to distribute to the hospitals for those severe cases. Tamiflu is a treatment. It's not a prevention so for those people who would be most ill, they would end up at a hospital so it made sense to have that treatment at the hospital for those people who needed it the most so the supply that was there went to the hospitals first. Then the concern got to be whether or not there was a lot of prescribing of Tamiflu and that there was a run on the retail market. That be it, I've never actually seen as to what happened with the retail pharmacies but certainly I'm sure there was a big demand coming out of that. A week ago, well actually a little over a week ago, the Governor requested what's called a strategic national stockpile and a lot of these plans that are referred to here at the local level are how actually we capture those national asset if they rolled into town so that's how far up the ladder this actually goes. Those assets that came into the state in particular came in with masks and came in with Tamiflu and Relenza. Roughly about 136,000 ten-day courses came in which the Department of Public Health has chosen not to release because the hospitalization rates just haven't appeared so there is, in fact, the federal assets in the state at this point in time for the Tamiflu but at the time of that call that had not happened yet.

President Slifka: Thank you very much. Mr. Brennan, any questions?

Vice President Brennan: Sure. Just briefly actually more of a comment and if you have a brief thought out it that would be great. Mr. Coursey had you into public safety and I thought like here you did a fine job and I'm assured that you are all over this issue as I am with public health at the state level, the CDC and World Health Organization. It's an interesting perspective to have as an elected but also as a, you know, consumer of news. Like so many things we see sensationalized news and, you know, and people react in a sensationalist way. Egypt was slaughtering pigs and, you know, it just, you know, overreaction and I'm pleased to know that...that you all are not doing that and I feel the same way about the CDC, Public Health, etc., and it strikes me that, and I think you referred to this in the beginning, that, you know, the right approach is to sort of continue to stay on this notwithstanding that this has faded from the news because as you mentioned in public safety, the history of the 1918 Spanish flu was that it came in a first wave that was weak and then it mutated and came back in a severe way and I realize the time and circumstances were different. We had soldiers in trenches and so on and so forth but it strikes me that, you know, the goal here is balance and sustained vigilance over time including all our citizenry, all of our students washing their hands in schools, so on and so forth so for you all to sort of continue to stay on it and keep us informed but without panic in a sort of calm, scientific way. So that's my comment. Thanks for continuing to be vigilant on that.

President Slifka: Alright. Thank you, Mr. Huleatt. Mr.... Oh, sorry, Mr. Visconti.

Councilor Visconti: I have a question. Not to rise in panic but if something like this came back and mutated, what do we have in place and what are the...is the state government, federal government involved with quarantine? That was an old word that we don't really use anymore but if things ever got bad how does the next level... If we tried, as you said, lockdown things could you walk us through the procedures that are either state law or whatever the law is that allows the municipalities and everyone with schools to move forward?

Mr. Huleatt: Certainly. It's a complex topic but I'll try to give you a relatively short answer and then can address your specific concerns perhaps later. Quarantine and isolation – what is the difference? What do those terms mean? Isolation is really what happens to individuals who are ill and have the symptoms of whatever it is that we are...of concern. Quarantine is what happens to people who are exposed to someone who is ill and we are trying to secure them so that they don't develop symptoms or don't...aren't able to spread the disease before they have the symptoms develop so isolation is somebody is sick and sick with the flu means you're probably in bed. Quarantine would be probably it's a family member inside your household or something like that.

SARS was the greatest episode in recent history of the use of quarantine. The City of Toronto voluntarily quarantined 11,000 individuals and SARS was stopped. A lot of credit goes to the people of Toronto and the areas around Toronto that voluntarily said we're going to stay home and stop that because that was also on our border. The issues of quarantine and isolation really got clarified... I'm not sure exactly when the law passed. I think it was 2004. The Public Health Emergency Response Act, which is a statute, granted certain authority to the commissioner and took certain emergency powers and gave them to the commissioner and as the agent of the commissioner locally I would have that authority to do the quarantine and isolation so that would be a decision that would be made in cooperation with the Department of Public Health given the circumstances that are there. Individual statutes allow me to quarantine individuals but that process – cause they also have due process - would be very slow in the time of a pandemic. If all of a sudden this disease is spreading geometrically it would be very difficult to issue an order to one person at a time so really what that act - it's an acronym known as PHERA - allows us to actually be able to do that to groups of people or to be able to allow us to do that towards a neighborhood. You know, it had to do with what if a large sporting event occurred? How would you... What would you do with 20,000 people? So it had to do with that and really had to do more so at that point in time with a man-made act than a natural act. But PHERA would apply in this situation. Individuals would be given the right to a hearing. There are certain abilities that allow us to be able to do...enact that quarantine or that isolation on behalf of the public's interest without necessarily demonstrating as much of the legal principles as people might expect but it's the power of Public Health to protect the public so we would try to minimize that impact to those individuals and then as a community if we do that then we have an obligation to try to assist those individuals in their home or their location in which we've sequestered them until they are better so that is part of the plan. It is written up in the plan as to how we would attempt to do that. Clearly at some point in time if the illness gets so large that

it's everywhere, you know, quarantine and isolation becomes a first step or an early phase. It's not an end phase of a pandemic response.

Councilor Visconti: Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you again, Mr. Huleatt. Okay. Back to you Mr. Van Winkle.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, and I just wanted to also say to you, you know, there's an awful lot of mundane things that go on when these things happen - meetings that we have, the staff gets informed, Steve met with all of the management staff in the town, I met with the directors, our Police Chief, our Fire Chief are all in meetings. If you do get quarantined, Syd Elkin is the one who will hear your objection to being quarantined so our Probate Court judge had to sit and think about alright, if I've got infected people how do I have a hearing so everybody's involved in some way and has got a role and it's sort of all been thought out and it's actually very impressive. Thank you, Steve.

Our Human Services Department is launching a new program. The town has assisted us many times with our food bank and they are looking for school supplies for low-income families. Those supplies can be dropped off at Town Hall and the Human Services Office in room 306 or at the Community Services desk at the first floor of Town Hall. I now... My son graduated from college. I now know what to do with the markers in his desk in his room. There's a whole bunch of school supplies that I'm sure we all have somewhere in a drawer that are never going to be used.

Several weeks ago we had a house burn at 65 High Ridge Road, a substantial fire, and a suspected arson. We have received a number of concerns from neighbors who now live near a half-burned house that in the rain and the summer months smells like a half-burned house. We have ordered the house be taken down. The property owner may appeal those orders. It may take us some time. Unfortunately we can't just go into private property and take a structure down but I wanted to assure you that we are making all the appropriate steps to make sure that house gets down as soon as we can.

I bring you something each week where we've saved money and I just wanted to tell you another story. Chris Johnson, who is our Finance Director for the town does a fabulous job. We have a wide area network. All our buildings are connected together and it is through a wired system for internet data and voice. Our phones are all on the internet voice and it saves us substantial money. The cost of all these lines in the town is \$158,000 for us to run all of those systems and the contracts were about to run out and our costs with AT&T were going to go up by another \$25,000 so Chris Johnson went out and researched what alternatives we have and working with a company known as One Communications we're able to drop the cost of our wide area network by \$29,000 so just another good job and a good thing going on.

There was a story in the paper recently about Bishops Corner receiving a grant from the State of Connecticut. Last year the library made an application to the State Library Board for a grant to make what are primarily energy-conserving improvements to the Bishops

Corner Library. If you know the Bishops Corner Library the great glass windows that really make up most of the walls of the building are single pane. It's a big energy eater out there. This went away because we never thought we would ever see that grant in this environment right now but amazingly, as reported in the Hartford Courant, the Bond Commission at the state gave us an approval for a grant for this project for \$153,000. That's the good news. The bad news is this is a \$450,000 project so we are seeking additional grants and looking at what our alternatives might be to making these improvements but it is one of those...those investments in energy conservation which could result in significant savings to the town. That's all I have, Mr. Mayor.

President Slifka: Thank you very much, Mr. Van Winkle. Are there questions for Mr. Van Winkle? Just a moment.

Mr. Van Winkle: I need to make a correction.

President Slifka: Back to you, Mr. Van Winkle.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, I need to make a correction. I mentioned the burned house as 65 High Ridge. That family will be amazed. (*Laughter.*) Sorry. Your house is still there. It's okay. Don't worry about it if you're on vacation watching this on the internet. It's still there. The correct address is 27 in the Crossways. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you. Okay, Mr. Visconti had a question.

Councilor Visconti: That was a funny neighborhood. Question on the Police Union, if they have voted on their union contract to suspend increases and/or also I believe AFSCME was going to... I don't know if we had gotten updated yet on those two. Has it happened?

Mr. Van Winkle: Certainly. As you know, the Fire Union voted and accepted the wage freeze. SEIU voted and all units of SEIU voted and accepted the wage freeze. We have a written agreement with AFSCME, which has been, you know, agreed upon among...among the representatives. It now goes to the union. I believe that will be voted on on Thursday. We expect that vote to be positive. The police department - we have an agreed upon language for the freeze. We need to get together with them so they can sign that agreement and then take it to their members but it is my understanding that the language in that agreement is agreed upon between the parties so I would expect all of the unions in the Town of West Hartford to accept these agreements.

Councilor Visconti: Continued question on that. Could you explain to the public why unions were voting after the budget and how it's gotten dragged out or maybe that was the plan? How the timing of it all for concessions happens now and not two months ago or whatever...however the process works, because there has been some confusion about that.

Mr. Van Winkle: A union negotiation is a negotiation. It's a process. It's a dance if you will, you know? There's a discussion about it. It is not something the town can just go to a union that has a contract with us... None of these unions had to do anything. They all had contracts with us. They all could have gotten their wage increase on July 1. They all could have just went forward. They did not have to do anything with us so the first set of meetings was a discussion of why we needed their help and what the trouble was, to go through all the numbers and to have those discussions. And then actual language takes time and everybody starts with I want you to give me this much and the town's down here giving this much and so you do a negotiation that goes back and forth. It was a very cordial negotiation but we needed to work to that place where it benefitted us in the way we're trying to get that benefit and the union also believed, the representatives believed that their members would vote on that so every union and every negotiating team is a different personality. The way the police negotiate is different than the way the fire negotiates so although fire went very quickly and early on... As you remember in our forum, fire stood up...the fire union stood up and said we will help. SCIU stood up and said we will help and both of those went well. It just takes time to get that language. I would hope that we would have all of those contracts to you at your next meeting so we can make sure we put them into place before July 1.

Councilor Visconti: Thank you. One question to the Mayor. We normally ask the public if there's anyone that did not sign up to speak in a Public Forum.

President Slifka: I did ask.

Councilor Visconti: Oh, you did? Okay.

President Slifka: Yeah.

Councilor Visconti: If someone wanted to speak they must have really came in late.

President Slifka: We called up at least one person.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. I must have been daydreaming.

President Slifka: Okay. Anything else for Mr. Van Winkle. Mr. Verrengia?

Councilor Verrengia: Just a quick question. Mr. Van Winkle, you forwarded us an email last week to give us an update on the busway. They're coming...the state officials are going to meet. I don't have that date with me. Do you know it offhand so we can just let the public know?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, absolutely. The New Britain Avenue Hartford Busway, which has been going on for maybe a decade of discussion, is now beginning to get some wheels under it and move. That rail line passes through our community in the southeast corner of town. On May 20th at the Elmwood Community Center they will be having a public meeting that runs from 4:00 to 8:00. It's a four hour opportunity. They're making

presentations at 4:30 and 6:30 so if you miss the 4:30 meeting they're going to do a similar presentation at 6:30. They're looking for public input on the busway. They are getting closer to getting final approval of their designs and whatnot from Washington and getting authority for the spending. They have not yet gotten the final authority to spend those dollars so they have actually pushed this project up on their agenda a little because of the importance of getting a project like this into construction. It will certainly stimulate the economy. This is when you count all the costs easily over 600 million dollars.

Councilor Verrengia: I just want to remind the public that the buildings that they might see demolished along the New Park Avenue Corridor is not reflective of the economic conditions there. Instead it's all tied into the busway.

Mr. Van Winkle. Yes, the buildings that we see knocked down are related to primarily the stations at New Britain Avenue and New Park, that corner. Those buildings will all be where... A new station will be located there and then at Flatbush and New Park the old Volkswagen place is coming down or has come down for a station there and then a gas station has been... a very small station has been taken down cause they're trying to line up the roads a little better in that area so, you know, we're seeing early work being done but the substantial work is coming soon.

Councilor Verrengia: Thank you.

President Slifka: Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Van Winkle, over the last couple of weeks I received mailings from Town Hall, different things. I think today I received Leisure Services for courses or activities for this summer. I think one of the things that we talked about in Admin. Technology with Deputy Mayor Brennan was really kind of taking a full inventory of all those direct mailings that really go out and face out to the customer out to, you know, to the home owners. We really need to start leveraging the website and we really need to start taking a hard look at that because with printing and distribution and postage, you know, I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. So if we can have that discussion I think the web is... You know, we are I think really underutilizing the opportunity there so if we can have that discussion at some point that would be great.

Mr. Van Winkle: Through you, Mr. Mayor. Jim Capodiece, our Director of Leisure Services, has a plan that he will be able to present to describe how we're going to reduce the amount of printing that we do and mailers that we get out. We talked about a simple card that goes to your house to say, you know, you want to see your Leisure Services report and classes you can take just go to this website which would be obviously a lot cheaper to do so we are planning to put that into place. I'd be happy to do that in committee.

President Slifka: Thank you. Anything else for the manager? Mr. Verrengia?

Councilor Verrengia: Just one more thing, Mr. Mayor. A couple of weeks ago we had some residents from Flag Road come in to one of the Community Planning meetings. They expressed their concern about traffic and oftentimes when we have residents come in they're not satisfied with our answers, particularly when it comes to stop signs. Everyone thinks, you know, the way to slow traffic down is putting a stop sign up but today I met with Dave Kraus, our engineer, and I'm happy to report for the residents of Flag Road that there's going to be some improvements there. Particularly at the entrance of Westmore Park you're going to see a pedestrian crosswalk and to the west of that driveway is a hill, like a blind spot, and I guess the contractor's going to shave that so it will be better visibility and I know they're looking at other traffic calming techniques there but, you know, for the purpose of the community and anyone who might be watching from Flag Road it was really because of their input that the town responded and I think we responded in a positive fashion so I was impressed.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you. Through you, Mr. Mayor. There is a limited amount of things we can do to slow down the thousands of cars that are speeding around our town today. It is us, you know? When we go out...as a police officer you know. When you go you the people who are not paying attention to what they are doing is somebody who is trying to get home fast, listening to the radio, whatever. When we set up speed traps it's West Hartford's residents. We would ask each of you listening to this slow down in West Hartford. You'll get there safer and you'll make our neighborhoods safer. It's a program we've talked about. We've had programs for years trying to get residents to just slow down in West Hartford. Our cars make us drive faster because they're so insulated from the road. What we need to do is individually slow down. Maybe heart healthy...we need to be speed healthy in West Hartford too because it is a problem on every street in West Hartford.

President Slifka: And Mr. Brennan.

Vice President Brennan: Just briefly to Mr. Adler's comments regarding the use of the website and going, you know, to be more paperless as possible we do have on the next agenda for the Administration Technology meeting an overview of the website. I think your idea on using the website as a vehicle for distribution of things that would otherwise be on paper is a good one. I know you have a background in IT. I would love to have your thoughts on how to improve the website in a cost effective way. I think that would potentially produce some cost savings so great point. Thanks.

President Slifka: Thank you. Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Yeah. The more we talk the more things come up that you remember you were supposed to ask the Town Manger. I've been speaking to a lot of people from different towns and whatever on the issue of the parking meters and I know we're working on getting the parking cards solicited out of different businesses. Can you tell me how active we are on that because as I do speak to people where I go as soon as they hear there's a card, well where do you get them? Of course you go to Town Hall and whatever but if we had some type of, you know, promotional whatever where the

public can actually know they can get them here on different points in the center or I don't know if...you know, what the answer is. I don't know what we're doing to promote even more than we are but they seem to be very excited about that. People are upset. They'll get a ticket because they didn't put in enough change. It's the same old story and I know we're there but how do we really promote the card?

