Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam, Bergami, Bill Bevan, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, D. Rubenstein, Richard Smith

ALSO PRESENT:Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rahn, Sgt. Kranyak, D. Candido, Secty.

A quorum was present to conduct the business of the meeting.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

* Laura Ambrogio, Liaison to Wildemere and Walnut Beach Associations – shared concerns regarding speeding and “racing” in the area of Monroe Street and Naugatuck Avenue; hoping for additional police presence in that area as well as the area near Alpha Pizza. She added now that the weather is changing there are also increasing concerns regarding the Walnut Beach parking lot and looking for more patrol in that area as well.

Chief Mello thanked Ms. Ambrogio for sharing the concerns and questioned the statement regarding “racing”. He was told it usually occurs on weekends and it is 2 cars, side by side, racing. Chief explained there are cameras in that area which would provide the opportunity for review and zoom in on the vehicles involved for better identification. He stated he will ensure more patrol in that area now that this has been brought to his attention.

Chief explained at this time all city departments are on a “freeze” therefore additional staff will not be brought on until after the start of the next fiscal year (July 1) at which time additional patrol can be considered. He emphasized the importance of keeping the department informed of such issues and he referred to past years when a strategy and plan was developed to address a similar problem in the area and the outcome was successful.

* G. Kupfer – Point Beach Area resident – addressed the ongoing and reoccurring problem at the Beachcomber with loud music and people gathering outside late at night. He noted he had raised this concern in the past.

Chief Mello noted that the Beachcomber is in the middle of a residential area and that can be disturbing to the neighboring residents. He added he is not sure if the level of noise would rise to a measurement which would confirm the need for a noise ordinance. He suggested that the department could try to secure the equipment needed to measure the noise level and if it is confirmed that the noise from the restaurant exceeds the lawful noise level, he would ask this commission to endorse a noise ordinance. He asked to keep the dialogue open between residents and the department regarding this matter.

Chairman Smith asked if the neighbors had met with the owner of the restaurant to share these concerns and he was told it was not an official meeting.

Chief Mello stated the department will use whatever existing statutes we can and added sometimes just a police presence can have a positive outcome.

**4**. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Vice Chairman Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting as presented.

Comm. Mager referred to page 6, motion regarding Executive Session and he asked that his statement regarding abstaining from voting on the matter read as follows: *Motion carried with Comm. Mager abstaining from voting as he represented the employee in a prior unrelated matter*.

Motion carried to accept the minutes as corrected with Vice Chairman Bergami abstaining as he was not present at the March meeting.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

* Robert Fiore, member of the Citizens Police Academy – wrote to share his experience as a member of the current Academy noting he rode with an officer as part of the class and they made a visit to Boys and Girls Club at which time he witness a great interaction between the officer and young people in attendance.

Chief Mello added the Citizens Police Academy Program has great value and creates a relationship within the community which he hopes can continue.

* Brooks Thornhill. Truck driver who while stopping at the Pilot Station in Woodmont observed Officer Hemperly at that location on department business. Stated he was impressed with the officer’s professionalism and respect and noted that this officer represented the department well.
* T.Wydra, Director of Wage & Workplace Standards Division, Department of Labor – expressed his appreciation for our department assisting during an operation in the State Department of Labor in early March.
* T. Flaherty, State Police Academy Administrator – expressed appreciation for assigning Sgt. O’Keefe and Sgt. Wardowski to assist with 5-day development class noting their great professionalism and expertise.

Chief Mello added law enforcement knows no boundaries and his proud of this department’s ability to work with other law enforcement agencies.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

a. Safe Driving Awards for Officers Ken Catino, Austin Groves, Christopher Park and

 Keith Ruggiero.- informational

b. Donation from Vic Arrington from car seat clinic – Chief Mello noted this is another example of our department’s outreach to the public in offering car seat clinics. He recommended the $60 donation be placed in the Officers’ Wellness Fund.

Motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to place the $60 donation from Vic Arrington from a car seat clinic be placed in the Officers’ Wellness Fund as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

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c. Chief’s General comments:

* Chief Mello asked commissioners to note the Autism Awareness Car parked in front of headquarters explaining in the past patrol cars have been wrapped for such organizations as Breast Cancer Awareness. This month Fleet Auto has once again donated their services and wrapped a patrol car at no cost to the city in honor of Autism Awareness.
* Chief referred to installation of parking kiosks at Walnut Beach area. He explained the aldermen approved this request and added the installation of these kiosks will not change the parking plan this commission approved. He added the matter first went to the aldermen and he was not certain if it had to come to this commission. He explained the only changes that were in conflict to what this commission approved was time limit changes and signage.
* Chief Mello stated he was contacted by a reporter regarding what was published in recent Board of Finance minutes. He explained the city is in an emergency spending freeze and that includes public safety and therefore based on that spending freeze there will be no purchasing of patrol cars this year. Further, due to this spending freeze, the city will not be able to go out to bid on cars at this time but will do so after July 1 and obviously there will be a price increase on the vehicles. As stated in the past, Chief Mello noted that the department is getting half the number of cars annually that were purchased when he first became Chief.

As well he noted there is a spending freeze on overtime and overtime can only be used for emergency or extenuating circumstances; no additional training is taking place at this time and nothing is funded that is not an emergency or classified as extenuating circumstance.

* Chief Mello reported that Milford’s former Chief, Thomas Flaherty has retired from his position as State Police Academy Administrator as of April 1, 2019.

Chairman Smith asked what is done with cars that are taken out of circulation and he was told cars are traded in. Chief Mello explained certain cars such as front line cars naturally have different level of usage than a detective’s car.

Chief Mello added we have contractual overtime issues that at this time are not being met. As well it is necessary to purchase vests for our officers and that is also contractual. He explained it is important that we look at our needs for overtime month to month explaining in the summer there is more need for overtime, adding overtime requests are taken on a case by case basis but he felt we should be following the contract regarding this matter. He assured the commissioners that the department is not adjusting duties at this time and are still staffing as close as we can.

Vice Chairman Bergami questioned funding available to sustain the DARE Program and Chief Mello stated it the program can be conducted by officer while on duty, it will be fulfilled.

**7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS** - none

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chairman Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve the following reports:

a. Special Investigations Unit Report

 b. Detective Bureau Report

 c. Crime Prevention Unit Report

 d. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. Bird Scooters Study – remains on the table

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

a. 701 North Street – Conference Center – motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chairman Bergami to approve Traffic Division recommendation based on the specifics mentioned in the report with regard to 701 North Street – Conference Center.

Chairman Smith noted there is mention of parking spaces in the report.

Sgt. Kranyak explained there is a pedestrian issue as well as sight lines and the developer is considering the possibility of a shuttle from the center to the parking area.

Chairman Smith noted Traffic Division recommended cutting back of brush to improve sight lines but the pedestrian issue could be a bigger matter.

Sgt. Kranyak stated consideration might be given to putting sidewalks along North Street to assist with the pedestrian concerns.

Motion to approve Traffic Division recommendation based on specifics mentioned in the report failed.

**11. COMMENDATIONS**

 Deputy Chief Rahn shared the following:

* Letter of recognition for Officer Alexandra Vakos, medical incident occurring 2/23/19 at local store. Individual with pre-existing medical conditions was in serious condition, officer began CPR and stabilized the individual until emergency team arrived and transported individual to the hospital.

Chief Mello stated this is another example of how the combined dispatch unit works so well in our community.

* Officer Kyle Magnum and Det. Mahoney were working on series of car break ins. After speaking with car owners and asking them to check their personal credit cards for possible fraud, it was found some of the owners’ cards had been used fraudulently at area gas stations. A review of the surveillance videos at the gas stations and conversations with other local enforcement led to identifying the individuals and eventually arrests were made.

Chief Mello was pleased to say that this department has a great environment and a great morale and he wants to be sure we are able to keep that high standard.

Comm. Bevan referred to story on the Patch noting that other communities have a much higher rate of car thefts than Milford.

Chief Mello stated that Milford has 7 exits off of I-95 which makes for many ways to exit the city. He stated an auto theft task force was developed and this team worked aggressively to address this problem.

Comm. Jagoe thanked the Chief and the department for the work being done to maintain residents’ safety and also keep the morale of the department high.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to add to the agenda Executive Session for Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health or Dismissal of Department Employees.

Motion carried unanimously to add Executive Session to this agenda.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health or Dismissal of Department Employees. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rahn and commissioners present remained for Executive Session

The meeting reconvened in public session at 8:52 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to reconvene in public session at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk April 9, 2019