

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Chairman; Paul A. Bowman, Vice Chairman; Jeffrey Falk, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, Timothy Slocum; Peter Talbot; David Veleber. Staff: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Assistant Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Police Chief Neil Dryfe. Dept. of Education – COO Vincent Masciana

Chairman Oris opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN AND ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET.**

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum made a brief statement regarding the five-year capital expenditure plan and annual capital expenditure budget. The five-year plan total is \$58.641M. The annual CEP total is \$11.512M gross and net total is \$10.509M. The Cheshire Police Department (CPD) lower level project was moved ahead in the CEP with planning funds for phase #1 this year and phase #2 next year. The plan also includes school improvement projects (\$3.285M) for cafeteria projects at Norton School, HVAC projects, parks improvements (basketball courts, tennis courts, lighting and bathroom facilities), \$150,000 for new school district Master Plan Facilities study.

Seven (7) referendum items are included in the CEP budget, they were referenced by Mr. Slocum.

\$310,000 Technology/Town and School Security;

\$100,000 Land Acquisition;

\$1.7M for Road Repavement;

\$1.8M for the West Johnson Avenue Bridge Replacement (50% State reimbursable);

\$250,000 CHS Window Replacement;

\$600,000 Boiler Replacement Doolittle School;

\$450,000 HVAC Improvements Highland School;

Mr. Slocum commented on the Council working with Town Manager Kimball, Asst. Town Manager Talbot, Finance Director Jaskot, PW Director Noewatne, Chief Dryfe, Parks Director Gawlak and Dept. of Education staff Supt. Solan and COO Masciana.

On behalf of the Town Council, Mr. Slocum expressed appreciation to everyone for their work and commitment to the CEP process and final budget.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082719-1

RESOLUTION #082719-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts the Five Year Omnibus Capital Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-2020 through 2023-2024 in accordance with the recommendation of the Town Council Budget Committee.

Discussion

Mr. Bowman thanked Town and BOE staff for their hard work which enabled the Council to make a decision on the CEP at this meeting. He highlighted some of the 40 different initiatives...public safety, 7 PW projects, 7 General Administrative & Public Buildings, 7 Parks & Rec projects, 15 BOE projects, and the inclusion of \$150,000 for a school modernization plan study. \$10.383M of the projects will be bonded if the seven (7) referendum items are approved by the voters. Mr. Bowman noted that \$7.5M in debt service has been retired in the last 12 months, with debt raising by \$3M. with this budget. He thanked his fellow Councilors for their hard work and input throughout the budget process. Mr. Bowman is in favor of the CEP and will vote in support of the Plan.

The term "living breathing documents" was used for documents touched all the time and Ms. Flynn-Harris said that during the CEP process the Council looked at all the requested items from department heads. They are edited to fit in with the overall general plan of the town, the budget, and how it affects taxpayers. Items are moved around through the five years of the CEP. The proposed plan deals with the infrastructure of the town, impact of the roads, impact of the safety and security of the people in the community (i.e. Parks, PW and CPD vehicles). She referenced the seven (7) referendum items for voter approval, which include school and town security, infrastructure, HVAC systems, parks improvements. Next year the process will be altered with the operating and capital budgets being done at the same time. Mr. Flynn-Harris thanked Town and BOE staff, department heads, and especially Town Manager Kimball, Ms. Talbot and Mr. Jaskot. Stating she supports the CEP, Ms. Flynn-Harris will vote in favor of the Plan.

Mr. Veleber said the CEP budget covers many improvements for the Town and its future, and the overall number is good. The budget covers referendum items which are beneficial to the Town...school projects, CPD building improvements, HVAC, school and town security, parks improvements. Mr. Veleber will support the budget.

Mr. Talbot thanked Mr. Kimball, Ms. Talbot, Mr. Jaskot, Mr. Masciana, department heads and Town and BOE staff for their work and providing information to the Council for deliberation over the capital budget items. He said the items in the CEP need to be addressed. Mr. Talbot thanked his fellow Council members for the deliberation process, and said he will support the capital budget.

Ms. Nichols thanked everyone involved in the capital budget process. She commented on the input and feedback from residents on items of importance to them in this budget, and the need for communication with people in the community. Ms. Nichols will support the capital budget.

Mr. Falk stated his support of the capital budget, and said Town and BOE staff make the Council's job easier throughout the process. The setting aside of funds for parks improvements was of importance to Mr. Falk, as the plans for the Chapman Property will begin. He expressed appreciation to Parks Director Gawlak for his hard work and commitment to the park projects. School infrastructure is still needed, and Mr. Falk is pleased with planning money for the revised school modernization master plan, and funding for school security. He will support the capital budget.

Chairman Oris thanked the Town Council members, Town and BOE staff, Mr. Kimball, Ms. Talbot, Mr. Jaskot and Mr. Masciana for their work in making this budget happen. There was significant discussion, review, analysis which resulted in a fiscally prudent and forward thinking and bipartisan final product. Mr. Oris said the capital budget provides for targeted investments in key areas (town/school security, parks improvements, creation of access to open space, investment in school and town buildings) and all are necessary projects. There is an eye towards a school modernization plan with \$150,000 approved for the BOE school modernization plan, which is important to the community. The Council looks forward to public input on the school plan. The capital budget is a bare bones budget, with the exception of some extra funding in the Parks and Rec budget.

Chairman Oris stated he is proud to serve with his fellow Council members. He thanked Councilor Ruocco for his time, hard work, and service on the Council and his commitment to the Cheshire community.

In closing his remarks, Mr. Oris thanked Budget Committee Chairman Slocum for his hard work and leadership during the capital budget process. Mr. Oris will support the capital budget.

VOTE            The motion passed 8-0-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082719-2

RESOLUTION #082719-2  
Annual Capital Budget Items 1-40

A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated that with this resolution, the Council is approving the 40 projects in the capital budget.

VOTE           The motion passed 8-0-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

**4.     APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND  
AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPLANATORY TEXT.**

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082719-3

RESOLUTION #082719-3

A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Slocum read the text and question for each of the seven (7) referendum items into the record of the meeting for the projects.

\$310,000 Technology/Town and School Security;  
\$100,000 Land Acquisition;  
\$1.7M for Road Repavement;  
\$1.8M for the West Johnson Avenue Bridge Replacement (50% State reimbursable);  
\$250,000 CHS Window Replacement;  
\$600,000 Boiler Replacement Doolittle School;  
\$450,000 HVAC Improvements Highland School;

In his comments, Mr. Slocum noted that the \$1.8M for West Johnson Avenue Bridge Replacement is a 50% reimbursable project from the State of Connecticut.

Chairman Oris pointed out that the \$1.7M for Road Repavement is a yearly item in order for the Town to stay on task with the roads. This is more cost effective and insures the Town roads stay safe for residents and businesses.

VOTE The motion passed 8-0-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

**5. ADJOURNMENT.**

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

MOVED to adjourn the special meeting at 7:06 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk