

Robert J. Beck

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2018 JAN 22 A 8:36

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

JANUARY 16, 2018

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Linda A. Russo, Majority Leader Ram Aberasturia, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Joseph R. Carlson, Shelby J. Brown, and Patricia Harmon

ABSENT Councillor Caroline Torres

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:39 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, 50 Olde Roberts Street, suggested that tax appeals be handled in a more open forum to allow for greater transparency for town residents. She believes that the public should be more involved in the discussion of the tax appeals and that no action should be taken until the Council hears from the public. Additionally, she asked if any decision has been made on the PILOT funding for Goodwin College.

Mayor Leclerc (1) announced that trash pickup is on schedule for tomorrow even though snow is predicted; (2) commended the students and staff of O'Connell School for the MLK Day program held on January 12th; (3) a parking ban is effect for tomorrow due to inclement weather forecasted; (4) the next "Coffee with a Cop" will be on Saturday, January 20th at the Burnside Avenue Dunkin Donuts; (5) the East Hartford Police Department, in cooperation with the State Police, will be presenting a Run/Hide/Flight training session which addresses church-related concerns of the clergy of East Hartford on Tuesday, February 6th from 7PM to 9PM; (6) the Brian Aselton Snow Dash has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 28th and the Brian Aselton Blood Drive will be on Friday, January 19th from 1:15PM to 6:45PM at Sunset Ridge School; and (7) Raymond Library has a new program for students who are interested in learning filming and production with the Library's "green screen".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 2, 2018 Executive Session

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **approve** the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Executive Session.
Motion carried 8/0.

January 2, 2018 Public Hearing

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **approve** the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Public Hearing.
 Motion carried 8/0.

January 2, 2018 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **approve** the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 8/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Registrars of Voters Annual Report

The voters of East Hartford set a new and disturbing record in the 2017 local election. Just 12.27 percent of registered voters voted. Put another way, 87.73 percent of registered voters failed to exercise the most important freedom set by our Constitution...the right to a secret ballot.

In other matters:

Two nominated candidates died. This required the reprinting of all ballots, adding to the expenses. This unhappy situation also disrupted the normal preparation schedule. Primary of the problems was the preparation of memory cards for the vote scanners. This is normally a two to three-week effort. In this case we had one week to do this job.

Election Day registration went smoothly as it has since it was initiated. This election 15 people registered to vote on Election Day. We again employed a number of young people to assist voters by reviewing the voting process and assisting in the completion of applications. These youngsters are supervised by personnel from Youth Services.

We completed the eight session certification course enacted into law two years ago. We each took the final exam with very high scores. In other training areas we attended both spring and fall conferences of the Registrars of Voters Association. These two conferences feature continuing education sessions for the Registrars and their Deputies as part of a continuing education effort. In town we hosted a certification class for Election Day Moderators who must be certified every two years. We both took part in this program to maintain our own certification as moderators.

The Election Management System is now mandatory for all elections. We started this in the 2017 election. The Head Moderator is responsible for this function after the polls close. Our Head Moderator also took part in the Moderator training. This program is designed to speed up election results reporting.

Of note: the increasing volume of registrations being done through the Motor Vehicles Department and on-line registration has resulted in a drop of voters visiting our office to register

BY: Registrars Jan. 11, 2018

Mary Mourey Stephen Watkins

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation from Ordinance Committee re: New Section 21-1 and 21-9 entitled: "RVs and Motor Vehicle Parking in Residential Property"

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **table** this item, as more information is needed on the description of commercial vehicles.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Referral to Ordinance Committee re: Enterprise Zone Designations

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the repealing of the existing Municipal Enterprise Zone ordinance and the establishment of a process for addressing each active enterprise zone abatement plan and to report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
 Motion carried 8/0.

26th Annual Aselton Memorial Snow Dash – Rescheduled from January 7th

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **approve** the rescheduled outdoor amusement permit application entitled "26th Annual Aselton Memorial Snow Dash", submitted by Kristine Vincent, Assistant Director of the East Hartford Parks & Recreation Department and by the East Hartford Police Department to conduct a 5K road race (Snow Dash), to be held in the vicinity of the Langford School area – 61 Alps Drive – on Sunday, January 28, 2018 between the hours of 11:00AM and approximately 3:00PM, with the use of public streets occurring between the hours of 1:30PM and approximately 2:15PM, 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 8/0.

Referral to Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee: 1450 Main Street

MOTION By Joe Carlson
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **refer** to the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee the possible sale of the town-owned property at 1450 Main Street – presently operating as "Tastebuds Banquet and Catering" with instructions to investigate the matter and report back to the Town Council with its recommendation if any.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Dial-A-Ride Operating Grant

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS The Greater Hartford Transit District has made available Operating Assistance Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2017-2018; and

WHEREAS these funds can be used to pay a portion of the cost of operating the Dial-A-Ride system providing transportation to elderly and disabled citizens.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc is authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the Greater Hartford Transit District in relation to a \$13,139.00 grant to the Town of East Hartford to be used to support costs associated with the operation of the Dial-A-Ride Program.

On call of the vote, motion carried 8/0.

Connecticut State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis – Community Mini Grant

MOTION By Joe Carlson
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council has announced the new Connecticut State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis - Community Mini Grant opportunity; and

WHEREAS every day in the United States, 91 people die as a result of drug overdose, and another 6,748 are treated in emergency departments (ED) for the misuse or abuse of drugs; and

WHEREAS between 2012 and 2015, the number of opioid-related deaths in the State of Connecticut grew at four times the rate of the national average.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to 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 Capital Area Substance Abuse Council as they pertain to this Connecticut State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis - Community Mini Grant opportunity.

On call of the vote, motion carried 8/0.

Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) Program

MOTION By Shelby Brown
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 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; and

WHEREAS the East Hartford Fire Department has requested to make an application to this program to receive funds to purchase a trailer-mounted, variable message board, to assist with multiple traffic patterns during a Host Town activation; and

WHEREAS the total amount of the grant would be \$13,500.00, and does not require any matching funds from 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 necessary to receive funding from DEMHS.

On call of the vote, motion carried 8/0.

Homeland Security Grant Program

MOTION By Shelby Brown
seconded by Linda Russo
to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Town of East Hartford may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, including the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate for the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Hartford and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

On call of the vote, motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Esther Clarke inquired on an article appearing in the Hartford Business Journal last summer which indicated that Hartford and East Hartford had been selected as an "innovation place" and in line for a grant of up to \$2M in FY2018. *Mayor Leclerc, who had brought this to the Council earlier, stated that Hartford had been chosen for this grant.*

Ram Aberasturia had an inquiry from a citizen who asked that the "slip & slide" at Martin Park be brought back. *Mayor Leclerc said she would mention this to Ted Fravel, Parks & Recreation Department Director.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Chowdhury & Hines, Inc. v. Town of East Hartford – Tax Appeal

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Linda Russo
to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the pending

assessment (tax) appeal known as Chowdhury & Hines, Inc. v Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037410-S, involving 298-300 Burnside Avenue, from the fair market value of \$597,414.00 to the fair market value of \$526,200.00, which shall generate a reduction of \$2,345.44 in property taxes, for the Grand List Year of 2016. Motion carried 8/0.

Ted's Fourth, LLC v. Town of East Hartford –Tax Appeal

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Linda Russo
to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the pending
assessment (tax) appeal known as Ted's Fourth, LLC v Town of
East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037594-S, involving 225 Prospect
Street, from the fair market value of \$1,904,614.00 to the fair market value
of \$1,400,000.00, which shall generate a reduction of \$16,619.47 in
property taxes, for the Grand List Year of 2016.
Motion carried 8/0.

AARJUS III, LLC v. Town of East Hartford – Tax Appeal:

95 Leggett Street

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Pat Harmon
to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the pending
assessment (tax) appeal known as AARJUS III, LLC. v Town of
East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037577-S, involving 95 Leggett
Street, from the fair market value of \$3,505,214.00 to the fair market value
of \$3,300,000.00, which shall generate a reduction of \$6,758.73 in property
taxes, for the Grand List Year of 2016.
Motion carried 8/0.

95 Leggett Street, Rear – a/k/a 81 Leggett Street

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Pat Harmon
to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the pending
assessment (tax) appeal known as AARJUS III, LLC. v Town of
East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037575-S, involving 95 Leggett
Street, Rear a/k/a 81 Leggett Street, from the fair market value of
\$2,356,485.00 to the fair market value of \$1,850,000.00, which shall
generate a reduction of \$16,681.11 in property taxes, for the Grand List
Year of 2016.
Motion carried 8/0.

1-36 Jaidee Drive Associates, L.P. v. Town of East Hartford – Tax Appeal

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the pending
 assessment (tax) appeal known as 1-36 Jaidee Drive Associates, L.P. v
 Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037307-S, involving 1-36
 Jaidee Drive, from the fair market value of \$2,160,028.00 to the fair market
 value of \$1,850,000.00, which shall generate a reduction of \$10,210.79 in
 property taxes, for the Grand List Year of 2016.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Goodwin College, Inc. v. Town of East Hartford – Tax Appeal

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the pending
 assessment (tax) appeal known as Goodwin College, Inc. v Town of
 East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037263-S, involving 33 Leggett
 Street, from the fair market value of \$1,473,885.00 to the fair market value
 of \$1,250,000.00, which shall generate a reduction of \$7,373.49 in property
 taxes, for the Grand List Year of 2016.
 Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **adjourn** (8:45 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be February 6th.

Attest Angela M. Attenello
 Angela M. Attenello
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK