Town of Trumbull

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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5000

MINUTES
May 4, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PRESENT:

Ann Sather	Anthony Dorsey	Thomas Broderick
Ashley Gaudiano	Christine El Eris	William Mecca
Jason Marsh	Jennifer Winschel	John Foreman
Joy Colon	Kelly Mallozzi	Mary Isaac
Tony Scinto	Jerrod Ferrari	Matthew Dunn
Michael Buswell	Richard Wolf	Brian Walsh
Steven Spillane	Carl Massaro	Nicole Satin (via teleconference)

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officers Cynthia Katske (Via video conference) and Kathleen McGannon, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Finance Director Maria Pires, Town Engineer William Maurer, Public Works Director of Operations Rich Infante, Technology Director Bill Chin, Economic & Community Development Director Rina Bakalar

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by Colon, seconded by Dunn to approve the April 7, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were two (2) people present to speak. (See Attached)

DISCUSSION:

Special Election Update: Attorney Schopick noted not much has changed since last month and provided an update on the timeline and costs for the special election to fill the vacant position. The Republican Town Committee (RTC) has indicated it will not nominate a candidate, and we still have the question whether the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) will nominate

someone. Somebody is sitting in the position right now by virtue of an appointment by the First Selectman and will continue to if nobody else is elected. He explained the process for a primary, petition candidate, and write-in candidate, and the potential costs involved as follows:

- The special election is subject to primary, to a potential for a petition candidate, and a write-in candidate.
- If somebody primaries to get on the republican seat that person would be the republican candidate.
- The election is taking place on July 28th, if the above doesn't happen, some other individual still has the right to petition for the position as a third-party candidate.
- If the DTC nominates somebody, then that person would run.
- If the democratic party does not nominate somebody, and somebody petitions to get on the ballot that person presumably would be the successful candidate for the election.
- The dates are such that the last leg of this is a write-in candidate. If somebody wants to be a write-in candidate, they have until July 9th to register with the state of Connecticut in the Secretary of State's office. The election is July 28th. That person, presumably, is not going to be on the ballot as such but is eligible as a write-in candidate to be elected.
- This election will require seven voting places, early voting from July 23rd to the 26th, and the Registrar's office must be prepared to make that happen.
- They have gotten various cost estimates for the special election, but the exact cost will not be known until it is known if there's going to be a primary vote, or a special election.
- If by July 9th there is no other candidate who has put their name forward, then the Secretary of State's office will advise that we don't have to hold the election on the 28th we would then wait until the 28th to declare the one individual as the successful candidate as he becomes the incumbent.
- Minimum costs are based on the number of ballots that need to be printed, the people who need to be engaged to take on various parts of this job. The minimum cost would be about $10,000, and the high end would be somewhere from $30,000 to $40,000.
- If there is an election there will be absentee ballots and it costs $1.09 for postage to mail each absentee ballot. Early voting will have to be printed, the voting machines set up and there must be monitors.
- There is a statewide primary for statewide offices, it's going to be held August 12th. We cannot hold this election in the same place and at the same time, if we did, we'd still have to have separate moderators, machines, and a physically segregated place where that election would take place, because otherwise we would have ballots going in for the primary, this seat. It is a town wide election.
- It was clarified even if there is no nomination from the RTC there's still the opportunity for somebody to petition to primary the fact that the RTC hasn't put anybody on the ballot, or it could primary the person that the DTC has chosen to go on the ballot. The date for that is by May 19th, but there still is the opportunity to petition to be a third-party candidate later in the month and after that there is another opportunity for a write-in candidate by July 9th
- The registrars will need to have people ready to go. If there is no election, they're not going to physically hire the people, but here's training that must be done and ballots printed. There is a cost to printing those ballots.

- The petition was filed March 13 by an individual with 20 signatures. Once that was done, it couldn't be undone.
- We don't know the exact cost but do know a minimum would be $10,000.

NEW BUSINESS

By unanimous consent the Town Council waived the reading of the committee minutes.

1. RESOLUTION TC31-36: Moved by Marsh, seconded by Mallozzi
   BE IT RESOLVED, That the Trumbull Town Council is cognizant of the application for Urban Act additional funding in an amount not to exceed $900,000 for the construction phase of the Trumbull Veterans and First Responders Center and the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by the Department of Economic and Community Development, and authorizes First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro to execute and submit such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and all subsequent amendments, reports, and related documents in order to administer and implement the project. (Full Resolution Attached)

   Rina Bakalar gave a brief update.
   - The town has received a $900,000 supplemental state bond approval for the Veterans and First Responders Center. That is in addition to the other state funding received for the project that went through the bond commission in December of 2025.
   - We now must execute an additional contract agreement. In the past it was not required to have an additional resolution for additional funding for the same project, however, they're requiring this resolution in addition to those that are already on file for state funding for this project. So that's why we're before the council with this request.
   - It was confirmed that emergency legislation should be done.

   VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent

   Moved by Massaro, seconded by Colon to Pass as Emergency Legislation.
   VOTE Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent,

2. RESOLUTION TC31-37: Moved by Sather, seconded by Mallozzi
   BE IT RESOLVED, That $12,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01030500-522202 Professional Services.

   Bill Maurer explained:
   - This is for an application for a LOTCIP grant, which we actually were awarded. The $12,000 is for the complete application, which is 20 something pages long. It's for the Quarry Road, Old Town Road intersection traffic signal.
   - The total of that grant award is 1.55 million.
   - It was confirmed emergency legislation should be done.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent

Moved by Mallozzi, seconded by El Eris to Pass as Emergency Legislation.
VOTE Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent,

3. RESOLUTION TC31-38: Moved by Colon, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That $37,178 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01030400-522207 Special Contractual Services.

Bill Maurer explained:

- This is for an industrial permit that needs to be refiled for the state of Connecticut, for the newer industrial permit. It's also for installing monitoring wells adjacent to the landfill on Spring Hill Road, and for a stormwater manual.
- It was confirmed emergency legislation should be done.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent

Moved by Colon, seconded by Mallozzi to Pass as Emergency Legislation.
VOTE Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent,

4. RESOLUTION TC31-39: Moved by Mallozzi, seconded by Mecca
BE IT RESOLVED, That $40,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01012600-522204 Professional Services-Contractual.

Bill Chin explained:

- This was a budget miscalculation on our fiber contract. They were trying to improve some areas of the network last year, and we went to a different vendor to get quotes. The existing vendor, Crown Castle, came in with a lower price than they had been previously paying and accepted that price.
- The plan was to improve some satellite offices by moving them to fiber internet. When they went out back to the vendor, they pitched residential fiber internet. They wanted business fiber and scrapped that project.
- There was miscalculation, because the regulatory fees and universal surcharge which they had been previously paying was not carried into the budget. That totaled around $28,000 and change and there were other budgetary items that that came in higher than budget. Some came in lower, but one of the bigger ones that came in higher was the Frontier phone services, to the tune of about $14,000 so all in all, it is a $40,000 request.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		

Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		
Tony Scinto		✓	
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: ADOPTED 20-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

Moved by Colon, seconded by Mallozzi to Pass as Emergency Legislation.
The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		
Tony Scinto		✓	
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE Motion CARRIED 20-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

5. RESOLUTION TC31-40: Moved by Massaro, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VIII, Section 9(B), of the Trumbull Town Charter the amount stated in said section which would require that the matter be put to referendum, as adjusted by CPI, is hereby amended to read $18,780,300. (A 2/3 Vote of the Council Required)

- The Chair explained this is a resolution that requires a 2/3 vote of the council. There was a lot of discussion in committee about whether we should index over multiple years, or whether we should be looking at one year, given the fact that this needs two thirds vote and need to move this forward in a bipartisan fashion, it was proposed to look simply at the one-year adjustment. Maria Pires had calculated that to be $15,498,000 not the $18 million and the Chair called for a motion to amend.

Motion made by Colon, seconded by Winschel to amend the dollar amount to $15,498,000.

- Maria Pires confirmed the calculation of $15,498,000 using the 3.32% index was correct not $16,340,905 Councilman Massaro calculated.
- Attorney Schopick noted that the republicans could file a minority report because they had an objection and if there going to, he invited them to do so.

VOTE Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

- The Chair confirmed the resolution was amended to $15,498,000 and it was her intent, presuming she is chairman for another year, that this would be done again while she is chairman, after that it would be somebody else's decision.
- It was noted it is not a decision it is a requirement.
- Councilman Massaro noted the Council is always last to act on financials, it must originate somewhere before it gets to the Council. It starts either with the administration or the Board of Finance,

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf		✓	
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		

Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		
Tony Scinto	✓		
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: ADOPTED as amended 20-1 (AGAINST: Wolf).

6. RESOLUTION TC31-41: WITHDRAWN
BE IT RESOLVED that Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman, be and the same is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town a certain High Service Agreement with Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut, which addresses the issue of high pressure water service to be installed at the Veterans and First Responders Center now under construction.

7. RESOLUTION TC31-42: Moved by Marsh, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, as recommended by the Board of Finance and amended by the Town Council, be and the same is hereby adopted and that the sums stated therein as amended for their respective purposes be and the same are hereby appropriated.

- The Chair noted as it is every year, setting the budget is an incredibly lengthy process, starting many months ago, with the Board of Education, moving to the First Selectmen, the Board of Finance, the Town Council Finance Committee, and eventually to the Town Council this evening. A lot of people had a role in this, obviously, all our department heads, various boards, and, of course, Maria Pires with all of her work. The Chair extended ger gratitude to everybody for the work that was done to get here.

- The Chair explained the voting process as follows: The Town Council would go through the budget department-by-department, starting with the 01 account and then going through sub accounts, and would vote on the 01,02, 03,04 totals and so on, not on individual department totals or subtotals, unless there are motions to amend. The Council can do only two things this evening, either reduce any line item with a simple majority vote, or increase any line item, but only up to whatever is highest the Board of Finance total or First Selectman total. If the Council chooses to increase, a two thirds vote is needed to do so. After this evening, it will go back to the Board of Finance, and they will set the mill rate, and then from there, the Board of Education will get their allocation and decide what to do with that allocation. If the Council has discussion, the Chair asked that they please raise their hand otherwise she will just continue to go through the budget if she doesn't hear from anybody.

01 General Government

Tax Assessor – 01011600
522202 Services & Fees-Professional – Moved by Massaro seconded by Scinto to reduce by $50,000 bringing the number to $206,250.

- Councilman Massaro explained the current budget has all the expense in it for the revaluation and understands all the positions for that department are funded in the salary section, it doesn't need additional consulting fees.
- The Chair confirmed this was the line item the BOF decreased by $25,000.
- Maria Pires explained the reval is a 3-year contract and have paid 100,000 in 2025, 125,000 in 2026 was budgeted and in FY2027 there's 200,000 for the physical reval. In this professional line, there's 15,000 for personal property audits, 50,000 for attorneys' fees, 31,250 for the reval consultants, and 200,000 for physical reval. The first selectman removed the personal property audits for 15,000 and the Board of Finance removed 25,000 from consultants.
- In total it is a $425,000 contract. Maria Pires confirmed the town still owes Vision Appraisal 200,000.
- The 31,250 is for reval consultants because they don't have the staffing needed, there is no tax assessor at this time. There are three vacancies in this department. All three positions are in the budget and hopefully will be filled by July 1st.
- Councilman El Eris voiced her concern that there will be those who will contest their reval, and this reduction is equal to the attorneys' fees, she doesn't want to take that away if it will be needed. Councilman Massaro noted there is a separate department of $400,000 for attorneys' fees. Councilman El Eris explained page 55 lists attorneys' fees specifically for tax appeals and has already been reduced by $25,000.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac		✓	
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel		✓	
Christine El Eris		✓	
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh		✓	
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano		✓	
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick		✓	

Matt Dunn		✓	
Joy Colon		✓	
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi		✓	
Tony Scinto	✓		
Jerrod Ferrari		✓	
Nicole Satin		✓	

VOTE: Motion FAILED 10-11 (AGAINST: Isaac, Winschel, El Eris, Marsh, Gaudiano, Broderick, Dunn, Colon, Mallozzi, Ferrari, Satin)

Economic Development-01014600
522202 Services & Fees-Professional – Moved by Sather, seconded by Dorsey to reduce by $65,500.

- The motion is debated, with concerns raised about the importance of economic development and the potential need for additional funding.
- The Chair noted this line item lists a variety of items such as marketing, design, real estate, property appraisals, title searches, surveys, environmental reports, etc. There is a $10,000 line item, which is funding for grant writing and technical support for applications. The Board of Finance added the 50,000 which was specifically around the mall. In committee there was specific discussion to the mall and that 50,000 and called attention to the other two, the $5,500 and the 10,000 also within that same line.
- Councilman Mallozzi stated the Board of Finance was being responsive to a lot of feedback from the community, specifically economic development and trying to find a way to balance burden on individual homeowner taxpayers. After doing research there's quite a few suggestions about public private partnerships, in terms of getting creative about how we get people to the mall. It seems like it would be a wise use of resources to try to figure out how to support and bolster the largest taxpayer in the town.
- Councilman El Eris suggested considering leaving the original $15,500 in the budget.
- Councilman Broderick noted at the 10:00 a.m. public hearing many of the parents in town came to them saying they want to support economic development in town. Great work is being done but the mall is the linchpin of the town's tax base. Zeroing out this line item is pennywise and pound foolish.
- Councilman Isaac spoke in favor of the Director's effort in the number of grants she is able get for the town, noting she is one-person department The mall was the top taxpayer in town and that is going down. We want the mall to succeed, all of the legwork has been done to bring it to a purchaser but also need to continue at this time.
- After discussion and concerns raised about zeroing out the line-item and the importance of economic development the motion was WITHDRAWN.

Moved by Sather, seconded by El Eris to reduce522202 Services & Fees-Professional by $50,000.

- Councilman Isaac explained the Economic Director had said in recent discussion that if this line item was reduced that there was the Stantec funds, 23,000 available that she could use to start that process if necessary. The Board of Finance did seem open to supplemental down the road. She couldn't speak for them, but if it suddenly started moving quickly that funding would be an option. Funding this line partially would be helpful. This 23,000 was brought up at the Finance Committee meeting.
- Councilman Isaac wanted to make an amendment to the motion, Attorney Schopick stated a second-degree motion could be made. The Chair suggested voting on this motion and then consider this amendment and discussion if necessary.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh		✓	
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano		✓	
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick		✓	
Matt Dunn		✓	
Joy Colon		✓	
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi		✓	
Tony Scinto	✓		
Jerrod Ferrari		✓	
Nicole Satin		✓	

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 13-8 (AGAINST: Marsh, Gaudiano, Broderick, Dunn, Colon, Mallozzi, Ferrari, Satin)

- Attorney Schopick clarified that a motion to increase could be done. The Chair noted Attorney Schopick's legal opinion was that the motion could be made because it keeps the amount below the Board of Finance's number.

522202 Services & Fees-Professional – Moved by Isaac, seconded by Mallozzi to increase by $25,000.

- This brings the total to 40,000 for this line item. Councilman Isaac explained this amount plus the Stantec money already in the budget brings the total dollar amount to what the Board of Finance intended.
- Maria Pires explained the Stantec funds are not in the operating budget, it is either a bond or a grant.
- Rina Bakalar further clarified that the Stantec money is money that's encumbered. It is under a contract. When she referenced it she was asked about the need for this money, she was candid and didn't feel the 50,000 was needed right now. We may, but it's a timing issue with the redevelopment of the mall area and felt it was premature. There are resources encumbered if we need some extra support while the mall is transitioning to its new owner. The next steps will be the fortification of the mall proper and the redevelopment of the whole mall area, which will take resources over time to realize the potential grand list growth and so forth that's been talked about with the study. The Stantec money is already encumbered and has access to it. It doesn't mean it can be used for a new consultant, it's already under contract, approximately 23,000, is available. They haven't spent it all yet and have been waiting to see how they will need it in phase two. Don't consider the 23,000, it's for Stantec and is encumbered. It's not new money and it's not going away July 1st it is there to use for the continuation of that work as it was intended.

Motion WITHDRAWN.

Economic Development – 01014600 New Total - $262,108.
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent.

02 Public Safety – 01022000 – Total 17,067,826 – No Change
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent.

03 Public Works – 01030000 – Total 11,103,719 – No Change
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent.

04 Health Department – 01040000 – Total 631,368 – No Change
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent.

05 Social and Health Services – 01050000 – Total 1,113,477 – No Change
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent.

06 Education – 01060000 – Total 144,035,248 – No Change
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent.

07 Libraries – 01070000
534402 Program Supplies – Moved by Wolf, seconded by Scinto to reduce by $16,000.

- Councilman Wolf explained it is unfair to ask all taxpayers to cover fines, especially when funds are needed for the Board of Education and doesn't think it's fair to supplement delinquency based and take it from all the taxpayers.
- Councilman Mallozzi noted it was well documented and discussed in committee that most towns in Connecticut have done away with library fines. Library fines create inequity and prevent low-income people from taking the risk of checking out materials because they are afraid that they won't be able to pay the fees. As much as 8% of Trumbull is low income.
- Councilman Broderick spoke in support of Councilman Mallozzi's comments. The Library Director when before the Finance Committee explained it's a declining revenue source. Trying to rely on programming doesn't make sense. He also made the point that they defeat the whole purpose. A library is for the joy of learning, the love of reading, all that wonder. Taking away $16,000 and reinstituting fines defeats the purpose of using a library. It's not a stable revenue source and it's declining, fines run counter to library's mission. This would be an investment in the town's families and community.
- Councilman Sather spoke in favor of the motion. Fines demonstrate responsibility and respect for the community, if you lose a book or you don't return it, you have respect for your neighbors and pay the fine. She doesn't believe it discourages people from using the library. As a parent, it's been a very useful tool to teach children responsibility.
- Councilman Massaro noted when he saw this line item, he was quite surprised to think our library collected $16,000 in fines from delinquencies. It's such a small de minimis amount per day, I don't know that there's any analysis as to who's been delinquent and to run up $16,000 however, personal responsibility is the best teacher for anybody, and in a 200 million dollar budget we have far more important things to spend money on than worry about who can take a book out of the library. If you're eligible to take it out, you can take it out. You will not be refused to take out the book, but you should be responsible for bringing it back, and if you don't bring it back on time, then you're going to pay the fine. He does not want to pay somebody else's fine.
- Councilman Marsh didn't disagree with anything that was said but made a point of clarification that the if a book is not returned at all, that family is still charged for the book. This is about late fees once it's returned It's not that Trumbull families can take books for free and then never return them without consequence.
- Councilman Colon explained the Library Director was very clear when he was before the Finance Committee that that is exactly the case, if books are not returned, period, they are lost, you still owe the fee associated with replacing that book. This is for late returns only. If books are lost, you are still responsible, that is not going away.
- Councilman Marsh added his republican colleagues have said very eloquently that we should foster a sense of personal responsibility in our community, but in terms of the budget, he thinks this is an inordinate amount of time on a minuscule item, but the points raised are quite valid.
- Councilman Mecca explained he was on the fence about this, because he sees both sides, and was surprised that this was an issue noting if you must pay

overdue fines a little bit here and there, it's 15 cents per day. He respects we're thinking of others that are perhaps in difficult circumstances, having said that, he agrees with promoting responsibility. Working in the field of human behavior, he believes people do believe there is something to be said for external motivation. He wasn't sure why this was being debated to such a degree on both sides. He would prefer to leave it as is and see how it continues to evolve. Maybe it just declines slightly next year or maybe it stays status quo in terms of collections.

- Councilman Colon spoke as an educator, access over fines is a big deal and questioned whether anyone in this room never had a do over. We should educate our neighbors, and books are the way to do that, because we want people to have choices and access and go to places like Yale instead of jail. She will be voting to keep this.
- Councilman Isaac explained she was on the fence at committee but after the director spoke and explained fines don't stop people from bringing the books back. Some people can afford those fines, but perhaps seniors or families that are struggling, are the ones that then will not borrow books again or will not go back to the library. That's why a lot of libraries are moving away from fines and doesn't want to be the last library in Connecticut with fines in place. It is a declining revenue base. We shouldn't be basing purchasing books on fines.
- Councilman Massaro stated if this is declining revenue, he was shocked that they were collecting more than $16,000 in fines and questioned why subsidizing a declining revenue was being considered.
- Councilman Isaac explained it wasn't to subsidize. The number of books that were being purchased was based on a certain amount and that was offsetting the amount purchased. The Director's point was that we are basing purchases on a declining revenue, as opposed to saying we need a certain dollar amount.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac		✓	
Steven Spillane		✓	
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel		✓	
Christine El Eris		✓	
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh		✓	
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano		✓	
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick		✓	
Matt Dunn		✓	
Joy Colon		✓	
Brian Walsh	✓		

Kelly Mallozzi		✓	
Tony Scinto	✓		
Jerrod Ferrari		✓	
Nicole Satin		✓	

VOTE: Motion FAILED 9-12 (AGAINST: Isaac, Spillane, Winschel, El Eris, Marsh Gaudiano, Broderick, Dunn, Colon, Mallozzi, Ferrari, Satin)

07 Libraries – Total 2,096,828 – No Change

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac		✓	
Steven Spillane		✓	
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel		✓	
Christine El Eris		✓	
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh		✓	
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Ashley Gaudiano		✓	
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick		✓	
Matt Dunn		✓	
Joy Colon		✓	
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi		✓	
Tony Scinto	✓		
Jerrod Ferrari		✓	
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 13-8 (AGAINST: Buswell, Sather, Dorsey, Massaro, Foreman, Walsh, Scinto)
07 Libraries – Total 2,096,828 – No Change

08 Parks & Recreation – Total – 4,171,997 – No Change
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent

09 Debt Service – 01090000- Total – 9,098,748 – No Change

Councilman Scinto noted in his 17 years on the Council this is the highest tax increase he has seen, he read a part of the attached and asked the whole comment be made part of the record. (See attached)

VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent

10 Enterprise Funds – Total 14,330,430 – No Change
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent

<u>01</u> General Government continued:

Employee Benefits - 01013400
Fringe Benefits – 511151 – Motion made by El Eris, seconded by Colon to reduce by $30,210. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

Employee Benefits – 01013400 – New Total 23,453,662
VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

<u>01</u> General Government – New Total 32,371,659
Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

General Fund – New Total 221,690,870
Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

Grand Total – New Total – 236,021,300

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell		✓	
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather		✓	
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf		✓	
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey		✓	
Ashley Gaudiano	✓		
Carl Massaro		✓	
John Foreman		✓	
Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh		✓	
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		

Tony Scinto		✓	
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: ADOPTED 13-8 (AGAINST: Buswell, Sather, Dorsey, Massaro, Foreman, Walsh, Scinto)

Grand Total – New Total – 236,021,300

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Colon, seconded by Winschel the Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni

Margaret D. Mastroni
Clerk

FULL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TC 31-36: WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Bond Commission has authorized $900,000 in additional funding for the Trumbull Veterans and First Responders Center to be used for general construction costs; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is the State department responsible to administer the aforementioned funds; and

WHEREAS, DECD is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic and community development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Trumbull submit an application to the State for $900,000 in Urban Act funding in order to undertake the construction phase of the Veterans and First Responders Center project and to execute the Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Trumbull Town Council is cognizant of the application for Urban Act funding in an amount not to exceed $900,000 for the construction phase of the Trumbull Veterans and First Responders Center and the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by the Department of Economic and Community Development, and authorizes First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro to execute and submit such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and all subsequent amendments, reports, and related documents in order to administer and implement the project.

Public Comment

1. Richard White of 169 Church Hill Road was present – Comment attached.

2. Veronica Lenzen of 129 Fresh Meadow Drive stated it looks as though the town is increasing the overall budget by a staggering 4.7% which includes added consultancy positions while underfunding the education budget. The idea to restructure the busses might help balance the budget, but on whose backs, the working parents who will be given no option but to adjust their lives, often catastrophically, to support this this 4.7% increase. This concerns her as a taxpayer, who is also facing the reval this year. She got the text today to respond to the survey about the Senior Center and is pretty sure she already voted no. She questioned where the additions to the grand list are and how are all these increased expenses going to be covered, if not out of her wallet. The underfunding of the education budget amidst these increases also concerns her and not as a parent because one of her children is successfully finishing sophomore year of college, and her other child will be finishing Trumbull public schools next year, so she does not really have a dog in this race anymore, but does have a home, a four-bedroom home with an accessory apartment. She will need to sell that at some point after the children leave and is ready to retire, and the only people who buy houses that big are families, and families only buy houses that are like that in towns like this, if schools are impressive. Sadly, she is really concerned that if education at our schools is not made a priority and stop with the additional consultant positions and other excesses, our schools will no longer be our crown jewels.

Town Council
Public Comments — 5/4/2026

Richard W. White
Trumbull, CT
rww@waldengeographic.com

I am speaking tonight about RESOLUTION TC31-40, which proposes a new bonding amount of $18,789,300. This vote continues a worrying trend of improperly following the language in Chapter 8, Section 9, 'Bonded Debt,' of our Town Charter.

Form of Question
Paragraph D, Form of Question is very precise in the language that is to be put on the ballot for a referendum. "Shall the proposed bond issue in the amount of $_____ [amount adopted], as adopted by the Trumbull Town Council on _____ [date of adoption] be approved?"

Twice now, the actual question on the ballot has not followed the language in our charter, failing the strict procedural requirements of Paragraph D and introducing a defect into the process.

Project and Referendum
Paragraph B states that "A single project cannot be bonded in multiple smaller amounts in order to avoid this referendum provision."

Paragraph F states that "Any bonded debt proposed that is not approved by referendum cannot be brought up again for referendum until the later of (1) the next Municipal election, or (2) one (1) year."

Last summer, our prior Town Council voted to move forward with an amended amount "APPROPRIATING $31,750,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, DEMOLITION, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING OF A NEW SENIOR/CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $31,750,000 BONDS".

Since the bonding referendum failed just a few months ago, splitting it into smaller bond issues for "planning and design" appears to simultaneously violate Paragraph B's prohibition against smaller projects and Paragraph F's one-year cooling off period.

Adjusted for Inflation
This brings me to tonight's resolution. Paragraph B states "The $15 million amount shall be indexed annually in January using the **annual** Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Northeast Region, with $15 million and the 2020 **annual** CPI-U for the Northeast Region used as the baseline for the calculation."

The Charter explicitly requires an annual adjustment in **January** using annual CPI. By using mixed monthly values and making an adjustment in May, we are disregarding the clear procedural requirements of Paragraph B and arriving at an incorrect figure—a discrepancy off by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Madam Chair, members of the Council, and residents,

Let me start with the number everyone is focused on: a ~~4.8%~~ 4.7% tax increase. That is a significant burden on our residents, and it demands a clear explanation. It is not the result of a single year's decision—it reflects a pattern of choices and long-term obligations that have been building for years.

Tonight's budget discussion is not just about numbers—it's about accountability, priorities, and honesty with the people who pay for all of this.

Over the past four years, this administration has chosen to rely heavily on bonding—more bonding, in fact, than the town has retired in debt. That is not a sustainable path. Borrowing has its place, especially for long-term infrastructure, but when it outpaces repayment, it shifts the burden forward and leaves taxpayers exposed. We are now seeing the consequences of that approach reflected in this budget.

At the same time, we are heading into a revaluation cycle. Residents know what that means: uncertainty, potential shifts in tax burden, and, for many, the likelihood of higher bills even without a rate increase. Layer a 4~~.8~~.7% increase on top of that, and the impact becomes very real for families and seniors on fixed incomes.

And then there's what I would call the "2030 bubble." Pension obligations that were underfunded for years—going back to previous administrations—are coming due. Those decisions weren't made overnight, and they weren't made by one administration alone. But the current leadership has had four years to prepare for this moment, and instead of aggressively addressing these long-term liabilities, we've continued to kick the can down the road while increasing our reliance on debt.

To be clear, this is not about assigning blame for the sake of politics. Yes, prior administrations contributed to the structural challenges we face today. But leadership is measured by how you respond to inherited problems—not by how long you continue to point backward while making choices that deepen them.

Our responsibility now is to stop the cycle. That means making disciplined decisions about spending, rethinking our approach to bonding, and putting a real plan in place to address pension obligations before they overwhelm us. It also means being transparent with residents about what lies ahead—especially as we approach revaluation and the financial pressures building toward the end of the decade.

This budget should be a turning point, not another step in the same direction.

We owe our residents a plan that stabilizes our finances, protects taxpayers, and restores confidence that this town is being managed with both foresight and restraint.

May 4, 2026

Thank you.

Tony Scinto
District 7
Town Council