

Minutes of Public Hearing
APRIL 15, 2019
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

2:00 P.M. 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget as proposed by the
Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools

2:00 PM Public Hearing Called to Order at 2:08 p.m.

Roll Call – Present were Councilors Cantor, Davidoff, Kerrigan, Wenograd, and Williams. Absent – Councilors Dodge, Fay and Sweeney

Resident Comments:

1. Jonathan Bilmes, 35 Bishop Road – Commended town side of budget for including training and professional development; encouraged recyclables be picked up biweekly; suggested utilization of road conditions map to show planned construction and costs and commented that the MDC needs more oversight.
2. Cynthia Pavey, 55 Highland Street - Commented that landlords are increasing rents as the taxes go up and there is limited affordable housing and will force out seniors that are on limited incomes.
3. Karen Bachman, 28 Linwold Drive – asked Town to support the West Hartford Women’s Chorale request for \$2,000 to assist with matching grant that would fund risers for their performances.
4. Linda DiNapoli, 214 Mohegan Drive – commented that West Hartford needs to avoid raising taxes; more personnel should be added to building, zoning and tax collection to allow them to pursue collection of fines and overdue taxes; and summer positions should be advertised to give all residents an opportunity.
5. George Kennedy, 19 Waterside Lane – Property taxes are too high when combined with recent Federal tax changes which limit the State and Local Tax deductions; consider establishing a Financial Advisory Committee to make budget recommendations, and review and consolidate programs, also consider automatic Budget Referendum.
6. Judy Allen, 25 Fowler Drive– urged public to change behavior to help reduce costs by cutting down on food waste; banning plastic bags, straws and bottles. Concerned about funding for Storm water drainage – are we planning for enough to pay for that?
7. JoAnn Palmer, 181 Ridgewood Road – concerned about the 8.1% increase in MDC costs; MDC should have meetings during daytime not just in the evening; town needs to regulate neglected properties more.
8. Ed Siegel, 65 Flagg Road – is happy living in West Hartford, except for the taxes which are increasing at a rate higher than inflation. Would like the Town Council to make statement that taxes will not go up this year and have a zero tax increase.

Public Hearing closed at 2:50 PM
Essie S. Labrot
Town/Council Clerk

APPROVED AT APRIL 23, 2019 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING