

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 6, 2023 - 7:30 P.M.

Honorable Mayor, Dean Esposito, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sean Hatch. Councilman DiGilio led all in prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eriquez, Knapp, Levy, DiGilio, Rotello, Henry, Britton, Esposito, Esposito III, Fox, Chianese, Cavo, Merchan, Visconti, Cammisa, VACANCY

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Buzaid, Halas, Masi, Palma, and Perkins.

**PRESENT: 15, ABSENT: 5, VACANCY: 1**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Bob Yamin, Corporation Counsel; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Elisa Etcheto, Legislative Assistant.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Frank DiStefano, Resident, Rivington Community, spoke on item 16.

Frank Camilletti, Resident, Rivington Community, spoke on item 16.

Juanita Harris, Resident, 68 Virginia Avenue, spoke on item 13.

Pastor Everton Anderson, Resident, Trinity Christian Tabernacle (91 Elm St.), spoke on item 13.

Bob Doyle, Resident, 19 Wood Street, spoke on item 12.

Lucia Moniz, Resident, 30 Fairmount Drive, spoke on item 13.

Charles Spinner, Resident, 25 Beaver Street, spoke on item 13.

Pastor Bobby Gardner, Resident, Victory Christian Center (23 Eden Dr.), spoke on item 13.

Ken Gucker, Resident, 89 Padanaram Road, spoke on items 9, 10, 21, and 12.

Pastor Wanda Payton, Resident, Christian Community Outreach Ministries, Inc. (96 Elm St.), spoke on item 13.

Joanne Pearsall, Resident, 95 Elm Street, spoke on item 13.

Kimberly Galva, Resident, spoke on item 13.

**MINUTES - Minutes of the Council Meeting held May 2, 2023**

***A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, and was seconded by Councilwoman Cammisa, to waive the reading of the minutes, as all Members have copies and copies are on file in the Legislative Assistant's Office.*** The motion carried unanimously.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

7. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Cultural Commission

**Receive the Communication and approve the appointment of Deepti Nagaraja to serve on the Cultural Commission.**

8. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Fair Rent Commission

**Receive the Communication and approve the appointments of Ron Agard and Lisa Farmer to serve as alternate members and Estela Francis to serve as a member on the Fair Rent Commission.**

9. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Richter Park Authority

**Receive the Communication and approve the appointment of Jay Eriquez to serve on the Richter Park Authority.**

10. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Zoning Board of Appeals

**Receive the Communication and approve the appointment of Brandon M. Botelho to serve as an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals.**

11. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

**Receive 32th Communication and approve the appointment of Daniel Mulvey to serve as a full member of the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority.**

14. COMMUNICATION - Donation – \$5,000 from FirstLight Power Services, LLC for boat dock extension at Candlewood Lake – Public Works/Emergency Services

**Receive the Communication and approve accepting the donation of \$5,000 from First Light Power Services, LLC related to the boat dock extension as presented with an appropriate letter of thanks to be sent.**

15. COMMUNICATION - Annual Suspense List – Tax Collector

**Receive the Communication and approve the request to transfer \$357,719.29 of tax amounts due to the City of Danbury deemed uncollectable to the Annual Suspense List related to 2013 Motor Vehicle and Personal Property taxes and list the names and amounts due with the Legislative Assistant's and Tax Collector's Offices as presented.**

17. RESOLUTION - Ambulance & Advanced Life Support Agreement – Western CT Health Network – Fire Dept.

**Receive the Communication and adopt the Resolution authorizing Mayor Dean Esposito to execute and extend the agreement with the Western Connecticut Health Network Affiliates, Inc. for an additional period of five years with a mutual option to extend the term for an additional five years thereafter as presented.**

19. RESOLUTION - FAA Grant – Airport Obstruction Removal Environmental Analysis Municipal Airport

Receive the Communication and adopt the Resolution authorizing Mayor Dean Esposito and/or Michael Safranek, Airport Administrator, to execute the documentation and necessary funding related to the FAA grant application process request for the Airport Obstruction Removal Environmental Analysis with the City’s share totaling \$5,233, which has been certified as available by Dan Garrick, Director of Finance, as presented.

21. RESOLUTION - CT DOT – Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement – Police Dept.

Receive the Communication and adopt the Resolution authorizing Mayor Dean Esposito, or Chief Patrick Ridenhour, as his designee, to apply for and accept grant funding not to exceed \$52,096 from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office through the “2023 Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement ” program with no city match required as presented.

25. RESOLUTION - CT Dept. of Housing – Emergency Shelter Grant – Health & Human Services

Receive the Communication and adopt the Resolution authorizing Dean Esposito, Mayor of the City of Danbury, or Kara Marie Prunty, Director of Health, as his designee, to apply for and accept funding for the amendments to the current emergency shelter grant amount and time frame with no local match being required as presented.

A motion was made by Councilman Knapp, and was seconded by Councilman Chianese, to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resignation:** Councilman Richard Molinaro provided a letter of resignation, effective May 30, 2023. Mr. Richard Molinaro was recognized for his service on the Council.

**Add-On:**

A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, and was seconded by Councilman Knapp, to add item #4A, a Police Department Promotion for Andrew Whitlock to Detective. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA**

1. COMMUNICATION - Police Department Promotion – Scott Fabich to Lieutenant

A motion was made by Councilman Cavo, seconded by Councilman Chianese, to confirm the appointment and promotion of Police Detective Sergeant Scott Fabich to the position of Police Lieutenant within the Danbury Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

2. COMMUNICATION - Police Department Promotion – John Giafone to Sergeant

A motion was made by Councilman Henry, seconded by Councilman Rotello, to receive the communication and confirm the appointment and promotion of Police Officer John Giafone to the position of Police Sergeant within the Danbury Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATION - Police Department Promotion – Brian Wakeman to Sergeant

*A motion was made by Councilman Esposito III, seconded by Councilman Visconti, to receive the communication and approve the promotion of Officer Brian Wakeman to the position of Police Sergeant within the Danbury Police Department.* The motion carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATION - Police Department Promotion – Travis Weber to Detective

*A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, seconded by Councilman Levy, to receive the communication and confirm the appointment and promotion of Police Officer Travis Weber to the position of Police Detective within the Danbury Police Department.* The motion carried unanimously.

4A. COMMUNICATION – Police Department Promotion – Andrew Whitlock to Detective

*A motion was made by Councilman Cavo, seconded by Councilman Chianese, to receive the communication and confirm the appointment and promotion of Police Officer Andrew Whitlock to the position of Police Detective within the Danbury Police Department.* The motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATION - Fire Department Promotion – Sharon Gies to Lieutenant

*A motion was made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Visconti, to receive the correspondence and approve the appointment of Firefighter Sharon Gies to the position of Fire Lieutenant within the Danbury Fire Department.* The motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATION - Fire Department Promotion – Kenneth Monteavaro to Lieutenant

*A motion was made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Cavo, to approve the confirmation promotion of Firefighter Kenneth Monteavaro to the position of Fire Lieutenant in the Danbury Fire Department.* The motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Cultural Commission

*\*CONSENTED* - as received.

8. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Fair Rent Commission

*\*CONSENTED* - as received.

9. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Richter Park Authority

*\*CONSENTED* - as received.

10. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Government Entity – Zoning Board of Appeals

*\*CONSENTED* - as received.

11. COMMUNICATION - Appointment to Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

*\*CONSENTED* - as received.

12. COMMUNICATION - Request to Change Ordinance Sec. 13A-61 – Danbury Museum And Historical Society Authority

**A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, to refer this to an Ad Hoc consisting of Corporation Counsel, Director of Finance, Superintendent of Public Buildings, a representative from the Mayor's Office, and a representative from the petitioner.** So Ordered.

The Mayor appointed Councilman DiGilio in the chair, along with Councilmen Buzaid and Rotello.

13. COMMUNICATION - Request for Honorary Street Name – Elm Street

**A motion was made by Councilman Knapp, to refer this to an Ad Hoc with Corporation Counsel, a representative from the Mayor's Office, and a representative from the original petitioner.** So Ordered.

The Mayor appointed Councilman Henry in the chair, along with Councilmen Eriquez and Chianese.

14. COMMUNICATION - Donation – \$5,000 from FirstLight Power Services, LLC for boat dock extension at Candlewood Lake – Public Works/Emergency Services

**\*CONSENTED** - as received.

15. COMMUNICATION - Annual Suspense List – Tax Collector

**\*CONSENTED** - as received.

16. COMMUNICATION - Application for Renewal of Water & Sewer Extensions – 100 Saw Mill Rd

**A motion was made by Councilman Henry, to refer this to the City Engineer and Planning for reports.**  
So Ordered.

17. RESOLUTION - Ambulance & Advanced Life Support Agreement – Western CT Health Network – Fire Dept.

**\*CONSENTED** - as received.

18. RESOLUTION - Emergency Communication System – AT&T – Emergency Services

**A motion was made by Councilman Eriquez, seconded by Councilman Esposito, to receive the communication and adopt the resolution to authorize Mayor Dean Esposito to execute the aforesaid agreements, each in a form approved by the Danbury Office of Corporation Counsel and to take such additional actions as may be necessary to effectuate the purpose hereof.** The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Thode explained to Councilman Rotello that the emergency communication system will increase coverage on the southern end of the City. Councilman Visconti noted his support for the system.

19. RESOLUTION - FAA Grant – Airport Obstruction Removal Environmental Analysis Municipal Airport

**\*CONSENTED** - as received.

20. RESOLUTION - FAA Grant – Airport Taxiway C Project – Municipal Airport

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cammisa, seconded by Councilman Esposito III, to receive the communication and adopt the resolution to authorize Mayor Dean Esposito, Mayor of Danbury, and/or Michael Safranek, Airport Supervisor to execute the documentation and necessary funding in the amount of \$2,531,000, of which 90% of the grant funds, \$2,277,972 will be committed by the Federal Aviation Administration, 7.5% capped at \$40,000 will be committed by the State of Connecticut, and the City of Danbury will be responsible to fund the remaining \$213,108 related to the FAA grant application for the State's Taxiway Charlie project, and to ratify all previous and future actions taken in furtherance thereof and to take such additional actions as may be necessary to effectuate the purpose hereof. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Safranek provided a brief overview of the FAA grant and project for Councilmen Chianese, Rotello and Visconti. He noted that this portion of the project is part of a phased plan and a 5 Year Plan overseen by the FAA.

21. RESOLUTION - CT DOT – Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement – Police Dept.

\**CONSENTED* - as received.

22. RESOLUTION - CT Dept. of Aging & Disability Services/ARPA Funding– Elderly Services

A motion was made by Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman Esposito III, to receive the communication and adopt the resolution authorizing Mayor Dean Esposito, or Susan Tomanio, Director of Elderly Services, as his designee, to apply for and accept funding not to exceed \$184,128, from the State of Connecticut Department of Aging & Disability Services provided to the Connecticut Senior Centers through the American Rescue Plan ARPA funding. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Tomanio clarified for Councilman Rotello that the majority of the funds will be used for van transportation. Councilman Chianese asked about the state of the senior center's HVAC system.

23. RESOLUTION - CT Dept. of Administrative Services – Early Childhood Center / BOE

A motion was made by Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilman DiGilio, to adopt agenda item 23, resolution to authorize the Danbury Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools to file a grant application with related documents with and to the State Department of Administrative Services, and to accept the grant from the State reimbursement funding for early childhood center project and establish a School Building Committee for the purpose of the proposed project with the following City Members: Antonio Iadarola, the Chair, Thomas H. Hughess III, Daniel Garrick, Sean Hanley, Charles J Volpe Jr., School Department Staff: Richard Jalbert, Dr. Michael Seelig, Board of Education: Ralph Pietrafesa, Michelle Coelho, City Council: Fred Visconti. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Iadarola provided a brief overview of the project and the application process for Councilman DiGilio.

24. RESOLUTION - CT Dept. of Administrative Services – DHS Science Lab Improvements / BOE

A motion was made by Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilman Esposito III, to adopt agenda item 24, resolution to authorize the Danbury Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools to file a grant application with related documents with and to the State Department of Administrative Services, and to accept the grant for State reimbursement funding for Danbury High School science lab improvements project and establish a School Building Committee for the proposed project with the following City Members: Antonio Iadarola, the Chair, Thomas H. Hughess III, Daniel Garrick, Sean Hanley, Charles J Volpe Jr., School Department Staff: Richard Jalbert, Dr. Michael Seelig, Board of Education: Ralph Pietrafesa, Michelle Coelho, City Council: Fred Visconti. The motion carried unanimously.

25. RESOLUTION - CT Dept. of Housing – Emergency Shelter Grant – Health & Human Services

\**CONSENTED* - as received.

26. REPORT - Ad Hoc – Appointment of Assistant Counsel & Outside Counsel Attorney Candace V. Fay, Esq. – Corporation Counsel

*A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, seconded by Councilman Knapp, to waive the reading of the minutes as all Members have copies and copies are on file in the Legislative Assistant's Office.* The motion carried unanimously.

*A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, seconded by Councilman Knapp, to receive the report and approve the appoint of Attorney Candace V. Fay to serve as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Danbury, as originally requested by the Corporation Counsels Office.*

The motion carried. 14 – Yes, 1 No (Levy)

27. REPORT - Ad Hoc – Application for Deferral of Tax Assessment Increase – 11 Boughton Street

*A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, seconded by Councilman Rotello, to waive the reading of the minutes as all Members have copies and copies are on file in the Legislative Assistant's Office.* The motion carried unanimously.

*A motion was made by Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman Rotello, to move this item back to an Ad Hoc.* The motion carried. 14 Yes, 1 Abstention (DiGilio)

Councilman DiGilio recused himself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest.

Councilman Knapp explained to Councilman Chianese that follow up information and data has not yet been reviewed to answer questions from department heads. He noted that the petitioner was informed that the application will be resubmitted to an Ad Hoc for further review.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS - Police, Fire, Health & Human Services, Public Works, Permit Center, U.N.I.T., Elderly Services, Public Library, Tax Assessor

*A motion was made by Councilman DiGilio, seconded by Councilman Rotello, to accept the Department Reports and waive the reading of the minutes, as all Members have copies and copies are on file in the Legislative Assistant's Office.* The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ridenhour provided a brief overview of the Police Officer certification process with Councilman Chianese.

**Resignations:** Councilman Joseph Cavo announced his resignation, effective on a date to be determined in June. Mr. Joseph Cavo was recognized for his service on the Council.

**Mayor Extended All Committees.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilman Rotello, seconded by Councilman DiGilio, to adjourn.* Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Copies of Agenda Items are available in the Legislative Assistant's Office and on the City's website.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Martinez, Recording Secretary / Attest, Elisa Etcheto, Legislative Assistant