

**TOWN OF CROMWELL - TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
41 WEST STREET, CROMWELL, CT 06416
SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES**

Monday, March 4, 2024 - 4:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Demetriades, Julia Aurigemma, Brian Bonneau, Stacy Dabrowski (left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.), Jack Henehan, Paula Luna, Al Waters

Also Present: Town Manager Salvatore, Finance Director Sharon DeVoe, Public Works Director Lou Spina, Registrars Bonnie Anderson and Alice Kelly

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Demetriades called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

C. BUDGET WORKSHOP

1. Discussion and Action on General Fund Budget Requests:

– 27. Public Works (includes all divisions)

Public Works Director Lou Spina was in attendance to answer questions of the Town Council on the Public Works budget.

There was discussion regarding the amount of unused departmental expenses for the past two years.

MOTION made by J. Aurigemma and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to amend the Town Manager's recommendation to cut \$500 from Departmental Expenses and amend the Public Works Administration budget to \$302,479.

All in favor.

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to adopt and accept the new total of \$302,479 for the Public Works Administration Budget.

All in favor.

28. Engineering Division - \$262,302

MOTION made by J. Aurigemma and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to adopt the Town Manager's Recommended Budget of \$262,302.

All in favor.

29. Solid Waste Removal/Recycling Center Division - \$818,286

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to adopt the Town Manager's Recommended Budget of \$818,286.

All in favor.

30. Highway Division - \$1,530,371

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to adopt the Town Manager's Recommended Budget of \$1,530,371.

All in favor.

Councilwoman Dabrowski left the meeting.

31. Vehicle Maintenance Division - \$340,079

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to adopt the Town Manager's Recommended Budget of \$340,079.

All in favor.

32. Building Maintenance - \$704,932

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to adopt the Town Manager's Recommended Budget of \$704,932.

All in favor.

Councilwoman Dabrowski returned to the meeting.

33. Parks and Grounds Division - \$503,083

MOTION made by J. Aurigemma and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to adopt the Town Manager's Recommended Budget of \$503,083.

All in favor.

34. Utilities - \$484,000

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to approve the Town Manager's Recommended Budget of \$484,000.

All in favor.

MOTION made by J. Aurigemma to approve the Public Works Department total Budget in the amount \$4,945,532.

All in favor.

The Town Council took a brief recess at 5:55 p.m.

The Town Council meeting reconvened at 6:02 p.m.

Town Manager Salvatore and Public Works Director Spina presented the Public Works Capital Plan Requests and answered questions of the Council.

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by S. Dabrowski to approve the Engineering CNR Request in the amount of \$30,000 for the South Street @ Cromwell Creek Barrier Gates.

In favor: J. Aurigemma, B. Bonneau, S. Dabrowski, J. Demetriades, J. Henahan, P. Luna

Opposed: A. Waters

Motion carried.

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Road Improvement Fund CNR Request in the amount of \$311,000 from ARPA balance to cover the balance of the road improvements for the year.

All in favor.

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by S. Dabrowski to approve the Highway CNR Requests for the leaf vacuum and the flat body and brine in the amount of \$144,653.

All in favor.

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Parks and Grounds CNR Request for the 4x4 Pick-Up Truck in the amount of \$59,000.

All in favor.

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Building Maintenance CNR Request for the Replacement pickup utility body/body work for existing chassis in the amount of \$15,000.

All in favor.

Councilwoman Dabrowski left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

– **3. Elections Department - \$121,284**

Registrars Bonnie Anderson and Alice Kelly were in attendance to answer questions of the Town Council on their budget request. The Town Manager and the Registrars explained that Connecticut passed legislation for early voting which requires significantly more dates and ultimately, more hours. This is still being worked on and the handbook put out by the State, has changed once already and is subject to change again. This is a requirement of the State and it has to be accommodated. Town Manager Salvatore informed the Council that he and all

other COG member municipalities have submitted a request for more funding to the State to help offset of these unexpected costs. A brief discussion followed.

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$121,284.

All in favor.

– **4. Economic Development Commission - \$22,010**

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$22,010.

All in favor.

– **4a. Redevelopment Agency - \$900**

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$900.

All in favor.

– **5. Town Planner - \$152,317**

MOTION made by J. Henehan and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$152,317.

All in favor.

– **6. Development Compliance - \$119,790**

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$119,790.

All in favor.

– **23. Planning and Zoning Commission - \$3,525**

MOTION made by J. Henehan and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$3,525.

All in favor.

– **24. Zoning Board of Appeals - \$1,250**

MOTION made by J. Aurigemma and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$1,250.

All in favor.

– **25. Inland Wetlands - \$1,900**

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$1,900.

All in favor.

- **26. Conservation Commission - \$1,210**
MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$1,210.
All in favor.

- **35. Emergency Management - \$21,050**
MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$21,050.
All in favor.

- **38. Health Department - \$221,687**
MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$221,687.
All in favor.

- **43. Recreation Department - \$300,839**
MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$300,839.
All in favor.

- **12. Donations and Dues - \$56,152**
MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to amend the Town Manager's Recommended Budget to give the Historical Society \$9,000 and to give Hillside Cemetery \$5,000.
All in favor.

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by P. Lune to approve and adopt the new Donations and Dues Budget amount of \$56,152.
All in favor.

- **13. Legal Expenses - \$235,875**
MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$235,875.
All in favor.

- **14. Central Services - \$249,004**
MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$249,004.
All in favor.

- **15. Insurance Expense - \$629,701**
MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$629,701.
All in favor.

- **17. Town Council - \$2,400**
MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$2,400.
All in favor.

- **18. Board of Finance - \$42,730**
MOTION made by J. Aurigemma and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$42,730.
All in favor.

- **20. Charter Revision Committee - \$500**
MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$500.
All in favor.

- **21. Board of Assessment Appeals - \$600**
MOTION made by B. Bonneau and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the Town Manager's Budget Recommendation of \$600.
All in favor.

- **22. Committee to Support Disabled People - \$100**
MOTION made by B. Bonneau and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to table this item to the budget workshop of March 6th.
All in favor.

D. ADJOURN

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda M. Calve
Secretary