

### Council Agenda

Council Chambers Windsor Town Hall April 7, 2025



**Zoom Instructions** 

Dialing in by Phone Only:

Please call: 309 205 3325 or 312 626 6799

When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: 823 6188 2368 and then press #

1. You will then enter the meeting muted. During 'Public Comment' if you wish to speak press \*9 to raise your hand. Please give your name and address prior to voicing your comments.

#### Joining in by Computer:

Please go to the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82361882368

When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: 823 6188 2368

- 1. Only if your computer has a microphone for two way communication, then during Public Comment if you wish to speak press Raise Hand in the webinar control. If you do not have a microphone you will need to call in on a phone in order to speak.
- 2. During 'Public Comment' if you do not wish to speak you may type your comments into the Q&A feature.

#### 7:00 PM Public Hearing

To hear public comment on the FY 2025 - FY 2026 budget as proposed by the Town Manager

#### 7:15 PM Public Hearing

To hear public comment on an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE."

#### 7:30 PM Regular Council Meeting

- ROLL CALL
- 2. PRAYER OR REFLECTION Councilor Gluck-Hoffman
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilor Gluck-Hoffman
- 4. PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS
  - a) Proclamation recognizing April 2025 as Fair Housing Awareness Month
- 5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

(Three minute limit per speaker)

- COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS
- REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



- a) Board of Education
- b) Public Building Commission
- c) Conservation Commission
- 8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
- REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
- 10. ORDINANCES
  - \*Approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE." (Town Manager)
- 11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- 12. NEW BUSINESS
  - a) \*Proposed Town Manager's Budget Presentation (Town Manager)
  - b) \*Re-approve Fair Housing Resolution and Policy Statement (Town Manager)
  - c) \*Presentation of Day Hill Corridor Planning Study (Town Manager)
- 13. \*RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
- MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS
  - a) \*Minutes of the March 17, 2025 Public Hearing
  - b) \*Minutes of the March 17, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting
- 15. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

(Three minute limit per speaker)

- 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- 17. ADJOURNMENT
- ★Back-up included

#### **PROCLAMATION**

#### Declaring April 2025 as Fair Housing Awareness Month

Whereas, the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which included what is commonly referred to as the Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act), was signed into law on April 11, 1968, effectively prohibiting the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicapped status; and,

Whereas, shelter is a basic human need and, when shelter is denied, the quality of life is greatly diminished, making it essential that the Town of Windsor affirm its policy that housing in the Town of Windsor shall be made available to all persons on the basis of equality and fairness; and,

Whereas, the 57 years since the passage of the Fair Housing Act, judicial and administrative enforcement, as well as public and private efforts to comply voluntarily with the law, have reduced barriers to obtaining the housing of one's choice; and,

Whereas, the Town of Windsor recognizes, acknowledges and values the efforts of those who seek justice through the public and private enforcement of state and federal fair housing laws; and,

Whereas, despite this progress, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice and discriminatory practices still exist in this country; and,

Whereas, all Americans should be aware of their rights as set forth in the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND THE WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL:

That April 2025 is declared Fair Housing Awareness Month in Windsor and, by doing so, we recognize the efforts of those that have worked to promote equal housing opportunities and to further awareness of the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Nuchette Black-Burke Mayor of Windsor April 7, 2025

#### **Agenda Item Summary**

Date:

April 7, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared by:

Scott W. Colby, Jr., Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Line of Duty Death Surviving Spouse Exemption

#### Background

State law allows municipalities the option to provide an abatement of taxes for the surviving spouse of a Connecticut police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician who has died in the performance of their duties. Windsor has not adopted this local option. The Finance Committee discussed this item in December 2024, as well as in January 2025 and most recently on March 10th.

The Finance Committee recommends the Town Council favorably consider adopting an ordinance that would provide a property tax abatement to the surviving spouse of a line of duty death.

#### Discussion/Analysis

CGS Sec. 12-81x enables the legislative body of a municipality to establish, by local ordinance, a program to abate all or a portion of the property taxes due with respect to real estate that is owned by the surviving spouse of a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician who has died during the course of the performance of such officer's, firefighter's or technician's duties, so long as it is also occupied as their principal residence.

The statute provides no further guidelines regarding the amount of the abatement. The Town Council could decide to establish an abatement program for a flat dollar tax benefit, or for a fixed percentage tax benefit. Several towns have adopted this local option including Southington, Berlin, and Groton along with a few others (see attached).

Staff researched eight municipalities who have adopted this local option and developed a proposed ordinance for review and discussion with the Finance Committee. Below are key highlights of the ordinance that is attached.

- Exemption provides an abatement of 100% of municipal real residential property taxes.
- Remains in effect so long as the surviving spouse occupies the residence as their primary residence.
- Exemption continues if the surviving spouse remarries.
- If surviving spouse maintains a fractional ownership in the primary residence, exemption is prorated accordingly.
- If the spouse subsequently purchases another residence in the town, and all qualifying criteria remain, then the tax abatement shall apply to the new residence.
- If the property is a multiple family or multiple use dwelling, such relief will be prorated to reflect the fractional portion of such property occupied by the qualifying spouse.
- Establishes an annual application process for the abatement.

#### Other Board Action

There was consensus amongst the Finance Committee to recommend adopting the attached ordinance.

#### Recommendation

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motions are recommended for approval:

#### Waiving of the Reading

"RESOLVED, that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting."

#### Approve an Ordinance

"MOVE to approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE."

Attachment

Proposed Ordinance

#### **CHAPTER 5**

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81x TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR:

Chapter 5, of the Windsor Code is amended as follows:

#### Section 1.

Sec. 5-10. Abatement from property tax for line of duty death surviving spouse.

(a) Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

For the purposes of this section, "firefighter" is defined as any person who is a duly designated member of the Town of Windsor Volunteer Fire Department.

For the purposes of this section, "police officer" is defined as a duly sworn member of the Town of Windsor Police Department.

For the purposes of this section, "ems personnel" is defined as any member of the Town of Windsor EMS

Surviving spouse means the person who was a resident of the town and married to the police officer or firefighter at the time of the police officer's or firefighter's death.

- (b) In accordance with C.G.S. § 12-81x, there is hereby established effective for the Grand List of October 1, 2024, and subsequent Grand Lists, an abatement of 100% of municipal real residential property taxes due with respect to real property and the improvements thereon owned by the surviving spouse of a police officer, firefighter or EMS personnel who suffers a line of duty death while a resident of Windsor. The abatement only applies to Town taxes due to the Town of Windsor and does not apply to any district or other political subdivision taxes that may be due.
- (c) The tax abatement will remain in effect so long as the surviving spouse occupies the residence as their primary residence, or until the spouse conveys (transfers) their fee interest in the subject residence (property). If the spouse subsequently purchases another residence in the town, and all qualifying criteria remain, then the tax abatement shall apply to the new residence.

For any property that is in a Trust, a copy of the Trust agreement must be provided to the assessor for review. The terms of the trust agreement must provide that the claimant is the primary beneficiary of the trust.

- (d) Upon the death of any person entitled to tax relief pursuant to this section, the tax relief hereunder shall end the following June 30.
- (e) If any person who is entitled to a tax abatement hereunder conveys their fee title in the property with respect to which the tax abatement hereunder has been granted, the tax relief shall be suspended as of the date of conveyance and the nonqualifying grantee of such property shall pay the town a prorated share of taxes thereby due and owing as provided by state statute § 12-81a.

- (f) The property tax relief provided for in this section shall, in any case where title to real property is recorded in the name of the qualifying surviving spouse and any other person or persons, be prorated to reflect the fractional portion of such qualifying spouse If such property is a multiple family or multiple use dwelling, such relief be prorated to reflect the fractional portion of such property occupied by the qualifying spouse.
- (g) The Tax Collector and Assessor shall prescribe with regard to their respective duties under this section such forms and procedures as may be necessary to implement this section. The Assessor, in addition, shall take such steps necessary to satisfactorily establish the facts as to the qualifying surviving spouse's interest in the property, by requesting such documents as the Assessor deems necessary. Such documentation will be required yearly to continue the tax abatement. Eligibility shall be determined by the Assessor and/or their designee, and such determination shall be final.
- (h) No later than November 1 of each year, the surviving spouse shall complete and file with the assessor an application for the abatement and shall attest annually that they remain otherwise qualified under the terms of this article.

<u>Section 2.</u> <u>Savings Clause.</u> The enactment of this Ordinance shall not operate as an abatement of any action or proceeding previously taken, now pending, or taken prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. All said actions and proceedings are hereby ratified to be continued.

<u>Section 3.</u> <u>Severability.</u> All provisions of the *Town Code* in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and that if for any reason, any word, clause, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be held to make the same unconstitutional, this Ordinance shall not hereby be invalidated and the remainder of the Ordinance shall continue in effect. Any provision herein which is in conflict with the *Connecticut General Statutes* is hereby repealed, it being understood that said statute shall take precedence over this Ordinance.

<u>Section 4.</u> <u>Effective Date.</u> This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after publication in a newspaper having a circulation in Windsor.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
Town Attorney	
ATTEST:	
Town Clerk	
Distributed to Town Council	3/18/25
Public Hearing Advertised	3/21/25
Public Hearing	4/7/25
Adopted	
Advertised	
Effective Date	

#### **Agenda Item Summary**

Date:

April 7, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Proposed FY 26 Budget Presentation

#### Background

Each April, the Town Manager, as required by the *Town Charter*, presents a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year which starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. On March 27<sup>th</sup> the Town Manager hosted a public information meeting on the proposed FY 2026 budget.

The Town Council is scheduled to review the budget in April and approve a proposed budget to be voted on the by the public at the annual Budget Referendum in May (May 13<sup>th</sup> is the tentative referendum date.)

Information on the Town Manager's Proposed FY 2026 Budget and the upcoming budget review process can be found at the following links.

Link to the FY 26 Budget Informational Website <a href="https://townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26/">https://townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26/</a>

Full Proposed FY 26 Budget Presentation (3/27/25)

https://townofwindsorct.com/app/uploads/sites/12/2025/03/03-27-25-v5-Budget-Informational-Session-Presentation.pdf

#### Recommendations

This item is presented for informational purposes. There is no action requested of the Town Council.

#### **Attachments**

None



### Budget Supports....











# General Government Budget Highlights:

- Maintains service levels
- Continues investment in Paving,
   Sidewalks, Fleet, and Facilities
- Planned support in Ambulance Service





## October 2024 Grand List

October 2024 net grand list going up \$628.1M or 27.7%

Real Property – increase of \$566.1M or 18.8%

- \$479.6M due to revaluation
- \$46.9M from Amazon (Kennedy Road)
- \$39.4M due to economic growth

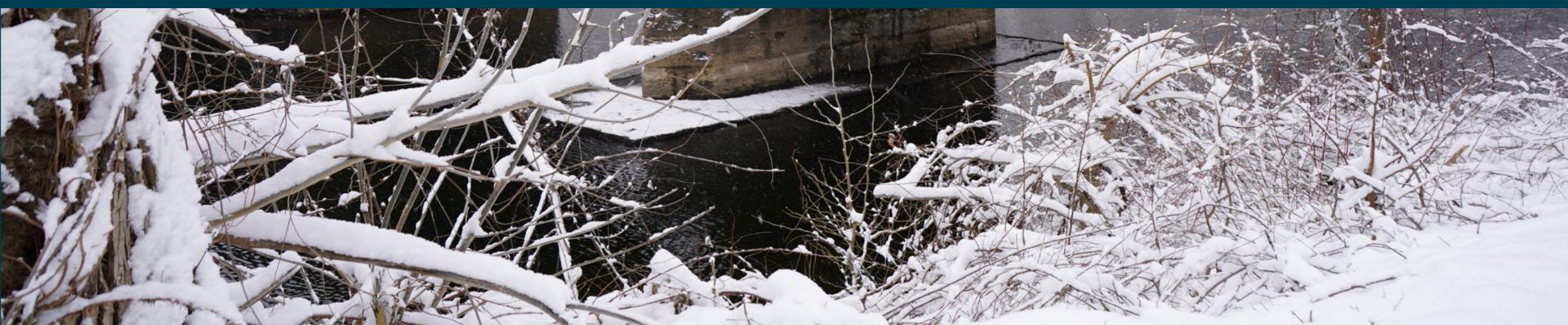
Personal Property – increase of \$61.8M or 9.4%

- Notable investments:
  - Target \$23.2M
  - Northeast Utilities \$19.9M

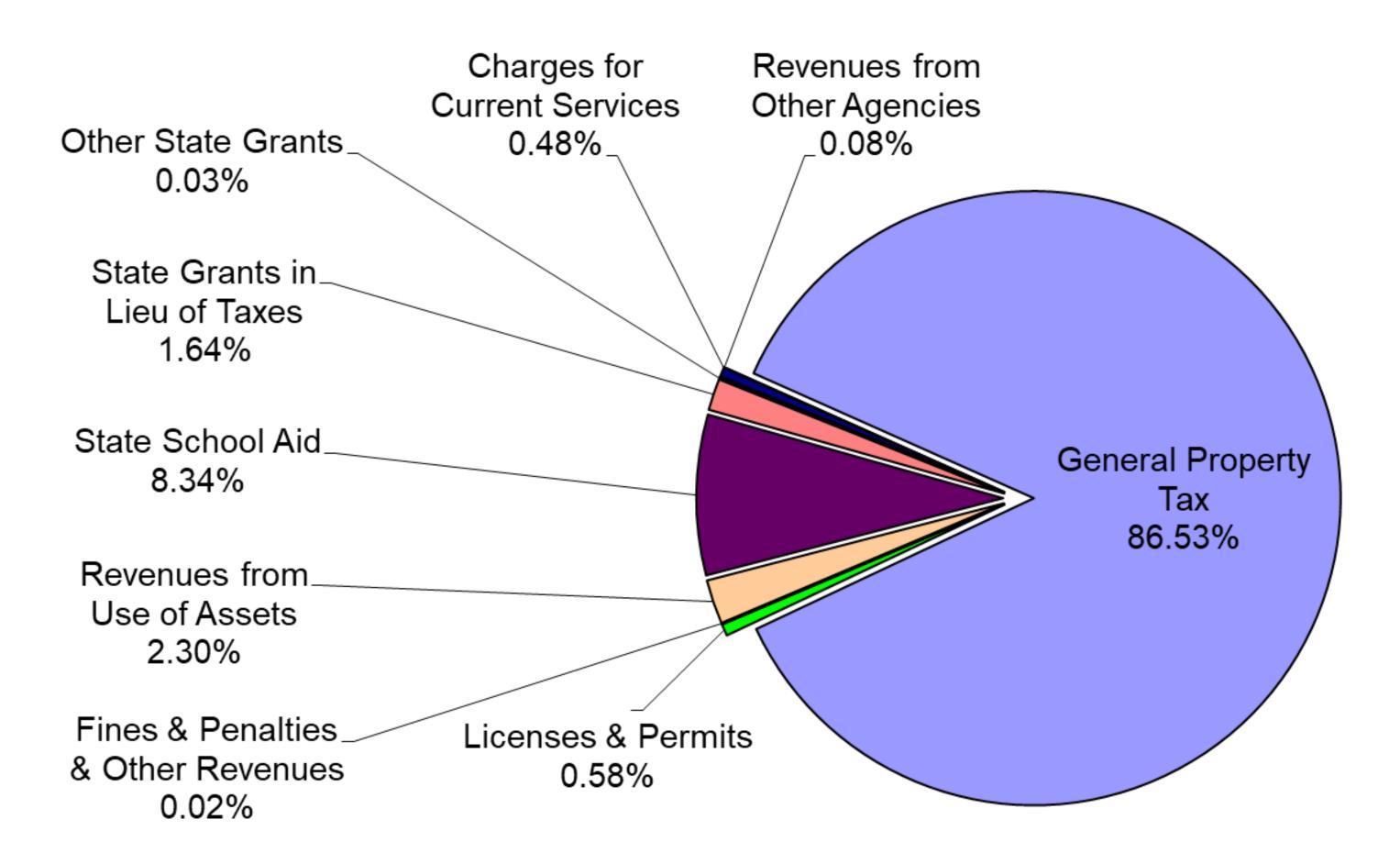
# October 2024 Grand List

### **Motor Vehicle Valuation Methodology**

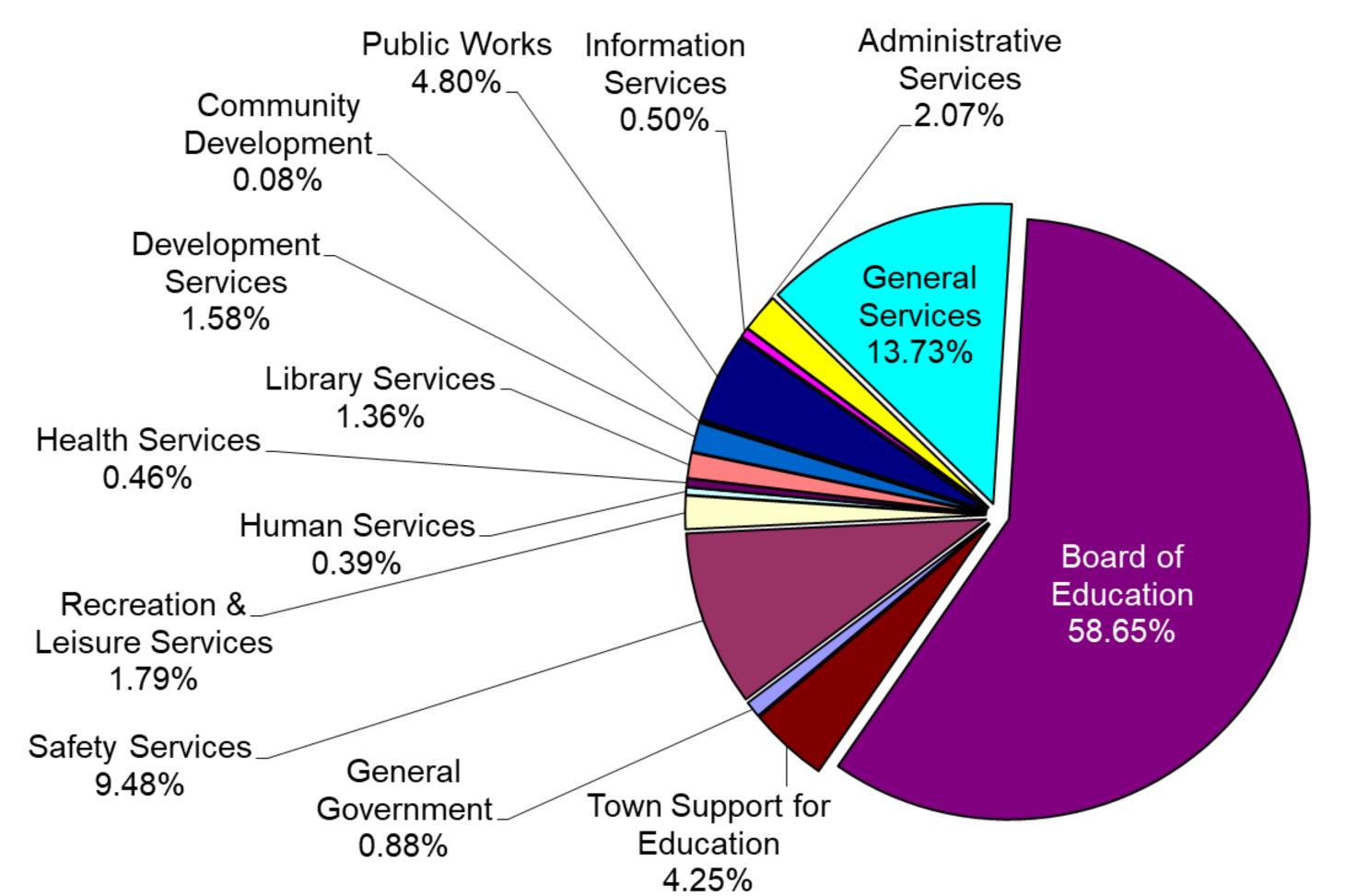
- State-mandated change using MSRP vs. pricing guides effective for FY 26
- Projected lost revenue for FY 26 = \$50k



### Proposed FY 26 General Fund Revenues



## Proposed FY 26 General Fund Expenditures



# FY 26 Expenditure Summary

Budget Item	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	84,313,340	89,275,120	4,961,780	5.88%
Town Operating Budget	41,792,540	44,333,960	2,541,420	6.08%
Sewer Service (MDC)	4,771,220	4,801,200	29,980	0.63%
Debt Service	8,519,040	8,774,610	255,570	3.00%
Great Pond Improvement District	1,040,700	2,062,580	1,021,880	98.19%
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Contribution	135,000	135,000	0	0.00%
Capital Projects & Open Space	2,744,000	2,840,000	96,000	3.50%
Total	\$143,315,840	\$152,222,470	\$8,906,630	6.21%

# FY 26 Expenditure Drivers

### **Town Operations**

Expenditure	\$ Change	% Change	
Health Insurance	655,350	16.52%	
Salaries	743,750	3.93%	
Retirement*	337,660	5.28%	
Windsor Center Tax Increment Financing District (TIF)	226,540	1132.70%	
Windsor EMS	160,000	26.90%	
Contractual Services & Equip. Maint.	151,620	5.20%	
Liability & Worker's Comp	49,040	1.74%	
Community Contributions	42,070	38.60%	

<sup>\*</sup> includes defined benefit, defined contribution and CMERS (State plan for Police Officers)



- April
- April 28 & 30
- April 30
- May 13

Dept. Budget Reviews

**Public Comment Opportunities** 

Council Vote on Budget

Recommended Referendum Date

#### **Agenda Item Summary**

Date:

April 7, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By:

Flavia Rey de Castro, Community Development Specialist

Reviewed By:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Community Development Block Grant – Small Cities Program Fair Housing Resolution & Fair Housing Policy Statement

#### Background

In accordance with federal regulations, the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) requires that Community Development Block Grant – Small Cities grantees promote fair housing practices. These practices include having the local governing body adopt a fair housing resolution.

At this time, the Town Council is respectively requested to approve the attached resolution and policy which are the same as the ones Town Council approved last year.

#### Discussion/Analysis

The attached Fair Housing Resolution and Fair Housing Policy Statement state that the town will follow fair housing regulations and not discriminate against any protected classes in carrying out federal programs. The resolution and policy also designate the Town Manager or his/her representative to respond to fair housing complaints, provides contact information for same, and sets forth a complaint procedure.

#### Financial Impact

None

#### Other Board Action

None

#### Recommendation

If the Town Council is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

"MOVE to approve the Fair Housing Resolution and Fair Housing Policy Statement as presented."

#### Attachments

Fair Housing Resolution

Fair Housing Policy Statement

#### TOWN OF WINDSOR FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

WHEREAS, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, or gender identity be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Windsor is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Windsor hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy Statement to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Town Manager of the Town of Windsor or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Windsor and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

#### TOWN OF WINDSOR FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Town of Windsor to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities.

Programs funded and administered by the Town of Windsor must comply with the provisions of Section 46a-64c of the C.G.S., and with related state and federal laws and regulations that prohibit discriminatory housing practices.

The Town of Windsor or any sub-recipient of the Town will carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority or minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, age or because the individual has children in all programs and housing development activities funded or administered by the Town.

The Town Manager is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this policy. Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director is the staff person responsible for fair housing and may be reached at (860) 285-1877 or electronically at mcmahon@townofwindsorct.com.

Complaints pertaining to discrimination in any program funded or administered by the Town of Windsor may be filed with the Town's Office of Community Development. The Town may attempt to resolve complaints at the local level or forward to one of the following agencies:

Complaints may also be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, Special Enforcement Unit, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Telephone (860) 541-3403 within 180 days of the alleged violation by submitting a notarized complaint and/or the Boston Regional Office of FHEO, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Room 321, Boston, MA 02222-1092, Telephone (617) 994-8300 or 1-800-827-5005, TTY (617) 565-5453. A complaint may be filed with HUD within one year after an alleged violation. Additionally, an individual may file suit, at his/her expense, in Federal District Court or State Court within two years of an alleged violation. If the individual cannot afford an attorney, the Court may appoint one. A suit can be brought even after filing a complaint, if the complaining party has not signed a conciliation agreement and an Administrative Law Judge has not started a hearing. A court may award actual and punitive damages and attorney's fees and costs. Finally complaints may also be filed with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, 221 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Telephone (860) 247-4400 or emailed to info@CTfairhousing.org.

A copy of this policy statement will be given annually to all Town of Windsor employees who may potentially deal with fair housing complaints and they are expected to fully comply with it. In addition, a copy will be posted in appropriate locations throughout the Town of Windsor.

Peter Souza, Town Manager	Date

IF REQUESTED, THIS STATEMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT OR ON AUDIO TAPE by contacting Patrick McMahon, Town of Windsor, 275 Broad Street, Windsor, CT (860) 285-1877.

#### **Agenda Item Summary**

Date:

April 7, 2025

To:

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Prepared By:

Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director

Reviewed By:

Peter Souza, Town Manager

Subject:

Day Hill Corporate Area Study

#### Background

The Day Hill Corporate Area (DHCA) is comprised of approximately 3,000 acres of industrial and commercial zoned land stretching from Day Hill Road south to Bloomfield Avenue and from I-91 west to the Bloomfield town line. For decades the corridor has been an economic driver for the community, the region and the state generating investment, jobs and tax revenue. However, in recent years, dynamics such as work from home and shifting market forces have left an abundance of vacant office space. Also the amount of developable land in the DHCA has been diminished with large developments over the years. Residential development pressure is also turning to industrial land to satisfy demand. Given these dynamics, we retained Camoin Associates, an economic development consulting firm, to analyze the current land use and economic climate of the market area, as well as provide recommendations to sustain this area as an economic development generator for the community.

#### Discussion

Camoin Associates conducted an analysis of the economic climate in the market area (supply/demand) for multifamily residential, assisted living, office, hotel, retail, and industrial (e.g. advanced manufacturing and warehouse and distribution) uses to determine what market sectors provided the best opportunities for new development. The study included significant community outreach including an open house format where attendees were able to provide feedback on study topics; as well as two public information sessions focused on the market analysis and study findings and recommendations. A business roundtable and on-line survey were conducted, as well as stakeholder interviews with property owners, developers, utility providers and state economic development partner organizations. In developing study recommendations, Camoin considered many factors including land use compatibility, potential for job creation, economic/market feasibility and potential grand list generation.

We pursued a separate DHCA planning study from the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) to be responsive to private sector interest in a number of parcels for potential multifamily use, including vacant land parcels, as well as current office locations. Developers looking to construct multifamily projects have approached the Town Planning and Zoning Commission with conceptual plans for some of these properties but the parcels are not currently zoned for such use, nor comprehended for such use under the current POCD. The study confirmed that multifamily has high market potential and looked at potential locations in the area to site such projects.

The study also addressed the weak office sector market. Remote work has significantly impacted the office sector throughout the country and Windsor is not immune to that trend. Recent data shows a vacancy rate of 31% and 60% of office space in Day Hill is being marketing for lease or for sale. The underutilized office space has had a substantial fiscal impact to the town. Office valuations are based on the lease activity in each building. Increased vacancy reduces property valuations and thus tax generation. Reductions in office valuations had over a \$2M impact on tax revenues based on the recently completed revaluation. Recommendations for the redevelopment or adaptive reuse of vacant or underutilized office product includes providing flexibility under land use regulations, as well as exploring financial incentives to bring projects to fruition.

There are approximately 700 acres of developable land remaining in the area after environmental constraints like wetlands and steep slopes are considered. Additional acreage could be available depending upon development scenarios for large campus sites such as The Hartford and Voya.

In order to pursue additional multifamily and mixed-used development, as well as potential adaptive reuse of office building properties, revisions to the future land use map as well as zoning regulations will be needed. The study will be presented to the Town Planning & Zoning Commission for its consideration and town staff will work in the coming months with the Commission on potential zoning regulation changes.

#### **Financial Impact**

Pursuit of recommendations from the DHCA study will help stabilize current taxable properties, as well as generate new grand list growth into the future.

#### Other Board Action

The Economic Development Commission met several times during the course of the study to provide guidance to Camoin Associates and acted as a sounding board for the vision and recommendations developed. The Commission will track progress toward achieving study recommendations, as well as provide recommendations on the development of any financial incentive tools pursued, including amendments to the town's assessment abatement policy.

#### Recommendation

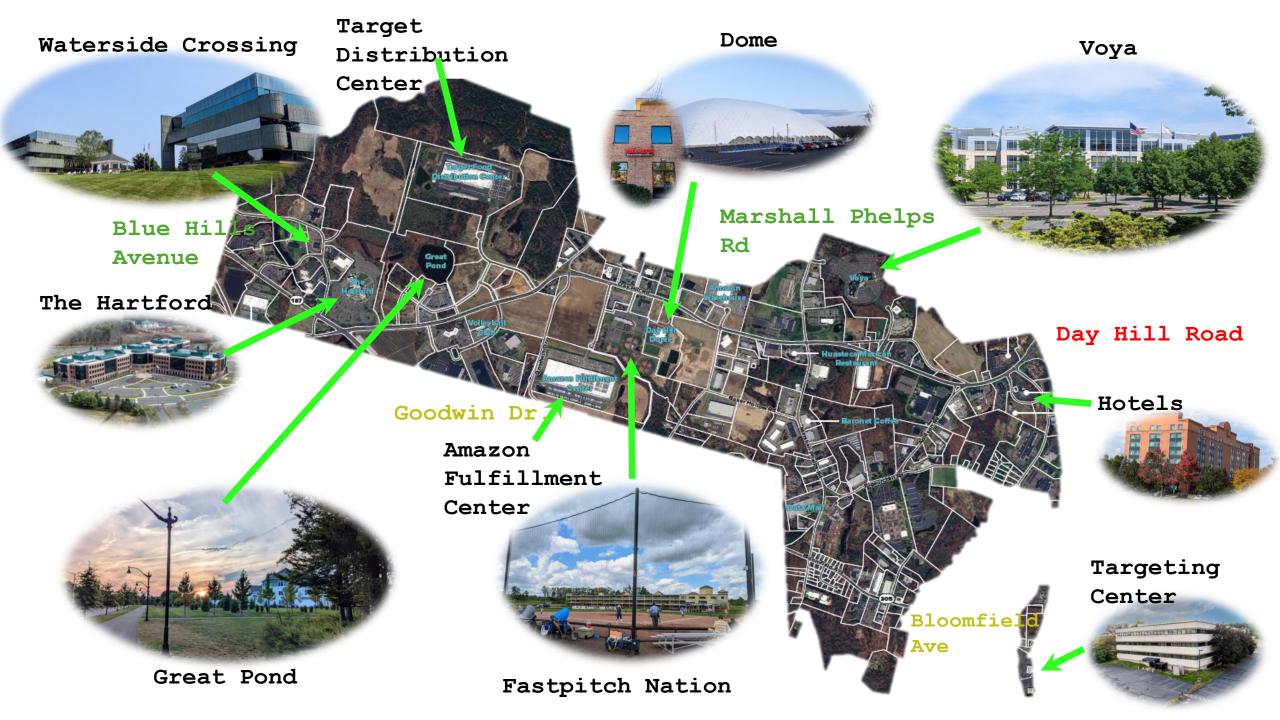
No Town Council action is required at this time. Any proposed changes to the town's assessment abatement policy, development of any other financial incentive tools, or pursuit of state grant funding sources will be brought to the Council for consideration.

#### Attachments

None

# Project Purpose and Goals

- Assess disruption of real estate markets and land use patterns
- Respond to emerging needs and prepare for future opportunities
- Engage the existing business community
- Develop a collective vision for the future of DHCA
- Inform and align with broader planning efforts (POCD)





How was this study conducted?

Evaluation & Planning Process

Real Estate Market Opportunity Analysis

Fiscal Analysis

Stakeholder Engagement Development Criteria

Focus Areas

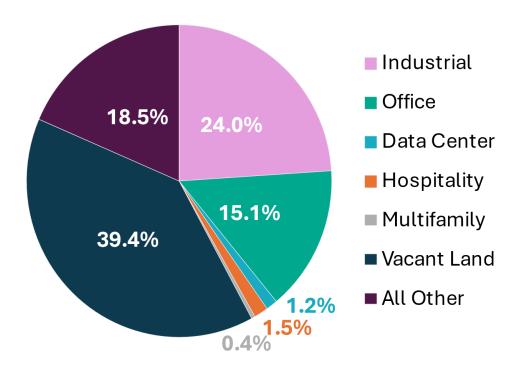
Guiding Principles



#### By the numbers...

- **3,300+** acres
- **15,000+** jobs
- 300+ parcels
- \$637 million in real property assessed value
- \$210 million in personal property assessed value
- 20% of Town-wide assessed value
- 2 million+ SF warehouse and distribution space added since 2015
- 230 residential units built since 2019

### DHCA, Acres by Use Type, 2024



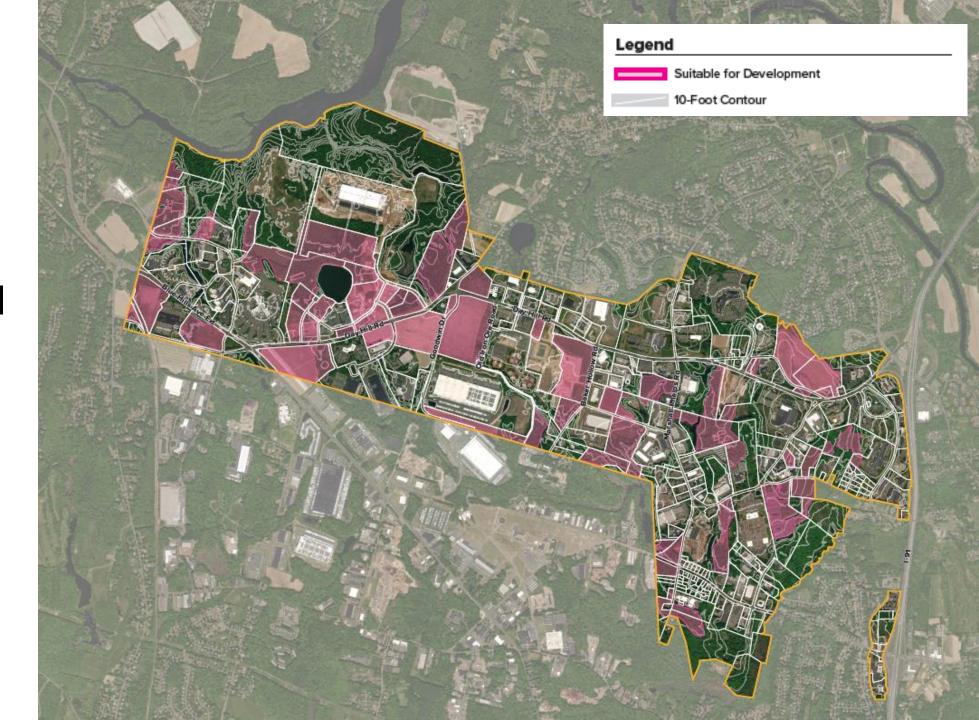
All Other includes retail, restaurant, recreation, medical office, single-family, municipal, farming, and other uses.

Source: Town of Windsor

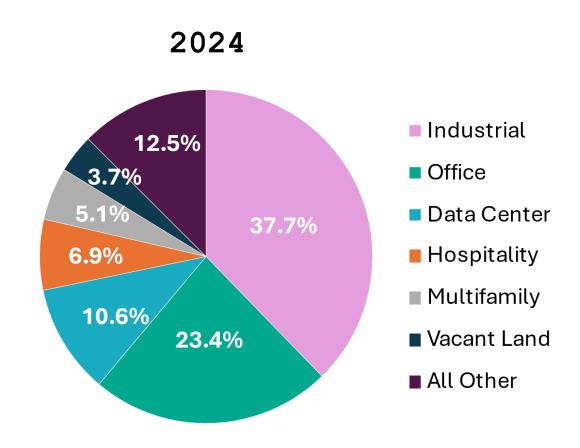


### **Development Potential**

**About 700 Acres** 



### Assessed Value by Use Type



### **MARKET OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY**

#### **HIGH POTENTIAL**

- Multifamily Rentals
- Condos & Townhomes
- Senior Living
- Assisted Living
- Warehouses & Distribution Centers
- Advanced
   Manufacturing Space
- Industrial Flex Space

#### **MODERATE POTENTIAL**

- Food & Beverage
- Convenience Retail & Services
- Sports & Recreation
- Mid-range & Economy Lodging
- Medical Office

#### LIMITED POTENTIAL

- Traditional Office
- Life Sciences Lab Space

# **Employment Implications**

Quantity and wage levels of jobs present at a typical facility of each type.

#### Job Creation Potential

Manufacturing/Flex Ind. Warehouse/Distribution Office Retail/Rest. Hospitality Recreation **Medical Office Assisted Living** Data Center Multifamily **Higher Wages Lower Wages** 

More Jobs

Fewer Jobs



# Corridor-Wide Guiding Principles

- High-quality architecture
- Align with market-supported opportunities
- Support local, small business
- Access to nature and open space
- Connectivity and safety
- Encourage fiscally net positive development
- Emphasis on high-quality job creation











Area-Specific Guiding Principles

#### Hotel Cluster

Potential for multifamily or senior/assisted living

#### Great Pond

- Housing and additional mixed-use retail
- Manufacturing on industrial parcels

# South Side of Day Hill Road Flex industrial uses outside of recreation node and hotel sites

#### Targeting

#### Center

- Adaptive reuse of offices
- Multifamily
- Retail along Bloomfield Ave





## **Recommended Action**

### Land Use & Development

- 1. Encourage Mixed-Use Development
- 2. Limit High-Volume Distribution
- 3. Support Great Pond Village Development
- 4. Facilitate Reuse of Vacant Office Properties







## **Recommended Action**

### Business Growth & Retention

- 5. Continue Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)
- 6. Attract Advanced Manufacturing & Industrial Users





## **Recommended Action**

## Quality of Life & Infrastructure

- 7. Enhance Green Space & Placemaking
- 8. Improve Walkability & Connectivity
- 9. Address Truck Parking Challenges

## Branding & Identity

- 10. Consider Rebrand Away from a Corporate-Only Image
- 11. Develop a District Identity with Distinct Hubs





## Next Steps for the Community to Take:

- Finalize Report
- Present study to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission
- Pursue Zoning Regulation Amendments to Further Plan Goals
- Pursue Financial Tools to Incentive Development
- Incorporate Study Findings in Plan of Conservation and Development





# Town Council Resignations/Appointments/Reappointments April 7, 2025

### Resignations

None

Appointments/Reappointments (to be acted upon at tonight's meeting)

None

Names submitted for consideration of appointment

None



TOWN OF WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL CHAMBERS HYBRID MEETING MARCH 17, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING

#### **UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

#### 1) CALL TO ORDER

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Mayor Black-Burke.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Anthony King, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey, and Councilor Lenworth Walker

Mayor Black-Burke read aloud the notice of the public hearing to hear public comment on:

- AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$915,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PIGEON HILL ROAD REHABILITATION; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$915,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION
- AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$745,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WELCH PARK TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$745,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION
- AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,805,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH L.P. WILSON COMMUNITY CENTER PHASE 2B HVAC UPGRADES; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$1,330,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND THE USE OF \$475,000 FROM EXISTING PROJECT FUNDS TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION

#### 2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Seip, 374 River Street, spoke on the improvements at Welch Park for \$745,000. He doesn't think it is necessary to spend that kind of money. He feels that there are far better alternatives that can be done at a more cost-effective price. He stated that very rarely do you see people over at the tennis courts. He believes that there's a lot of other things that this money could be spent on. He suggested a pavilion be put there instead of the improvements being made. He believes they would get a better use out of putting a pavilion there rather than to put a lot of money towards something that won't be used.



## Town Council Meeting Minutes – Public Hearing March 17, 2025

Matt Cookson, 28 Somerset Drive, stated he grew up here in town and has spent a lot of time at Welch Park. He said that he too has noticed that no one goes to the tennis courts. He stated that he talked to a paving company and they told him that it should be well under \$100,000 to do the project. He doesn't understand why the taxpayers should pay for something that nobody ever uses. He also wanted to talk about the HVAC upgrades at L.P. Wilson. He stated that the place where he works is also having the same job being done and they were quoted around \$40,000. So, he doesn't understand where the \$1.8 million is coming from. He also stated that he is opposed to both of the projects. He would like for the Council to reconsider the amount of money being spent. He stated that he pays a lot of taxes in this town and that there is a lot of industries that could be paying taxes instead of putting it all on the homeowners.

#### 3) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Black-Burke declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Collins Recording Secretary



## TOWN COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON March 17, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

#### Regular Town Council Meeting Council Chambers

#### **UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

#### 1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Deputy Mayor Darleen Klase, Councilor Mary Armstrong, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman, Councilor Anthony King, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor William Pelkey and Councilor Walker

#### 2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Councilor Eleveld led the group in prayer/reflection.

#### 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Eleveld led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS None
- 5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS- None

#### 6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor King stated he doesn't have many communications to share because he is new but thanked everyone for welcoming him and he is looking forward to working on behalf of the town.

Councilor Eleveld said that we are getting close to Spring time and to keep an eye out for the kids. Shad Derby events are coming up. They had the Shad Derby kickoff event at Back East and the family bowling event at Spare Time that was well attended. He suggested that residents keep an eye open for the activities related to the Shad Derby. It's going to be a good year and it's not going to rain or be cloudy that day.

Councilor Naeem wanted to thank everyone who came out to speak and share their concerns and thoughts on what there is on the agenda tonight. She welcomed Councilor King again. She asked people to be careful in terms of driving around. Kids are out playing and there's still plenty of speeding happening around town. So, please be careful and watch



out for the kids. She wanted to remind everyone that this Saturday, Northwest Park is hosting its annual pancake breakfast from 8 AM to 11 AM.

Councilor Pelkey said he wanted to thank everyone that came out to vote in the referendum. It was very nice to have 3,000 people show up but he would have loved to have more people. He wanted to remind people that when we do our referendums, that absentee ballot voting is available. He mentioned about volunteering at the Shad Derby as well as the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department. He welcomed Councilor King. He asked everyone to please be mindful because not only are kids outside, a lot of adults are out walking their dogs as well. Also, if you see flashing lights on a school bus, please don't drive by the school bus when they are flashing.

Councilor Armstrong stated that it is good to see those who came out tonight as well as virtual. She attended the Women League of Voters event and it was very informative. Many questions were answered and opinions were received by our residents. She said that it is still flu season so hopefully everyone will take care of themselves and others by getting their immunizations. She said Happy St. Patty's Day to everyone.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman said that she wanted to mention that the Shad Derby event that took place Sunday was great and the rotary did a great job. That event was in honor of Vincent Scully here in town. She wanted to thank everyone that came out to speak tonight.

Councilor Walker dittos everything that the councilors have said. He also wanted to thank the residents for coming out speaking about the costs for the tennis courts, etc.

Deputy Mayor Klase wanted to talk to everyone about speeding. There have been quite a few complaints around speeding, not in just the major arteries, but in the neighborhoods as well. People often tend to blame the teenagers, but it's actually a lot of adults. So, we need to really be careful. She also wanted to bring to everyone's attention not just to the pancake breakfast, but to Northwest Park and the nature center and all the activities that go on over there. Activities are posted on their Facebook page and on their webpage. She thanked everybody who came out to speak tonight.

Mayor Black-Burke said thank you to all the voters that came out to vote on the referendum. That's exactly what the Council wanted to see. We wanted to hear from the community. She thanked everyone that worked at the polls and to those that made that happen. The schools participated in Read Across America week. She noted that many people were able to stop by the schools for that. She thanked the administrators as well as the school leadership in making that happen. She congratulated all the Phenomenal Women of Windsor recipients. She thanked the Councilors for attending all the various events in town. The Windsor Education Foundation held a very nice event at the Birdcage. It was well attended.

#### 7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

a) Commission on Aging and Persons with Disabilities

Kathy Roby, Chair of the Commission on Aging and Persons with Disabilities, gave the following report:

In calendar Year 2024, the commission provided a variety of programs and added a new member to the group, Danette Brown, which brought them up to an active group of seven. This made it easier to maintain their quorum.

Allowing the IT department to continue to give them a hybrid meeting is really important as two of their members are unable to drive after dark and use that service. It also allows the group to have a quorum. They also welcomed Joe McAuliffe as a new member to the group.

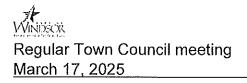
In 2024, it was again a very busy time for the members of the Commission as follows:

- Focused on our Public Relations/Recruitment projects and our annual review/publication of the "Resource Manual."
- Recorded a video for WIN-TV describing the Commission, its goals, our activities and programs we have presented.
- Resource Manual was carefully reviewed for accuracy, detail, and inclusion of appropriate programs. A total of 350 booklets were printed (75 Spanish and 225 English).

In the spring, we had a speaker from the State of Connecticut State Comptroller's office present the ARRAY RX program which is a tremendous prescription benefit that reaches all ages and members of the community.

Three programs were scheduled for the fall of 2024.

- Representative Garibay came to discuss a follow up to her 2023 presentation on the
  activities of the Public Health Committee. In September, Representative Garibay
  presented a program on how legislation is developed from the concerns raised by
  voters, how they can make their concerns known to her and took questions on various
  topics.
- A program was presented in October that was a direct response to a question that
  many of us hear in an older/disabled population: "I want to stay here in my home in
  my community. How can I do that?" Our panel of speakers included NCAAA, CCCI,
  and the Caring Connection. This was very informative and well received.
- The final program was presented by our own Town Clerk, Registrars of Voters and the League of Women Voters. It focused on Voters Rights and Services for older and/or disabled persons, addressing absentee ballots, accommodations for the blind/deaf or otherwise impaired persons. Everyone attending came away truly amazed at the options and services available.



4

The Commission ended its 2024 by planning a "Preparing for your 2025 AARP Tax Appointment" to be held in January. Our presenter was a trained AARP volunteer preparer and provided excellent information and advice.

Throughout the fall of 2024, one other concern did occupy the focus of the Commission. In 2013-14, the Commission worked closely with the Police Department and the Town Manager's office to put into place the Handicapped Crossing Flags in two locations in the center to improve pedestrian safety. Over the summer, the flags were noted to be missing from the crossing at the Geissler's parking lot. The Commission worked with the Town Engineering Department to have these restored and they are again in active use. We wish to thank the Engineering Department for their attention to this as these flags do serve a critical safety purpose.

In 2025 some of the items we'll be pursing include:

- Print the Resource Manual 100 in Spanish and 300 in English
- Increase our membership by advertising
- Continue to hold meetings with our elected representatives on topics they are pursuing
- Offer a CPR/First Aid program
- Currently working on scheduling a program with the Ombudsman representing people
  who are currently residing in facilities short-term and long-term rehab and the
  community Ombudsman that is responsible for those in their homes and in assisted
  living.

Councilor Pelkey asked when the meetings for the Commission take place? Ms. Roby stated they meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the conference room in the senior center.

#### 8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

#### **Broad Street Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Project**

As a follow up to the project referendum, town staff and I are meeting with project consultants this week to review possible paths forward relative to traffic calming and pedestrian safety along Broad Street in town center.

#### **Budget Information meeting**

A public information meeting regarding the Town Manager's proposed FY 25 - FY 26 budget will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers at town hall.

#### Zoning and Parking Complaints on Wilson Ave

Since last September 2024 and in response to neighborhood complaints on Wilson Avenue, both the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Police Department have been working to resolve a number of zoning and parking issues at 11 Wilson Avenue. The activity briefly subsided but soon resumed. The Zoning Enforcement Officer issued a cease and correct order in October of 2024. In December of 2024, a citation was issued. The property owner

has failed to remediate the violations. The Town Attorney has been involved and there is a preliminary court hearing scheduled for April.

#### State Project to Repair Culvert Under Palisado Ave at Pleasant Street

As previously reported, the CT DOT is coordinating a project to repair a culvert under Palisado Avenue at Pleasant Street. The state's contractor is expected to start tree work on the week of March 24th. A relatively large area of trees along Pleasant Street and a smaller area on the east side of Palisado will need to be cleared. Pleasant Street at Palisado will need to be closed for one or two days the week of March 24th. Construction on the culvert is expected to start after July 1st and be completed by the end of October. Palisado Avenue is expected to remain open during construction, but Pleasant Street will be one lane only.

#### Day Hill Corporate Area Planning Study Public Information Meeting

On Monday, March 24th at 7:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers there will be a Public Information Meeting on the Day Hill Corporate Area study. The consultant, Camoin Associates, will present its recommendations for the corridor. To learn more or to zoom into the meeting, please visit the town's website at <a href="https://www.townofwindsorct.com">www.townofwindsorct.com</a>.

#### Summer Construction at Bradley Airport to alter air traffic patterns

The CT Airport Authority has informed us they will be rehabilitating Runway 6/24, BDL's primary runway, this construction season. (Runway 6/24 runs from Route 75 at the northeast end of BDL to Route 20 to the southwest.) This major project must be completed approximately every 15-20 years once the pavement has reached its useful life. During construction, Runway 6/24 will be closed and operations will continue at the airport exclusively on Runway 15/33, BDL's secondary runway. This will result in more air traffic over Windsor and Windsor Locks. Runway 6/24 is scheduled to close on May 1st, and it is expected to reopen in November.

#### **Northwest Park Pancake Breakfast**

Join the Friends of Northwest Park for the 38th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

After breakfast, explore the Sugar House to see how maple syrup is made, visit the nature center, tobacco museum, and animal barn, or take a leisurely walk on the park's scenic trails.

Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children under 12, and free for children 3 and under; please note this is a <u>cash-only</u> event. All proceeds benefit projects at Northwest Park. For more information, call Northwest Park at 285-1886.

#### The Windsor Senior Center Vintage Radio Play

The Windsor Senior Center Players are returning for another exciting performance at the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum on Thursday, March 27, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

This time, the troupe will present the 1946 radio skit Baby Snooks, The Ugly Duckling, a comical and nostalgic production that promises to transport audiences back in time.

Registration is required by calling the Senior Center at 860-285-1992, and Dial-a-Ride seating is available for those needing transportation.

#### Teen Center Open House & March Madness Bash!

Windsor teens are invited to our grand open house at the Teen Center at the 330 Windsor Avenue Community Center on March 18, 2025 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

There will be a March Madness viewing party featuring both men's & women's tournament games on the big screen.

Join us for free snacks, free throw competitions, and activities promoting health awareness and positive social interaction.

Pre-registration is required. For more details, please visit www.townofwindsorct.com/recreation or call the recreation office at 860-285-1990.

#### Youth Service Partnership with Windsor High School

The Youth Services Bureau and Windsor High School have partnered to launch a five-week youth development program starting Monday, March 31.

This supportive environment will help participants develop essential communication, self-awareness, and respectful interaction skills. To participate in the program, please contact the Youth Services Bureau at 860-285-1990.

#### Pierson Lane Sewer Work

The MDC is planning on resuming work on the Pierson Lane sewer line installation project as early as next week. The work will take one to two weeks.

There may be detours for through traffic for part of that time period otherwise they will utilize alternating one way traffic. No overnight work is planned. Pavement milling and repaving will be at a later date.

Councilor Pelkey asked for a high-level overview of the 'adopt a spot' program in Windsor. Town Manager Souza stated that it's an opportunity for residents, businesses, or civic organizations to 'adopt a spot.' People can contact the Public Works Department or Town Manager's Office and they will be able to provide information on locations that have not been adopted. The town will supply the basic tools, materials and supply some safety vests. This opportunity encourages individuals to 'adopt a spot' in their neighborhood or in their business park and be able to do a minimum of 3-4 cleanups per year. This is on top of what the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee does where they have a clean up in the Wilson and Deerfield neighborhood. You can go to the town's website to get more information on the 'adopt the spot' program.

Mayor Black-Burke said the littering is a concern. Town Manager Souza stated that this is just like speeding. It's those people that are not taking care and respect to be able to deposit their litter or trash in a proper location. The Public Works department has 10 or 12 different groups that they regularly have folks assigned to for clean up. We also work closely with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation on this issue. We encourage them to send their crews out to do the sides of the highway and the on and off ramps. We do need everyone to chip in and spend a little bit of time picking up.

#### 9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – nothing to report.

Finance Committee – Councilor Naeem – There was a Finance Committee meeting about two weeks ago and those agenda items are on tonight's agenda. The committee discussed the process for the community grant funding that is reviewed during the budget cycle each year. It was an effective and efficient meeting.

Health and Safety Committee - Councilor Armstrong - nothing to report.

Joint Town Council/Board of Education Committee - Deputy Mayor Klase - nothing to report

Personnel Committee - Deputy Mayor Klase - nothing to report.

#### 10) ORDINANCES - None

#### 11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$915,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PIGEON HILL ROAD REHABILITATION; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$915,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Pelkey that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$915,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PIGEON HILL ROAD REHABILITATION; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$915,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the council and copies made available to those persons attending this meeting; and the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$915,000 FOR COSTS IN

CONNECTION WITH PIGEON HILL ROAD REHABILITATION; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$915,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

Town Manager Souza stated this is subject to a public hearing and was presented two weeks ago to the full Council. This project entails rehabilitating the portion of Pigeon Hill Road from the vicinity of Lamerton Road, west to Marshall Phelps. Part of this roadway will be full depth reconstruction essentially with drainage installed. The other portion will be a mill and overlay. There'll be no expansion of the road, except for one small area, where there will be a slight widening there, but this will only be a couple feet to the roadway.

The lane width ultimately will be 10 to 11 feet inches striped and 10 to 11 feet in width. We did hold a neighborhood meeting last week on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were no objections or concerns raised by the few property owners that were in attendance.

The CIP that the Town Council approved a year ago allocated \$916,000 for this project. So we are bringing this project with the engineer's estimate of \$915,000 that includes a contingency. He noted that this project is subject to the State's prevailing wage law. which does unfortunately increase the cost of projects. If this is to be approved this evening, we would be formally bidding this project later this spring, early summer with construction expected late summer into the fall.

Deputy Mayor Klase asked for clarification on the difference between paving a parking lot or a driveway versus a roadway. Ms. Choate responded typically, a driveway is one layer of pavement. It handles a lot less traffic. It's basically the more traffic it gets, the heavier the pavement structure needs to be so that means more material. A driveway would be the least, parking area would be the next, and then roadways are going to be a heavier, thicker pavement section. Even if you look at highways, it would be even a more robust section. Therefore, it costs more money.

Councilor Eleveld said Ms. Choate mentioned prevailing wage. Davis Bacon is the federal law and he believes the State follows that law. That increases the cost of doing things markedly. Part of the reason is, there's a lot of administrative aspects to applying that law and making sure it's being administered properly. Would that be correct? Town Manager Souza responded that there are additional administrative responsibilities that the contractors need to adhere to in prevailing wages. It depends greatly on the trade, in the discipline in terms of the difference relative to the wages. There are definitely administrative costs on both the town side as well as the general contractor or subcontractor's side.

Councilor Eleveld asked if that's part of the reason why projects that the town does costs markedly more than those in the private sector. Town Manager Souza stated that is definitely a contributing factor.

Councilor Eleveld asked if the prevailing wage rules relative to the size of the project and bidding the project has changed? He thought at one point it was like a quarter of a million dollars, and you had to go prevailing wage. Do you remember? They did make adjustments

several years ago, especially for new construction. He believes they've indexed it to the inflation for construction related projects.

#### Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$745,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WELCH PARK TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$745,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

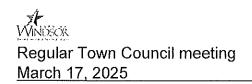
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem that the reading into the minutes of the text of the bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$745,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WELCH PARK TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$745,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

#### Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$745,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH WELCH PARK TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$745,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

Town Manager Souza, stated this item was presented to the full Council at the last meeting, but he will provide a brief overview. This project will construct five pickleball courts and one tennis court. There's been a significant increase in the popularity of pickleball over the last 8 to 10 years. This would take those tennis courts that are currently there and renovate them. This is definitely a different type of construction than what is there now. Ms. Choate described the construction method and the reason why they were doing it in this way which is similar to what they did at the High School and L.P. Wilson. If this project is approved by the Town Council, this project has already been bid. We have received four respondents. This is the cost based upon the lowest responsive bidder and qualified bidder. The project will be started late this spring, early summer, and completed in the fall.

Councilor King asked if there have been any studies made on the use of the courts over at L.P. Wilson? Is there any data to support that and why we are doing this? Town Manager Souza replied he does not have the data with him but we know anecdotally, there's been significant usage both during day hours and night hours, as those are lit. These courts at Welch will not be lit. The senior center has hosted a number of organized tournaments, if you will. We don't have that specific data, but we certainly could get that information if you'd like.



Councilor Naeem said she wanted to reiterate that this includes sort of the removal of how the courts are right now, so it would entail cleaning everything up and starting from scratch almost. Is this a complete overhaul? Ms. Choate responded that is correct. It includes fencing, sound barrier, and drainage improvements as well. Councilor Naeem then stated that there's also the replacement of the nearby sidewalk ramp and the shade structure as well. It is a little bit more than just a just a single tennis court. She thinks that with sort of the prevailing wage requirements of the State it cost makes sense to her.

Deputy Mayor Klase said she thought when she last went to the courts, that they weren't even playable. Are they playable? The Councilors stated they are not. Deputy Mayor Klase asked when they were last playable? Town Manager Souza replied that it's been a minimum of four years. There's significant cracking that has developed. Probably close to 10 or 15 years ago, we filled those cracks and resurfaced the court to gain additional life. But I would say it's probably been four plus years where it's been less than desirable playing conditions.

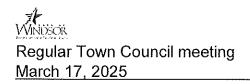
Councilor Gluck Hoffman said as follow up to that, one of the questions she asked is why we hadn't paid attention to it and that it was obviously because there are other things in town that are more important to cover. Town Manager Souza had mentioned that at the last meeting. The other point she would like to point out is that there was an information meeting back in December of 2024 for this court. A few years ago, when we did L.P. Wilson, this room was full of people who wanted that pickleball court. Where are they tonight? She would have liked to have seen more individuals from the public here tonight supporting this project. She agrees with the amount we are going to spend for it because we are putting in a shade structure, but she would have liked to see more people at the meeting tonight, so she is not for voting on this tonight.

Councilor Armstrong asked if there are any safety issues involved with the current court? Ms. Choate stated none that she is aware of. Town Manager Souza added that the cracks on the court are numerous and essentially makes it unplayable in its current condition. So it just continues to deteriorate. Water and pavement are enemies. It's just going to continue to deteriorate. If there are not safety concerns now, there certainly could be. But it's certainly an unplayable condition at this point.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that in regards to the public hearing meeting that was held in December, those were individuals from that immediate neighborhood which attended the meeting and they were in favor of that. She's just trying to get to Council Gluck Hoffman's piece which she does understand. If that's their mind set on the project I'm wondering if that is why individuals didn't come.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman felt that all the information was put out there and that the public was well informed.

Councilor Pelkey asked how many pickleball courts do we currently have that are usable in town? Is it just at L.P. Wilson? Town Manager Souza stated L.P. Wilson is the formal courts that we have.



Councilor Pelkey asked with this project if we weren't to actually build anything and we let it go to nature, what percent of this ask would be that tear out? Because at this point, we are doing the tear out and the redo. Ms. Choate stated she could get him that number but not off the top of her head at this moment.

Councilor Pelkey stated that even if you were to let the space go back to grass, some of that is getting rid of what is a deteriorating structure that ultimately could lead to some sort of safety issues or problems if left for much longer at its current condition. So, out of the \$745,000 we would still be spending some money just to get rid of the problem. Ms. Choate said that was correct.

Councilor Eleveld stated that the construction cost is \$610,000 and that includes ripping out everything, the fencing and so on that's currently there, just not remediating it back to basically green grass. Would that be correct? Town Manager Souza stated that yes the \$610,000 includes removing the existing asset, including all the fencing, repairing, rebuilding the base for the courts, and then putting in the post tension concrete and adding new fencing, sidewalk approach as well as the sun shade structure and then sound barriers on two sides of the facility.

Councilor Eleveld asked prior to its current deterioration over the last several years, was there use of the facility? Do you know? Town Manager Souza responded that his recollection is prior to the current condition, there was use of the facility. From a tennis perspective, he does not have the numbers. Tennis is still being played, but pickleball has gained popularity tremendously, so that is what we're trying to accommodate at this point.

Motion Passed 8-1-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman opposed)

c) Approve an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,805,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH L.P. WILSON COMMUNITY CENTER PHASE 2B HVAC UPGRADES; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$1,330,000 BONDS AND NOTES, AND THE USE OF \$475,000 FROM EXISTING PROJECT FUNDS TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Pelkey that the reading into the minutes of the text of the bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,805,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH L.P. WILSON COMMUNITY CENTER PHASE 2B HVAC UPGRADES; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$1,330,000 BONDS AND NOTES, AND THE USE OF \$475,000 FROM EXISTING PROJECT FUNDS TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve a bond ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,805,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH L.P. WILSON COMMUNITY CENTER PHASE 2B HVAC UPGRADES; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$1,330,000 BONDS AND NOTES, AND THE USE OF \$475,000 FROM EXISTING PROJECT FUNDS TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

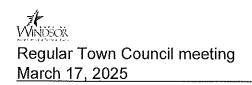
Town Manager Souza stated the L.P. Wilson Center has been around for a few years. It was built in 1958, with an addition added in 1972. Much of the existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are original to those construction periods. This project is more than a HVAC project. This is a multi-phase project to replace and upgrade the HVAC system. This project here also includes replacing basically fin tube radiation systems installing those in several classrooms and corridors in the northern end of the building. Within the Board of Education Office areas there's new flooring and ceiling tiles that will be installed as well as includes a factor for hazardous materials remediation as needed.

This funding source is of two parts, \$475,000 of existing project funds in cash from the previous projects that were done at the facility over the last 3 construction seasons. Then bonds and notes in the amount of \$1.3 million dollars. This would be on the predominantly northern end of the building which completes that portion of the building. It would also include rooftop units that serve the gymnasium area. We do have future projects in the CIP to do the southern end of the building, similarly with HVAC units, as well as replacing some flooring, and finishes in the southern half of the building.

Councilor Pelkey said the breakdown for the Hazmat abatement is \$183,000. Is that just a projection based on other work that we've done in the building? Or is that just an estimate and we can exceed that cost? Town Manager Souza said it's an estimate based upon the square foot basis that we've had, that we've done in that building in the last couple of years. Complete testing has not been completed. That will be the contractor's responsibility as they start to get into the project. But that's the engineering estimate on the \$183,000.

Councilor Pelkey said the project would start relatively soon. But since this is the north end of the building, we would be able to get this done before school comes back. There might be kids around or in the building and all that, just from a timeline perspective, assuming we don't have rain every single day of the summer. Town Manager Souza stated that the finishes in terms of the flooring and ceiling will be completed by this summer.

Councilor Walker said we have residents who came out to question costs on some of these projects. His question is how many people bid on this HVAC project? Town Manager Souza said the HVAC portion of the project has not been put out to bid yet. These are the consulting engineers, cost estimates, and so we will be bidding this project here in the next coming weeks.



Councilor Eleveld asked how many requests for proposal do we normally send out on a project of this size. Town Manager Souza responded that we notify contractors that we have done work with or those that have responded to bids in recent years. But we also put this on the Statewide Department of Administrative Services website as well as ours. We're required to do that. We put a legal ad in the Hartford Courant as required by our purchasing policy, and unfortunately, when it comes to these large scale projects, we have not seen a large number of respondents to our bid solicitations. In the last 2-3 major projects, we've only received two or three bids from general contractors for HVAC work. So, it's been very limited.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

#### 12) NEW BUSINESS

a) Approve an appropriation of \$150,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for the River Street Culvert and Stream Bed Design project

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Walker to approve an appropriation of \$150,000 from the Capital Projects Fund Assigned Fund Balance for the River Street Culvert and Stream Bed Design.

Suzanne Choate, Town Engineer, stated the culvert carrying a stream under River Street near Strawberry Hill is a large 72-inch asphalt-coated corrugated metal pipe which was installed in the 1970's. It is showing signs of corrosion commensurate with its age. Additionally, the pipe has sediment built up toward the outlet end. The downstream drainage area has filled with sand/silt over the years. The proposed project scope includes clearing the pipe, lining it with polyethylene and dredging the downstream area.

The project design includes survey, wetland delineation, hydraulic and geotechnical analysis. A construction approach and method for repairs/rehabilitation will be decided based on criteria such as hydraulic adequacy, safety, cost, constructability, and recurring maintenance cost. Design consultants will also prepare and submit permitting applications with local, state and federal agencies.

If funding is approved, the design is expected to commence in the spring and be substantially complete, including permitting, within 12 to 18 months.

The fiscal year 2025 CIP has a planned allocation of \$92,400 for the project from other funding. The design proposals for this project are higher than initially anticipated, due to a larger scope of work related to the permitting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Receive memorandum from the Board of Education relative to Public Act 13-60

Town Manager Souza stated The Public Act allows a town's appropriating authority (Town Council) to make spending recommendations and suggestions to the school board regarding consolidation of non-educational services by no later than 10 days after the school board submits its annual itemized estimate. The school board may accept or reject the suggestions.

The town's general government departments and school department have a long history of collaborating both formally and informally. For example, the town's public works department for many years has been responsible for grounds maintenance and snow removal at school facilities. We have a combined risk management function staffed by one person. Through this formal arrangement, we combine administrative functions related to property and causality liability insurance, worker's compensation and safety training.

Working in partnership with the Public Building Commission, our respective facilities management staff (2 town and 1 BOE) coordinate the planning, designing, and implementation of major building projects at the various school facilities. We have worked together on procuring utility contracts and renewable energy. The town's defined benefit pension plan includes non-certified BOE staff and is managed by a committee comprised of representatives from both entities. We have also worked closely with the school administration in transitioning both entities to self-insured health and prescription drug programs.

The Finance Committee reviewed this item on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and recommended the Council acknowledge receipt of the of the memo with no formal actions required.

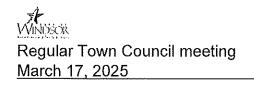
Councilor Armstrong asked what are the dues and fees? What does that consist of? Town Manager Souza stated he cannot specifically answer that question. He asked if Councilor Armstrong was talking about the letter from Ms. Batchelder. Councilor Armstrong replied it was. Town Manager Souza stated he'd have to talk to Ms. Batchelder to get the specifics regarding that \$1,500.

c) Introduce an ordinance creating a tax abatement benefit for First Responder Line of Duty Death

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong, that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE" is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Eleveld, to introduce an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT



GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE."

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager, stated CGS Sec. 12-81x enables the legislative body of a municipality to establish, by local ordinance, a program to abate all or a portion of the property taxes due with respect to real estate that is owned by the surviving spouse of a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician who has died during the course of the performance of such officer's, firefighter's or technician's duties, so long as it is also occupied as their principal residence.

The statute provides no further guidelines regarding the amount of the abatement. The Town Council could decide to establish an abatement program for a flat dollar tax benefit, or for a fixed percentage tax benefit. Several towns have adopted this local option including Southington, Berlin, and Groton along with a few others.

Staff researched eight municipalities who have adopted this local option and developed a proposed ordinance for review and discussion with the Finance Committee. Below are key highlights of the ordinance that is attached.

- Exemption provides an abatement of 100% of municipal real residential property taxes.
- Remains in effect so long as the surviving spouse occupies the residence as their primary residence.
- Exemption continues if the surviving spouse remarries.
- If surviving spouse maintains a fractional ownership in the primary residence, exemption is prorated accordingly.
- If the spouse subsequently purchases another residence in the town, and all qualifying criteria remain, then the tax abatement shall apply to the new residence.
- If the property is a multiple family or multiple use dwelling, such relief will be prorated to reflect the fractional portion of such property occupied by the qualifying spouse.
- Establishes an annual application process for the abatement if this were a multiple family or multiple use dwelling.

Councilor Naeem wanted to share that this was pretty thoroughly reviewed. There have been multiple meetings with discussions on this subject in the Finance Committee. She feels this is a well balanced approach to the ordinance. This puts Windsor on the map for doing what's right for those that are serving here. She's looking forward to seeing this through.

Deputy Mayor Klase said she just wanted to thank the Finance Committee as she knows it was a lot of work going into this and that this is a financial decision. I appreciate erring on the right side of things and the work that you all did on this.



Councilor Pelkey stated he certainly hopes we never have to use this. One question is you would have a proration if a surviving spouse remarries, they would put their new spouse's name on the documentation for the house. Do you automoatically get prorated down 50%? Assistant Town Manager Colby replied that upon the next application cycle for the following grand list year, that property would then be prorated to 50% if there were one additional person put onto that.

Mayor Black-Burke stated that she agrees with Councilor Pelkey that she hopes we do not have to use this, but we do need to have it in place. She thanked everyone that worked on this.

#### Motion Passed 9-0-0

d) Set a Public Hearing for Monday, April 7, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. (prevailing time) in the Council Chambers of the Windsor Town Hall, to hear an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE."

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Pelkey, that a Public Hearing be set for Monday, April 7, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. (prevailing time) in the Council Chambers of the Windsor Town Hall, to hear an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TO ADOPT CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-81X TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH SURVIVING SPOUSE" and "FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to post and publish notice of said Public Hearing."

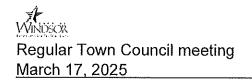
#### Motion Passed 9-0-0

e) Approve the local option concerning Motor Vehicles depreciation schedule for October 2024 Grand List

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong, that the Town Council adopt the local option as allowed under CGS Section 12-63 (b)(7) for use of the 90% depreciation schedule related to motor vehicle valuation effective with the October 2024 Grand List.

Town Manager Souza stated this item was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> and effectively, as the motion states, Connecticut State law allows for the municipality to adopt a different depreciation schedule for a motor vehicle.

Town Manager Souza said a few years ago, the State had changed the methodology that was to go into effect with the July 1, 2025 fiscal year. They changed it from using the JD



Power pricing guide to a straight depreciation based upon 85% of MSRP for a new vehicle and then depreciating down at 5% increments each year until a floor or 15% of the original MSRP or an assessment of not less than \$500 was reached. The legislation that was recently adopted and assigned it into law allows for this local option that begins a depreciation schedule at 90% and then declines at 5% increments down until it's 20% or \$500 in assessed value. So what this respectfully does is maintain the grand list at levels slightly less than the October of 2023 grand list because there's smaller trailers, camp trailers, small personal trailers that are no longer taxable. So there is a slight decrease in our grand list relative to motor vehicles if we were to use the 90%. If we were to stay at 95% schedule, the motor vehicle grand list would drop approximately \$29 million in assessed value between October 23 Grand list and the October 24 Grand list.

Councilor Pelkey said just for clarification, if you have one of those classic antique plates, another Statute applies and you are only hit with the \$500. So if you have a 15-20 year old car that started at \$120,000 it would otherwise be hit. Once you hit 20 years or have that classic plate, you're back down to the \$500. Town Manager Souza said he believes there are two separate things. There's the classic plate but then there's also where you'll be at that 20%. It's going be is very unique to each individual. So he doesn't want to say it's a blanket but if you're at 20, your 20% is your lowest appreciation or \$500 whichever is not less than \$500.

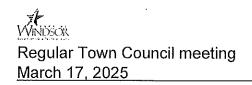
Councilor Pelkey asked we're not automatically raising the tax on their vehicle just by adopting this new local option correct? Town Manager Souza said he believes it would be similar if you had the 85/15 law.

#### Motion Passed 9-0-0

f) Authorize Town Manager to negotiate and execute power purchase agreements for potential solar facilities at Windsor High School, Sage Park Middle School and Poquonock Elementary School

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Armstrong, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement and other related documents with Greenskies for the installation of solar canopies at Windsor High School and Sage Park Middle School and with Verogy for the installation of rooftop solar at Poquonock Elementary School.

Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager, stated Solar arrays have been installed and placed in operation at eight facilities – Police/DPW at 110 Addison Road, Fire/EMS at 340 Bloomfield Avenue, Poquonock Fire Station, L.P. Wilson Community Center, John F. Kennedy Elementary School, Oliver Ellsworth Elementary School, 330 Windsor Avenue Community Center, and 20 Williams Street. These installations have increased the use of renewable energy and mitigated annual operating expenses at these buildings through power purchase agreements.



A few months ago, Eversource announced a Non-Residential Renewable Energy (NRES) Program geared to school facilities. This competitive program would provide renewable energy credits towards the project and the town/schools would purchase power at a reduced rate based on the amount of electricity the panels produce. Staff recently issued an RFP for the installation of solar panels at several school locations including Sage Park Middle School Roof (roof top install), Poquonock Elementary School Roof (roof top install), along with solar canopies over the parking lots at Sage Park Middle School and Windsor High School with the assistance of Titan Energy. Titan Energy was selected through the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities procurement process to assist municipalities with the new program. A site visit was conducted for interested vendors along with town and school staff.

At this time, staff is respectively requesting authorization to enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Greenskies for both the Windsor High School solar canopy and Sage Park Middle School solar canopy. We are also requesting authorization to enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Verogy for the rooftop solar at Poquonock Elementary School. Both of these private sector vendors have provided the best projected long-term savings for these solar array installations.

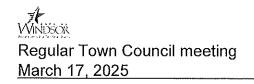
Eversource does require a signed power purchase agreement to be in place prior to applying for these credits. If the credits are successfully secured, we plan to complete additional due diligence tasks and initiate project design and local permit approval.

It's also anticipated that if we were to be awarded these credits, that construction would not occur until summer of 26, for both the high school and middle school and construction of Poquonock Elementary school wouldn't take place until summer of 2027, as the roof is scheduled to be replaced next summer.

Mayor Black-Burke wanted to make sure that, especially because it's solar canopies, that the homeowners that are facing that canopy will be a part of whatever conversations will take place. She just wants to make sure that's going to be addressed for them. Somebody might have concerns that need to be addressed.

Councilor King asked if the schools currently have solar in one of the facilities that's had issues? Assistant Town Manager Colby replied there is solar at L. P. Wilson, JFK and Oliver Ellsworth. He believes there's a small array at the high school. Councilor King said to correct him if he is wrong, but he believes the one at Oliver Ellsworth and JFK are not functional, right? Assistant Town Manager Colby said he would have to look into that.

Councilor King asked what it would mean for the budget if those facilities have non-functioning solar? Are we locked in at a higher rate with the supplier and we are still paying it? Even if we're not generating it, what happens in that case, because we had significant issues with that with the Oliver Ellsworth. He wants to make sure there is some kind of



resource in place if the panels don't work. It's just something that if maybe that could be looked into, that would be fantastic. Assistant Town Manager Colby said that can certainly be looked into.

Councilor Naeem stated her question was kind of similar along those lines. Do we have caps put on? What can they charge us to purchase electricity over that 20-year period? What if there's a higher demand for solar? Do they have the ability to really just skyrocket our rates? Assistant Town Manager Colby replied that we would be purchasing the solar from the solar that's generated at a fixed rate for that 20-year period.

Councilor Naeem asked does it increase year after year? Or is it just fixed for all 20 years? Assistant Town Manager Colby said it would be fixed for the 20 years.

Councilor Armstrong stated there would be contact with the neighbors prior to this installment, and would there be public comment, or anything like that? Assistant Town Manager Colby said we would certainly look to keep the public engaged in the process as we go through any sort of design at the high school facility.

Councilor Armstrong asked would this equipment be leased? Assistant Town Manager Colby stated the equipment is owned and maintained by the vendor at their cost. The town is just purchasing electricity at a discounted rate.

Councilor Armstrong said if it were removed, they would be the ones to come and remove it right? Assistant Town Manager Colby said that's correct.

Councilor Pelkey said if we have some sort of adverse event that causes a canopy to break, fall and smash cars underneath and have snow that breaks the actual panel. Are we liable for any of that? Town Manager Souza said as owners of the equipment, they would be responsible, not us. It is our understanding from past agreements that as owners they would have that liability.

Councilor Eleveld stated the trees at Windsor High School along the Capen Street side are tired. You can almost see through them. Are we looking at putting in new trees that would help block the view of the new solar rays? Assistant Town Manager Colby replied if those trees were to be removed, then they would look to replace those with a significantly smaller arborvitae style tree.

Councilor Eleveld said relative to the removal of all of this equipment, should we choose not to buy it, how do we know that they'll be able to cover the cost of the removal? Is there any bond that might be issued or purchased to cover that? Town Manager Souza said from his recollection he doesn't think there are any bonds in place. It's contractual. Assistant Town Manager Colby said that's correct, that there's no bond. However, it's written into the contract

that at the end of the term that they are subject to remove those items, should that be requested of the town within that 120-day period.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

#### 13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS - None

#### 14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the March 3, 2025 Public Hearing

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Public Hearing as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

b) Minutes of the March 3, 2025 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Klase, seconded by Councilor Naeem, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

#### 15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS - None

#### 16) EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

Mayor Black-Burke thanked the Town Council for all their volunteer service.

#### 17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Pelkey, seconded by Councilor Armstrong, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene M. Albert Recording Secretary