

Minutes of the Town of Farmington
Special Town Council Meeting
April 21 , 2020
Zoom Webinar Meeting due to the COVID19 Pandemic

Attending:

C. J. Thomas, Chair
Joe Capodiferro
Brian F. X. Connolly
Christopher Fagan
Edward Giannaros
Peter Mastrobattista
Gary Palumbo

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair recited the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked the residents for following the Covid-19 guidelines and reminded everyone to check the Town's website regularly for updates. He thanked the men and women on the front lines of the pandemic for their service to the public.

C. Public Comment

Paula B. Ray, Town Clerk read to following two public comments into the record, which had been received prior to the meeting.

Michael McLaughlin 36 Worthington Drive: Just got the proposed budget for next year with a 2.19% increase. Do you think with all that's going on these days – people out of work and businesses in jeopardy, that we could “ hold the line” on taxes (as some other CT towns are proposing)?

Adriano Melluzzo of 2 Trotters Glen: Why would you not hold a meeting via Zoom like every other business. This is baloney! I have No confidence in town government that they are looking out for the best interest of the town residents. This is a significant increase during these times, residents are suffering with unemployment or furloughs. Town budget must make sacrifices too. Expect protests!

John Smachetti of 29 Coppermine Road told the Council he agreed with first two comments. He wanted the Council to hold the line on the mill rate. If we move forward with the proposed high school project, he believed it was even more important to control the budget now.

D. Consideration of Special Topics

1. That the Town Council approve the attached resolution regarding Adoption of a Tax Deferment Program Pursuant to the Governor of the State of Connecticut's Executive Orders Number 7S and 7W

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to approve the motion recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-1.

Adopted unanimously

E. Executive Session

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to move to Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of records, reports and statements of strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining with the Town Council, Town Manager and Joseph Swetcky, Finance Director in attendance.

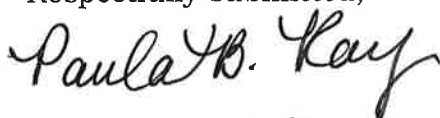
The Council returned to Open Session at 8:21 p.m.

F. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Adopted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Paula B. Ray, Clerk

RESOLUTION RE: ADOPTION OF A TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBERS 7S AND 7W

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut ("Governor") declared a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries including the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States ("President") declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency by the Governor, he has issued a series of Executive Orders setting forth law governing the conduct of the business of state and municipal government during the period of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7S, requiring municipalities, by a vote of their legislative body, to participate in either a deferment or low interest rate program or both; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that participation in a deferment program is in the best interest of the Town of Farmington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Farmington adopts the following:

- 1) That during the period of April 1, 2020 through and including July 1, 2020, the Town of Farmington shall participate in a deferment program and shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents, as described in Section 6(a) and eligible landlords as described in Section 6(c) of Executive Order No. 7S, a deferment of three months on any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, sewer and waste charges and assessments ("Taxes") from the time such Taxes first became due and payable.
- 2) Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document to the Town of Farmington, significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town shall follow such guidance as issued by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management as to which taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents shall be considered eligible for the deferment program.

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