

Robert J. Black

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2021 APR 26 A 8:36

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

APRIL 20, 2021

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai and John Morrison

PRESENT Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson and Councillor
Via Teams Patricia Harmon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He stated that this is, once again, a hybrid meeting of the Town Council; 6 Councillors physically attending this meeting in the Council Chambers and 3 Councillors attending remotely via "Teams". He then invited the Council to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **amend** the agenda as follows:

Under New Business, **add** item. 8.K.
entitled "Rental of East Hartford Public Library".

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 6, 2021 Executive Session

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by John Morrison
to **approve** the minutes of the April 6, 2021 Executive Session.
Motion carried 9/0.

April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **approve** the minutes of the April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

East Hartford Housing Authority: Liaison Report

The Chair explained that the Town Council liaisons to the East Hartford Housing Authority (EHHA), Metropolitan District Commission and Riverfront Recapture are going to present to the Council a report every six months to keep the Council apprised of what that agency is currently working on.

Esther Clarke and Connor Martin, are the Town Council liaisons to the EHHA. Councillor Martin began his report with a brief history of the EHHA, stating that over 1,000 East Hartford residents call EHHA's units their home. The EHHA oversees 10 housing sites, which are: Hockanum Park, Rochambeau, Shea Gardens, Elms Village, Hutt Heights, Meadow Hill, Heritage Gardens, The Highlands, Miller Gardens and Veterans Terrace. They also manage 8 scattered sites which is equal to 19 units. In total, EHHA manages 784 units of affordable housing.

Councillor Clarke stated that she and former Councillor Linda Russo started the practice of writing a brief report to the Council after an EHHA meeting to keep the Council updated on what was happening. Councillor Clarke stated that Covid testing and inoculations were a main focus to the EHHA for the safety of their residents. Regarding Veterans Terrace, the EHHA has begun construction. They are planning to start twenty more units in Phase II and Councillor Clarke said they have secured funds for Phase III.

James Kate, Chair of the Board of Directors for EHHA, and Deb Bouchard, Executive Director for EHHA, answered questions from the Council.

Collective Bargaining Agreement: East Hartford Board of Education and East Hartford School Registered Nurses Union

Chair Kehoe stated that the Council received the new contract between the Board of Education and the school nurses union. This agenda item is informational only. No Council action is required.

Resignation of Scott Thompson from the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board

Chair Kehoe announced the resignation of Scott Thompson from the Pension and Retiree Benefits Board. He held the position of union representative for over 12 years. Councillor Clarke, who also served on the same Board, thanked Mr. Thompson for his guidance and help during her tenure on that Board. She also noted Mr. Thompson's dedication and service to the town.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendations from the Ordinance Committee:

Section 1-16 and Section 14-1 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson

seconded by Angie Parkinson
to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by adopting a new Section 1-16, entitled "Indigenous People's Day" and by repealing the existing Section 14-1 and substituting a new Section 14-1; both revisions consistent with the draft dated January 31, 2021 that was approved at the March 30, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting.
Motion carried 9/0.

Section 2-3 Mayor's Salary

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by repealing Section 2-3, entitled "Mayor's Salary" and to substitute in lieu thereof a new Section 2-3 that is consistent with the draft dated January 31, 2021 which was approved at the March 30, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting.
Motion carried 6/3. **Nays:** Clarke, Harmon, Morrison

Section 2-3b. Registrars and Deputy Registrars of Voters

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by repealing Section 2-3b, entitled "Registrars of Voters Salary" and substitute in lieu thereof a new Section 2-3b, that is consistent with the draft dated January 31, 2021 which was approved at the March 30, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting.
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Clarke

Recommendation from the Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition Committee:

150 Prospect Street

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by John Morrison
to recommend that the Town **not** accept the donation of the 4.6 acre parcel known as 150 Prospect Street; the Administration having notified the Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition Committee that the Town has no current, or anticipated future use, for such property.
Motion carried 9/0.

1177 Burnside Avenue

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by John Morrison
to recommend that the Town **not** acquire the 1.76 acre parcel known as 1177 Burnside Avenue; the Administration having notified the Real Estate

Acquisition and Disposition Committee that the Town has no current, or anticipated future use, for such property.
Motion carried 9/0.

Town Council – Acting as the Committee of the Whole of the Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition Committee re: Acquisition of Silver Lane Transportation Easements

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by John Morrison
that this Town Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole for the Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition Committee: (1) waive the requirements of Town Ordinances Section 10-18 (b) as to obtaining an appraisal, phase one environmental assessment, and full title search with respect to the below mentioned interests in real property, waiver being in the best interests of the Town since the Town is obtaining easements not fee ownership, no consideration will be paid for the easements, and full A-2 surveys have been conducted of both the burdened and benefitted easement parcels, and (2) accept from the State of Connecticut, acting through the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, transportation easements for the placement of sidewalks over State of Connecticut property at 593, 611, 615 (two easements) and 627 Silver Lane, in the general form attached hereto.
Motion carried 9/0.

Vaccine Equity Partnerships Funding Program

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by Connor Martin
to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has made funding available to local health districts through its Vaccine Equity Partnerships Funding (VEPF) program; and

WHEREAS it is critical that the Town and region address racial equity in vaccination to ensure the well-being of all residents.

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 DPH as they pertain to this VEPF Program.

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

FEMA Mobile Vaccination Unit: Memorandum of Agreement

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by Angie Parkinson
to **authorize** Marcia Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, to sign the Memorandum of Agreement entitled "Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and

Public Protection – a Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security – and the Town of East Hartford regarding FEMA Mobile Vaccination Unit” as attached to a memo from Mayor Leclerc to Town Council Chair Rich Kehoe dated April 8, 2021.
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Kehoe

Bid Waiver: East Hartford Fire Department Records Management System

MOTION By Connor Martin
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **waive** the bidding requirements in accordance with §10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances to allow the East Hartford Fire Department to contract with ESO Solutions, Inc. to replace the department's records management system to include a fire incident reporting system; such waiver being in the best interests of the town.
Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to Tax Policy Committee re: Properties Recommended for Tax Lien Sales

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Connor Martin
to **refer** to the Tax Policy Committee the list of 84 properties recommended for the town's annual tax lien sale, totaling \$1,869,401.97 in delinquent taxes as recorded on a list attached to a memorandum dated April 14, 2021 from Finance Director Linda Trzetzziak to Mayor Marcia Leclerc, with instructions to review the proposed lists of properties and the criteria used by the town to implement a tax lien sale and to report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
Motion carried 9/0.

Outdoor Amusement Permit Application: RiMaConn Relay

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Angie Parkinson
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “RiMaConn Relay” as submitted by Josh Miller, Vice President and Race Director, for the Hartford Marathon Foundation, to conduct a team relay event to complete a 95 mile trek from Lincoln, Rhode Island to Hartford, Connecticut using the East Coast Greenway on Saturday, August 28th from 5:30pm to 9:30pm; 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.

Referral to Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee: Blight Inspector

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Connor Martin
to **refer** to the Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee the job description for two new part-time positions entitled "Blight Inspector" included in the town's FY21 budget, with instructions to review the positions and report back to the full Council with its recommendations, if any.
Motion carried 9/0.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

MOTION By Connor Martin
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** the following appointments:

- To the Commission on Aging –
Joan Gentile, 1871 Main Street; term to expire December 2023
- To the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities –
Rena Berube, 124 Tiffany Road; term to expire December 2021

Motion carried 9/0.

Rental of East Hartford Public Library

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Connor Martin
that the town may authorize the use of a portion of the Raymond Library by a video production company for a fee of not less than two thousand dollars for any portion of a day exceeding four hours and not less than one thousand dollars for any portion of a day up to four hours. The portion of the library to be used by such production company shall be subject to mutual agreement between the town and the production company. Such use agreement shall include indemnification of the town for any liability as a result of the production company's actions or non-actions and such other provisions as Corporation Counsel deems appropriate; such authorization shall expire on October 1, 2021.
Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Awet Tsegai stated that he received his first Covid inoculation today at the East Hartford Cultural Community Center and complimented the Health Department staff for their efficient yet professional manner.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

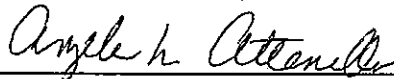
Mayor Leclerc addressed the Council on the following: (1) Griffin Hospital in Derby CT is coordinating with the town to administer Covid vaccinations through outreach clinics; (2) there will be a vaccine clinic on April 20th and April 22nd and on Saturday April 24th; (3) the next Drug Take Back Day will be Saturday April 24th at the Public Safety Complex from 10AM to 2PM; (4) the Parks & Recreation Department, in conjunction with the East Hartford Public Library and the town's Youth Services, have many events planned for this summer – which means that several lifeguard and camp counsellor positions will need to be filled; and (7) the Mayor welcomed four new police officers who were sworn in yesterday, April 19th.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** (9:30 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be May 4th.

Attest



Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK