

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
APRIL 30, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH
MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410.**

Present

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Council Chairman; Paul A. Bowman, Vice-Chairman; Jeff Falk, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, Peter Talbot, David Veleber.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director.

Guest: Sean Kimball

Department of Education: Supt. Of Schools Jeff Solan; Shawn Parkhurst, Asst. Supt. Of Schools; COO Vincent Masciana.

BOE Members Ms. Hellreich and Ms. Fabiani.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

Chairman Oris read the emergency notice into the record.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE FY 2018-2019 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET.

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum noted the fact that this is Mr. Milone's last budget as Town Manager. He commented on the many handouts, detailed information from staff on budget changes/decision packages, which worked well allowing the Council to be more involved in the details of the budget. He thanked Town Manager Milone, Finance Director Jaskot, department heads and Town staff for their support of the budget process, hard work and assistance with the budget. He thanked Supt. Solan, Mr. Masciana, BOE members and DOE staff for their work on the budget. Mr. Slocum expressed appreciation to community members who provided thoughtful ideas and observations to the Council.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #043018-1.

RESOLUTION #043018-1

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the following amounts for the Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget, for Fiscal Year 2018-2019:

General Government	\$17,748,817
(excluding Employee Benefits and Police Department)	
Debt Service	\$ 6,574,924

Contingency	\$ 125,000
Capital Non-Recurring Reserve	\$ 1,100,000

Discussion

Mr. Slocum commented on the hard work with the budget given the challenges with State financing and the department requests. Mr. Slocum will support the budget.

Mr. Falk said this was a difficult budget process, and his second as a Councilor. He thanked Mr. Milone and Mr. Jaskot and their staff for making the process easier. Mr. Falk will support the budget, and would have liked a lower mill rate but that would impact services. He has hopes for the ECS surplus to come through and help with the coming year.

Mr. Ruocco will not support the budget, stating he could have been pushed lower, and he has no tolerance for tax increases. This budget has a 2% tax increase for the average taxpayer; there is a voice out there to minimize the budget increase; certain positions and expenditures are being added in the budget which is costly. Mr. Ruocco believes the budget could have been lower, and he will not vote in favor.

Ms. Flynn-Harris said it was a difficult budget process due to the state of the State. The Town administration provided handouts/decision packages which were helpful to Councilors for requested positions on the Town side; judicious decisions were made for the Town Engineer, Human Services (Social Workers) Town Clerk positions and work hours. She noted increase in positions also increases benefits. Ms. Flynn-Harris said the Council has come to a good place with the slight mill rate increase, services are still maintained, without a negative impact on the Town population. She will support the budget.

Mr. Bowman will support the budget, which is his 11th budget as a Council member. He expressed appreciation to the Town staff...Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. Talbot, and Supt. Solan, Mr. Masciana and BOE members and staff for their work with the budget. Everyone worked together for a budget which makes sense; difficult decisions were made; and this is part of the job of a Town Councilor. Mr. Bowman talked about some of the advances in public safety, which is important to the community, and Human Services to address some of the mental health and opioid issues in the community and the country. The Council looked at efficiencies and redundancy, and came up with a compromise. Mr. Bowman thanked the citizens who became involved with town government during the budget process. Moving forward, he said we have to pay attention in the next year with more possible changes coming from the State.

Mr. Talbot will support this budget. He thanked Mr. Milone for getting the Council through another budget process...and thanked Mr. Jaskot and Town staff, BOE administration and staff for their input and work on this budget. He also thanked Cathleen Devlin for attending all the budget meetings. Mr. Talbot wished Mr. Kimball good luck as Cheshire's new Town Manager. He commented on the long budget

process, the difficulties due to the ambiguities of the State, and uncertainty of this budget changing based on what happens in Hartford. It was pointed out by Mr. Talbot that not all Councilors or BOE members are pleased with this budget...which is a sign of a good budget. The Council compromised on a budget that is best for the Town moving forward.

Mr. Veleber thanked Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. Talbot, department heads, Town staff, DOE administration, BOE members and staff for their work on the budget. This was his first budget process, and Mr. Veleber said it was an organized and collegial process, addressing the needs of the Town for public safety, BOE, reasonable services, and keeping taxes low. He would have liked a lower mill rate and tax increase, but has concerns about state funding and the unknown from the State. Mr. Veleber said he will not vote in favor of the budget.

Chairman Oris commented on this being a tough budget for the Town and BOE...for many reasons, and the State being the gorilla in the room. Mr. Oris said the budget takes the number as low as it can go without putting school services at risk. It is a compromise budget. He would have wanted a lower mill rate increase, and the Council cut the proposed +1.25 mills in half. This budget is as good as we can get on the BOE and Town side, and more cuts would have affected the quality of education and town wide services. The budget is a moving target with the State; there is hope for more State funding; and this would open up more services. Mr. Oris said he will vote in favor of the budget.

In this budget, Mr. Oris said the Council held the line on new positions, but supported public safety with hiring of the 48th police officer. This officer will be the School Resource Officer for Dodd Middle School. Mr. Oris commented on the phenomenal job done by the SRO at the high school, the strong relationship created with the students, and his rapport with the students. The Council supported the Human Services Department with additional Counselor hours for mental health and addiction services.

VOTE The motion passed 7-2; Mr. Ruocco and Mr. Veleber opposed.

(Councilor Falk stated he would abstain from action on Item B)

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED that the Town Council approve **Resolution #043018-1B.**

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of \$8,071,519 for the Employee Benefits portion of the General Government budget And \$5,661,417 for the Police Department portion of the General Government Budget.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum expressed his support for the 48th police officer who will be the School Resource Officer for Dodd Middle School. The 49th police officer position has never been funded.

VOTE The motion passed 7-1-1; Mr. Falk abstained; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

MOVED that the Town Council approve **Resolution #043018-1C.**

C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of \$71,643,626 for the Board of Education Budget.

VOTE The motion passed 8-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

MOVED that the Town Council approve **Resolution #043018-1D.**

D. BE IT RESOLVED, that the sum of all revenues, transfers from other funds and Allocation of general fund equity for the fiscal year 2018-2019 Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget will be in the amount of \$110,925,303, and

VOTE The motion passed 8-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

MOVED that the Town Council approve **Resolution #043018-1E.**

E. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tax rate be set at 32.62 mills which will Generate \$89,384,730 at a collection rate of 99.2% for fiscal year 2018-2019; and,

That the tax payments for motor vehicles and personal property shall all be Due and payable on July 1, 2018; and

That real estate tax payments shall be paid in two equal payments with the first payment due on July 1, 2018 and the second payment due on January 1, 2019; and

That pursuant to Section 12-144 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that any real estate tax bill on the 2017 grand list in an amount not in excess of \$100.00 shall be due and payable in a single installment on July 1, 2108; and

That, pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due July 1, 2018 shall be August 1, 2018. Payment of taxes due July 1, 2018 which are received after August 1, 2018 will be assessed interest calculated from the original due date of July 1, 2018.

Also, that pursuant to Sections 12-141 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due January 1, 2019 will be February 1, 2019. Payment of taxes due January 1, 2019 which are received after February 1, 2019 will be assessed interest calculated from the due date of January 1, 2019.

VOTE The motion passed 7-2; Mr. Ruocco and Mr. Veleber opposed.

4. ADOPTION OF THE FY 2018-2019 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT FUND OPERATING BUDGET.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #043018-2.

RESOLUTION #043018-2
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the sum of \$4,543,694 for the Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, and that the sum of revenues and allocation of Water Pollution Control Fund equity for the fiscal year 2018-2019 Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget also be in the amount of \$4,543,694, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council recommends that the Water Pollution Control Authority consider increasing the Sewer Use Charge to \$405 per year, effective December 1, 2018.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. ADOPTION OF THE FY 2018-2019 COMMUNITY POOL FUND OPERATING BUDGET.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #043018-3.

RESOLUTION #043018-3
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019
COMMUNITY POOL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the sum of \$931,484 for the Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2018-2019, and that the sum of revenues and transfers from other funds and allocation of Community Pool Fund equity for the fiscal year 2018-2019 Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating Budget also be in the amount of \$931,484.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. AWARD OF BID AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE DOOLITTLE CAFETERIA RENOVATIONS.

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED to table this agenda item to the May 8, 2018 Town Council Meeting.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A \$180,000 DONATION FROM ELIM PARK BAPTIST HOME INC. TO THE CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT GIFT ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

MOVED to table this agenda item to the May 8, 2018 Town Council Meeting.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

8. ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A \$180,000 DONATION FROM ELIM PARK BAPTIST HOME INC. TO THE CHESHIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT GIFT ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

MOVED to table this agenda item to the May 8, 2018 Town Council Meeting.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Chairman Oris recognized Finance Director Jaskot, Deputy Finance Director DeFilio and Finance Department staff for their excellent job in preparing the documents and information for the budget process. Mr. Oris thanked Supt. Solan, Asst. Supt. Parkhurst and COO Mr. Masciana and BOE members (Ms. Hellreich, Chair and Ms. Fabiani, Vice-Chair) for their work on the budget.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED to adjourn the special meeting at 7:35 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk