

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

AUGUST 5, 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 7:40 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

Robert Leech, 22 Farm Drive, asked if a Connecticut electrician will be assigned the work under the Ameresco Energy Performance Contract. *Later in the meeting, Tim Bockus, Director of Public Works, stated that a Wolcott Connecticut contractor was hired to perform the electrical work on the energy performance contract.*

Mayor Leclerc (1) will honor the individuals who were the first responders at the July 16th accident on High Street at a future Council meeting; (2) True Green has posted their performance bond for the solar field at the landfill; (3) Sounds of Summer Concert is ongoing and urged all to attend; (4) the town's pools will close for the season on August 17th; (5) the Fire Department is in the process of purchasing ten iPads to replace the department's ToughBooks; (6) the sale of King Court to Goodwin College was finalized on July 30th – the town's share of the proceeds is \$1,088,612; (7) announced several promotions and new recruits to the East Hartford Police Department; (8) Michael Walsh, Finance Director, has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association; (9) the end of the summer reading program at the Library will be held on August 9th; and (10) the town's new website is a success.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 15, 2014 Executive Session

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **approve** the minutes of the July 15, 2014 Executive Session.
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain**: Horan

July 15, 2014 Public Hearing/Bissell Street

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Pat Harmon
to **approve** the minutes of the July 15, 2014 Public Hearing/Bissell Street.
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Horan

July 15, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **approve** the minutes of the July 15, 2014 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Horan

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Responses to Questions Asked of Administration – July 15th Meeting

Traffic Signal at Brewer and Forbes Street

Chair Kehoe read from the Mayor's report that the signal had deteriorated resulting in the signal operating in a recall mode. The loops have since been repaired and the traffic light is in good working order.

Tree Belt Repair – Sandra Drive area

Chair Kehoe read from the Mayor's email that the turf establishment concerns will be noted for the final punch list and anticipates the corrective action will be in September.

Town of East Hartford Personnel Rules and Merit System Recent Changes

Chair Kehoe briefly summarized the five revisions to the town's Personnel Rules and noted that the full set of Rules is online for those who wish to review those changes.

Michael Walsh: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Chair congratulated Mike Walsh, the town's Finance Director, for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report from the Government Finance Officers Association. This honor is a testimony to the extraordinary job that Director Walsh does for the town and its citizens.

NEW BUSINESS

Contingency Transfer: Republican Primary

MOTION By Pat Harmon
seconded by Anita Morrison
to **authorize** the transfer of \$16,000 from Contingency Reserve to cover

the costs associated with the Republican Primary to be held on August 12, 2014 as follows:

From Acct # G9600-63492, Contingency Reserve	\$16,000
To Acct# G1300-60135, ROV – Election Officials	\$11,175
To Acct# G1300-62360, ROV – Election Day Expenses	\$ 1,725
To Acct# G1300-63227, ROV – Inspec. Of Voting Mchns.	\$ 1,500
To Acct# G1300-65212, ROV – Telephone	\$ 1,600

Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Clarke

East Hartford Board of Education Capital Improvement Projects: Langford School Roof, EHMS Science Wing HVAC and Site Re-Pavements

Resolution Creating a Fund Balance Commitment

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A FUND BALANCE COMMITMENT OF \$417,780 TO PROVIDE THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the East Hartford Board of Education has compiled its annual Capital Improvement Plan including a construction project related to the replacement of the Langford School roof; and

WHEREAS, the total cost associated with the aforementioned construction project identified by the Board of Education is \$1,800,000; and

WHEREAS, a State of Connecticut Department of Education construction reimbursement approximating 76.79% or \$1,382,220 related to the Langford School roof reconstruction is expected to offset the Board's costs leaving \$417,780 to be funded locally.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve of this Commitment of Fund Balance in the amount of \$417,780 from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance. In recognition of this Commitment, the following entry is hereby approved:

G01-33100	Unassigned Fund Balance	\$417,780
G01-33101	Committed Fund Balance	\$417,780

Funds certified as Unassigned and available to Commit.

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

Application for a Construction Grant (ED049) – Langford School Roof

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Anita Morrison
to **authorize** the East Hartford Board of Education to apply to the State Department of Education to submit an ED049 grant application for the Langford School roof replacement project.
Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to the Public Building Commission

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
that in accordance with subsection (d) of §2-67 of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council **refer** to the Public Building Commission the Langford School Roof Replacement project.
Motion carried 9/0.

Preparation of Design Plans

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **authorize** the preparation by the East Hartford Board of Education of schematic drawing and outline specifications for the Langford School Roof Replacement project.
Motion carried 9/0.

EHMS Science Wing HVAC and Site Re-Pavements

No action taken on these items.

Energy Performance Contract – Ameresco, Inc. – tabled at the July 15th Meeting

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to **REMOVE FROM THE TABLE** the Energy Performance Contract with Ameresco, Inc., which was originally presented at the July 15, 2014 meeting and subsequently **tabled** at that meeting.
Motion carried 9/0.

Energy Performance Contract Resolution

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Town of East Hartford, working through the Request for Proposal process, has selected Ameresco, Inc. to identify energy and maintenance savings opportunities related to streetlights and other fixtures in town, and

WHEREAS, Ameresco, Inc. and their engineers have identified approximately \$2.1 million of energy related facility improvement measures including streetlight fixtures that will generate approximately \$4.6 million of total budget savings over the life of contract and financing through direct energy savings, maintenance savings, and utility rebates, and

WHEREAS, the total budget savings generated under this energy savings performance contract with Ameresco, Inc. will allow the town to secure much needed Emergency Operations Plan capital improvements and through lease financing, to issue debt over a period of 6.6 years whereby the debt service will be paid

completely by the savings generated under this contract, resulting in no net cost increase to the Town budget or East Hartford taxpayers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the Town of East Hartford is authorized to enter into an Energy Savings Performance Contract with Ameresco, Inc, or its affiliates not to exceed \$2.1 million. The contract terms, payment schedule, and other details of the contract shall be mutually determined between the company and the Mayor, whose signatures will indicate approval of specific terms and conditions.

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

The above motion revised later during this meeting.

Municipal Tax-exempt Lease Purchase Financing Resolution

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

AUTHORIZING A MUNICIPAL TAX-EXEMPT LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of East Hartford intends to purchase various capital equipment under a Energy Savings Performance Contract with Ameresco, Inc. and/or its affiliates; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the various capital equipment is \$2.1 million; and

WHEREAS, the Town is expected to save through direct energy savings, maintenance savings, and utility rebates \$2.7 million in total over the next 7 years and will use those savings to pay principal and interest on the borrowing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the Town of East Hartford is authorized to enter into a lease purchase agreement and related documents with Bank of America and/or its affiliates in an amount not to exceed \$2.1 million. The interest rate, payment schedule and other details of the financing shall be mutually determined between the company and the Mayor, whose signatures will indicate approval of specific terms and conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town declares its intent to be reimbursed for any temporary advances from the General Fund to pay for any part of the equipment from proceeds of the lease financing in accordance with Treasury Regulation 26 CFR 1.103-18 and/or 26CFR1.150-2.

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

Energy Performance Contract Resolution

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

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Town of East Hartford, working through the Request for Proposal process, has selected Ameresco, Inc. to identify energy and maintenance savings opportunities related to streetlights and other fixtures in town, and

WHEREAS, Ameresco, Inc. and their engineers have identified approximately \$2.1 million of energy related facility improvement measures including streetlight fixtures that will generate approximately ~~\$4.6~~ **\$2.7** million of total budget savings over the life of contract and financing through direct energy savings, maintenance savings, and utility rebates, and

WHEREAS, the total budget savings generated under this energy savings performance contract with Ameresco, Inc. will allow the town to secure much needed Emergency Operations Plan capital improvements and through lease financing, to issue debt over a period of ~~6-6~~ 7 years whereby the debt service will be paid completely by the savings generated under this contract, resulting in no net cost increase to the Town budget or East Hartford taxpayers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the Town of East Hartford is authorized to enter into an Energy Savings Performance Contract with Ameresco, Inc. or its affiliates, not to exceed \$2.1 million. The contract terms, payment schedule, and other details of the contract shall be mutually determined between the company and the Mayor, whose signatures will indicate approval of specific terms and conditions.

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

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **direct** the Administration to provide the Town Council with its recommendations for financing the phased-in acquisition of generators at East Hartford High School, East Hartford Middle School and East Hartford elementary schools, which may include lease purchase, use of operating funds or use of fund balance.
Motion carried 9/0.

Appointment to Commission on Aging

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to **approve** the appointment of Marie Carlson, 59 Brentmoor Road, to the Commission on Aging, whose term shall expire December 2016.
Motion carried 9/0.

Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness Program Grant

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is providing funding to municipalities that provide shelter and monitoring for evacuees through the Nuclear Safety Preparedness Program.

WHEREAS, the East Hartford Fire Department request to make application to this program to receive funds to purchase a mobile trailer, to store and transport program equipment.

WHEREAS, the total amount of the grant would be \$5,620.00, without any matching funds require by the Town of East Hartford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council does support and authorize the submission of this grant application to DEMHS and authorizes its Mayor, Marcia A. Leclerc, to act as representative of the Town and to enter into contract and make any amendments thereto receive funding from DEMHS.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Ram Aberasturia asked that Godar Terrace be added to the list of roads to be repaired and/or repaved under the proposed bond.

Esther Clarke inquired on (1) the progress of the development of Rentschler Field. *Mayor Leclerc stated that the Administration is in frequent contact with the developer and that development of Rentschler Field is a multi-faceted effort.* (2) what is being done to stop residents from parking cars on front lawns and sidewalks. *The Mayor replied that this is an ongoing problem. Police are continuously monitoring this situation and ticket vehicles that are not in compliance with town laws*

Anita Morrison asked if the monies due HUD from the East Hartford Housing Authority had been paid through the recent sale of King Court. *Mayor Leclerc indicated that the debt due HUD has been paid by the Housing Authority.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

The following citizens from King Court Residents Association Council came forward to inform the Council of their disappointment in how they have been treated by Goodwin College – the new owners of King Court: Mary Hill, Maria Claudio, Beatrice Kettles, Suzette Wright, Denise Summers and Mary Holmes.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (9:50 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be on August 19th.

Attest _____
 Angela M. Attenello
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK