

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCTOBER 7, 2014

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 7:36 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.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Connecticut's Top Work Places 2014

Mayor Leclerc acknowledged the following East Hartford businesses, and their representatives, who were among the top work places in the state for 2014:

- Goodwin College – Mark Scheinberg, President
Jean McGill, Vice President, Human Resources
Gary Minor, Director of College Relations
- InterCommunity, Inc. – Kim Beauregard, CEO
- United Steel – Ken Corneau, Owner and CEO
John Gagag, Operations Manager

Kelser Company also received recognition but was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

The Mayor presented the "key" to the Town of East Hartford to Ken Corneau, Owner of United Steel, in recognition of his 40 years of success in East Hartford.

Fine Arts Commission: 50th Anniversary

Mayor Leclerc read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Fine Arts Commission was established in 1964 with the collaboration of Council President John Brennan and community resident Lillian Goodberg who was appointed the first chairperson; and

WHEREAS, the Fine Arts Commission has promoted and stimulated the general interest among the citizens of East Hartford in music, dance, drama, poetry, and all the visual arts- photography, painting, prints, and sculpture; and

WHEREAS, the Fine Arts Commission has supported and worked collectively with the Art League especially in sponsoring live creative demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, the Fine Arts Commission has annually purchased original art for the town's growing collection; and

WHEREAS, the Fine Arts Commission hosts exhibitions of local artists for the enjoyment by citizens of the town.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, do hereby join with community members, students and council members to extend our best wishes to the Fine Arts Commission as its members celebrate the commission's

"50th Anniversary"

and wish them continued years of enhancing the culture of East Hartford.

Mayor Leclerc presented this proclamation to Florence Schroeter, Chair of the Fine Arts Commission, thanking her and the members of the Commission for their dedication to the cultural advancement of East Hartford.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) suggested that the Council provide the amount of a tax reduction when a tax appeal case is on the Council agenda; (2) inquired on a law suit that is pending between the East Hartford Housing Authority and the Town of East Hartford; and (3) would like more information on the East Hartford Affordable Housing Now program sponsored by the East Hartford Housing Authority.

Mayor Leclerc addressed the Council on the following: (1) the installation of new LED street lights on Appletree Drive; (2) leaf collection will begin on November 3rd at the corner of Silver Lane and Forbes Street; (3) Goodwin College will provide \$7500 worth of plantings at the East Hartford Golf Course; (4) the residence at the Golf Course will receive a new roof, siding and trim before the winter sets in; (5) the National Prescription Take-back Day was a success and the town will continue to sponsor these days; (6) the Believe 208 Run was a huge success and aptly honored the memory of Officer Paul Buchanan; (7) under the leadership of Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, the Criminal Investigation Bureau has begun to send letters to the victims of unsolved burglaries, reminding them that, while the crime is not solved, the case remains opened; (8) East Hartford is the recipient of the Brownfields Remediation Grant for the demolition of Daly Court; (9) the Rotary Club held their 7th annual Coats for Kids on Sunday, October 5th; (10) on Saturday October 18th, EnviroShred located at 22 Prestige Park will host a shredding event for East Hartford residents, taking up to 3 boxes of paper; (11) the Greater Hartford Marathon will be held on Saturday October 11th; (12) Fall Fest will be held on Saturday October 11th on the Town Green; (13) the East Hartford Fire Department will be wearing pink examining gloves during October to support Breast Cancer Awareness month; (14) East Hartford Library is one of 15 libraries in Connecticut chosen as a Lego Junior Maker Program; (15) the Library is offering "Every Child Ready to Read" program on Thursday October 30th at 11AM, which teaches parents of young children how to engage their children in literacy skills; and (16) there will be a flu clinic for seniors at the south end senior center on Friday October 10th and 24th from 1PM to 4PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 16, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Pat Harmon
to **approve** the minutes of the September 16, 2014 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 8/0. (Horan out of Chamber)

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition Committee re: 1855 and 1859 Main Street

Chair Kehoe announced that the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the town not accept the parcels of land at 1855 and 1859 Main Street.

Ordinance Committee: Chapter 10, Article 5 – Public Act 14-124

Chair Kehoe announced that the Ordinance Committee concluded that there was no need to make any additional changes to the town's elderly tax break ordinance.

Annual United Way Campaign Presentation

Marc Bassos, Youth Services Outreach Coordinator and United Way Campaign Coordinator, explained that this year's goal is \$4000 in contributions from employee pledges and penny wars. Mr. Bassos together with Ed Chaves, Public Safety Complex employee, will spearhead this drive in the month of October.

OLD BUSINESS

Recommendation from Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee: Two Parcels on Park Avenue/Main Street (Route 5 North) – **postponed from January 21, 2014**

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Anita Morrison
that the Town Council accept from the State of Connecticut the parcels of property located at Main Street (Route 5) and Park Avenue, together with referenced easements and rights of way, described on the attached quit-claim deeds dated March 12, 2012 and November 14, 2012, which were presented at the January 7, 2014 and the September 16, 2014 Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee, for the state mandated release fee of \$1,000 and **waive** the acquisition requirements set forth in §10-18(b) of the Town Ordinances.
Motion carried 8/0. (Horan out of Chamber)

NEW BUSINESS

Reallocation of LoCIP Funds re: EHHS Tennis Court Surfaces

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Town of East Hartford currently has a total of \$49,640.00 in Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) funds earmarked for renovations at the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse; and

WHEREAS review of the building and required work indicates that much of the work falls into the category of repairs, making the project ineligible under LoCIP guidelines; and

WHEREAS these funds can be reprogrammed for the repair of the Tennis Courts at East Hartford High School;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to amend the Town Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the purpose of transferring \$49,640.00 from the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse Project (CIP #2015-302) to the Replacement of Tennis Court Surfaces at East Hartford High School Project (CIP #2014-301) and make application to, and execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all documents, contracts, and amendments as may be required by the state Office of Policy and Management as they pertain to these projects and the state Local Capital Improvement Program.

On call of the vote, motion carried 9/0.

To accommodate those present, the following motion was made:

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Anita Morrison
 to take "Opportunity for Residents to Speak" out of order.
 Motion carried 8/1. **Nay**: Horan

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Ms. Brooks, a King Court resident, feels that the new owners and management company of King Court do not communicate well with her and she doesn't trust the tenants association to provide her with answers to her questions. The Chair indicated the housing authority no longer owns the property but if she had specific questions, the Town Council would try to obtain answers.

At this point, the Council returned to the order of the agenda.

Flood Protection System Rehabilitation Project re: Contract Authorization

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 that the Town Council **authorize** the funding of professional services and legal contracts, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$425,768,

associated with the rehabilitation of the Town's flood protection system as follows:

1. Real Estate Acquisition & ROW Development – Phase I:
 - a. Outside Legal Services – not to exceed \$125,000
 - b. Property Appraisals – not to exceed \$ 25,000
 - c. Property Map Development – not to exceed \$ 20,000
 - d. System ROW Mapping – not to exceed \$ 25,000
 - e. Property Acquisition Costs – not to exceed \$ 75,000

Total \$270,000
2. Metal Retaining Wall Evaluation – not to exceed \$ 8,523
3. Meadow Hill Pump Station Outfall Repair
Design – not to exceed \$101,910
4. Toe Drain Replacement Project Phase II – Environmental
Support Services – not to exceed \$ 31,278
5. Piezometer/Data Logger Replacement and
Modifications – not to exceed \$ 14,057

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Anita Morrison (1) inquired on the use of pre-paid gift cards donated to the town; (2) would like an update on the savings experienced due to the installation of solar panels; (3) would like an update on the Raymond Library expansion project; and (4) is concerned about the safety of town buses used by senior citizens. *Regarding (1), the Mayor indicated that Human Resources is conducting an investigation on this issue which Councillor Morrison will be a part. Regarding (2), (3) and (4), the Mayor will obtain that information.*

Esther Clarke received an inquiry regarding the collection rate on taxes due on the 2013 Grand List collected in July 2014. *The Mayor will get that information from the Finance Director.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

70 Tolland Street Associates, LLC v Town of East Hartford, 62-70 & 62 Rear Tolland St.

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Bill Horan
to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the pending real property tax appeal known as 70 Tolland Street Associates LLC v Town of East Hartford, Docket No. CV-14-6025234S, involving 62-70 and 62 Rear Tolland Street from the fair market value of \$1,620,410 to the fair market value of \$1,000,000, which shall generate a reduction of \$17, 507.14 in property taxes, commencing the Grand List Year of 2013.
Motion carried 9/0.

Property damage claim of current Board of Education employee, Anna Smith

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the
 pending property damage claim of current Board of Education
 employee, Anna Smith, for the total sum of \$387.11.
 Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (10:02 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be on October 21st.

Attest _____
 Angela M. Attenello
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK