

**Amended Draft**

**Posted May 18, 2023**

The City of Warwick  
Docket of the City Council  
Budget Meeting

May 25, 2023  
@ 4:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
WARWICK CITY HALL  
3275 POST ROAD  
WARWICK, R.I. 02886

Stephen P. McAllister, President

**Roll Call: 9/0**  
**Time: 4:48 PM**  
**Salute to the Flag: Travis**

**General Communications**

1. Announcements of Congratulations, Condolences, or Community Events.

**McAllister – Monday 10:00 AM Warwick Vets Middle School Ceremony**

**Ladouceur – Moment of Silence for his mother**

**Executive Communications**

**None**

## **Public Comment**

**RULE 41:** After General Communications and prior to the Consent Calendar at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council each month, there shall be a period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, during which citizens may comment about Warwick City Government issues subject to the following stipulations:

- a. The total period of time for public comment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Comments need to be brief in order to allow as many citizens as possible to participate. Each citizen signed up and present shall have not to exceed five (5) minutes to speak, provided, however that if more than six (6) Citizens are signed up and present the thirty (30) minutes will be split evenly amongst speakers. Time shall not be transferable amongst speakers.
- b. The topics for comment shall be issues directly affecting City government.
- c. City Council members will not respond to questions during the public comment period.
- d. The public comment session will terminate at the expiration of the earlier of all speakers concluding their allotted time or thirty (30) minutes. Waiver of this provision requires a unanimous vote of the Council.

### **Barry Cook –**

President of Tax Payers Association

Lack of prudent questions – no one questioned daughters pay increase – City Council poised to pass budget 68 Million – improper use and misuse of ARPA Funds

### **Rob Cote –**

My words fall on deaf ears – the worst it's ever been – waste is obnoxious – increase in salaries in many departments – doing nothing for the tax payers

### **Ann Sheridan – Ward 9**

Was at Monday night's meeting and was expecting to hear from all of the departments – Departments should be reducing spending – has knowledge regarding the sale of assets – Fire Department should be charging people for runs – Finance Directors benefits and wages salaries based on scheduled wages, longevity, contractual upgrades – need to get kids back to school before we build new schools – need to get basic education

**Darlene Netcho – Ward 7**

Lifelong resident – President of Warwick Teachers Union spoke in favor of school budget – District is moving forward – more to education than test scores – come to Tollgate to see the school disgraceful – they leave because they get better elsewhere

**Elaine Gambardella – Ward 5**

Hit in 2018 assessment \$52,700 hit again \$97,800 assessment – has lived here for 52 years \$467 increase to taxes – senior discount remains the same – retirement benefits – push comes to shove only one Councilman fights for the residents – please do not go higher than the proposed tax rate

**BUDGET ITEMS**

**1. PCR-58-23 Relative to Transfers, Supplemental Appropriations, and Emergency Appropriations** (Councilman Howe on behalf of Mayor Picozzi)

Committee Report (Finance): To Refer Public Hearing

Motion: **Favorable**

Moved by: **Howe**

Seconded by: **Foley**

Vote: **9/0**

**2. PCR-57-23 Resolution Adopting the Budget and Setting the Tax Rates of the City of Warwick for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024** (Councilman Howe on behalf of Mayor Picozzi)

Committee Report (Finance): **To Refer Public Hearing**

Motion: **Favorable**

Moved by: **Howe**

Seconded by: **Foley**

Vote: **9/0**

**1. Rix – 1,544,964 from 35-111 Fire & OT 85-174 Pension Fire 1 \$18,144,964  
Seconded: Ladouceur  
Vote: 2/7 (Rix & Ladouceur)**

2. Sinapi – move 1.8 million uncumb ARPA funds - \$370,000 to 89-000 School Department  
Seconded by: Rix, Foley  
Vote: 4/5 (Gebhart, McElroy, Rix, Sinapi) Amendment Fails
3. Sinapi – 47-949 Senior Center fees add \$15,000 Revenue move to 89-000 add \$15,000  
Seconded: Rix  
Vote: 7/2 (Ladouceur, Travis) Amendment Passes
4. Gebhart – 35-111 Fire & Overtime down 12.5% \$553,991 to 100 36 rainy day fund  
Seconded: Ladouceur  
Vote: 3/6 (Gebhart, Ladouceur, Rix)

**Recess Time: 7:06 PM – 7:23 PM**

**Motion: Howe**

**Seconded: Foley**

5. Gebhart - 35-111 6.25% reduced by \$276,996 to 100 rainy day fund  
Seconded By: Ladouceur  
Vote: 3/6 (Rix, Gebhart, Ladouceur) Amendment Fails
6. Ladouceur 35-111 Fire Department Overtime reduce by 2 million – 1 million to senior citizens & veterans exemptions 1 million to parks & fields not eligible for CBDG Grants  
Seconded by: Ladouceur  
~~Vote: Ladouceur withdraws his motion~~
7. Ladouceur 35-111 Fire Department Overtime reduce by 1 million – used to parks & recreation locations that don't qualify for CBDG Grants 45-282 (create new line item) maintenance equipment  
Seconded by: Rix  
Vote: 3/6 (Rix, Ladouceur, Gebhart) Amendment fails
8. Ladouceur – reduce 89-000 by 2 million to add to rainy day fund  
Seconded: Rix  
Vote: 1/8 (Ladouceur) Amendment Fails

9. Ladouceur – 18-101 Job Code 390 down \$8030 (Finance Director) into rainy day fund  
Seconded by: Rix

Foley calls for motion to move the question (end debate)  
Seconded by: Howe  
Vote: 8/1 (Rix)

Vote to amend 18-101: 2/7 (Rix) Amendment Fails

10. Ladouceur – 13-101 reduce by 12,115 to General Fund  
Seconded by: Rix  
Vote: 1/8 (Ladouceur) Amendment Fails

11. McAllister – Behalf of Administration 18-400 \$15,000 to 47-799 Senior Center  
Moved by: Howe  
Seconded by: Rix  
Vote: 9/0

12. McAllister 16-360 decrease \$693.51 to line 16-101  
Motion: Rix  
Seconded by: Foley, Howe, Sinapi  
Vote: 9/0

13. McAllister -85-196 move to 85-174  
Ladouceur rejects transfer of \$1,060,322 85-174  
Seconded by: Rix  
Vote: 1/8 (Ladouceur) Amendment Fails

14. Rix – adjust Tax Rate to \$14.90 per thousand  
Seconded by: Ladouceur, Gebhart, Foley  
Vote:

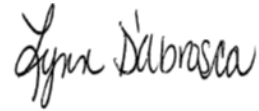
Foley – Motion call the question (end debate)  
Seconded by: McElroy  
Vote: 7/2 (Ladouceur, Rix)

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**Favorable as amended: Foley**  
**Seconded by: Howe, McElroy**  
**Vote: 7/2 (Ladouceur, Rix)**

Motion to Adjourn: **Howe, Foley**  
Seconded by: **Foley**  
Vote: **vv**  
Time: **8:40 PM**

Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn D'Abrosca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn D'Abrosca  
City Clerk

**Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the City Clerk's Office at 738-2006 ext. 6 at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.**