

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader Linda A. Russo, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Ram Aberasturia, Joseph R. Carlson, Patricia Harmon and Michael G. Kurker

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:35 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

CT's 1st Kids' Governor – Elena Tipton, O'Connell School Student

Hundreds of the state's fifth graders participated in the first ever election for Connecticut's Kid Governor in November and in the end, Elena Tipton of O'Connell School emerged as the winning candidate with her "Campaign for Kindness" platform. Representatives from the Old State House – Sally Whipple, Executive Director and Brian Cofrancesco, Head of Education – addressed the Council on the inception of this new program which celebrates involvement and participation in state and local government.

Bryan Hall, Chair, East Hartford Board of Education, congratulated Elena on her victory and thanked her for making East Hartford proud.

Representative Jason Rojas, a State Legislator, presented Elena with a proclamation from East Hartford's state delegation.

Mayor Leclerc presented Elena with a joint proclamation from the Mayor and the Council.

Elena then explained her Kindness platform: she plans to have the 13th of each month as Kindness Day, proposes installing buddy benches in schools and create an online blog where students can share examples of being kind to others.

Chair Kehoe suggested that Elena come back to the Council when her term of office is over to share a review of her year in office.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) spoke to the need for ethics laws be applied to the appointees of the town's boards and commissions; (2) suggested that liaisons' reports be made public at a future Town Council meeting.

Mayor Leclerc commented on the following: (1) the town participated in the Juvenile Justice Phase I program and has been invited back to participate in Phase II; (2) the crime statistics in East Hartford for 2014-2015 has dropped by 4 ½ %; (3) last Thursday, the EHPD celebrated the K-9 division's 25th anniversary; and (4) the Grand List for 2015 shows a 1.7 % increase.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **approve** the minutes of the January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Resignation of Mary Manns from the Historic District Commission & Inland /Wetlands Commission

Chair Kehoe announced that Mary Manns has resigned from the Historic District Commission & Inland /Wetlands Commission. The Chair thanked Ms. Manns for her service to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation from Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee:

Revised Job Description – Fire Marshal

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **approve** the revised job description of Fire Marshal as outlined in a memo from Fire Chief John Oates to Mayor Marcia Leclerc dated November 30, 2015 and as attached to an email from Mayor Marcia Leclerc dated February 1, 2016.
 Motion carried 9/0

A copy of the revised job description follows these minutes.

New Job Description – Fire Captain/Emergency Management

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **approve** the new job description of Fire Captain/Emergency Management as outlined in a memo from Fire Chief John Oates to Mayor Marcia Leclerc dated November 30, 2015 and as attached to an email

from Mayor Marcia Leclerc dated February 1, 2016.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Joe Carlson
 to **table** this item.
 Motion carried 6/3. **Nays:** Horan, Russo, Weinberg

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **approve** the appointment of Henry Pawlowski, 48 Oxford Drive, to the
 Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities; whose term shall
 expire December 2017.
 Motion carried 9/0.

MOTION By Joe Carlson
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **approve** the appointment of John Ryan, 172 Burke Street, as a full
 member of the Planning & Zoning Commission; whose term shall expire
 December 2018.
 Motion carried 9/0.

Bid Waiver: Brewer Street Reconstruction – Design Services

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Linda Russo
 that pursuant to Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code
 of Ordinances, the Town Council **waive** the bidding requirements as set
 forth in Section 10-7 (b) for professional services associated with design
 improvements to the Brewer Street Reconstruction Project Phase III and
 award the design improvement contract to Parsons-Brinkerhoff, the
 design professionals for Phases I and II, as it is in the best interests of the
 town.
 Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Esther Clarke inquired if the town has decided on which properties will utilize funds from the Brownfield's grant. *The Mayor indicated no determination has been made yet and that the town can use the funds on any property as it sees fit.*

Rich Kehoe commented that the Eversource substation off Maple Street near the Goodwin School entrance is disassembled. *Tim Bockus, Public Works Director, believes that Eversource is realigning some of their trunk lines and the removal of this substation is probably associated with their updates.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Rafael Zeligzon, 430 Burnside Avenue, is concerned about the safety of the neighborhood due to recent police activity at a local convenience store.

Marc Weinberg wished Esther Clarke a belated Happy Birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (9:25 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be February 16th.

Attest _____
Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK