

## **REGULAR MEETING MARCH 5, 2007**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on March 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Drake, Forrest, Kirsche, Kotkin, Montinieri, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Fortunato and Chairperson Adil.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Councilor Drake.

### **PRESENTATION ON PHASE 1 RENOVATIONS - JOE COOMBS, CHAIRPERSON OF THE TOWN HALL/LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE AND MIKE TURNER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Joe Coombs, Chairperson of the Town Hall/Library Building Committee said that he is pleased with the progress of the renovations and Mike Turner, Town Engineer, started the slide show presentation. He said that the original scope of work was to renovate the old Police Department space in the basement of Town Hall and the basement of the Library building, build a new Police Station and implement a new radio system. He said 282 pounds of soot was removed from the chimney, the electrical panel was upgraded and replaced, sprinklers were installed for the entire floor, and the elevator was installed per code.

Chairperson Adil asked what additional projects were completed since the Town received the Small Cities Grant and Library grants.

Joe Coombs said that some of the grant money was used to complete projects planned for Phase II. Some of the Phase II work was completed while portions of the building were under construction, and walls or ceilings were removed, since it was easier to complete the work at the time. When the work is complete, the Town will have a new data system run between the Library and Town Hall which will be expanded to every room. The wiring was upgraded to a cat 6 wire so the Town will have more than enough data capacity for the entire building. It will also allow Town personnel to have more flexibility with the placement of computers in offices. The boiler was replaced. It is dual fuel, both gas and oil. The mezzanine area of the library is not completed yet. It will house the offices. The automated data system will be installed in Phase II and the boiler and chilled and heated water system will be computerized. It will be managed by an energy contractor.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Phase I work was completed and only punch list items are left. He asked if there was much construction being completed in Town Hall now.

Joe Coombs said currently the main portion of construction is complete, minus the punch list items which have to be verified by himself, Mike Turner, Director of Physical Services and the Architectural Firm. They also have to finish the drawings and they have to be reviewed both by the engineer and architect. Once the Town accepts the project as complete, the Town can commence with Phase II. The Town opened bids on the 20th of February. The Town also hired an independent firm to measure and value the scope of work to see if the bids are within the estimator's figures. The Town will use the estimates as its benchmark for what prices should come in at. The majority of the work will be replacing the skin on the building. Work will then begin on the interior, removing tile, installing carpet and ceilings. So far the Building Committee feels good about the estimated bids.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato asked how the Town came out in terms of budget.

Joe Coombs said that the Building Committee has a remainder in its budget of \$2,000 for Phase I. The Committee has more to add to it because many of the accounts have small balances in them. Time wise, the project did not do well. The project was not completed on time. He said he does not want to get into detail at this time due to possible pending

legal actions.

Councilor Cascio thanked Joe Coombs for his volunteer work on the Building Committee. He said it is not an easy task. He asked when this project would be completely finished.

Joe Coombs said there are two contract times in the bid, 365 days and 455 days. The two dates are allowing for any of the eight alternate bid options that Council agrees to complete.

Councilor Cascio asked if he can realistically say this project will be completed in January 2009.

Joe Coombs said that date was reasonable. He discussed the ceilings in Town Hall.

John Cascio asked if the parking lot was being addressed in Phase II.

Joe Coombs said that:

- Both parking lots will be part of Phase II.
- The Building Committee would like to have the work finished on the building on the main parking lot side prior to the beautification projects getting under way.
- It is not easy to renovate an active building. Town employees are very good about the disruption. However, the worst is yet to come.
- The committee needs to plan whether or not Town employees will need to be moved to the library space during renovations. There will be a cost incurred to move employees to the Library and back again, too. It also needs to consider the efficiency of the project if employees are not moved. All issues need to be weighed before a decision is made.

Councilor Forrest asked about the boilers and energy efficiency; and wanted to know what are the other energy efficiencies being considered and implemented.

Joe Coombs said that the boilers are the major incremental change. They are more energy efficient than the original boilers. The Town can examine the price of fuel and decide which fuel to use, oil or gas. All designs in Phase I and II were submitted to an energy review by CL&P. All energy saving light fixtures and light switches were installed. All toilets are low flush. On the exterior of the building, e-glass will be installed along with proper seals and a new roof.

Councilor Forrest asked if the CL&P energy rebates come to the Town's General Fund or back to the bond.

Bonnie L. Therrien, Town Manager said that the rebates go to pay back the bond.

Councilor Forrest asked if the solar panel that the Town was eligible to receive was part of this work.

Bonnie L. Therrien, Town Manager said that the Clean Energy Committee will decide the location of the solar panel.

Councilor Kirsche asked if an independent contractor's estimate was used for Phase I.

Joe Coombs said that it is a good idea to get an independent contractor's estimate. It was not used for Phase I. The Town does not need to follow the contractor's estimate but it can be used as a benchmark for where bids should be.

Councilor Drake asked if the three bidders were close or are they that different.

Joe Coombs said that the highest bidder was too high. The next three bidders were close. Every bidder plays the alternates differently. The contractor's estimate will cost the Town \$7,200.

Chairperson Adil said that the Police Station/Town Hall project started in 2000. He thanked Joe Coombs for his time and leadership especially in bringing the project under budget.

Joe Coombs cautioned about considering the project under budget. He said that Phase I had alternates but since the

committee was not happy with the performance of the contractor, the alternates were not included in the Phase I work. He said that he believes the contractor will come to the Town for mediation or litigation.

Chairperson Adil said that there is no Phase III as referred to earlier by Councilor Forrest. This committee's work began with the Police Station; a building that is truly a work of art, and continued with the radio system, and the Town Hall/Library. He thanked Joe Coombs and Mike Turner for the update and presentation. He looks forward to receiving the committee's recommendation on the contractor for Phase II.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT - PETER GILLESPIE, TOWN PLANNER**

Peter Gillespie presented his monthly report to Council. He said that:

- Recently Completed projects/new businesses: 883 Silas Deane Highway-Nail Salon, 200 Silas Deane Highway-Rocky's Ace Hardware, and 1155 Silas Deane Highway-Post N Track Corporate Headquarters.
- Approved Development Projects Under Construction: 884 Silas Deane Highway-City Fish. The town issued a beer and wine license for this renovation. They will have a small restaurant. 291 Ridge Road-Granberry Homes. They have filed an application with the Planning and Zoning Commission to remove the over 55 restriction on the project. They have an interest in people between 44 and 55 years old.
- Planning/Design Stage: Comstock Ferre and Co.-Main Street: Applications have been submitted to Planning and Zoning and the Historic District Commission for the demolition of the rear part of the building and construction of a small building., Harris Property-Old Reservoir Road/Back Lane: He met with the property owner last week and revised preliminary plans will be submitted for staff review in early March., 5th Avenue Motel-1965 Berlin Turnpike: Proposing a second building of 11 units which would double the motel size., Storage Building-61 Arrow Road: A 20 bay storage facility is proposed for the parcel, Office Buildings-1912 Berlin Turnpike: The building official has ordered the demolition of the building by the end of March. The property owner has submitted plans for the construction of two small office buildings, Office Use-312 Silas Deane Highway: Plans have been submitted to convert this residential dwelling into an insurance firm, Tom Lovejoy-61 Arrow Road: A catering company from Plainville is looking to relocate to this location.
- Developer/Property Owner Contact: Porch and Patio-896 Silas Deane Highway. The high bidder in the foreclosure is interested in pursuing tax incentives and façade funding in order to support the project. It would relocate a notable Connecticut business to this site and add about 35 jobs to the Town.
- Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Program. Two façade grant applications were received.
- Other News and Initiatives: A draft of the Keiler and Co plan is being reviewed by the Tourism Commission and EDIC. At 8:00 a.m. on March 29th the top twenty-five businesses in Town will be invited to breakfast at the Country Club. The Keiler Agency is finishing its work and would like to come to Council to give a progress report and discuss their future direction. March 21st will be a public forum on Preserve America. Route 175 project questions - Lowe Manufacturing: As of last night the gas station portion was pending before Newington Planning and Zoning. Cedar Mountain/Reno was denied by the Planning and Zoning on December 20, 2006. There has been no changes.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that the City Fish restaurant has been desired by residents for a long time. She asked if there would be any implication by removing the age restriction on the Granberry Homes.

Peter Gillespie said that traditionally over 55 projects are single family stand alone units. He has not seen a similar project to compare to this one. The only impact to the Town would be if families moved in. This is not the developer's intent and will be addressed in Planning and Zoning. Also, many of the units are one-bedroom which would limit the ability to have families buy units.

Bonnie L. Therrien, Town Manager said that the region has been saturated with these units and they are not selling as well as expected.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that this is an issue that needs to be monitored. Hopefully, the Planning and Zoning Commission will approve this change. It is a beautiful building and close to shopping. She was surprised to see that the 5th Avenue Motel was requesting an expansion of units.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that of all the motels on the Berlin Turnpike, this is a relatively successful property.

Councilor Drake asked, in reference to the Granberry Homes, how can the Town protect the neighborhoods from changing a zoning restriction.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner said that the Planning and Zoning Commission has to consent to the change. It has not done that yet. The Commission wants this to be a successful property. This will not be considered lightly.

Councilor Kotkin asked:

- How many people work for Post N Track?
- How many units are in the Granberry Homes project?
- Will the 912 Berlin Turnpike property's proposed 2 office buildings totaling 5,000 square feet be a total use of the property?
- What would the use be for the Porch and Patio property?

Peter Gillespie said that:

- He does not know how many employees will be working for Post N Track. They are occupying 10,000 square feet of office space.
- There are 30 units total, 12 in the front building on the Granberry Homes project.
- There is more room to expand on the 912 Berlin Turnpike property.
- Porch and Patio will be both retail and administrative use.

Councilor Cascio asked questions concerning Comstock Ferre. He asked how they plan on constructing something on Church Street.

Peter Gillespie said that there is a building lot and a half width wise at the area. They would put a smaller building, longer than it is wide with an access driveway. It will blend in with the architecture of the street.

Councilor Cascio asked if the brick building on the corner was also looking at some conversion.

Peter Gillespie said that he has not been in discussions with that owner recently. He had encouraged the property owner of Comstock to work with the owner of the brick building, but that didn't work out. Two units would be located on the second floor of the free standing building and the remainder would be on the second floor of the newly constructed building.

Councilor Cascio asked for a clarification on the Harris property. Was there an age restriction on this property originally?

Peter Gillespie said that there was always a proposed age restriction on this property.

Councilor Forrest asked:

- If the 5th Avenue Motel expansion will go through the design review process.
- What renovations the two façade grant recipients plan to make.

Peter Gillespie said that:

- The Design Review Committee asked for landscape improvements and slight modifications to the exterior of the 5th Avenue Motel building. The committee makes these recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Renovations to the Lagana Building include repainting the building, replacing the parking lot, replacement of rusted metal roof units, and fixing the gutters. Most of the renovations to the Express Dental Work building have already been completed. He is seeking the grant retroactively. The property owner invested about \$50,000 in

renovations to the exterior.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### HEARING

#### ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 123

No one wished to speak for or against the Ordinance.

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLICITATION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES

No one wished to speak for or against the Resolution.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

No one wished to speak.

### COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Forrest said that the Wethersfield Police Department Union has donated \$500 to the Memorial Day Parade Committee. The committee has decided on Women in the Military as this year's parade theme. The committee is seeking nominations for recognition and Parade Marshall.

Councilor Cascio said that the Chamber of Commerce had its monthly meeting in which they discussed items that it would like to move forward with:

- The Scholarship Program for Wethersfield High School seniors. The application deadline is March 30th.
- The State of the Town on May 9th at the Wethersfield Country Club.
- The Annual Chamber meeting in which the Chamber of Commerce recognizes citizens and other members of the community on May 16th at the Wethersfield Country Club.

This year the Memorial Day Parade Committee would like to recognize all women that served or participated in wartime. The Committee has asked all groups participating in the parade to fill out a form so that they can be identified at the bandstand. Forms can be filled out on-line or can be picked up in the Park and Recreation Department. The Parade will be Saturday, May 26th.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that:

- She is very pleased to see that Women in War will be the theme for this year's Memorial Day Parade.
- The Budget Committee met with Chris Wolf, a partner in Blum and Shapiro and his report was favorable.
- She was pleased with Joe Coomb's report on the status of the Library renovations and that items on the punch list are being addressed. These items were brought up at the last Library Board meeting. The Library Board will need to address services as the Town moves forward with Phase II renovations, particularly in regard to computer access. Friends of the Library have become incorporated with the State and have had tremendous support. They netted over \$600 at their last book sale.

Chairperson Adil listed the following upcoming events:

- "Honk" is being performed this weekend, March 9th and 10th.
- Representative Morin and Speak of the House Amaan will be holding an Energy Seminar on Monday, March

19th at the Police Station.

- Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Professional Nurses Association will hold a tea at Mainly Tea on Saturday, March 24th.
- EDIC will have its breakfast for the Top 25 businesses in Town on March 19th.
- The Historical Society will hold its annual Taste of Wethersfield on April 14th.
- Friends of the Eleanor Wolf Buck Nature Center will hold their annual dance on April 20th.

## COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 123**" seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that Wethersfield, along with other Towns, is having a lot of problems with the posting of signs on public right-of-ways. She asked that Town staff look at amending the ordinance to allow for the fining of repeat offenders and establishing a process to remove signs and have groups come and pick the signs up. Town staff hopes these amendments will send a strong message that these signs are not wanted on Town property. The amendments will implement a fine and also allow the owner of the sign to pick up the sign from the Town. The Town realizes that these signs are costly.

Councilor Drake said that we need to enforce this. He said he saw signs on Church Street for over a month.

Councilor Walsh asked if the violation was based on each sign. He said some groups put up several signs along the road.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that each individual sign would be a violation.

Councilor Cascio asked if there were exceptions like the Wethersfield High School productions and upcoming sporting events.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that she will speak with Brian O'Conner, Chief Building Official on those types of exceptions. Signs in front of the high school are not generally placed on the right-of-way. There can also be exceptions for those asking for permission.

Councilor Forrest asked if section 63-167A was the exception.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that she would find out what is the exception.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that the Board of Education and school personnel need to be made aware of this ordinance.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that she doesn't believe that she could supercede the zoning regulations according to State law. She suggested tabling the motion to the next meeting so that she could get clarification on these issues.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO TABLE THE ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 123**" seconded by Councilor Kirsche.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLICITATION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES**" seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the Town is looking at 3 companies that offer a consortium to reduce the Town's electrical costs. The full report will come to Council during the budget workshops. In response to Councilor Walsh's questions, she said the Town is going to ban with other municipal and school boards to get a better price for

electrical services.

Chairperson Adil said that this was a great idea.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### ARTWORK FROM COUNCIL CHAMBERS - WETHERSFIELD ART LEAGUE

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO AUTHORIZE THE DONATION OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ART WORK TO THE WETHERSFIELD ART LEAGUE FOR SALE WITH ALL PROCEEDS TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE ART LEAGUE**" seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the Town Council can authorize the donation of the art work and proceeds can be used by the Art League.

Jean Ryan, Wethersfield Art League said that there were 29 magnificent paintings hanging in the Town Council Chambers. When renovations began, the paintings were removed and sent to the Little Red School House. If the Town is not going to use the paintings, the Art League would like to sell the paintings and use the proceeds for its scholarship fund.

Councilor Forrest asked if the Town Manager and Mayor could look at the art work and decide what can be used in the future.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the architect could select paintings that he believes would fit with the proposed Council Chambers.

Jean Ryan said that of the 29 paintings, 12 of the artists are deceased. The Art League would like to first offer the paintings to the families of the artists and if they are not interested, the Art League sell the paintings.

Councilor Drake asked if the Town could find space to store the paintings.

Councilor Cascio said that every year a different artist was asked to donate a painting for the Town Council Chambers. If the Town doesn't have the space to store the paintings, then they should be looked at and someone should decide which to keep and which to give back to the families or sell. He asked if there is wall space in Town offices or the Library. It was rewarding for the artist to be chosen to donate a painting to the Town.

Chairperson Adil asked all those in favor of directing the Town Manager to take the paintings back from the Art League until the architect can select paintings for the proposed Council Chambers, say AYE. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### PUBLIC WORKS INTER-TOWN SERVICE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Councilor Forrest moved "**THAT THE WETHERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT OF A PUBLIC WORKS INTER-TOWN SERVICE COOPERATION PILOT PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGES CRCOG TO CONTINUE MOVING AHEAD WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS PILOT PROGRAM**" seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that she was very pleased that Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Newington were chosen to pilot an inter-town service program through the Capital Region Council of Governments. If all goes well, the Towns would be the model for sharing of equipment, software, and even staff in Public Works. She said that the actual agreement would be brought to the Town Council at the appropriate time.

Councilor Montinieri asked if this would include road purchases like salt and sand.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the 29 Towns purchase sand and salt together now. This program would be more for services and equipment.

Chairperson Adil said that this is a great initiative and works toward the Town's desire to streamline services.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

BOILER REPLACEMENT PROJECTS - OLD ACADEMY, LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE AND THE COLD STORAGE BUILDING - PHYSICAL SERVICES

Councilor Walsh moved **"TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT TO THE BOILER REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 AND TO AWARD THE BID FOR BOILER REPLACEMENT AT THE OLD ACADEMY TO BARRY ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,222"** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the Town Council had appropriated funds for these projects. The Old Academy bid came in \$10,000 over. The Little Red School House and Cold Storage Building replacements will be done in-house but the materials still need to be purchased. The Town Council would need to transfer \$10,000 in funds and award the bid to Barry Associates. They were the only bidder to bid on the complete project, including asbestos abatement.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - WAIVER OF RENTAL FEE - SHOW MOBILE

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO WAIVE FIFTY PERCENT OF THE SHOW MOBILE RENTAL FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175 FOR THIS YEAR'S GREATER HARTFORD ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE"** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the Greater Hartford Parade Committee has asked for the use of the Show Mobile. In the past, the Town Council has waived 50 percent of the rental fee for non-profit organizations.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that it appears that the letter from Cathy Hallisey implies that the Town loaned the Show Mobile for the Columbus Day Parade at no cost.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the precedent is a 50 percent reduction. The Show Mobile was loaned to the Columbus Day Parade at no cost.

Councilor Cascio said that after the Council permitted the Columbus Day Parade to use the Show Mobile at no cost, it realized that it was not the right way to do business. The Town incurred costs.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that she would like to set a policy for non-profit rental of the Show Mobile so that these types of items would not have to go to Council for action.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that the Show Mobile has gotten a lot of use. She asked if it had been inspected to make sure it is in good condition. She asked if it showed any signs of wear and tear from use.

Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreations said that the Show Mobile is inspected before and after each use and again at the beginning and end of the season. There are no major problems with its condition.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that she will give Councilors a full report after the Recreation and Parks

Department staff inspect it this week.

Chairperson Adil suggested that Kathy Bagley review the fee and determine if it is adequate prior to the budget meetings.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### PARKS AND RECREATION FEES

Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO AUTHORIZE THE FEE INCREASES FOR A FAMILY POOL PASS, AN ADULT DAILY POOL PASS, PLAYGROUND FEES, DANCE AND DRAMA SESSIONS, AND THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS**" seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the fees are reviewed every year before the start of the budget session. The Recreation and Parks Department would like to have the fees changed now so that the new fees can be included in the Summer Brochure. The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board recommends increasing these fees.

Councilor Kotkin asked if Kathy Bagley would give insight into the decision to change some fees and not others.

Kathy Bagley, Director of Recreation and Parks said that the Family Pool Pass increase of \$5.00 is a reasonable increase. The increases are fair market prices. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board looked at what the cumulative effect for a family would be if it signs up for a pool pass, summer camp, or other summer program. Individual pool pass fees didn't increase. The playground program increase was \$10, for a 6 week drop-in program.

In response to Councilor Cascio's questions regarding the pools, Kathy Bagley, Director of Recreation and Parks said that pool passes and playground programs have not been opened to non-residents yet. All pool passes are purchased at the Recreation and Parks Department. ID's are checked at the pools. The passes are laminated cards. Scanned tags have been considered, but the Department is not there yet.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato asked:

- If the attendance is there to justify the program fee increase.
- Are there scholarships available for therapeutic recreation families in need.
- If Teen Theater and Dance and Drama were the same program.

Kathy Bagley, Director of Recreation and Parks said that the Standish Playground program is the most popular program. The attendance fluctuates, but has been on the increase. The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board has made sure that any child wanting to take part in therapeutic recreation programs is able to do so. Sometimes it is done through the help of the Social and Youth Services Department or the Recreation and Parks Department may waive part or all of the fee. The Dance and Drama Program is a 5 days a week program for six weeks and is run through the Recreation and Parks Department. The Teen Theater Program is an evening program run by the teens with an adult advisor and volunteers. Teen Theater is a self-supporting program sponsored by Recreation and Parks. Teens pay a fee to belong to the Teen Theater. The money helps support the shows. The Town does not fund the Teen Theater.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato asked how many other programs the Town supports like the Teen Theater.

Kathy Bagley, Recreations and Parks said that men's softball and Eagles Youth Football come to mind.

Chairperson Adil asked if these fees can be paid on-line.

Kathy Bagley said that a contract was signed with the software company and they are setting up to do the installation and training. On-line registration is planned for the fall.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

CHANGE OF LOCATION AND TIME FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS - PITKIN COMMUNITY CENTER

Councilor Walsh moved **"TO CHANGE THE PLACE AND TIME OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE PITKIN COMMUNITY CENTER BANQUET ROOM AT 7:30 P.M."** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that there have been voice and visual problems with recording of the meetings at the Silas Deane Middle School. Town Staff has worked together to look at the Community Center and feels that the change in location will be best for the recording of the meetings. All equipment will be locked up and stored at the Community Center. There is an aerobics class using the other side of the banquet room until 7:15 p.m. so that the Council meetings will have to start at 7:30 p.m.

Councilor Walsh asked if live broadcast would be run.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that yes, live broadcasts can be run. There are some broadcast issues that will be discussed at a meeting this week with a Cox representative. If there is no solution at this meeting, she thinks the Town needs to go to the DPUC for a resolution.

Councilor Walsh is disturbed by the poor television services the residents of the Town are receiving of the Town Council Meetings. He hopes that at least the meetings, with audio can be broadcast to the public.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that Gary Santoro, Fire Marshal gets the video tape from Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk on Tuesday morning and puts it right in for broadcast.

Councilor Kirsche asked if the acoustics and lighting would be acceptable for the broadcasting of the meetings.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the room set-up has been discussed and lighting would be available. The back-up room would be the former Nature Center if the banquet room is already occupied. The public would sit at round tables during the meeting so that there would be no costs incurred in custodial fees to dismantle tables.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that the Board of Education has held meetings at the Community Center and it was very conducive to the public.

Chairperson Adil asked where the Board of Education would hold its meetings.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the Board of Education is continuing to hold meetings at the Silas Deane Middle School for the time being but Dr. Proctor was going to discuss it with the Board of Education members.

Chairperson Adil asked if the Board of Education was aware that recording equipment would be removed from the Silas Deane Middle School.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that a list of equipment was sent to the Superintendent's office this week.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

WETHERSFIELD AND NEWINGTON GREATER HARTFORD JAYCEE'S GRANT

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF NEWINGTON TOWN MANAGER TO DEVELOP A JOINT STAFF TRAINING AND YOUTH PROGRAM AND TO PERMIT NEWINGTON TO APPLY FOR AND ADMINISTER A \$50,000 GRANT FROM THE GREATER HARTFORD JAYCEES"** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that this is another great opportunity to work with another Town. Funds would

provide additional training for summer staff for youth at risk. This is an initial letter to begin the grant process. The schools will help to identify who is at risk.

Councilor Cascio said that the schools have a program called STARS. Students, faculty, guidance and administration identify at risk youth.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

## **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION**

ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 75, SECTIONS 13 & 14 - ENVIRONMENTAL CODE APPEALS AND APPEALS BOARD OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER A180 - TOWN COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

## **MINUTES**

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2007**" seconded by Councilor Kirsche.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Cascio ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2007 AS AMENDED**" seconded by Councilor Kotkin. .

Councilor Kirsche indicated that his name was incorrectly spelled on page 13866.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Deputy Mayor Fortunato and Councilor Walsh ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-2.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:10 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Kirsche. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk

*APPROVED AS AMENDED BY VOTE OF COUNCIL APRIL 2, 2007*