Mr. Van Winkle: With this card in West Hartford center you don't have to carry a pocket full of quarters. You can put this into your...into the meter and it will start counting up by 25 cents, 25 cents and when you get to the number you want you pull it out and you put it back in your wallet so you don't have to carry all those quarters. This card is new. We are working with retailers to get them to sell it. We have a few lined up. I can't tell you right off the top of my head how many right now. You can go to our parking garage office which is in the North Garage, the Isham Garage, and buy one right there without question and there's a number of retailers. We're trying to get more online to be able to sell it but it's a great way to be able to do those...use those meters and not have to think I can't stay that long because I don't have another quarter.

Councilor Visconti: Is there a way we can offer them at the library or different locations? Maybe not even just West Hartford Center but places that we already control where people come in and have a kiosk area or something that actually prompts much quicker than we probably are working on.

Mr. Van Winkle: Sure. That's a great idea. I will check with our garage people and see if we can do it at the library, the skating rink and where people are...got their wallets and got their money out and say well here's an opportunity, you can just get one of these cards so we'll take a look at that.

Councilor Visconti: Thank you.

President Slifka: Anything else for Mr. Van Winkle? Alright. Thank you very much for your report. We're up to Consideration of the Consent Calendar, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #7: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 22-28 TO RECEIVE

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Mayor, I'd like to place Items 22-28 on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to Unfinished Business, Number 8.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEM #8: APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF BLUE BACK SQUARE, LLC, DEVELOPER OF THE BLUE BACK SQUARE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT, FOR AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT APPROVALS IN CONNECTION WITH BLUE BACK SQUARE DEVELOPMENT – 40 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 15 NEW STREET, 65 AND 85 MEMORIAL ROAD, AND 75 ISHAM ROAD – AMENDMENT TO SDD 113 AND APPROVAL OF AMENDED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PUBLIC HEARING 4-14-09 AND CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING 5-12-09)

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS VOTE 9-0

Conditions: Notwithstanding any other conditions of approval or parking or other calculations reflected in the approved plans, changes in allowable uses may occur in the existing areas of buildings within this Special Development District which are identified as “Retail/Restaurant” without the provision of additional parking as may otherwise be required.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. We note we have Mr. Ahern sitting. Thank you. Welcome. Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I will support the motion this evening if we could just have an amendment that addresses the condition that was suggested by the TPZ and I’m not going to read it into the record but I think it’s pretty clear and also I think it would be necessary to attach the memorandum from corporation counsel to this motion so we have some legislative history as to the intent...

President Slifka: It might be helpful actually if you read it.

Councilor Davidoff: Okay. I’ll read it into the record. “Notwithstanding any other conditions of approval or parking or other calculations reflected in approved plans, changes in allowable uses may occur in the existing areas of buildings within this special development district which are identified as “retail/restaurant” without the provision of additional parking as may otherwise be required.”

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Is there a second?

Vice President Brennan: Second.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Brennan. We’re on discussion of the amendment. This was... Mr. Davidoff summarizes the amendment that was suggested by both our staff

and the Town Planning and Zoning Commission which voted unanimously in favor of this part to limit the application of this application in the way stated in Mr. Davidoff's motion. Is there anything further on the amendment? Okay. Vote on the amendment. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We return to discussion of the application as a whole. Anyone else? Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Yes, I originally thought I could write an ordinance to have this process done. I kind of thought about it because as I discovered that the rest of the center was not, you know, actually had the ability to change use I thought the time had come. Of course, it couldn't be done in Town Council. It had to be an application by the owners and I think the time has come where Blue Back Square, especially in these economic times, needs the latitude to be able to put in stores now that may service the industries that survive if retail starts to change. Restaurants are good. If restaurants seem to be going out and the spaces have to be renovated... It happens in a recession. I've seen it in construction. As a building we come in and renovate spaces because the use changes. In the center right now there's vacant space as there is many times and that use can go from restaurant to retail. I think it's only fair that now that the project is fully developed and the economic times are here that we allow Blue Back Square to have the latitude that the rest of the center has so that they all can work together to find tenants and keep the center full and adapt to the economy. Thank you.

Mr. Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Visconti. Anyone else? Okay. Seeing none all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you, Mr. Ahern. Well done. Just moving down on this. Right. Okay. Now Mr. Ahern moves down one. Mrs. Cantor is back. Dr. Thornberry is recused. Number 9, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #9: APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF ELM FOOD & BEVERAGE, LLC, DBA ELEMENTS BISTRO, FOR AN AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 3 AT 1128 NEW BRITAIN AVENUE TO ESTABLISH AN OUTDOOR DINING AREA IN FRONT OF AND ADJACENT TO ELEMENTS BISTRO (PUBLIC HEARING 5-12-09)

APPROVED VOTE 9-0

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded and just till we get to the discussion I know there are folks watching at home who probably are not aware of our procedures and Mr. Ahern is a Council Zoning Alternate. We have a few folks from both sides that are appointed such because we can't always get all the members of the Council here for all the hearings and sometimes there are conflicts that arise or a councilor chooses to recuse him or herself from it and it is the applicant's right to have a full compliment of people. This is limited to zoning matters so there's no substitution that happens for normal Council business but just for anybody who's confused as to how this

transpires we had Mr. Ahern sitting for...once for Mrs. Cantor for certain reasons and now for Dr. Thornberry and others and you will see it again too. Normally we have Richard Patrissi in this role. Just twice it has happened by happenstance. He's not here tonight so we hope he's watching at home. We wish him well. Okay, back to discussion of the application. Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Well first of all I'm going to be supporting this application. I'd just like to say that Mr. Bowin and Team Elements did a great job in teeing us up with the application. I think it was great the way that you partnered with the neighbors, your neighboring tenants, as well as with the Epstein Brothers who are the owners of the property. I think you guys did a great job. You know, these kind of applications are just... I get really excited about this stuff, particularly during these tough times. You're adding more seating. You're making the area more appealing. There's going to be better curb appeal, particularly in the Elmwood section and I think that, you know, just to see a little bit more excitement and traffic in Elmwood as well as in the Park Road area as another part of town is really exciting, particularly a lot of smaller businesses really getting to be a lot more popular where people don't have to necessarily pay for parking and deal with a lot of the other parts of town. Although the center of town is a great town...a great part of the city, I think the Elmwood section is just really getting to be much more exciting lately so I think you all did a great job and best of luck to you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Anyone else? Mrs. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: I just wanted to thank the applicants and the owners of the property for putting so much...investing so much in that area of town and it really is a wonderful place. I think it's my husband's favorite place so thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. I just add to what Mrs. Cantor and Mr. Adler said. They summarized it. It is a great place. I look at Dr. Liftig here today and he must be very pleased with all the time and effort he's put into Elmwood along with...only topped by the Epstein Brothers who have been doing this since 1956 was it when you bought the property? It's an amazing transformation. We're thrilled to support this. Brett and Fred are doing a great job at the restaurant and I must compliment you guys on the brevity of the application itself. I noticed that you didn't have counsel representing you here and as a lawyer I guess I must say I'm a little nervous because you must have done it at a reduced cost and you probably did a better job and more quickly so well done! Anybody else? Okay, Mr. Visconti.

Councilor Visconti: Yes, ditto to all those great comments. The owners of the property have invested a lot and I think that's coming to fruition now. The plaza looks great and I think that the dining... I haven't been there yet. I haven't had a chance but I hear a lot of good things about Elements and I think that anytime that people have held property in a special development since 1966 that maybe some of those things that Mr. Liftig spoke about with special developments we ought to take a look at and see what that means. Just like this Blue Back Square change that just happened here we don't want in certain

conditions bringing expansion of existing businesses into such cumbersome and expensive applications but at the same time we want the protections and so I think it is Mr. Liftig's comments on the process. This is a perfect case to take a look at how we do things. I will support the project.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Brennan and Mr. Davidoff.

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Mayor, I recently had the opportunity to...at Mr. Liftig's...Dr. Liftig's invitation to participate in the community clean-up in Elmwood in addition to trying to school my son on what that's about and trying to instill some discipline in him and we had other members of the administration there too. The thing that struck me was I'd never walked up and down New Britain Avenue. I simply had driven up and down New Britain Avenue and if you take a walk you can see the vibrancy of what Elmwood is becoming. As sort of the community was waking up we saw a packed room full of people exercising with sort of like a sort of Latin flavor music coming through which was nice. You know, across the street you've got, you know, the wonderful wafting air of the pastry shop. You know, all these businesses opening up and to see Elements Bistro there sort of just standing out and now we'll have outdoor dining so to the points of folks who testified today that it adds to the pedestrian aspect of New Britain Avenue I completely agree. And I don't know what it is about outdoor dining but it just definitely adds to, you know, the allure of the area. It makes the whole place more attractive. I hope it will definitely... My sense is it will definitely improve Bistros so I've always been in favor of outdoor dining. Great job. Can't wait to see it in place.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Brennan. Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: I will be supporting this application this evening because I think that outdoor dining as an element of any project is basically what's necessary for revival of any of our communities whether it be Corbins Corner, whether it be Elmwood or the Center or Bishop's Corner. It just brings people outside, people to the community. It gives people the sense that we're alive and it's a great place to visit and it's a great place to dine and it is the heartbeat of the community so I thank the applicant for bringing forward this this evening and I would encourage you to talk to your neighbors and encourage them to do the same because it feeds off each other and it definitely... Once people find out that that's a real hot spot to go to more and more people come in. Business... Good business bring more good business and I applaud your efforts here this evening. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Okay we will... Oh, Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Yeah. One more thing after hearing Leon speak. The other thing that it brings is it brings the perception and the truth of safety. People come here. They feel they can sit out in front of a store, there's safety. All the crime that's happening in the world, you know you can sit out in front of a restaurant anywhere, Elmwood or wherever, it brings that sense of safety beyond everything that Leon spoke about and

that's what I think Elmwood... You know, it's that statement right now. It's safe to come here and no matter what, beyond everything else.

President Slifka: Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Congratulations Brett and Arthur. That gets us to Number 10, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #10: ORDINANCE (VAN WINKLE) REVISING MAILING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN ZONING APPLICATIONS (PUBLIC HEARING 5-12-09)

TABLED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we table.

Mr. O'Brien: We need a roll call on that.

President Slifka: I apologize. We do? We didn't...well, we didn't on 8.

Mr. O'Brien: You'll have to go back.

President Slifka: It wasn't optional?

Mr. O'Brien: No, you have to have a roll call under the zoning ordinances.

President Slifka: Okay. What should we do with 8?

Mr. O'Brien: Just recall it and have a roll call vote.

President Slifka: Yeah, well let's vote on 9 first while you guys are here. Roll call please, Ms. Labrot. This is on Number 9.

Voting YES were Councilors Steven Adler, Tim Brennan, Shari Cantor, Chuck Coursey, Leon Davidoff, Scott Slifka, Joe Verrengia, Joe Visconti and Kevin Ahern.

Councilor Carolyn Thornberry was absent.

President Slifka: Thank you. It passes still and...

President Slifka: Well, you know we left that to Mr. Brennan. Mr. Coursey stayed quiet. Maybe he was overrated all this time. I don't know. And you... You are the king of the technical. You let me down ... Okay. Back to Number 8. The roll call please, Ms. Labrot.

Voting YES were Councilors Steven Adler, Tim Brennan, Chuck Coursey, Leon Davidoff, Scott Slifka, Carolyn Thornberry, Joe Verrengia, Joseph Visconti and Kevin Ahern.

Councilor Shari Cantor was absent.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you for that bit of time travel. We're up to Number 10 now. Mr. Brennan?

ITEM #10: ORDINANCE (VAN WINKLE) REVISING MAILING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN ZONING APPLICATIONS (PUBLIC HEARING 5-12-09).

TABLED

Vice-President Brennan: I move that we table.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Brennan. This is done because the TPZ has not yet issued its recommendation. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Mr. O'Brien, Number 11.

ITEM #11: FROM ATTORNEY JAMES M. JOSEPH AT LEVY & DRONEY, P.C., (3-4-09) REPRESENTING WE 176 NEWINGTON LLC AND REQUESTING THAT, AS PART OF THE PROPOSED RETAIL DEVELOPMENT TO BE LOCATED AT THE FORMER INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SITE AT 176 NEWINGTON ROAD, IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN AND APPLICANT TO ABANDON THE PORTION OF JACOBS ROAD (REFERRED TO COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AND TPZ AT 3-24-09 COUNCIL MEETING)

RECEIVED

President Slifka: We had a question on what the proper procedural motion is.

Mr. O'Brien: The proper procedural motion would be to adopt the...actually to make a motion to...

President Slifka: Whether or not an application so...

Mr. O'Brien: Yeah. It would actually be motion to abandon the portion of Jacob's Road specified in the letter from the attorney dated March 4, 2009 and also subject to the requirement that the applicant will maintain the portion of Jacob's Road that remains a public road indemnifying all the town harmless from any and all liability in connection with the use of that portion of Jacob's Road.

President Slifka: Okay. I'm going to recommend that Mr. Brennan simply say so moved.

Mr. O'Brien: Yes. That would be fine.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Is there any discussion? We have some things for the record.

Vice President Brennan: Just to read into the record for this Number 11 - Letter dated May 7, 2009 from Jeffrey Daniels, Chairman for TPZ recommending approval for STD 3 at 1128 New Britain Avenue.

President Slifka: Okay. Any discussion? There being none we can simply do a voice vote. Right, Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: Yes.

President Slifka: Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Coursey had abstained. Up to Number 12, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM # 12: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT (REFERRED TO TPZ AT 4-14-09 COUNCIL MEETING)

ADOPTED

WHEREAS The State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation has proposed a number of improvements for New Britain Avenue; and

WHEREAS these improvements are expected to improve the safety and efficiency of New Britain Avenue significantly; and

WHEREAS the proposed improvements require the widening of the State's highway rights of way upon the Town's property at the Elmwood Community Center in an area approximately 54 feet long by 3 feet wide; and

WHEREAS the granting of this easement will have no noticeable impact upon the ownership or operation of that facility while the benefits to be gained to the Town from the improvements to New Britain Avenue are significant

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute an easement in favor of the State of Connecticut in such form as shall be approved by the Corporation Counsel and is further authorized to execute such ancillary documents as may be necessary to effectuate said transaction.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle?

Mr. Van Winkle: This is an easement with the State of Connecticut. It is associated with the New Britain Avenue project which also should be coming soon in the next year or so. This is a portion of property associated with the Elmwood Community Center. It is a three foot easement into the property to allow for a bus pull-off in that area. It has been reviewed by staff and actually reviewed on our walk as we walked down New Britain Avenue that Saturday Avenue with Mr. Brennan so it is an easement for that project that will allow them to build a bus pull-off at that point.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Any further discussion? Okay. Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Oh, for the record. Hold on.

Vice President Brennan: Dropping the ball again. Reading into the record for Number 12, letter dated April 21, 2009 from Mila Limson, DRAC Secretary recommending approval for STD 3 at 1128 New Britain Avenue.

President Slifka: Okay. All those still in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to New Business, Number 13.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #13: RESOLUTION (CANTOR, THORNBERRY, SLIFKA, COURSEY, BRENNAN, VERRENGIA) TO CERTIFY WEST HARTFORD AS A HEARTSAFE COMMUNITY

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford is a town concerned about the health and well being of all of its residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, West Hartford has been concerned with the risks of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and has invested and placed Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) in all of its public buildings, and

WHEREAS, approximately 4,500 Connecticut residents die each year due to sudden cardiac arrest, and the Heart Association has established requirements for the Chain of Survival in the critical moments following cardiac arrest for communities, and

WHEREAS, these requirements have been proven critical in saving lives and meeting these requirements allows communities to be designated as a HEARTSafe Community, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has worked with the Heart Association to educate and designate towns in Connecticut as HEARTSafe Communities, and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford has met many of these requirements,

WHEREAS, West Hartford is often seen as a leader on positive initiatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of West Hartford shall pursue the designation of being a HEARTSafe Community.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Turn to Mrs. Cantor.

Councilor Cantor: Thank you. It's actually designate. We're aiming to designate West Hartford as a HEARTSafe community. I wanted to thank Gary St. Amand from the State Public Health Department who came to the Public Comments section and outlined the requirements and kind of the whole initiative of designating HEARTSafe communities. It's such an important initiative and it's something that West Hartford started doing a long time ago. Dr. Carolyn Thornberry actually and I are jointly sponsoring this resolution with our fellow colleagues and this... She did so much work and the hard work was getting the defibrillators, the automatic external defibrillators, in our town buildings. That's a financial commitment that this town made to the health of all of its residents and all the visitors and now the Heart Association in conjunction with the State Department of Health have outlined these requirements that West Hartford is aiming to meet and because we've already made that investment and that these devices have a maintenance record we are ahead of the game and we are ahead of most other towns. In fact, when we talked about the plan we talked to the Town Manager and the our Health Director and the State Department of Public Health and we talked about the fact that most towns do not have AEDs in every public building where that early response is absolutely so critical. I became aware of heart disease through my son who has congenital heart disease and I also am a member of the Heart Association Board of Directors and the statistics are staggering. Those seconds and minutes after a sudden cardiac arrest are critical to someone's survival and not only survival but quality of life. If there's heart damage than that person's quality of life can be substantially reduced so we have made the investment, we made the commitment and now we're following through and kind of tying all the pieces together. This is a community effort and we are 90 percent of the way there if not farther and I want to thank my colleagues for helping to support this and for all the previous work that was done by Carolyn Thornberry. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. Anyone else? Dr. Thornberry and then...

Councilor Thornberry: Yeah, I was going to start my comments by saying this was something really near and dear to my heart and the pun actually...oh! But it was. I mean this was my...this was my life, I mean, for a couple of years in Human Services and it really was extremely important to me that all the public buildings in West Hartford have heart defibrillators. It was certainly no criticism of any of our emergency people. As a matter of fact, I said it at the time and I'll still say it is that I really hoped that the defibrillators did not ever have to be used. I mean we have really extraordinary emergency services and the chances are that they will be there before you even get a chance to get the defibrillator, you know, out of its...out of its case and use it but the reason I wanted to talk about this is that I was at a place that I was doing some consulting work and I said something. There wasn't that many employees and I said something about having a defibrillator there and someone remarked to me oh, I don't think we should do that. Things can happen. And I found it odd and I realized there was still this perpetuating notion that somehow you can hurt someone by using a defibrillator. You cannot. You can absolutely not hurt anybody. You have to realize that the person has had a heart attack, you know? They're losing vital... They're losing their vitals, you know, over a period of time and the machine that we have would not allow you to injury anyone in anyway. The only thing that it can do is give a shock to somebody who needs it. It makes a diagnosis once you put the pads on. This machine is... I mean really, it tells you everything to do and how to do it. When Chief Austin and I were working on this he always admonished us that the number one problem is getting somebody to go and get the defibrillator, not in using it or... You know, this can only help people so it's that idea of finding out where they are in the building. At one time I know that when Mr. Francis was here he gave me a list because these things have to be cared for as well. You just don't buy a defibrillator, stick it on a wall and put it in a case and then, you know, never see it again. They have to be monitored and they are and I know that I had a list as to every building that they're in and where they are in the building and it might be a good idea if we do have that on the web...on our web page so that people can familiarize themselves with where it is but the number one thing always is to dial 911. You do that before you do anything else. Before you ask if there's a defibrillator, see if there's a defibrillator, if someone's having a problem you have to dial 911.

I know that Councilwoman Cantor and I are especially mindful of how women present heart attacks very differently than men do often and you'll see symptoms that you will not think is a heart attack and in women it is, so if someone thinks they're having a heart attack and it's not that stereotypical of crushing pain and the pain down the left arm a woman can have a heart attack that does not look like that. Take it seriously and she should take it seriously as well. So we are delighted. I'm so happy that Mrs. Cantor put this out and, you know, I'm always excited to talk about this again and to tell people that we have them here in West Hartford. Thank you. Thank you, Shari.

President Slifka: Thank you, Dr. Thornberry. Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just to pump up this resolution...just trying to... Okay. So...so it's a great resolution. I appreciate you folks authoring it around how to address when you do have a heart attack but, you know, most important is make sure,

particularly women, make sure you get yourself checked out and visit the doctor. You know, really work on prevention and do it tomorrow. Do it for your kids, your spouse, your friends and do it for yourself. I lost my mom a couple of years ago to congestive heart failure and it just... It's just a terrible situation so it's... You know, be proactive. This is good stuff, this resolution, in terms of engaging when you do have a heart attack but before you get to that point just step up and do the right thing. Get yourself checked out. So, thanks again.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Anyone else? Okay. I would want to also extend my thanks to Mrs. Cantor and Dr. Thornberry. I was here for the original start of this work under Dr. Thornberry and it's great to see us growing it now. Mrs. Cantor and both of you have come to this, especially Mrs. Cantor with Jacob's situation at home, come to this really from the right personal place and I think that it's great when we see that translate into public policy. You know it's... We're doing it for the right thing so thank you. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 14, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #14: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) TRANSFERRING \$30,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS NON-PERSONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT FOR THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Registrar of Voters originally had a budget of \$262,452 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year with \$106,000 of this amount appropriated for Non-personal Expenses, and

WHEREAS, there was a budget referendum in October 2008 that had not been anticipated in the original budget. The cost of this referendum was approximately \$43,000 including \$1,180 to move the election scanners, \$5,050 for ballots, \$24,405 for poll workers and \$4,600 for telephone and fax lines and \$8,000 in special pay for scanner maintenance and oversight, and

WHEREAS, most of the costs of the referendum were paid from the non-personal budget of the Registrar of Voters, and

WHEREAS, all of the original \$106,000 has been expended as of April 3, 2009 and additional non-personal costs are anticipated for the remainder of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the Contingency Account of the General Fund has available funds that can be transferred to the budget of the Registrar of Voters to cover these future costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD THAT THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 GENERAL FUND BUDGET IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

REDUCE APPROPRIATIONS:

01-910200-10201-4052 CONTINGENCY \$30,000.00

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

01-140100-10202-2070 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$30,000.00

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, would you mind addressing this?

Mr. Van Winkle: Absolutely. Through you, Mr. Mayor. The \$30,000 transfer is to deal with a shortage in the Registrar of Voter's account. They did not budget for a second referendum in October of 2008. The referendum in October of 2008 cost approximately \$43,000. We were waiting to see how they stood in their budget before we gave them an actual appropriation. This \$30,000 should, along with some savings they've been able to do in their budget, should make them whole for the rest of this year.

President Slifka: Thank you Mr. Van Winkle. Anyone else? Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 15, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #15: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROVING APPLICATION FOR AN EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (JAG) GRANT FOR \$113,418

ADOPTED AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police is eligible for an Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant in the amount of \$113,418 and

WHEREAS, the Town's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 includes no funds for police vehicles, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Town Council directs the administration to consider fuel efficiency relative to the vehicle's intended purpose and to report back to the Council on the results, and

WHEREAS, these cruisers will be assigned to the Department's fleet of Patrol Division units and will replace vehicles with mileages ranging from 65,000 to 83,000 miles, and

WHEREAS, because Patrol district cars average 50,000 miles per year, these cars will attain odometer reading of 115,000 to 138,000 before year's end if not replaced, and

WHEREAS, lower-mileage cars spend more time in service and less time undergoing maintenance or repair, provide better performance, comfort, and appearance, and yield higher prices upon re-sale, and

WHEREAS, the JAG funds will allow purchase of five cruisers at an estimated \$23,615 per unit, and will leave a local match of only \$4,657,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby approve application for the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Brennan, discussion? Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Van Winkle. I apologize.

Mr. Van Winkle: This is part of the stimulus money, one of the grants that we're receiving through that program. The justice money was there not to supplant existing spending but to supplement it. Because of the recession and the budget problems we are having we haven't purchased police cars in a couple of years. Our cars are going to run close to \$50,000 some of them this year and so we do need to pay attention to that. That would come up in our budget next year without question. We were able to get this \$113,000 to buy five new American-made Crown Vics to replace high mileage cars and our existing cruiser.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Mayor, so this topic is another one that came up in the context of Public Safety that Mr. Coursey chairs. We had a couple of questions surrounding it and I think it's important to start with that I think it's very important that we do replace these cruisers, that we when we have the opportunity and thankfully with some stimulus money that we take care of our vehicles that are the ones transporting our public safety officials, our police. We asked some questions in the context of that public hearing surrounding energy efficiency and whether those were factors taken into account and trying to tie this back to the recently adopted Comprehensive Energy Plan that this Town Council adopted. In that plan there was a section on vehicles that covered sort of soup to nuts on vehicles. The theme of it was that we were going to take a step of not just converting every vehicle to a hybrid. That would be a mistake. In fact, that was a discussion that Ron Van Winkle, you and I had. The better suggestion was to try to reduce our fleet as much as possible to save money but also to reduce emissions.

Now, again these cruisers need to be replaced. They're serving a very important function with our police officers. They need to work well. They need to be safe. But in asking those questions I wasn't entirely convinced that fuel efficiency was taken into account

and I think back to actually the beginning of our campaign and Mr. Davidoff, you and I were in the same debate. We talked about energy efficiency and when you were on the Council in Newington noted that the vehicles there use I think it's compressed natural gas as a way to just kind of get ahead of the curve and to save some money. I agreed with that point, that generally speaking we should take into account energy efficiency so having said all that what I'd like to do is offer an amendment that would apply both to this resolution and to the one following. The concept is to delete in the context of this resolution references to the Crown Victorias and the follow-on language in the last recital and instead to direct the administration to consider fuel efficiency relative to the vehicle's intended purpose and to report back to the Council on the results. Very specifically though, we're not directing something specific. I don't want to micromanage. I don't want to say specifically that we should have hybrids but having said that I do want to note that having just done a quick Google search, places like Aspen, Colorado have Ford Escape hybrids. Westwood, New Jersey the same thing. But sort of more strikingly, New York City, the NYPD Blue will be deploying 100 hybrids this year. Ten of them are SUVs. They're the I think the Tahoes or the Yukons. So in the context of the art of the possible it has been tested in other municipalities. New York's finest is doing it. I'm sort of more proud of West Hartford's finest. I think we can do that or better so I would like just to have the administration consider it and get back to us so that's the motion.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded so we're on the amendment. Anything further? Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Question here. Through you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Van Winkle, so the \$113 was part of the stimulus offerings that we received from the fed?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes.

Councilor Adler: And if based on your comments of \$50,000 per vehicle I think we're short about \$150,000 if... Excuse me. Yeah, let me strike that. Let me back up. Okay. Bear with me.

President Slifka: Okay. Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Are we still in discussion?

President Slifka: For the amendment. Yeah.

Councilor Visconti: Ahem. Excuse me. I haven't done Google searches to find any of this information. I'm a little lagging on this but I did mention something I think at the last Town Council meeting about rechargeable stations possibly in our garages and I'm not sure if the Town Manager's been working with Northeast Utilities or how that is progressing and I don't know the answer but I'm wondering can we make this broad enough that there possibly could be not just hybrids but something in the future where

because the police cruisers are in garages in our center that we elaborate it to full body of...

President Slifka: I don't want to speak for Mr. Brennan in case I'm wrong but I believe the intent of his resolution was to be open to any technology.

Councilor Visconti: It's going to be anything?

President Slifka: He wants fuel efficiency to be taken into account but that does not mean that we may not reach a conclusion that the Crown Vics that were originally proposed would actually end up being purchased. It's just that...

Councilor Visconti: So it will be anything. It will be anything.

President Slifka: That would be. Yeah.

Councilor Visconti: Okay.

President Slifka: Correct?

Vice President Brennan: Correct.

President Slifka: Mr. Coursey?

Councilor Coursey: Yeah, just quickly I want to thank Mr. Brennan for his diligence on this. I know earlier I talked about the work he's done on promoting clean energy. This is just another fine example of your very valuable member of the Public Safety Committee as is Mr. Adler and I appreciate both of your input at the meetings but I thank you once again cause this is excellent work.

President Slifka: Okay. We're still on discussing the amendment and if there's nothing further all those in favor to the amendment? Those opposed? Motion carries. We return to discussion on the resolution as a whole now as amended. Is there any further discussion? Okay, if not I'd just like to thank those on the Public Safety Committee but mostly point out that thanks to our administration and the Police Chief and his direct reports and quite often actually it's the front line officers who have discovered we've learned through Mr. Verrengia, discover the existence of these grants. I do not know who the father or mother of this idea was but I am...we're very pleased to have it and we thank everybody for getting behind it. It's... I mean, the point of this is we're adopting some... We'd be able to... This has allowed us to get some equipment that we cannot afford to buy on our own these days whether it's hybrid or otherwise. Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Move to 16, Mr. Brennan

ITEM #16: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROVING APPLICATION FOR A RECOVERY ACT: EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FORMULA PROGRAM: LOCAL SOLICITATION FOR \$75,000

ADOPTED AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police is eligible for an Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant in the amount of \$75,000 and

WHEREAS, the Town's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 includes no funds for police 'Traffic Calming' enforcement measures, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department proposes to use JAG funds (\$30,000) to purchase one (1) 'soft' unmarked police cruiser to be used to support 'Traffic Calming' enforcement measures, and

WHEREAS, this cruiser will be assigned to the Traffic Division/SID and will replace an old, aged, high mileage (250,000) 'soft' cruiser, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department proposes to use JAG funds (\$20,000) to outfit the acquired 'soft' cruiser with lights, siren, an in-car camera system, mobile data terminal, radio system, miscellaneous related equipment, and an innovative laser system capable of determining a time/distance/perception-reaction formula to enforce tailgating driving practices, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department proposes to use JAG funds (\$25,000) to support police Traffic Division overtime initiatives related to 'Traffic Calming' enforcement efforts, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council directs the administration to consider fuel efficiency relative to the vehicle's intended purpose and to report back to the Council on the results,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby approve application for the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Verrengia: I second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. I just want to make sure everybody has the right document. There was a... There is a... There was a substitute that had been possibly proposed at one point in time that was never act...that was withdrawn so you're back to the original resolution. You've got that. Okay. Mr. Brennan, did you want to...

Vice President Brennan: Sure...

President Slifka: Or Mr... Sorry. Mr. Van Winkle. You were first.

Mr. Van Winkle: Okay. Through you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you. This is again stimulus money. It's just a different formula and a different way it's given to us. This \$75,000... Both of these are resolutions to approve an application. We don't have them...the grant yet. We need to make the application although these are grants we would expect to receive this money for. This is different than the previous one. This is to purchase a soft unmarked police cruiser. Now the number we're dealing with here is for one and it's \$75,000. When we purchase a new car, not a replacement car, all of the equipment that goes into an officer's car is substantial and so as a new cruiser comes in we pull all that equipment off and put it on the new car. In this case this is to purchase this soft unmarked cruiser along with all the equipment that would go with it and some overtime hours to use it. It is going to be used in a traffic safety, traffic calming way. It's going to have some technology to help us better regulate areas where we see accidents...where we see tailgating, being able to measure some things. This is a car that's going to be out there looking at areas where we have high accidents, speeding, what not. It's a significant problem as we talked about earlier and this car will be specially set up to be able to do that surveillance and be able to identify those cars that are acting in an aggressive or unwise manner and be able to pull them over for that purpose to give them a warning or a ticket.

President Slifka: Thank you Mr. Van Winkle. Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just to point out that the existing cruiser has 250,000 miles on it which is...which is amazing and kudos to those who take care of that car. It does need to be replaced though. I would like to offer the same amendment to the previous resolution which is in this case just to tack it on to direct the administration to consider fuel efficiency relative to the vehicle's intended purpose and to report back to the Council on results. That's a motion.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Any discussion on the motion... I'm sorry, on the amendment to the motion? Okay. Seeing none, all those in favor of the amendment? Those opposed? Okay the amendment passes. We're back to discussion of the resolution as a whole. Is there any further discussion? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Through you to the manager. Can I get a better understanding as to what is meant by the traffic division overtime initiatives compared to being able to do it during regular time?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, thank you. I'm going to ask Jim Strillacci our Police Chief to come up. He's sitting in the back of the audience and has been instrumental in putting this program together so he's coming up to the podium.

Chief Strillacci: Good evening. Lieutenant Dave Dubiel who put this package together – he’s our traffic lieutenant and credit goes to him for this. There’s a short deadline on these stimulus grants and we needed to have something the enforcement equivalent of shovel ready and Dave did have a package that he had put together in response to the Traffic Calming Study that this Council did a year or so back so he did have some ideas on paper that we were able to mold into the format required by the feds. What we have is really three parts here.

One is for the car itself and Mr. Van Winkle described it as a soft unmarked car as distinguished from the typical detective car that looks like a cop car but it doesn’t have any markings on it. This is going to be different shape and size. It’s not going to look like a police car. It’s not going to have exterior markings. It will have lights that will be subdued and when you turn them on you’ll see them. When they’re off you won’t see them.

It will have the usual array of police equipment in it – a radio, a laptop computer for communication with headquarters and reporting. It will also have a video system that will enable the operator of the cruiser to document aggressive or unsafe behavior on the part of the target vehicles. Additionally it will have a gadget, let me call it that for lack of a better term, which measures distances between cars. It’s a laser system connected to a computer and it does calculations on speed, distance between cars and reaction time in order to demonstrate that the car is too close. It’s what we call tailgating, following an unreasonable distance behind. Either you’re too close for your speed or you’re going too fast for the distance, either way. It’s a time/distance calculation. Probably hard to do mentally for a police officer, even a well-trained one. The rule of thumb that they teach you is...in driving school is strive for five. Keep five seconds between you and the guy ahead of you. If you’re anything under two you’re too close so this will not only measure it, it will document the distance and the speed of the car and enable us to cite and prosecute aggressive tailgating which is a major cause of accidents, especially rear-enders.

The third leg of this is enforcement hours. This is to enable additional enforcement time above and beyond the regular hours of the officers. Now depending on how much the other stuff costs us we’ll apply whatever is left over from the grant to have officers work extra shifts deploying this car to do enforcement details on targeted areas where we’ve had high accident experience or high complaints of improper driving. We have X number of officers to go around. We’re currently 10 short. It would be nice if we could hire more officers and put them out there but what we have is what we can use so we’re going to hire those same officers more times to do more enforcement with the additional monies from the grant. I hope I answered the question.

President Slifka: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you very much.

President Slifka: Thank you, Chief. Oh, don't go yet. Mr. Visconti's got something for you.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. Through you, Mr. Mayor. Chief, a couple of questions for you. Are we doing this procedure now at all with the old cars?

Chief Strillacci: We have unmarked cars that we will sometimes put out for observation. Generally we don't do the moving violations with them. We'll put them in a stationary position and team them with other cars or other officers to catch the targeted car. We'll have a spotter say at a traffic intersection where we're looking for red lights or looking for other violations and they'll call in a violation or if he sees a no seat belt or a cell phone going by they'll call it in. That's what we use the soft car for. We don't have any equipment now to do the special things we want to do with this new car.

Councilor Visconti: I see. Next question... Well, one more question. How many years has it been that we've been down 8-10 police officers and what's the holdup of hiring new police officers beyond money?

Chief Strillacci: It's not just money.

Councilor Visconti: Is it hard to get?

Chief Strillacci: It is. There are a number of factors that are involved. One of them is demographics. I came on as a member of the baby boom generation. There were a lot of people when I was in my 20s that were the same age group. That has passed. The 20s and early 30s cadre is a smaller segment of the population. Part of it is economics. Until recently there was high employment and people were working elsewhere and making more money. That's liable to change now since the collapse of the economy. We have competition from the military. We're fighting two wars now. The military recruits from the same sort of folks that we look at – people who are disciplined, motivated, service-oriented, physically fit and young enough to do the job. There is competition among other law enforcement agencies. Most agencies are short of help. Part of the reason that it takes so long to get people up to speed once we hire them is the training is longer. I went to an academy graduation tonight. The kids coming out of the post academy now have been there for 22 weeks. When I graduated 33 years ago it was 8 weeks so there's more to learn in this job now. The training is much longer. On top of the academy training we have field training which I never had when I came on my job. It's 14 weeks of training in how to do the job here in West Hartford, our policies, our procedure, our geography, our radio codes, our reporting rules and regulation, etc... So it's a lot longer lead time before...between the time an officer is hired and the time he comes on the street. All those have compounded to make it more difficult to replace officers. You can retire with two weeks' notice. You... I think the last officer we hired replaced somebody who had retired 18 months previous so there's a built-in lag. We made some non-hires for economic reasons a decade or so ago, four officers. That set us back several years and we have never really caught up. I've had in my tenure of 17 years as chief I

think the last time I was caught up we were caught up once for a month and then we had another retirement so we were behind again.

Councilor Visconti: Are we actively now searching for police officers? Do we have any applications in?

Chief Strillacci: We done a number of rather forward thinking things as far as recruiting. We constantly recruit. We used to give a test every two years. We've cut back to a test annually. We've gotten to the point now where we test constantly. You can make an appointment, come in and take a written test and start on your list. We have outsourced our agility test regionally. We got together with other towns in the region decided instead of putting on an ability test where you had officers and HR people monitoring a run and push-ups and sit ups and things of that nature we have a commercial outfit that does that. Once or twice a month they'll do a regional test. You go there. You pass your test. You get a card that's good in any of the regional departments and it's good for six months so if somebody's applying they don't have to test in five different places. They test once. They can take their card to five different P.D.s. It's more convenient to them. It's more convenient for us and we don't have to pay officers to stand around all day at the gym or at the track to monitor these things. We hired our own polygraph unit. Instead of waiting to get an appointment with a commercial polygrapher or the state police we bought our own poly. We've trained a number of our officers. Unfortunately we just retired one who became a police chief in another town but we do have another, I think he's still sitting in the back of the room, who is qualified to give a polygraph on demand for our recruits so we're doing a lot of things to try to stay ahead of the curve. Nonetheless the economic conditions, the competition and most important our own picky nature has kept us a little bit behind. We...we don't hire just anybody. We want to make sure if we give somebody a badge and they've gotten the power of arrest that they are worthy of it, that they're not going to abuse it. We throw back ten recruits for every one we interview. We want to make sure that we hire only honest, ethical, intelligent, service-oriented people and they aren't...they aren't very thick on the ground. It's hard to find good folks.

Councilor Visconti: Thank you. I just want to let you know your officers are great. My mom fell down the stairs and broke her arm and they were in my mom's house and making sure nobody came to the door. It was... I wasn't there. My sister told me. It was just an unbelievable experience in that time of pretty bad.

Chief Strillacci: I'll pass along your compliment. I hope she's doing okay.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you. Do you have anything further Mr. Van Winkle? Thank you Chief. Okay, with that we'll call the question. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to 17, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #17: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 26TH 2009 AT 7:20 P.M. IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services, provides tax credits to businesses making donations to programs sponsored by non-profit agencies through the Neighborhood Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to nominate certain programs for eligibility and consideration but, in order for a community program to qualify for the Neighborhood Assistance Act, it must first be approved by the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the Town Council to submit a list of approved programs eligible for business investments to the State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services by July 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, before the Town submits such a list, it is first required to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of hearing eligible proposals for the Neighborhood Assistance Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL that the Town Manager is hereby authorized to submit the Neighborhood Assistance Act Grant Application; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; that the Town Manager is directed to publicize the availability of this program and solicit proposals from community groups prior to this hearing.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we set for public hearing on May 26, 2009 at 7:20 in the Legislative Chamber.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries.

ITEM #18: ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Slifka: On announcements just a couple quick ones I've been asked to share. This Sunday, Elmwood Community Center and Senior Center will mark it's 30th year of serving the community with a special afternoon celebration on Saturday, May 16 from 1:00 to 4:00. Games, music, entertainment, crafts and free refreshments are there. Everyone is invited.

The Trout Brook Trail will open also and in conjunction with the other event on Saturday, May 15 at 1:00... No. That's... These are wrong. Is Saturday the 15th or the 16th? The 16th? Okay. This should have been the 16th. Sorry.

Also, on Saturday, May 16th at 1:15 P.M. following the proclamation recognizing the 30th Anniversary of the Elmwood Community Center the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the grand opening of the newest section of the Trout Brook Trail. It belongs... I'm sorry. It begins at the lower parking lot of the Community Center, winds through a wooded area and ends at Beachland Park.

I should have left this one for you, Mr. Van Winkle, but I guess I'll take it. No recycling bins. The Department of Public Works is currently out of recycling bins and do not expect any new ones in before July 1. The newer, larger capacity 18 gallon recycling bin may be obtained from the customer service desk in the Town Hall lobby.

And these two events also coming up this week so we want to announce them tonight. On this Friday, May 15th at 8:00 A.M. the West Hartford Police Department will hold it's annual ceremony recognizing the exceptional efforts of its police force and the citizens of West Hartford. That's right here in the Legislative Chambers of Town Hall. Thirty-four police officers and ten citizens will be recognized in a variety of categories and you can actually catch it on television if you happen to miss the actual event. Thank you to WHC-TV.

And last, but certainly not least, this Thursday the West Hartford Historic District Commission will recognize 12 people and/or properties at a ceremony here at Town Hall on Thursday, May 14th at 10:00 A.M. The preservation awards have been given since 1998 honoring people who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the preservation of the architectural character of the Town of West Hartford. They are given to home owners, commercial property owners, developers, architectural firms and preservation project team members and a thank you to the members of the West Hartford Historic District Commission for all their work. That is it.

Oh, the last. One more. Very important. The Memorial Day Parade occurs before our next meeting, Monday May 25th at 10:00 A.M. We will commence promptly at 10:00 A.M. we know on the corner of Woodrow Street and Farmington Avenue. At the conclusion of course is the annual brief memorial service held at the West Hartford Veteran's Memorial. We hope to see all of you there and that we have beautiful day. Are there any other announcements? Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think this Friday is the West Hartford Art League's 75th Anniversary.

President Slifka: Very good. Thank you.

Councilor Adler: Not bad. See? I'm on the ball here. Thank you. And as well as I think there's the Memorial Day Flag Placement on the 23rd.

President Slifka: You are correct.

Councilor Adler: See what I do for you? Okay. And that is it.

Councilor Adler: I don't know.

President Slifka: That was it.

Councilor Adler: Oh, oh!

President Slifka: 10:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M.

Councilor Adler: Yes. That's 10:00 A.M. versus 10:00 P.M. That is correct. 10:00 A.M.

President Slifka: 10:00 A.M. at the Parish Hall.

Councilor Adler: No, it's actually 9:00. It's actually 9:00 A.M.

President Slifka: The Flag... I'm sorry. The Flags start at 9:00 in the cemetery. The ceremony is at 10:00 in the Parish Hall at St. Peter Claver.

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

President Slifka: Thank you. Okay. We're up to Corporation Counsel. Do you have anything, Mr. O'Brien?

ITEM #19: REPORTS OF CORPORATION COUNSEL:

Mr. O'Brien: I do. Just very briefly I'm very pleased to report and I'm sure some of you have read this in the newspapers but the State Supreme Court unanimously upheld the Trial Court's judgment against CRRA in favor of the 70 mid-Conn towns with regard to the monies involved with the illegal Enron transaction. The court basically upheld every substantive ruling by the Trial Court. That the transaction was illegal. That CRRA had an obligation to refund the money to the towns as soon as it was recovered. The court also held that Judge Eveleigh acted appropriately by ordering a reduction of tip fees when CRRA attempted to do an end run around his ruling and recover the money that way so it's a complete victory for the 70 mid-Conn towns. It has two practical impacts for the Town of West Hartford. As you know, we had already received our share of the 36 million and I think our share was 1.5 million or thereabouts and I believe you adopted a three year phase in plan for that money so now we know that money will never have to be returned to CRRA.

The second thing is we still have Judge Eveleigh overseeing the CRRA budget so if there's any further attempt to try to, you know, recover these funds by the increase in tip fees or any other means we do have Judge Eveleigh to appeal to. He's backed up by this solid ruling by the State Supreme Court so it's a good victory for West Hartford and the other 70 mid-Conn towns. Other than that I'll be happy to answer any questions. No need for executive session tonight.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Excellent work on the CRRA case. Many of you may not know that Mr. O'Brien is a member of the small steering committee of counsel that oversaw the litigation with the private lawyers and he is a very key part of that team. Thank you for that.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you very much.

President Slifka: Are there any questions for Mr. O'Brien? Mr. Verrengia?

Councilor Verrengia: Mr. O'Brien, maybe for the next meeting I have a request that there's a lot of conflict right now between the MDC and the CRRA. I'm certainly not going to get into the details of it now but maybe you can touch base with both legal counsel to get your arms around what that conflict is and report back to the Council because it could down the road very shortly have some serious implications so rather than get into it now just kind of get an overview of where we're at with both sides and the potential consequences of that conflict.

Mr. O'Brien: I know exactly the issue you're talking about and I'll be happy to do so in two weeks when we're back together.

Councilor Verrengia: Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. Anything else for Mr. O'Brien? Okay. Thanks, Mr. O'Brien. We're up to Appointments. Mr. Davidoff has one.

ITEM #20: APPOINTMENTS: APPOINTED DOROTHY BOUVIER TO THE WEST HARTFORD/BLOOMFIELD HEALTH DISTRICT FOR A TERM ENDING MAY 11, 2012.

Councilor Davidoff: Yes, Mr. Mayor. It's my distinct privilege to move the appointment of Dorothy Bouvier to the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District for a term ending May 12, 2012.

President Slifka: Is there a second?

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. Second. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. No need for Executive Session so we are up to Item 29, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #29: CONSENT CALENDAR: ADOPTED

ITEM #22: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RE: 40 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 15 NEW STREET, 65 AND 85 MEMORIAL ROAD AND 75 ISHAM ROAD – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL.

ITEM #23: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RE: 1128 NEW BRITAIN AVENUE – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL.

ITEM #24: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RE: 176 NEWINGTON ROAD AND THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF JACOBS ROAD – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL.

ITEM #25: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL.

ITEM #26: FROM DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE: 1128 NEW BRITAIN AVENUE – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL.

ITEM #27: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RECENT PLANNING ACTION: 40 GIN SILL LANE AND 41 WETTLESAN AVENUE – HASS PROPERTY SUBDIVISION EXTENSION AND 111 MEMORIAL ROAD – RIZZUTO’S WOOD-FIRED RESTAURANT.

ITEM #28: MINUTES FROM WEST HARTFORD CENTER SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT 4-23-09.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

President Slifka: All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay. We’re up to Communications, Number 30.

COMMUNICATIONS:

ITEM #30: FROM MILA LIMSON, TOWN PLANNER, (5-1-09) NOTICE OF TOWN PLANNER’S INTENTION TO APPROVE MINOR CHANGES TO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 94-R1-09 ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT ON BEHALF OF ALDI, INC., FOR APPROVAL FOR LANDSCAPE REVISIONS AS WELL AS SITE AND UTILITY MODIFICATION

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: Any discussion? All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 31.

ITEM #31: FROM ROBERT J. MILNE (5-4-09) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING ITEMS 229, 230, 231 AND 232.

TABLED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we table.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Note that this is done at his request. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. There are no petitions. I would like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Vice Present Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Verrengia: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor? Those opposed? We're adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 P.M.

Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

/sab