

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

APRIL 21, 2015

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader Barbara-Ann Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Linda A. Russo, Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D. Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The Chair announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-381, after which the Council joined him in the pledge of allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) spoke to the appointment of the town auditor and noted that the same auditors have been appointed by the town for the last thirty years; (2) suggested that the Council approve an audit of the road bond referendum; and (3) thanked the Council Chair for going forward with the tax lien sale and not a tax deed sale.

Mayor Leclerc addressed the Council on: (1) the newly distributed East Hartford Business Guide was compiled in conjunction with the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce; (2) CERC training will be Wednesday April 22nd from 6M to 8PM in Council Chambers; (3) 60 Meadow Street was recently sold to an out-of-state company moving to East Hartford; (4) the ribbon cutting for 30 Branch Drive – the Habitat for Humanity event – took place last Wednesday; (5) the Senior Center hosted a luncheon honoring their volunteers; (6) the temporary library at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center is closed and the Wickham Library has extended their hours while the transition to the new library takes place; (7) Goodwin College has donated \$100,000 toward the new library; (8) there are jobs available in the town's Parks and Recreation Department; and (9) the town's annual summer "clean up" will be on June 6th in partnership with CHFA and will be focused on Main to Elm Streets and from Central Avenue to Burnside Avenue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 7, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **approve** the minutes of the April 7, 2015 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Rotary Club: Report of Donations

Chair Kehoe reviewed the following report:

**ROTARY CLUB OF EAST HARTFORD CHARITABLE DONATIONS
SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF EAST HARTFORD
2-YEAR REPORT AS OF APRIL 2015**

<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>FUNDED 2013-14</u>	<u>FUNDED 2014-15</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Academy of Finance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	High School students
Bookmobile (May 2013) sources	\$52,000	\$ 0	used multiple Rotary funding
Community Renewal Team	\$ 600	\$ 0	homeless shelter
Dictionary Project	\$ 1,152	\$ 1,295	each 3 rd grader receives
EH Holiday Fest	\$ 200	\$ 200	DJ for dance show
EH Interfaith Ministries fund	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	Soup Kitchen; human needs
EH Little League	\$ 0	\$ 325	support team
EH High School Basketball League	\$ 0	\$ 1,000	general financial support
EH Historical Society	\$ 0	\$ 1,600	Huguenot House renovation
EH Parks & Rec. Summer Concerts 8/6/15	\$ 0	\$ 300	"Soul Sound Review" -
First Congregational Food Bank	\$ 0	\$ 500	food bank supplies
Hockanum River Race	\$ 100	\$ 0	event support
Holiday gifts/toys EH Social Services	\$ 0	\$ 924	adopted two families
InterCommunity Health	\$ 0	\$ 250	mental health services
"Koats for Kids": EH Social Services sources	\$ 2,950	\$ 4,110	used multiple Rotary funding
Literacy Volunteers	\$ 0	\$ 250	general financial support
Mayberry School iPads	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,893	five (5) each year
O'Connell School Robotics Team	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	support competition
Raymond Library Renovation	\$ 0	\$10,000	computer classroom
Scholarships high school graduates	\$12,000	\$12,000	6 @ \$2,000; post-secondary
School Business Partnership Program participation	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	High School student
Senior Citizens' Prom at EHHS	\$ 846	\$ 1,000	event scheduled for 4/22/15
Totals:	\$80,348	\$39,647	

Resignation of Robert Damaschi from the Pension and Retiree Benefits Board

Chair Kehoe announced that Bob Damaschi is resigning from the Pensions and Retiree Benefits. He thanked Mr. Damaschi for his service to the town.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation from Investigation & Audit Committee re: Appointment of Town Auditor

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Barbara Rossi
 to **recommend** that the Town Council appoint Blum Shapiro as the
 town's auditors for fiscal year 2014-2015 to perform required

financial audits consistent with the most recent proposal of
 \$67,900.00.
 Motion carried 9/0.

Appointment of Joan Coates to the Fine Arts Commission

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **approve** the appointment of Joan Coates, 508 Oak Street,
 to the Fine Arts Commission; whose term shall expire
 December 2016.
 Motion carried 9/0.

Refund of Taxes

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **refund** taxes in the amount of \$96,435.92
 pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
 Motion carried 9/0.

Bill	Name	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Over Paid
2013-01-0014300	ABBARRAC 39 WOODBRIDGE L L C	39 WOODBRIDGE AVE	-941.6
2013-03-0050239	ACOSTA GILBERTO J JR	1997/4A3AX55F2VE061061	-24.97
2013-03-0050337	ADAMSON DAPHNE OR	2002/JTEHF21A420066697	-50.72
2013-04-0080322	ANGELL ERNEST R	2013/1G1YX3DW4D5106791	-1,301.25
2013-03-0052473	BARNETT JODI L	2013/2GNFLEEK3D6299044	-24.68
2013-03-0053451	BLAIR JOSHUA PIERRE	2001/1HGEM22941L000148	-29.47
2013-03-0053522	BLOT ANNE CARMELLE	2005/5N1AR18W75C701788	-174.11
2013-01-0002480	CASTRO GEORGE & MARIA	28-30 LAUREL ST	-3,077.67
2013-03-0057288	CONN NATURAL GAS CORP	2008/1FAHP28W48G103708	-128.71
2013-03-0057293	CONN NATURAL GAS CORP	2000/4UZ6CJAAXYCF78226	-398.84
2013-03-0057671	CORBIN CASPER D	1998/1B7HF13Y7WJ104464	-55.03
2013-01-0008936	CORELOGIC	181 LANGFORD LN	-3,871.53
2013-01-0011065	CORELOGIC	75 WALNUT ST	-2,750.11
2013-04-0081968	DAILEY SKYLEN S	2007/5GZCZ63487S865848	-9.44
2013-04-0081970	DAIMLER TRUST	2011/WDDHF7HB1BA356007	-1,118.29
2013-01-0004545	EAST HARTFORD BUSINESS PARK	88 LONG HILL ST	-75,338.00
2013-03-0061064	ELLIS LORNA D	1996/1J4GZ58S0TC239665	-83.95
2013-01-0016355	GALIN KATHLEEN & WOOD ALAN	19 PHILLIPS FARM RD	-311.9
2013-01-0005543	GALLO SANTO P & DAWN M	119 WHITING RD	-29.2

2013-03-0064916	GRIMES RITA MARIE	1997/3P3ES47CXVT596705	-33.37
2013-03-0065247	HAKALIMA MALUNGOH	2003/JTEHF21A230106079	-77.54
2012-03-0065507	HARVEY ANGENETTE	2000/JN1CA31A9YT032493	-161.55
2013-04-0083804	HONDA LEASE TRUST	2011/1HGCP2F81BA000492	-95.38
2013-03-0067427	JACKWIN WENDY E	1998/1G3NB52M8W6304518	-61.97
2013-04-0084212	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA	2014/4S4BRBKC3E3249265	-77.68
2013-04-0084250	KASAVAGE SANDRA L OR	2008/2T2HK31UX8C073745	-45.17
2013-01-0014807	KERR KATHERINE M	28 NORTHBROOK CT	-126.33
2013-01-0011569	KERSHAW NICOLE	16 LEGION DR	-1,953.34
2013-03-0068885	KITCHEN TERRENCE I	2005/1D7HU18DX5J526406	-107.24
2013-01-0007753	LERETA CENTRAL REFUND TEAM	132 MILBROOK DR	-2,071.60
2013-03-0069943	LAVOIE PAUL L	2005/1HD1BWB115Y032468	-45.45
2013-03-0070018	LAYLOR TYSHAUN OR	2004/JNKCV51F34M700395	-182.68
2013-04-0081976	MERCEDES-BENZ FINANCIAL	2014/WDCGG8JB6EG178108	-209.57
2013-01-0009017	NORCOM MORTGAGE	88 HOCKANUM DR	-68.1
2013-03-0078641	PROCTOR MILDRED S	1998/1G4HP52K5WH456902	-76.95
2013-03-0079510	REYES ARAMIS	2004/2HNYD18684H554985	-58.93
2012-04-0087434	SHEA MICHELLE L	2013/1N4AL3AP9DC267513	-7
2013-03-0083208	SIKA LAURIE L OR	2010/JM1BL1H60A1214240	-60.45
2013-03-0083382	SITARAS BYRON J OR	2002/1HGCG16562A073504	-49.04
2013-03-0085780	TOTOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES ATTN: LBX842701	2013/3TMLU4EN6DM114827 2011/5TDDK3EH2BS054962	-479.88
2013-03-0085846	TOTOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES ATTN: LBX842701		-432.38
2013-03-0072807	VOORVAART SHARON	2005/4T1BE32K55U024235	-234.85
		TOTAL	-96,435.92

[Silva's Champions Walk for Education](#)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Anita Morrison
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled Silva's
Champions Walk for Education, submitted by Cheryl Silva, Assistant
Director of Silva's Youth of Today Child Care Learning Center to conduct a
walk in Great River Park on Saturday May 16, 2015 from 8AM to 11AM,
beginning from the amphitheater to Mortensen River Plaza and back,

subject to compliance with adopted codes and regulations of the State of Connecticut, the Town of East Hartford, and any other stipulations required by the Town of East Hartford or its agencies; and to **waive** the associated permit fee, under the provisions of §5-6(a) of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances as this walk is designed to bring attention to improvements in education.

Motion carried 9/0.

Gengras Spring Open House

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Linda Russo
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “Gengras Spring Open House” submitted by Stephen Bray, Events Coordinator for Gengras Motor Cars, Inc., to conduct a weekend event at 221 Governor Street where riders will have the opportunity to take test rides, and with music, food, sales and vendors on the following days and times in 2015:

Saturday May 16th 9AM-5PM, with music from 10AM-2PM

Sunday, May 17th 10AM-3PM, with music from 10AM-2PM

subject to compliance with adopted codes and regulations of the State of Connecticut, the Town of East Hartford, and any other stipulations required by the Town of East Hartford or its agencies.

Motion carried 9/0.

Memorial Day Parade

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Anita Morrison
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled, 2015 Memorial Day Parade, submitted by Melodie Wilson, Chair, East Hartford Patriotic Commission to conduct the town’s annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2015 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, with music during those same hours; subject to compliance with adopted codes and regulations of the State of Connecticut, the Town of East Hartford, and any other stipulations required by the Town of East Hartford or its agencies.
Motion carried 9/0.

Town of East Hartford Wellness Fair

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application, entitled Town of East Hartford Wellness Fair, submitted by Eliza Westberry, CEO-owner of Eliza’s Energy Source, to conduct a wellness fair on the Town Green located on Main Street – or in the event of inclement weather inside at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center – on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 10AM to 2PM with music

during those same hours; subject to compliance with adopted codes and regulations of the State of Connecticut, the Town of East Hartford, and any other stipulations required by the Town of East Hartford or its agencies; and to **waive** the associated permit fee under the provisions of Town Ordinances §5-6(a), as the applicant hopes to provide an informational forum on the various aspects of health as it applies to East Hartford's residents.
Motion carried 9/0.

Rotary Club of East Hartford Duck Race

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Rotary Club of East Hartford Duck Race" submitted by Mary Martin, Rotary Club President, to conduct a duck race on the Hockanum River as a fundraiser at the Walnut Street Bridge over the Hockanum River at Labor Field on Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 2PM and ending approximately 15 minutes later; subject to compliance with adopted codes and regulations of the State of Connecticut, the Town of East Hartford, and any other stipulations required by the Town of East Hartford or its agencies; and to **waive** the associated permitting fee under the provisions of §5-6 (a) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances as this is a charitable fund-raising event, which proceeds benefit community service projects and also provides scholarships to local graduating seniors.
Motion carried 9/0.

Tax Policy Committee – Town Council Acting as a Committee of the Whole - Tax Lien Sales

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to recommend that the Town Council **authorize** the administration to conduct a tax lien sale by way of a request for proposal (RFP) and to seek and receive sealed bids pursuant to an invitation to bid on a number of tax liens held by the town on specific real property as listed on lists 1, 2, 3 and 4 and attached to a memorandum dated April 14, 2015 from Mayor Marcia Leclerc to Town Council Chair Richard Kehoe, subject to the following four conditions:

1. The Collector of Revenue shall notify the record owner of each property subject to a lien that is to be included in the tax lien sale, by certified mail, that the lien is being included in the request for proposal and invitation to bid, and that the owner should contact the Town immediately to pay the taxes or seek a payment plan if they wish to keep the Town's tax liens on their property from being sold; and
2. In order to qualify for a payment plan, the property owner must meet the following three criteria:
 - They must remit 25% of the outstanding amount due

- They cannot have defaulted on a prior payment arrangement
 - Their property must not have active property code violations; and
3. The letters from the Collector of Revenue to each property owner shall notify the property owner that the purchaser of the tax lien on their property shall have the right to foreclose on that property; and
 4. The Administration shall return to the Town Council with the results of the request for proposal and that the proposal for each tax lien must be approved by the Town Council before it is sold.

And further to **authorize** the administration to assign the tax liens as listed on lists 5, 6 and 7 to the vendors who currently hold the prior year tax liens on these properties.

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Anita Morrison asked when the opening of the remodeled Raymond Library is anticipated. *Mayor Leclerc responded that late May or early June is a target date.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Pending Workers' Compensation Claims re: George Law

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending workers' compensation claims of former town firefighter George Law, for a total sum of \$200,000.00.
 Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Susan Kniep (1) was disappointed on the approval of the auditor; (2) thanked the Mayor for explaining how to find past minutes on the website; (3) informed the Council that there is now a fraud hotline that citizens can use confidentially; (4) inquired if any businesses have delinquent taxes and if so, the town can pull the permits issued to that business; and (5) said if cuts to the state budget negatively affects the town's budget, that the taxpayers not bear the burden of those cuts.

Barbara Rossi announced that the East Hartford Public Schools will have their town-wide Student Art Show starting on Tuesday, April 28th through Saturday May 2nd at the East Hartford Cultural Community Center. She urged all to attend.

Marc Weinberg wished Gillian and Liam Horan Happy Birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (8:35 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be May 5th.

Attest _____
 Angela M. Attenello
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK