Town Council
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
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RULES & RESEARCH COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2026
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. All present joined in the of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT: Chairman Joy Colon, Vice Chairman Jennifer Winschel, Bill Mecca Steve Spillane, Tony Scinto, John Foreman, Matt Dunn, Alternate Brian Walsh, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officers Cynthia Katske and Kathleen McGannon, Town Attorney Schopick, Town Council Chairman Ashley Gaudiano, Town Council members Tony Dorsey, Christine El Eris, Mary Isaac, Jerrod Ferrari, Nicole Satin, Mike Buswell, Jason Marsh, Tom Broderick, Kelly Mallozzi, Town Engineer/WPCA Administrator William Maurer

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1. RESOLUTION TC31-27: Moved by Winschel, seconded by Mecca
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended the appointment of Duane Pederson as a member of the Ethics Commission, Duane Pederson be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Ethics Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2028. (2/3 Vote of the Council Required)

   Duane Pederson was present an indicated his party affiliation as democrat. He has served on boards of regents of universities as part of the Mayo Clinic board of directors, many nonprofits which all of them have different rules and regulations. He believes he can contribute.

   Chairman Gaudiano noted that Mr. Pederson will not be at the full council meeting. The resolutions require bipartisan support to move forward urging the committee to ask questions.

Duane Pederson is expecting the commission will deal with complaints about compliance with town rules and procedures to ensure good order and relationships so that town will run well with no conflicts of interest or problems with those that are employees.

Attorney Schopick explained the Ethics Commission had not met in years but is now active. It is a 5-member commission and currently has been operating with three members, two republican members and one alternate, one of which intends to leave the commission. There is a pending complaint from 2025, and the commission has received more complaints since then. New complaints require the commission's full membership and highlighted the need for timely appointments to ensure the commission's effectiveness. He emphasized the need for bipartisan support, the appointments require 14 affirmative votes and implored the council to fill the seats.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-2 (Foreman, Scinto)

2. RESOLUTION TC31-28: Moved by Scinto, seconded by Foreman
BE IT RESOLVED, That the First Selectman having recommended the appointment of Audrey Felsen as a member of the Ethics Commission, Audrey Felsen be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Ethics Commission for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2026. (2/3 Vote of the Council Required)

   Audrey Felsen was not present at this meeting but will be present at the full council meeting.

   VOTE: Passed without recommendation by unanimous consent.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Foreman seconded by Mecca the R&R Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Margaret D. Mastroni, clerk