

**MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 22, 2010 LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AGENDA No. 14**

President Scott Slifka called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

ITEM #2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Slifka: Can we have a roll call please, Ms. Labrot?

ITEM #3: ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Steven Adler, Tim Brennan, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Denise Hall and Scott Slifka.

Absent were Judy Casperson, Rob Durbin and Joe Verrengia.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. I'll just note that two of the absent, Mr. Verrengia and Mr. Durbin, ended up with last second work conflicts and Ms. Casperson had the death of a close friend unfortunately today. Okay, I'd like to entertain a motion to suspend the rules for the purposes of presenting a proclamation.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? There being none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries and I'm going to go to the podium and I'd like to call up Mary Hobart who is... Oh, I'm sorry. Oh, I apologize. Okay. We're going to hold that until 8:00. I'm sorry. I forgot about the time. We have a special guest coming and this is Mr. Adler's show so we will do it at 8:00 as he requested. Mr. O'Brien, can that suspension stand and we just call it back at 8:00?

Mr. O'Brien: Oh, yes.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you. Alright. We'll then go to #4, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice President Brennan: Number 4 is Approval of Minutes - Town Council minutes of 06-08-10, Public Hearing on 06-08-10 on Ordinance amending Section 30-24F of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of West Hartford Town of West Hartford Pension Plan. I move that we receive.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to the Public Forum. Mr. O'Brien, is there a sign up sheet?

ITEM #5: PUBLIC FORUM

President Slifka: Is there anyone who did not sign up who wished to speak to an item that is on the Agenda that is not the subject of a Public Hearing? Okay, seeing none we go to Reports from the Town Manager, Mr. Van Winkle.

ITEM #6: REPORTS OF TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Well, we've just finished an exciting few weeks. We had Celebrate. We had the Moving Wall out in front of Town Hall. I just wanted to acknowledge all those who were volunteers with our replica of the Vietnam War Memorial that was on our front lawn for four days. We had 120 volunteers who came here and helped us out. That whole project and everything was at no cost to the town. It was paid by funds raised by the Veteran's Committee and any number of people worked on this. Marjam Supply, a local lumber supplier, supplied all the lumber for the foundation out there. The Carpenter's Union, Local #43 came and they built that foundation with their workers for free. The West Hartford Police Department College Academy Class came and they're the ones who took it off the truck and assembled it and set it up and did all that. There were 20 college students who helped us. Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home brought 1000 candles for our candlelight vigil on Saturday night that was so wonderful. Any number of people...I could go on and on and I'm probably remiss but we had 11 color guards out there but people who really made a big difference. Obviously Rob Rowlson seemed to be out there for 24 hours a day the whole time and Renee McCue also worked really hard on this. Moe Fredette coordinated all our volunteers. John Eselunas was also out there all the time. Our original committee started with John-Paul Berard. It was actually his idea in a meeting that he said, you know, we should bring the Vietnam Wall here and we all looked at him going, "What? What's the..." So we were really excited. Ken Hungerford, Peter Lind, Pat Sinatro, Harriet Tenney, Vince Stryeski were all really important to that process out there. It was a moving evening every evening. We had an opening ceremony. We had a candlelight vigil. We had a POW MIA Ceremony every night. It was a very moving ceremony. If you had an opportunity to get there you really had a wonderful experience and I'm very proud to be part of a town that was able to do that for that.

We've had some wonderful things happen. You know the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. We've known them. They've been around for 85 years and their first grants they ever gave were to libraries and our West Hartford Library Foundation applied for a grant and received a \$30,000 grant for digital media at the library and this \$30,000 grant was really helpful because we received a challenge grant for \$10,000 from the Fisher Foundation that said we'll give you \$10,000 if you can raise \$30,000. We got \$30,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and \$10,000 from them so the library is

pretty famous now for raising money. Our librarian and the board of the library really works hard to bring dollars from the outside to help the library.

You saw in front of you... If I could just take that for a moment. We have... You know we have been named one of the top 10 communities in the nation by Kiplinger Magazine and there is a magnet for your refrigerator if you should like to do that. It costs a dollar. You can get it in the clerk's office and all the money will be going to the Town that Cares Fund to help needy people in the town of West Hartford so if you'd like to get one of those great magnets and put it on your refrigerator check in at the Town Clerk's office and you'll be able to pick one of those up. We're really quite proud of that.

At the same time the town is sponsoring a free workshop at 5:30 on June 22 for homeowners who are dealing with foreclosure. The workshop is to help that individual or that family go through the issues that they may be facing in foreclosure. The workshop, again June 22 at 5:30, will be here in Town Hall in room 400 which is on the fourth floor of this building and this is being sponsored by our Human Services Department to help people. There have been a number of these programs run around the community and as we see in our community and around the state foreclosure is still an issue a lot of people are dealing with.

On Saturday there was a dawn to dusk softball game at King Philip School. I understand, Mr. Mayor, you pitched, not dawn to dusk but...

President Slifka: We played in a... Mr. Brennan and I played in a game that was just after that but somehow related.

Mr. Van Winkle: Okay, somewhat related. Alright. Well, this was a fundraiser for the Miracle League that is trying to build that field for handicapped children and because of the dawn to dusk and the fundraising they did they received commitments for \$50,000 of funds to go toward that Miracle Field program so they're well on their way of getting that working.

That's really all I have tonight. If there are any questions I'd be glad to answer them.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Are there any questions for the Manager? Ms. Hall, go ahead.

Councilor Hall: Thank you. Mr. Van Winkle, I just want to add my own thanks to you and all of the staff of the town for doing such a wonderful job with the Moving Wall. I know the previous weekend had been Celebrate West Hartford. Everybody was out all weekend long, Public Works, and I had said to Rob Rowlson that I don't know when anybody slept because every time you showed back up at the town, you know, that Monday morning everything looked perfect and it was an incredibly moving experience being a part of that and I just want to thank you guys for embracing the idea in the first place and whole-heartedly, you know, putting all of our efforts into it and thanks to all of the volunteers that came out. They did a wonderful job. Every time I drove by there

were people out there. It didn't matter what time of the day or night there were people out there so I just personally wanted to say thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: Well, thank you. It was a great experience for all of us too.

President Slifka: Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Mayor, to the Town Manager. Since the last time we met on the Council some of us had an opportunity to attend a couple of events. One was the 50th Anniversary of the Senior Center which was spectacular. I know the Minority Leader and myself were there and Councilwoman Cantor was there. It was just a great event and a big turnout and I think we're doing just a great job with a lot of the activities around supporting the seniors from that perspective. It was very well-attended. The other one was the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon which if you had never attended one of those I'm amazed. I mean, we have at least 200-300 volunteers if not more within this town. Everything from delivering lunches, Meals on Wheels, helping people with remedial reading, things like that and, you know, it was just great. I mean, it's a lot of the behind-the-scene things that people really go the extra mile on so I want to thank you for that.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Anyone else? Okay. With that we will move to #7, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #7: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 11, 13 AND 19-21 TO RECEIVE.

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we place Items 11, 13 and 19-21 on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Seeing none all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay. We will move onto New Business, #9, Mr. Brennan.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #9: ORDINANCE (BRENNAN, SLIFKA) PROHIBITING OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES.

SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 27, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AND REFERRED TO TPZ AND CRCOG

WHEREAS the use of outdoor wood-burning furnaces has increased in Connecticut in recent years; and

WHEREAS these furnaces produce noxious odors and are prone to misuse by individuals who use materials other than wood as fuel sources; and

WHEREAS even if used properly, wood-burning furnaces operate at relatively low temperatures, produce incomplete combustion and unnecessary soot, ash and pollutants; and

WHEREAS far more efficient means of heating are readily available and produce much lower environmental impacts

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT Chapter 177 of the West Hartford Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by the addition of the following section thereto:

(New) §177-37.3 Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces.

Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces are prohibited in all zones. For purposes of this section, "Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnace" means an accessory structure or appliance designed to be located outside living space ordinarily used for human habitation and designed to transfer or provide heat, via liquid or other means, through the burning of wood or solid waste, for heating spaces other than where such structure or appliance is located, any other structure or appliance on the premises, or for heating domestic, swimming pool, hot tub or jacuzzi water. "Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnace" does not include a fire pit, wood-fired barbecue or chiminea.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we set for a Public Hearing on July 27 at 7:00 and refer to Town Planning and Zoning.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: This should also be referred for CRCOG because it's within 500 feet of the town boundary since it involves all zones.

President Slifka: We will add that to the referral. We did that. We got one.

Vice President Brennan: So moved. And it should have been for 7:00? Did you say that?

President Slifka: Yes. You got that. Mr. Adler?

President Slifka: Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: No, just to CRCOG. Capital Regional Council of Government.

President Slifka: Okay. If there's a cc referral that would come from the TPZ correct? We don't do that directly from the Town Council? Okay. Any discussion? Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Mayor, this is the beginning of a discussion on an ordinance that's meant to prevent something that happily we do not have in West Hartford and we hope we never do but others around the state have experienced these outdoor wood-burning furnaces so this ordinance is meant to prevent these mechanisms. They are like your furnace which ordinarily exists in your basement except some folks around the state have taken to building these furnaces outside the home. They look like a shed with a smokestack on it and they emit very, very noxious and toxic and carcinogenic particulates that obviously are bad for your health and the entire neighborhood but also have the effect of smoking people out of their homes. This is an issue again around the state that some have experienced that we've seen in the newspapers and such and it is not presently prohibited at a statewide level. I'm of the opinion that it should be but in the absence of that, especially in a community like ours and hopefully for others around the state I'm proposing that we move to prohibit them altogether. This, as we talked about just a moment ago, will be reviewed as part of our normal process for ordinances by the Town Planning and Zoning and who else?

President Slifka: CRCOG.

Vice President Brennan: And CRCOG. Thank you. And we'll come back here again and we'll have a fuller discussion and we can have people come in and talk to these issues. Some of the folks who have informed me on this have actually had very, you know, direct experiences and I even have a colleague at work who is one of the folks out in New Hartford who has been smoked out of his home by a unit next door and I'm told it's just one of the worst things in the world. So happily again we do not actually have this issue now but, you know, this is a matter of prevention rather than dealing with something in reaction so that's the idea and if any other people want to talk to it but those are my thoughts.

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

Mr. Van Winkle: I just would clarify so the audience understands. We're not talking about that stove you have inside your house that you throw wood in and it warms your house. This is a furnace that exists outside of your house. It's different than that wood-burning stove that many homes have in West Hartford already so it's not that. It's something entirely different.

Vice President Brennan: Actually, thank you very much. I had meant also to talk about what it's not. You're right. It's not what's inside the home. It's what's outside the home. It's also not, you know, fire pits that people have in their backyards. It's not chimineas but it's very specifically defined in the ordinance itself and again, these are...they look

like sheds. They have smokestacks on them. They are meant to provide heat to homes and that's what they are.

President Slifka: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Since the motion is to set the hearing date and the time what would be important for that Public Hearing would be whether or not we could get some type of data from the Building Department with respect to whether or not people in West Hartford have presented applications and whether or not there are existing structures. I think that would be helpful testimony to have in the record to make an informed decision. Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Van Winkle is noting that as we speak. Alright. If there's nothing further, all those in favor of setting the Public Hearing date? Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay, we're up to #10, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #10: RESOLUTION (SLIFKA) SETTING TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR JULY AND AUGUST.

ADOPTED SET FOR JULY 27 AND AUGUST 10, 2010

WHEREAS, the Town Council rules call for a single Council meeting in July and August; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the July meeting is set for July 27, 2010 and the August meeting for August 10, 2010 both at 7:30 p.m. in the Legislative Chamber, Room 314.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. The necessity of this is the fact that the Charter calls for just one meeting in the summer months of July and August as opposed to our two regularly scheduled meetings so the Council each year has to pick a date and survey when people will be around and we have settled on July 27 and August 10 per the resolution. Any discussion? Okay, seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to #12, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #12: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROPRIATING \$53,825 IN FEES RECEIVED FROM THE 2009 CT SWAT CHALLENGE.

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department SWAT Team hosted the 2009 CT SWAT Challenge held in August, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Town collected \$53,825 in fees from the participants and vendors, and

WHEREAS, the funds were deposited into a subsidiary account of the General Fund of the Town of West Hartford and are available for appropriation, and

WHEREAS, the Police Department incurred \$53,825 in expenditures hosting the 2009 CT SWAT Challenge, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD, that the fiscal year 2009-2010 General Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUES:

01-220405-20204-9298	\$53,825
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

01-220405-20204-2004	\$53,825
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Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, could you give us the background?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, the...

President Slifka: We've heard some but it's always nice to remind everybody about it.

Mr. Van Winkle: Absolutely. West Hartford runs what is called the Connecticut SWAT Challenge, Special Weapons and Tactics. Local police departments from all over the state, state organizations, regional organizations send teams that compete at our reservoir here in West Hartford. There is a shooting event, not at the reservoir. There are physical events at the reservoir. If you have a chance when they run it this year in August it is certainly worth seeing. You're going to see a team of people who are amazingly physically fit run a long and hard course carrying lots of weight, wading through deep water, crawling through mud, climbing over walls to compete in this. This event is funded through contributions each department gives and through donations from some supporting organizations and this year we received \$53,825 which we are appropriating to offset the cost to the Town of West Hartford for this event which is what that event costs the town so it's a great event. You should get out and see it this coming August and it doesn't again cost the town. This is funding that we received from the event to offset the costs that we incur.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. I'd like to share in your comments and single out Officer Rob Riccobon and the work he has done on this and to note that there's

a great number of efforts that go on within our Police Department that are generated by individual officers who might apply for a grant, who start up an initiative like this that started relatively small and is now one of the largest in the country, and we really appreciate their intuition on this. They're being very independent in taking it upon themselves to do this where they otherwise don't have to. These are all things that are outside the scope of their duties and they make us look great. Is there anything further on this? Mr. Adler and then Ms. Hall.

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Mayor, to the Manager. So basically the resolution is an official receipt of the funds for the \$53,000? That's the first question. And then you said a subsidiary account so is it going back into the general fund or is there a subsidiary that's dedicated to law enforcement expenditures?

Mr. Van Winkle: The answer to your first question is yes. When we do this we set up a subsidiary account to collect the cost of the event and this revenue goes into that subsidiary account to offset it says the accountant and economist I guess but that's how that works financially.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Mrs. Hall? All set? Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We go to #14, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #14: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROPRIATING \$2,100 IN DONATIONS FOR THE CREATION OF A WEST HARTFORD DOG PARK.

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, a Dog Park Coalition has been established to review the need for and the selection of a site for a West Hartford Dog Park, and

WHEREAS, this coalition has decided to pursue the creation of a dog park in Fernridge Park with the assistance of the Department of Human and Leisure Services, and

WHEREAS, the coalition has received donations from residents in support of their plan, and these donations are available for appropriation, and

WHEREAS, the coalition will continue to raise money with fundraisers and donations and will use these donations to create and maintain a dog park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD, that a Capital Project be established for the purpose of accumulating and expending these donations for a dog park. Additional appropriations will be made only to the extent that donations have been received by the Town. The fiscal year 2009-2010 Capital Project Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

ESTIMATED REVENUES

41-831060-80004-9340	Contributions	\$2,100
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APPROPRIATION

41-831060-80004-3037 Site Work \$2,100

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, I thought I'd just... I want to clarify to highlight what we're doing on the dog park. Normally this would fall to Mr. Verrengia. Unfortunately he couldn't be here tonight but there still seems to be a lingering question with some members of the public as to whether our pursuit of this is intended to cost town funds and that we had entered into the agreement to pursue a dog park specifically because the Dog Park Coalition had agreed to raise the funds and I wanted to, number one, reiterate that but then, number two, I thought we could highlight the fact that they are coming along and they have provided this donation to us that we would receive this evening.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. As you know the Dog Park Coalition is a private citizen group of volunteers in West Hartford who would like to have a place where dogs can run off leash. You're not supposed to take your dog off leash in our parks. They had brought this site to us probably a year-and-a-half, two years ago and we all talked about our own dogs here at the Council table. They have been working hard trying to identify sites. We've been taking a look at some of their suggestions and they have narrowed that down. They have been raising money and what we're actually receiving tonight is \$2,100 in donations that they have received which we are going to put up into a subsidiary account to accumulate that money so that these funds that are donated are not taxable. They're a charitable donation to the town. The intent here is that the town will not have an appropriation. Whatever cost they will incur to set up this dog park and this will be...the biggest issue will be the fencing that goes around it but there will be some other small issues - perhaps additional sidewalks to get to the area - but that will all come out of this fund that they're building. Right now I think towards the end of the summer they'll be before the Town Planning and Zoning Commission with a proposal for a site and hopefully in the fall we'll see the construction of a new dog park in West Hartford.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Anything further on this? Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. In the resolution it specifically cites Fernridge Park but, in fact, that's not actually decided on yet. Is that correct?

Mr. Van Winkle: That would be correct. The Dog Park Coalition in doing their study looked at numerous sites around the town, some privately owned, many publicly owned. The site that they would like to turn into a dog park is a portion of Fernridge Park. That cannot happen without a Public Hearing. It needs a... Any change to our parks needs a permit from our Town Planning and Zoning Commission. They have to have a Public Hearing and then they have to vote affirmatively for that change so that would be something that would come toward August, September, where we would have that

hearing, hear from the public, get that input and then the TPZ would make that decision as to whether that is the appropriate site or not.

Councilor Hall: So is it a little bit confusing to specifically talk about Fernridge in the resolution then?

Mr. Van Winkle: You would be correct because it is not Fernridge until it gets approved as Fernridge so we may want to take that out of there.

President Slifka: Well, I was looking at that. I'd only note that it says the coalition has decided to pursue the creation of a dog park and it says nothing about the town, nothing about the Council and that is their goal, that is their stated goal so I don't... I think if we state it on the record that, as Mr. Van Winkle did, this is the actual status of it. I know the Dog Park Coalition is aware of it and this doesn't by my reading establish any precedent that we've done anything more than what Mr. Van Winkle outlined. I'm comfortable with just keeping that it. I leave that to my colleagues.

Mr. Van Winkle: The intent of the resolution is to receive the fund and set it to account. It's not to identify a site or anything else. It's just receiving the \$2,100, setting it into account and reserving it for the future expenditures.

Councilor Hall: Mrs. Cantor?

President Slifka: You don't want to go? This is controversial. Mrs. Cantor, go ahead.

Councilor Cantor: In Community Planning in discussions we had with the Dog Park they really wanted to specifically identify a site because they felt that was the only way to effectively raise funds so the way it was presented in the resolution I think describes the position that they wanted to, you know, to present to the public on this particular site. Again, this is not a site until we deem it to be that appropriate site but it is the site that they have identified to raise funds for so...

President Slifka: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think it's important for the record to establish what the donor's intent is and I think the way that it's currently worded clearly states that the donor's intent of the fund is the creation of the park of the dogs in Fernridge Park and I really don't think that we would be doing something that would give the intent that that's got to be where the park is. I think it... We're just meeting what the donor's intent is and I think a lot of people who make donations often do it wherever the donor's intent is and that sort of coincides with what Mrs. Cantor says in terms of the ability to raise additional funds when people ask well, where is this dog park possibly could be located and here it says Fernridge Park but the resolution on it's face doesn't say that the Council is endorsing Fernridge Park so I would not support any amendment this evening to do that and without the dog park people present I really don't want to dismiss their intent. Thank you.

President Slifka: I don't see any other hands up, Mrs. Hall so just... Oh, wait! Is Mr. Adler going to rescue...

Councilor Adler: Dead air means I have to make a comment. So we're only talking about what? Twenty-one hundred dollars here total?

President Slifka: For now.

Councilor Adler: So... For now. So I definitely understand the Minority Leader's question or concern around it since we're still evaluating Fernridge and although they're focusing on Fernridge the point that I wanted to make to the Mayor's comment was this is the model so anyone who's thinking about, you know, where the support is coming from in terms of tax dollars the model here is that it's a self-funded private entity that is doing this along with...very similar to the Art League which I think is very successful in that respect so I think, you know, the wording here is... I mean, it is a little bit misleading in that we have not finalized it and frankly it's a little premature to even put Fernridge in since we haven't had a Public Hearing and it hasn't gone through the life cycle of TP&Z on the application so... I mean, I would just receive it and then just move on from here.

President Slifka: Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Well, I'm uncertain whether there's a live debate here after how you finished that but in any case, I guess I should chime in as well. I mean this is sort of procedural and technical and even legal but look, the way this is drafted there's four "whereas" clauses. Whereas is a recital. It's sort of telling a story of what happened and the background. We're only really resolving to one thing and that's the last paragraph which actually has no mention whatsoever of Fernridge in it so the resolution is just the last paragraph. The beginning tells a story. I mostly agree that this is a great effort by individuals from the community raising their money, getting together for a safe and healthy place for the dogs and letting them exercise rather than, you know, wreaking havoc in their homes or outside their homes so let's move forward.

President Slifka: Mrs. Hall, nobody's left.

Councilor Hall: Well, I'll just followup. I was just trying to point out not so much whether I'm for it or against it. I'm just looking at the clarity and not only from our perspective but from the coalition's perspective. I just want to make sure if somewhere down the line they identified some other site that they preferred, the fact that we had pointed out that this was Fernridge and this was where this money was going into... I just wanted to make sure there wasn't any...the way it was worded would restrict them from using these funds towards a site identified at any other place. That's all.

President Slifka: Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: No. No, it would not. You know, the "now therefore be it resolved" just refers to expending these donations for a dog park but there's no commitment to a particular location in that resolve.

President Slifka: Okay. We all had our say? Okay, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. I think the Gettysburg Address was shorter. All right. We now have two suspense items. I'd like to entertain a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign an application for a Library Services and Technology Act Grant for programs for people with disabilities from the State of Connecticut.

RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN AN APPLICATION FOR A LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT GRANT FOR PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, P.L. 104-208 (Library Services and Technology Act - LSTA) provides funds to stimulate excellence and promote access to learning and information resources in libraries for individuals of all ages, to promote library services that provide users access to information through electronic networks, to provide linkages among and between libraries, and to promote targeted library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, and capabilities, and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford wishes to use an LSTA "Programs for People with Disabilities" Grant to provide and facilitate access to information and resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD, that Ron Van Winkle, Town Manager of the Town of West Hartford, is authorized to sign on behalf of the Town of West Hartford a contract with the Connecticut State Library, State of Connecticut, for an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant in the amount of \$17,020, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD, that the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget of the West Hartford Library Fund be amended as follows:

Estimated Revenues

29-410509-40303-9058	Library Grant	\$17,020
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Appropriations

29-410509-40303-2070	Other Professional Fees	\$1,550
29-410509-40303-2007	Supplies	6,444
29-410509-40303-3235	Equipment	9,026

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, this was introduced by you.

Mr. Van Winkle: Well, there's not too much beyond what you see on that paper. This is a grant that we have applied for for a number of years and have been able to receive that from the state library. Again, it's on suspense because it's something that we need to move forward this month and need to move it before your next meeting so we'll make this application. We should receive this grant and it is a grant of \$6000 to preserve historic documents.

President Slifka: That's the second one.

Mr. Van Winkle: I'm sorry.

President Slifka: I'm talking about the... That's the next one. This is the one for \$17,020 for the LSTA Program for People with Disabilities.

Mr. Van Winkle: Oh, yes. I can do them both I guess at the same time. Again it's a grant that allows us to make an application for the improvements for accessibility at these facilities. It's again something that we're just lucky to be able to find these grants. We have staff members who go out and pursue them and approving this tonight allows me to sign it and get that application in so we can make that grant application.

President Slifka: Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: Just one thing. You do need to vote to suspend the rules to consider these two suspense items.

President Slifka: I apologize. So we'll withdraw the previous motion and entertain a motion to suspend the rules to receive the two items that are forthcoming.

Vice President Brennan: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you again, Mr. O'Brien. Okay, I again entertain a motion to suspend the rules...I'm sorry, entertain a motion to receive a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign an application for a Library Services and Technology Act Grant for programs with people with disabilities from the State of Connecticut.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. We've now had the discussion. We will substitute that discussion back in here. Is there any further discussion on the item? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. I'd like to entertain a motion to adopt a resolution appropriating a Historic Documents Preservation Grant from the Connecticut State Library in the amount of \$6000.

RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROPRIATING A HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford has applied for and been awarded a grant from the Connecticut State Library in the amount of \$6,000 for the purpose of historic documents preservation; and

WHEREAS, these funds are to be used for preservation of historic documents of the Town of West Hartford, Office of the Town Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford that the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 General Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Estimated Revenue

01-010101-40305-9134	Preservation of Historic Documents	\$6,000
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Appropriations

01-010101-40305-2004	Miscellaneous Administrative Expense	\$6,000
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Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Ms. Labrot, the Town Clerk, would you care to comment on this?

Ms. Labrot: Sure. This is an ongoing project that we're doing with our land records system. It will take our images back to 1990, which is 20 years, which will be great, so it's an ongoing project and our goal is to ultimately get 40 years of our back scanned images on our system and that will make it more valuable and then we can start charging for it.

President Slifka: Thank you very much, Ms. Labrot. Any further discussion? Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. It's just after 8:00. Mr. Adler are we a

go? Okay. So I am going to go to the podium and ask Mr. Adler to join me and ask if I could also have come up Mary Hobart, who is the Chief Development Officer of the American Relay League and Rick Liftig, well-known from his work at the Elmwood Business Association amongst other things. Okay. I'm shortly going to turn this over to Mr. Adler and our guests but we are proclaiming this...well, the general history regarding amateur radio here in West Hartford which, as I have learned quickly, is actually perhaps the history of this endeavor in our nation and this was a really neat thing Mr. Adler brought to our attention just a couple weeks ago and it's kind of hard to believe it flew under the radar here for so long with the attentiveness we like to have to local history but as I said I will just kick things off by reading the proclamation and turn it over to you guys.

WHEREAS, West Hartford and the surrounding communities have a unique place in the history of amateur radio serving as both the headquarters of the American Radio Relay League and the site of pioneering experiments in communications over the last century; and

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio has served to educate and train hundreds of thousands in communications technology; and

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio exists because of its basis in public service and its proven ability to communicate during emergencies and provide trained operators in emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management recognizes the ham radio organizations of Connecticut as an active communications resource; and

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Field Day Event began in 1933 and held each year thereafter bringing tens of thousands of licensed "Radio Hams" from around the world together using various modes of communication to include voice, Morse code, slow scan TV, and radioteletype; and

WHEREAS, when utility power is unavailable, telephone lines and cellular towers are rendered inoperable, Amateur Radio will always be there for emergency response, providing communication for government agencies and relaying messages for communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Mayor R. Scott Slifka, do hereby declare June 26-27, 2010 as Amateur Radio Field Day Weekend in West Hartford when "Radio Hams" test their skills and coordination of radio equipment and infrastructure readiness as a dress rehearsal for an actual emergency using portable radio stations with emergency battery and generator power.

Congratulations.

Ms. Hobart: Thank you.

President Slifka: And I will... We have several of these. Here's one for you, Mary.

Ms. Hobart: Thank you.

President Slifka: Dr. Liftig.

Dr. Liftig: Thank you.

President Slifka: And I will turn it over to Mr. Adler.

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just a couple of brief comments. First of all, it was a collective idea with Dr. Liftig as well as Mary Hobart, who is the Chief Development Officer for the American Radio Relay League and this idea came to us to have a proclamation a couple of weeks ago. We have a Field Day which Ms. Hobart or Dr. Liftig will get into in just a few months to talk about amateur radio but we talk about the Webster House and we talk about the very rich history that West Hartford has and we'll get into in just a few moments how rich the history is around amateur radio within West Hartford which I really think...we really think collectively should be recognized through his proclamation so we do want to thank you, Mr. Mayor, for that. I want to just pass around as the comments are being made... This is a couple of articles taken from some trade journals, what we refer to as QST Trade Journal, back in the 30s and this is also the history of the American Relay League which began on LaSalle Road and I will also pass out...and clearly I've got to get a life. I have a 1934 trade journal which...I need to get out of the house more often...of the... It's a monthly periodical but if you look at where it's tagged on the inside on the post-it you'll see LaSalle Road is the headquarters for the American Radio Relay League and there's some other fascinating things that the Dr. will do but once again, Mr. Mayor, thank you and I'll just pass it over to Dr. Liftig.

Dr. Liftig: Thanks, Steve. I want to say good evening to you, Mr. Mayor, members of the Council and the viewing audience. Thanks very much for tonight's proclamation and a very special thank you to you, Steve, for arranging this night. My radio call sign is WA1ISD and I've been licensed as a radio ham since 1967. I was a Star Trek fan and I dreamt at one time of holding a Star Trek communicator, which I now call my cell phone, and a Star Trek tricorder which I know is called a laptop and I never thought that the future would be now and what's amazed me is the future started in West Hartford, Connecticut. So it turns out this avocation of amateur radio that I enjoy is much more than a hobby. It's part of our West Hartford history, it's a career path and it's an international service club. Amateur radio began more or less around 1912 when the federal government began to license operators and it turns out Hartford was a very hot bed of radio activity because the spirit of Twain's Connecticut Yankee was still very much alive. It turns out our Connecticut Yankee as a fellow by the name of Hiram Percy Maxim. Maxim and his family had made their fortune in weaponry and his factory was in Hartford so Maxim had both the money and the spare time needed to become the preeminent radio amateur of the day. He founded the American Radio Relay League in 1914 and by 1931 the organization had 20,000 members and moved out of its office on Park Road...Park Street, rather, in Hartford to 38 LaSalle Road. The League's young staff

came from around the country and the world so they could be at the center of this exciting hobby and they needed a place to stay, which they found at the top of Selden Hill. In the spirit of New England thrift the Selden family had posted a sign on the main road advertising rooms for tourists and little did they know what they had bargained for. By dint of fast and persuasive talking two young League staffers convinced Mother Selden that she no longer wanted to take in tourists but that what she really needed at Selden Hill were regular borders - nice young men who spent their spare time tinkering with that modern mystery called radio. And from 1931 well into the 1960s the Hill was never the same. It was the perfect vantage point for antennas and experimentation and since the Selden property at that time was farmland, there was a steady progression of League staffers placing exotic antennas and wire arrays. Now they were experimenting with frequencies that paved the way for radar, television, FM radio and radio control. Virtually all...and really, virtually all of our modern communication techniques derive from these experiments and it was right here on Selden Hill in West Hartford. In 1963 the League outgrew its space on LaSalle Road and moved to its present building at 225 Main Street in Newington, which is still only a few hundred yards from the West Hartford town line and it is now an international destination. There are 722,000 hams in the U.S. and about 3 million worldwide. When I became a ham operator I was attracted by the gadgets, the arcane electronics and the excitement of speaking to people around the world in a common language and I was constantly reminded by my mentors though that ham radio existed for something else and it was public service. At age 13 I really didn't have any concept what public service meant and as I gradually learned, one of the reasons we were playing around with portable rigs and battery power and remote locations was to prepare us for times of disaster and emergency. When the unthinkable occurs, the only communications available besides government frequencies is through amateur radio. A volunteer organization like the Red Cross has to depend wholly on ham operators. Just imagine being in the middle of a Hurricane Katrina. No power, no cell phones, no internet, no land lines and there's a massive emergency. How do you even talk to somebody a mile away? We are totally dependent on communication in this society. When your cell phone doesn't work, when there's no power and it's an emergency ham radio will and does get through. As Steve mentioned, this weekend is a very important weekend for my hobby. Every year we hold a contest devoted to emergency preparedness and the whole point is to communicate from remote locations using emergency power sources and at this time it is with great pleasure that I introduce you to one of our famous ham operators. Mary needs very little introduction. You've seen her in her volunteer job as a spokesperson for CPTV and UConn Women's Basketball but her day job is Director of Development at the American Radio Relay League and it's an honor to have you here tonight, Mary, and I personally would like to thank you for all the work you've done for both women's basketball and amateur radio.

Ms. Hobart: Thank you very much. Thank you. Mr. Mayor and members of the Council and guests, it is my please to be here. Thank you very much and my special thanks for this proclamation. It's not often that we have such important partners living right in our back pocket and West Hartford certainly played a key role when the flood of 1936 wiped out our station, the Hyrum Percy Maxim station. Over on Brainard Road there is actually a Maxim Road over there. We looked for a new site. We bought the Star Farm in

Newington but we had to have a place to live, we had to have a place to work and West Hartford came to the fore and so we're very grateful. We probably wouldn't be where we are today if it were not for the partnership between the American Radio Relay League and West Hartford. We are on the cusp of celebrating a centennial. Not too many organizations in the country can say that. Perhaps the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts rather and the Red Cross and we're proud to be one of those who has been in existence in this country for almost 100 years. Those years have been peppered, as the doctor mentioned, with inventions. It was something that the Maxim family was famous for - things like the silencer and wonderful firearms techniques. But we also have hams who invented the radar detector and the VCR and other things that people do when they tinker in their garage and their basement and say, "I wonder what happens if I put these two pieces together?" And sometimes, like Joe Taylor, K1JT, who was the former Dean of Students at Princeton, who when he and his brother were 13 knocked the chimney off their farmhouse in South Jersey because they were tinkering with electronics so it really is an amazing history. I am a new ham. I was licensed in 2002. I joined the American Radio Relay League right after 9-11 and in my first months there I learned very quickly about the value and the dedication of ham radio operators, particularly to public service. We are unique because folks will say, "Well, gee, aren't you guys CB?" No, we're not because we're licensed by the FCC. We all carry federal licenses and we have to pass an examination and that includes the rules of the road and what you do and what you don't do in addition to things like antennas and propagation and capacitors and inductants and all that mystery...the scientific mysteries. But we do... If you look at the FCC regulations it says number one, you will provide public service. It's our number one reason for being and frankly it is one of the things that the public understands better than anything else. We can talk about all the things that the doctor and I are familiar with that may not mean anything to anybody who's listening tonight but it does mean something if your business, your home, your family, your lifestyle is protected and the doctor pointed out to what happened during Katrina and that was probably one of the times when the American Radio Relay League National Office really got involved. Most public service takes place at the local level. They say all politics is local. You're a perfect example of that. And most amateur radio public service is local as well but in that particular case we had to pull a task force together. We pulled together industry and volunteers and other organizations like the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, etc..., to try to meet the absolute crying need that was taking place in the New Orleans and in Texas and in Florida - the entire gulf coast with three hurricanes that hit within a month relied on amateur radio. Fifteen hundred operators from all over the country traveled on their own nickel to go down to the Gulf Coast. Ham radio operators may not be paid to operate their radio. They must by definition be a volunteer so when you see someone with a crazy looking radio or a crazy looking antenna on their car or maybe a hard hat with an antenna on top you'll understand that they really enjoy what they do. They have a great deal of fun. They talk to people all over the world. They have contests. They do crazy things. They travel all over the world to operate but most importantly, and we hope it never happens in West Hartford, we hope it never happens in Newington. I happen to live in Wethersfield and a year ago this weekend a tornado took a 150 foot oak tree off my front lawn and decimated homes in Wethersfield so we felt the pain perfectly and understood the panic that takes place. Hopefully it will never happen here but that is our hope and I hope that

in some small way some of the folks of West Hartford who don't know anything or didn't before tonight know anything about what amateur radio is, it's not because we're amateurs. It's simply that we don't get paid like professionals but trust me when I tell you that every ham operator that you meet has worked hard for his license and is dedicated to serving his community, keeping them safe no matter what happens. I thank you very much for the proclamation. I invite you all to come out and visit Field Day...hopefully it won't be as hot as it has been...and find out what's going on. You'll find some fascinating things and especially kids operating their radios. Thank you very much.

President Slifka: Thank you very much, Mary. I think the folks at home have been a little confused. Since you've been up there we've received several calls donating money to CPTV.

Ms. Hobart: (*Laughter.*) Well, I could recite an 800 number if you have one but I don't want to muddy the waters.

President Slifka: We may have to bring you back but we wish you the best of luck with the weekend.

Ms. Hobart: Thank you.

President Slifka: And I know we had a presentation...kind of an interactive presentation we hoped to do. Perhaps Mr. Adler will be able to do it for us another time. He had told me about this in advance and sort of pitched it for the meeting and I found it... I have no background in the ham radio but I found it fascinating and I really appreciate the walk down our local history.

Ms. Hobart: Well, you're welcome to come and cross into the promised land into Newington and come and visit us and visit our...the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station that lives on our grounds and we'd love to see any or all of you there.

President Slifka: Thank you. Mr. Adler, back to you.

Councilor Adler: Yeah, just real quick and first of all, Mr. Mayor, I want to thank you again for taking the time on this. I've been a licensed ham since I was 12 and then I was re-licensed...see, you're hearing all the stuff out of the closet. Okay. So I know...I know there's a joke somewhere there so what's interesting is when I... I do have a station and when I do talk with people, you know, for example in Europe or, you know, Bosnia or, you know the Ukraine and so forth the old-timers will say when you tell them...because typically they want to know where you are, where you're from. Typically I've had a couple of old-timers say oh, West Hartford. Do you know that the American Radio Relay League was originally in West Hartford? And these are people across the Equator, across multiple time zones so it's a big deal so I know you guys are on the edge of your seat out there and people at home have already switched to CSPAN I'm sure but thank you. Thanks Mayor.

President Slifka: Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Thank you. First of all, I'm glad, Mr. Adler, that you actually are licensed to be a ham. Otherwise I'd be worried but this is a fascinating presentation. I'm just going to give some observations and be grateful to receive a piece of history that I knew almost really, really almost nothing about other than the fact, and I am from Newington so I like that promised land comment by the way as did Mr. Davidoff, but so growing up across the street there was a neighbor who all of a sudden erected a 50 foot tower and my father explained to me that, you know, this man is very important because he volunteers and he's an important part of this Relay League and I really didn't understand anything more than that other than that it's very, very important. He moved away and down came the 50 foot tower which none of us ever climbed but...but an amazing thing and we were going through...skimming as we were listening to some of the materials that you passed around and it's just fascinating so thank you for the history lesson.

President Slifka: Mr. Adler, I'm tempted to ask what did they think of Blue Back in Bosnia? Did they get their...

Councilor Adler: You are a very, very popular in a very small island out in Fiji. Slifka, you are a god out there, Mr. Mayor. Yeah, it's a population of 12 I think but...

President Slifka: Yes, I'll take that.

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

President Slifka: Thank you again, Mr. Adler. This was great. Nice departure from the usual night. We are on to Announcements and for those that are waiting in the audience for Communications we will get to those in just a second. I thank you for your patience.

ITEM #15: ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Slifka: June 23 at 7:00 P.M. "A Little Music on Wednesdays." This is a free concert in Blue Back Square from 7:00 to 9:00 featuring Memphis Soul Spectacular.

The next day, June 24 and then July 1 at 7:00 P.M. the Capitol Classics Shakespeare Festival - these are vignettes that are going to be performed again in Blue Back Square.

June 26 from 9:00 to 11:00 "Clubs for Kids" at Rockledge Golf Course. It's a free golf clinic for junior golfers. Each participant gets a free golf club. Tickets are available at the Leisure Services office in Town Hall or just stop by Rockledge or Buena Vista.

June 26 at 7:30 P.M. the West Hartford Community Theater presents "Broadway Melodies." The show is held at the Elmwood Community Center. Tickets are only \$12.00 and you can book online at whtheater.org.

June 29 at 7:00 P.M. begins the Gazebo Concert Series. Bring your lawn chair and relax to the music of the Klezmer from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. at the gazebo at the Elmwood Senior Center. It is free. In case it rains the location will just move inside to the Community Center.

June 30 at 7:00 P.M. Race Matters, a film and discussion series. There will be a film screening of the documentary "Good Hair" by Chris Rock, the comedian. This is sponsored by the West Hartford Initiative on Racial and Ethnic Diversity known as WIRED and this will be held at the Faxon Branch Library.

Another "Little Music on Wednesdays." June 30 at 7:00 P.M. again a free concert in Blue Back. It's from 7:00 to 9:00 featuring the Glamour Girls.

Then another exciting thing. We had an event on this just a few weeks back. Hartford Stage, they were here for an announcement at a recent meeting. They are temporarily in town for the summer and they will be presenting from July 6 to 11 part of their Broadway Legends Series - An Evening with Ben Vereen. This takes place at the Roberts Theater over at Kingswood-Oxford School. They've already had Elaine Stritch perform. There is Chita Rivera. That's going on next week and it will be closing with Mr. Vereen. Contact the Hartford Stage for tickets.

And last but not least the Playhouse on Park is completing this week a run of a very exciting show called "The Last Five Years." Tickets are available for the shows that are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and a Sunday matinee. And then the following week an exciting new development there - they will begin... It's an actual debut of a show called "The Parkville Project." It is based on our own Parkville section of Hartford written by local people and it should be a really interesting event for our local theater so there's a lot going on but please try to support our local entertainers.

Are there any other announcements. Mr. Adler, that was a big list. I'm hoping I covered it. Thank you. Okay, we will then go to Reports of the Corporation Counsel, Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM #16: REPORTS OF CORPORATION COUNSEL:

Mr. O'Brien: We have no need for Executive Session and I'll be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have.

President Slifka: Are there any questions for Mr. O'Brien? Okay, seeing none we move to Appointments.

ITEM #17: APPOINTMENTS: APPOINTED DENISE HALL TO FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND STEVEN ADLER TO HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. ALSO APPOINTED DAVID A. DEBASSIO A MEMBER OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING 12-31-2013 AND JOSHUA SMILOWITZ AS

ALTERNATE TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A TERM ENDING 12-31-2015.

President Slifka: I'd like to entertain the appointment of the following: David DeBassio as a member of the Parks and Rec. Advisory Board for a term ending 12-31-2013 and Joshua Smilowitz as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending 12-31-2015.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay, then I have two other...two internal appointments just to announce. I announce that Denise Hall will be appointed to the Council's Finance and Budget Standing Committee and Mr. Adler will be appointed to the Human Services Standing Committee. Both of those appointments are to replace Mr. Davidoff's spot on those committees. Okay. No need for Executive Session. We go to Consent Calendar, #22, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #22: CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President Brennan: I move that we place Items 11, 13 and 19-21... Actually, we've sort of already done this. I move that we adopt the Consent Calendar. It's always redundant.

ITEM #11: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) TO CLOSE COMPLETED BLUE BACK SQUARE CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2004 the Town Council adopted an ordinance making appropriations aggregating \$48,821,543 for town projects and public improvements related to the Blue Back Square project and authorizing the issuance of \$48,821,543 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations, and

WHEREAS, the planning, acquisition and construction of the town projects and public improvements included in this ordinance are substantially complete and the Town wishes to formally close said projects, and

WHEREAS, some of the projects have a remaining unexpended balance that will be transferred to the Blue Back Square Fund to be used for debt service on the Blue Back Square bond issuance or improvements to the Blue Back Square projects in accordance with the original bond ordinance, and

WHEREAS, each of the three Blue Back Square public improvement projects has a retainage balance resulting from the withholding of funds for work that was not completed by BBS and which the Town has agreed to finish,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby close the following Blue Back Square capital projects and transfer unexpended balances totaling \$365,096.51 to the Blue Back Square Fund to service debt or fund other costs associated with the Blue Back Square development:

<u>PROJECT</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
880601	Town Hall	\$334,348.83
880603	Senior Center	-
880605	Probate Court	-
880607	Library	<u>30,747.68</u>
	TOTAL	\$365,096.51

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby close the following Blue Back Square public improvement capital projects and authorize the transfer of retainage balances totaling \$109,261.68 to the Reserve for Capital Projects account in the Blue Back Square Fund to complete pending work relating to the original improvements:

<u>PROJECT</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
880611	North Garage	\$21,312.00
880613	South Garage	18,750.00
880615	Public Improvements	<u>69,199.68</u>
	TOTAL	\$109,261.68

ITEM #13: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROPRIATING \$2,500 RECEIVED FOR THE KIDPRINT PROGRAM TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION OF THE WEST HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department offers child identification kits with fingerprints and pictures of their children to parents using the KIDPRINT Child Identification Program and receives donations for this service, and

WHEREAS, the Town has collected \$2,500 of these donations, and

WHEREAS, the funds were deposited into a subsidiary fund of the Town of West Hartford and are available for appropriation, and

WHEREAS, the funds will be used to replace equipment related to the KIDPRINT Child Identification Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD, that the fiscal year 2009-2010 General Fund budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUES:

01-220105-20409-9340 \$2,500

INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

01-220105-20409-2295 \$2,500

**ITEM #19: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RE:
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A UTILITY
EASEMENT WITH AT&T – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL.**

**ITEM #20: MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PHYSICAL
SERVICES COMMITTEE 06-08-10.**

ITEM #21: MINUTES FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 06-09-10.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded.

Vice President Brennan: More or less.

President Slifka: All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. I'm going to return to #17. There is one appointment that I failed to announce. It just requires just an announcement... is Denise Hall also going to the Committee on Ethics, again replacing Mr. Davidoff on that committee. Communications now, Mr. Brennan?

COMMUNICATIONS:

**ITEM #23: FROM NICK ADAMS AND FRIENDS (05-27-10) REQUESTING
PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING SKATE
PARK IN WEST HARTFORD.**

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. If I could welcome Nick and his friends to the podium. I had the privilege of meeting with Nick and his father a few weeks ago and I got a preview of this. We had a really interesting discussion and Nick is doing some real good research on this so welcome, Nick. The floor is yours.

Mr. Adams: Oh, alright. I came here tonight to talk about my idea of having a skate board park built in West Hartford. The reasons why I want to talk about this is because in the Town of West Hartford kids cannot skate a ledge, a rail or stairs without being kicked

out. There is simply nowhere to skate. No one wants to see kids on private property, city sidewalks and using curbs, railings and steps. It would be better for the Town of West Hartford to centralize this activity in one place. The streets are no fun because it is just a road and if you want to go to another skateboard park we have to get a ride from our parents. I already know there are three main issues that need to be addressed.

One is location. I know there are roughly 45 skate parks in Connecticut and out of the outdoor ones they are mostly built in public parks. In my opinion Beechland Park is a great place to have a skateboard park because of the amount of unused space. Also, Fern Park would be a great location because it's centrally located in the town. Remember, a skateboard park only requires less than one acre, roughly the size of a couple tennis courts and does not need to be fenced in.

The second issue is liability but I know that you can have a sign like all skate parks that says the town is not liable for any injuries.

The third main issue is money. The cost would be anywhere from \$30,000 to several hundred thousand dollars. The designs I looked at in some of the nearby towns or online have been built from \$30,000 to \$60,000. We have many ideas to raise a good deal of the money so the town does not need to pay for all the costs of the skate park. One idea is to conduct a raffle and raffle off some autographed boards and shoes. My parents would obtain all the necessary permits. We already have a couple distributors that are willing to send us some skateboards autographed by the pros for the raffle. We are also trying to contact some of the major shoe companies that are willing to help the cause. The raffle tickets could sell for \$5.00 and the goal would be to sell about a thousand tickets, making us about \$5000. Another idea is to sell some brick pavers for a sitting area at the skate park. The sitting area would be approximately 10 feet x 20 feet using a total of 1200 bricks. People that agree to buy the bricks would have their names engraved. The cost of the brick engraving is less than \$5.00. Twelve hundred bricks at \$15.00 a brick would bring in \$1800. The cost for all the bricks and engraving would be about \$6000, generating a net profit of \$12,000. In addition to those ideas we would ask all the local businesses to be a sponsor of the skate park. There could be three levels of sponsorship, gold, silver and bronze. A bronze level would cost \$25, the silver level would cost \$50 and the gold level of participation would cost \$100. We would also have a lot of our friend's parents have their companies make donations. We could get about 50 business sponsors at the bronze level, 25 at the silver and about 25 at the gold. That would add up to about \$5000.

In conclusion to the money issue we would make about \$22,000 from these three ideas but that's not all we would do. We would continue to come up with ideas that help raise money for the skate park. There are already some businesses that are willing to donate some materials or provide the labor for building the park. We can find plans of other skate parks online that would help us come up with a good design that fits the target budget. To help promote our idea and tell our story we would contact both print media and local television stations. We would also get a website up and running so other people can be informed of our cause and get involved. We have spoken to several large

companies that said that if the conditions are right they would be willing to get involved in both money and material. The time has come for a great community like West Hartford to provide a place for all townspeople to be able to skateboard in a place that's safe and legal. Please give us the go-ahead to get started so that a skateboard park can be built in the near future. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Nick. Would you like to introduce your partner?

Mr. Adams: Oh, this is Kevin.

President Slifka: Hi, Kevin.

Mr. Adams: We have two other people but they couldn't show up.

President Slifka: You want to share their names too?

Mr. Adams: Oh, Byron Soucy and Bobby Marconi.

President Slifka: Well, thank you, Nick and Kevin. We appreciate the presentation. As I said I had met with Nick a couple of weeks ago and I had told him that the Council had long wanted to put a skate park in town but in large part it's been a tough going for a few years and a big part of the problem was money and you can clearly see that Nick has taken that to heart and I credit him with putting together a very comprehensive plan. You've taken our words to heart and I had promised him that we would take that information and we will look at it here, perhaps get you before the Community Planning Committee which is the right committee. Mr. Verrengia chairs that. He's not here tonight but I'm sure he would echo those sentiments and we'll see what we can do but we really appreciate your initiative Nick and Kevin and to the other guys too.

Mr. Adams: Are there any questions?

President Slifka: Good point. Are there questions for Nick? Leon?

Councilor Davidoff: I have one question. How can we help you get this built before our term is over.

Mr. Adams: One way is well, we can...you can donate some money to help pay or...or help maybe for the...if we can't get like the materials or like the design or something that we may lack. Yeah.

Councilor Davidoff: Well you can count on my support and others I know in the community to help you. I think that this and the Miracle Field and the dog park are things that are going to make West Hartford more of a destination for families to live here in town and I applaud your citizenship this evening and the way that you exercised your constitutional rights and you were very proficient in your math calculations and I think

anybody watching would definitely want to rally behind you and support this and I'll definitely make you a contribution once you've got this thing up and running. Thank you.

President Slifka: Any other questions? Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: I have a quick comment. I think you've got a Davidoff paver probably, a raffle ticket, he has a business too so we'll sign him right up but I think we're all in. I think it's great. Question - what grades are you guys in?

Mr. Adams: Um, I'm in eighth and, um...

Vice President Brennan: Going...

Kevin: And I'm in sixth grade.

Vice President Brennan: Going into sixth and eight, right?

Mr. Adams: Oh no, I'm going into ninth. He's going into seventh.

Vice President Brennan: Ninth. High school. You guys are very impressive. That was an excellent presentation. Better than, you know, many we see. You were so organized. Other than those we've seen this evening, of course. But Councilor Davidoff is correct. If you want to get something done in this town you get people together, like you have. You need to get more people together. It's helpful if you can raise money. You've got an excellent plan for that and please do look to the examples that he stated. I was thinking the exact same thing. Folks are putting together the dog park. You can meet with them or see what they've done, look it up. What Little League is doing with that field that we've talked about. If you don't know about it it's pretty amazing. They're raising a lot of money and it's exactly the best thing you can do in a community so great job guys!

President Slifka: Thanks, Mr. Brennan. Mrs. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: Thank you. I also want to compliment your presentation. I thought it was really phenomenal and this is something that I really did want to see five years ago and three years ago and we...we have had difficult financial times and you addressed those issues. The liability has always been a concern too to many people and I don't...we obviously would have to research whether that sign really does prevent us from being at risk for any payment. I remember there was a discussion too on bikes being in the skate park versus just skaters and that's an important thing. Helen Rubino-Turko I think is also a wonderful resource. She was the woman who organized the Field of Dreams and started the...well, the soccer field fundraising and also all the soccer fields by the Colt, you know, the Colt part...Goodrich Field over by Charter Oak School so she would be a great person to talk to. I also want to make sure that you give us...if you can type up your, you know, your speech you gave to us, your presentation, and put your contact information on there. I also serve on the Community Planning Committee. I will give it to Joe and we

will arrange for a time to...with Mr. Verrengia...and we will arrange for a time for you to come before the committee and start the ball rolling. Okay? So thank you.

President Slifka: Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Mayor and I echo the same comments as everyone else. Nick and your team have done a great job. I'm on that committee too so I'll be looking forward to seeing you. It's very important... First of all, do you know Tony Hawk? Is he a skateboarder or is he just a... Okay, I just want to make sure we're on the same page. He's actually pretty cool so when it does get referred to Community Planning be prepared to be involved so your role is just beginning here in terms of the presentation but we would expect you and your team to really help us understand what a skate park is and what it's not, just like with the Dog Park Coalition so we're looking for ideas and also when taking into consideration potentially where we would put this how the rest of the community would feel about that so I think you've done a great job. Just a last question. Do you know anything about budgets or, you know, are you available like when... I'm joking with you so, okay. You did a great job. You're way smarter than I was. Thanks.

President Slifka: Perhaps they'd like to do some ham radio. (*Clapping.*) Thanks you guys. Okay. Okay. Thank you again to Nick and Kevin and we'll see you again soon. Number 24 on the Agenda has been withdrawn at the request of Ms. Schindelman so next is #25, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #25: FROM FRANCIS ARBUGLIO (06-04-10) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING SAFETY ISSUES TO BE MADE IN THE MIXED USE AREA WHERE HE LIVES.

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Cantor. Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Arbuglio, you have five minutes.

Mr. Arbuglio: Good evening, everyone. My name is Francis Arbuglio. I represent also my brother, Joseph Arbuglio. We both live at 31 Grassmere Avenue, West Hartford. The topic I have tonight is about the rat problem in this town. There's also a program they do in Manchester. I'll pass this packet around but they've got a great program that they clean up junk cars in town where these things don't multiply. We have numerous rats still in this town still because all of the junk cars in this area like garages and stuff and auto body places and stuff and where I live too. There's still rats down the end of the street. That hasn't been cleaned up at all. I don't... Even a lot of times when I go to the store down New Park Avenue where the former Russell Pontiac Center used to be there's four or five rats crossing the road. I mean big ones, as big as cats. I mean, when is it going to

end? We've got to start stopping these junk cars in town. And also too there's also numerous fenders on the ground where I live and other parts of town too. I mean, you should look at the program that Manchester has been doing a number of years and now they give a donation. When they clean up these cars they give a donation to the police department like \$25 for each car they pull out of the yards. I mean we've got to start doing something here. I also talked to people over near Charter Oak School. They have numerous rats in their areas too because of the businesses around there too that got junk cars around and stuff like that and fenders, that one business area. They multiply and they live in there. I mean you've got to start doing something. I mean we can't keep going like this. And also too like these rats here, they multiple...they could multiply almost to like 16,000 rats a year. That's quite a lot. When you start getting a colony like that. These things could bite people, carry all kinds of diseases and stuff. I mean, I've got a guy out on the end of Spring Street, Atwater, he's got over 40 cars in his yard, junk cars. You're only supposed to have 18. No fines given. He's got a pile of junk piled in the back of his building. I mean that's a nest for these things. I mean I think you people should look at this program. I'll give you the packets. You can look at it. I called the Town Manager over there. I talked to him today. He said you're welcome to call him and maybe start getting some programs and start cleaning up these problems we have in this town with these rats.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Arbuglio.

Mr. Arbuglio: Okay. Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay, #26 under Communications, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #26: FROM ROBERT J. MILNE (06-09-10) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING ITEMS 293, 294, 295, AND 296.

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Cantor: Second

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Milne, you have five minutes.

Mr. Milne: Robert Milne, 3 Osage Road. I also have some handouts here. Once again, to my dismay and sadness again I'm finding more irregularities in the assessment system. I've found 3 more properties on top of the 8 that I previously reported and another 3 so 8, 11 plus these. There's 14 properties so far and I'm not done. I found more. I found about 30 more properties but these are properties that are coming on the market and listed with no tax and no assessment and, again, you've got to remember with this high tech. world that we live in real estate agents and companies are posting this stuff on the internet. It's

also available on realtor.com and particularly at an agency called Caldwell Brokers. They post every detail that you possibly can find on a piece of property that is available. I showed you last time I was here a magazine, The Hartford. Again the information was contrary to what the Council and certain members of the employment staff of West Hartford have been promoting. Unlike the Kiplinger magazine this one here did not reconcile with the representations of the Town Manager. Also recently The Prospect came out with a survey with regard to the median prices of houses. That's the handout that I gave you. That's the median price change which compares January 2005 to March 2010. West Hartford shows an 8.12 percent increase in that median price. Why am I showing you this? I'm showing you this because for that period of January 2005 to March 2010 there has been an 8.12 percent increase in the value of the median price of a home in West Hartford. Not a decrease. I believe this article supports the notion that there was no reason to suspend the revaluation which I spoke to and in all this information including the information published by the West Hartford Taxpayer's Association and more specifically Robert Sisk and with these articles I have found no information that supports this ongoing issue of suspending revaluations. There's no information to corroborate other than the contents of Mr. Sisk's article that I passed around the last time I was here which basically described favoritism. The inverse of that is something that is unfair and politically favored motivated assessments which the converse of that is in fact some form of compensation to someone who you're trying to gain support for, all of which are illegal. And again, it's important that you do something about this. There's no reason for this town to be taxing properties at zero.

Item 294 - the only thing I found that the town did do anything about... One of the working tools that I use is the tax estimator program which is posted on the town website has been eliminated. You can't look up current assessments and you can't look up your taxes anymore. I called the Assessment Office which referred me to the Tax Collector's Office which referred me to an IT office and no one can explain to me why in the interest of updating any website why this program was removed. A member of the Tax Collector's Office stated it was someone in the IT office and that person was getting calls from other taxpayers and numerous, I repeat, numerous realtors trying to get access to this information. But what have you basically done is sort of cut off the electronic path. That doesn't suggest any sense of integrity or anything that's wholesome with regard to trying to embrace this subject and explain to anyone in this office why someone's property would be taxed at zero with a zero assessment. All this information I've given you can be confirmed. You can look at websites and again the issue goes on and on and how many times I've spoken and come before this Council it continues to be ignored and I point out a few things. At the suspension of the revaluation, and no disrespect to Mr. Adler, he was the only one who abstained from the vote. That abstention told me an awful lot. And you have to ask him why did he abstain and if you look beyond into the details, which he has offered that they should be looked into, you would have come to the same conclusion. There clearly was no economic or general reason why the reevaluation suspension should have taken place. All this information is to the contrary of that. And I do respect that decision. That was an excellent decision and I'll compliment you on that and I've told that to every member of this town that I've talked to.

At the end of the last Town Council meeting in reference to 295 I approached the Chief of Police regarding a speeding incident on the road which I live on which is also the old neighborhood of Shari Cantor. I observed a high school kid speeding with another kid down the road neck and neck all the way down the road blocking off the road.

President Slifka: Mr. Milne, your time has expired. If you could conclude please.

Mr. Milne: And one final comment in wrapping?

President Slifka: Yes.

Mr. Milne: It was interesting that a "yes" sign was found up across...with regard to the referendum was found right across from my property. It's interesting that the sign sat on the front lawn and in the garage was a vehicle registered in the State of New York, a large SUV, and I though gee, isn't that interesting? Someone's putting up signs and you don't even realize it... A New York registered SUV, UConn-type General Motor's vehicle sitting in the garage registered to persons avoiding property tax. I leave you with that. You should probably look into some of that before you ask people to support things irrespective of yes or no. Thank you very much.

President Slifka: Number 27, Mr. Brennan?

Councilor Adler: Just a comment. To Mr. Milne's comment about the lack of the access on the tax calculator or the ability to research property taxes - that's public information so I'll follow up with the Town Manager as to what occurred there but that's public information and if people have an interest in other people's taxes which, you know, God bless you if you have the time, you can also get that manually through the Clerk's Office if I'm not mistaken so we'll research that but, you know, I would not make any insinuation as to why that's not available so...

President Slifka: Number 27, Mr. Brennan?

ITEM #27: FROM LINDA DINAPOLI (06-14-10) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING "RESPONSE" CARRIED OVER FROM JUNE 8, 2010 AGENDA.

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Ms. DiNapoli, you have five minutes.

Ms. DiNapoli: Without interruption hopefully. Linda DiNapoli, 214 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Good evening, Town Council Members and West Hartford residents. First let me set the record straight. I'm here representing myself, no group or organization. My subject matter this evening is response that's carried over from the last meeting. I will start with Mayor Slifka's campaign literature. Right here it says Scott wants to hear from you. Ladies and gentleman, I wrote emails to the Mayor every Monday for in excess of one year. I never heard from him so...

President Slifka: Well, I heard you.

Ms. DiNapoli: (*Laughter.*) Well that's good. I never got any response so I'd appreciate it anytime. The offer's still open. Let's see... So you would be my first choice for lack of response at this point but I'll leave that open...leave the door open.

The first department I would like to deal with according to response is Zoning. Town code section 3 of all the Town Council says all the Town Council members have the powers and duties of the Zoning Department. However, in my opinion, none of them openly exercise these duties. The Zoning Department is letting this town and the condition of same run amuck once you leave the town center. This is a NIMBY issue folks. If it's not in your backyard you don't care. Well it's now in mine and I care not only about my backyard but I also care about yours. I brought some pictures here and I will explain those later. This morning on the way to an appointment I was on New Park Avenue and guess what? I saw these little fellows that Mr. Arbuglio referred to going right across the street probably heading towards Grassmere where West Hartford families live and where I have also observed them. Mr.... If the Zoning Department does not begin following the zoning enforcement laws this town will have areas that will look like many large cities. None of us want that. We want to keep it a beautiful town and we want to stay at the top of the list on the Kiplinger and other publications. That's what we all want. That's the point here folks. I may come up and complain but it's because I care and I want things fixed. I want the town to run efficiently and smoothly and I can talk for years and get absolutely no response from anyone. Today I got some finally. They were all FOIs. It's the only way you can get it. Mr. Pudlik of the Zoning Department denied me the complaint forms when I went in the other day. While there were two gentlemen complaining about an issue, a zoning issue. I wasn't involved in it, but while they were complaining I was picking up these brochures. There were eight of them and they're available at the Zoning Department. Just as I was getting to leave the nice lady, Catherine, in the department, who's very pleasant, advised me that they were all out-of-date. Why is that, Mr. Van Winkle? You're the Town Manager. You are the head of this department. These things need to be brought up-to-date. People are leaving that department with inadequate information.

Mr. Davidoff, we live in the same neighborhood and probably pass by many of the same streets. Since you were the advocate for the Zoning Department, sir, you will be the recipient of the photographs behind me. I'm not going to embarrass the various property owners here. There are two representatives but clearly you can see the front yard of one

of the houses the grass is over the zoning height and the rear yard of the other house I am standing there with a measure. You certainly can see the same thing.

I have also requested from Mr. Van Winkle's office the six bids to demolish and remove the debris from the Beckerman home at 27 The Crossways. After having read the bids submitted with costs from \$21,730 to \$69,850 I am puzzled at the wide range and lack of specifics therein. Think about that. Where is the toxic runoff going to go? What is going to protect the berm? If I lived on that street or downwind from it I certainly would be very concerned and I'd be in Mr. Van Winkle's office asking for copies or you can call me and I will provide them. There's a lot more to this demolition folks than meets the eye including how we're going to get the money back. I'm sure everybody read the article in the Hartford Courant this morning and the liens and penalties on this house are tremendous. That's why we need to be careful that this lot is cleared so some local realtor can market it at a very good price to make the town whole.

President Slifka: Ms. DiNapoli, your time is expired.

Ms. DiNapoli: Oh, once again. Well, I'll be back. Thank you so much.

President Slifka: Number 29, Mr. Brennan.

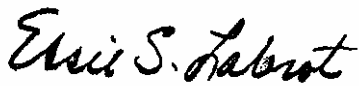
ITEM #34: ADJOURNMENT: 8:56 P.M.

President Slifka: Or should I just say I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn?

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're adjourned.



Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

/sab

APPROVED AT JULY 27, 2010 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING