

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER AUDITORIUM

May 2, 2023

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councilors Angela Parkinson (arrived 7:38 pm), Awet Tsegai, Travis Simpson, Thomas Rup and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

ABSENT Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr.

ALSO Mayor Michael P. Walsh
PRESENT Melissa McCaw, Finance Director
Connor Martin, Chief of Staff (via Teams)
Laurence Burnsed, Director of Health and Human Services
Robert Fitzgerald, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Kevin Munson, Fire Chief (via Teams)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. The Chair stated that this meeting was also available to the public through the “Teams” platform.

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.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Gary Roy, 61 Matthew Road spoke on the following:

- The documentation provided regarding tonight’s presentation for Founders Plaza Development made mention of demolition of buildings on site. Mr. Roy expressed concern that such notice could negatively affect businesses currently located in the building.
- supports the Town’s ordinances regarding the current bidding process and questioned whether the bid waiver for property appraisals was necessary.
- is in favor of development in Town, but feels focus should be placed on maintenance and improvement of current infrastructure and town resources, specifically the Public Works complex.
- requested Administration to encourage the developers of the former Showcase Cinema site to make considerations for handicap accessibility in their project.

Mayor Walsh

- wished all a good evening
- The Wickham Memorial Library (656 Burnside Avenue) will reopen May 8th following the renovation to make it fully ADA-accessible.

- As of May 1, a portion of Brewer Street in East Hartford has been closed through November 2023 to replace the bridge over Pewterpot Brook.
- Due to a marked increase in the thefts of Kia and Hyundai brand motor vehicles recently, the East Hartford Police Department is providing a “club” steering wheel lock to Town residents who own a Kia or Hyundai vehicle between model years 2011 and 2022 in an effort to deter these incidents.
- In response to Councilor Simpson’s request at the April 16 Regular Meeting, confirmed that the Town does not have a viable case to join any class action suit against Kia/Hyundai at this time.
- A reduction in fire marshal permit fees were put into effect April 19, 2023.
- As part of the Road Improvement Program (RIP), the town began rehabilitation and/or resurfacing of approximately 13 miles of roadway. A list of roads is available on the Town website.
- Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for Tuesday May 16th from 8-9 AM at Dunkin’ (639 Main Street).
- The Metropolitan District Commission will host its fall Hazardous Waste Collection Day in East Hartford at the MDC Water Pollution Control Authority, 65 Pitkin Street on Saturday, May 20 from 8 AM to 1 PM.
- The Town of East Hartford has partnered with EnviroShred to host a free paper-shredding event for residents on Saturday, May 20 from 8 AM to Noon at 22 Prestige Park Circle.
- The Chamber of Commerce is hosting their inaugural Veterans’ Business Expo from Noon to 4 PM at Goodwin University on May 24th.

April 18, 2023 Public Hearing

to **approve** the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Public Hearing

April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting

to **approve** the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mayor Walsh stated that at the March 13 Regular Meeting, the Administration provided the Council with three bond referendum questions to consider for ballot placement in

November. After consideration, those three questions have been revised into two: \$7.0 million for a Youth Sports Facility and \$6.2 million for Phase 1 of the Public Works Facility renovation (\$2.4 million), the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse renovation (\$2.7 million) and \$1 million as a capital seed for unplanned building issues.

Director McCaw provided a presentation as an update on the Town's current debt service schedule as well as the potential financial impact of the two questions under consideration. As of July 1, 2022 East Hartford had \$52.6 million in debt outstanding. The Town will begin FY2024 with roughly \$44.5 million in debt outstanding which will be retired in 2032. Debt service for FY2023 (\$8.1M) and FY2024 (\$9.7M) has been funded by the Council and peaks at \$10.4M in FY2025 before progressively decreasing.

The Director then shared projections which provided perspective on what debt service would look like as the Town covers previously spent funds that were authorized through the voter approved bond resolution but were paid by borrowing from fund balance. Fund balance will need to be repaid and thus almost \$25 million in bonds will be issued to replenish fund balance and pay for road improvements. Other capital needs such as the DPW and Veterans Memorial Clubhouse renovations will need to be funded in some manner including bonding and a capital seed fund. By leveraging revenue generated by new development that will result in grand list growth along with modest increases in the mill rate, a dedicated reserve can be created to fund the increased debt service from such projects.

The Director summarized the presentation by stating that the goal of these strategic investments is to fuel long-term sustainability and make East Hartford a stronger and more vibrant community without compromising financial responsibility.

The Chair confirmed for the Council that the current budget allocates \$9.7 Million for debt payments which includes the first payment for the 2023 bond issuance. All projects funded by this allocation are already completed or still in process. Paying for these projects will continue to require payments through 2035, peaking at an estimated \$12.7 Million in 2026. Additional projects will require an increase in debt service.

The Council concurred that further discussion of long-term infrastructure needs of the community and a more formulaic solution to service increased debts should be considered as the cost of necessary projects increases.

Founders Plaza Development Update

Mayor Walsh provided information on a proposed development plan for an area of Founders Plaza along the Connecticut River and bordered by I-84, Route 2 and East River Drive. The developer Port Eastside, LLC has purchased the property at 300 East River Drive with the intent to demolish the building this summer. The property at 99 Founders Plaza is also under a purchase and sale agreement by the developer and is also in the process of being prepared for demolition. 111 Founders Plaza is also under control of the developer.

As proposed, the "Port Eastside" project will include riverside apartments, retail, restaurants and an office/medical building upon completion. Development would unfold in phases over the next 3-5 years.

The Mayor stated that a key focal point of the project would be a pedestrian bridge across the Connecticut River linking into Hartford as well as a raised walking loop Greenway along the riverfront.

Disposition of Obsolete or Broken Town-Owned Equipment - 2001 Seagrave Pumper

The Chair notified the Council of the Fire Department's intention to dispose of a 2001 Seagrave Pumper from its fleet as it has been deemed no longer serviceable. Pursuant to Section 10-3(c) of Town Ordinance, it will be sent to auction.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Agreement between the Town of East Hartford and CT Department of Agriculture re: Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by John Morrison

to **approve** the Town of East Hartford to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture for the Department of Health & Social Services to serve as a local coordinating agency for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program as recommended by Mayor Michael P. Walsh in a memo to Council Chair Rich Kehoe dated April 25, 2023.

Motion carried 8/0

Connecticut Department of Agriculture "CT Fresh Match (SNAP) Farmers Market Voucher Program"

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
 seconded by Awet Tsegai

to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS; the Connecticut Department of Agriculture has partnered with End Hunger Connecticut! (EHC!) to offer the CT Fresh Match Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)-doubling program, and;

WHEREAS; the CT Fresh Match program is a 1-to-1 reimbursement program that allows Connecticut farmers' market outlets to double customer purchases, allowing SNAP households to stretch their benefits, incorporate more local, fresh foods into their diets, and support local farms and growers.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; that Michael P. Walsh, 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 state Department of Agriculture as they pertain to this CT Fresh Match grant.

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

Agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services re: Medicare Coverage for Vaccination Services

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
seconded by Tom Rup

to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Town of East Hartford, by and through its Department of Health and Social Services provides vaccine services, including but not limited to COVID-19, influenza, pneumococcal disease and pertussis to Town residents and other individuals eligible for public health vaccination services.

WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Social Services implemented the provision of vaccine services in order help reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality in vaccine preventable diseases, especially among our most vulnerable populations, such as senior citizens and young children.

WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Social Services seeks to minimize the financial burden of these services to the Town by seeking reimbursement from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services when possible.

WHEREAS, The Town, acting by and through the Department of Health and Social Services has obtained a national provider identifier (NPI) number and desires to enter into an agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services to accept Medicare Part B payment for vaccination services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the following items:

1. Pursuant to §3.4(c) of the East Hartford Town Charter, the Town Council approve the Medicare supplier agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services in order to permit the Town accept Medicare Part B payment for vaccination services.
2. The Director of Health and Social Services, Laurence Burnsed, acting through his agent, Amanda Garrity, MSN, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, to is hereby authorized to make, execute and deliver the agreement as the “Authorized Representative of the Participating Organization” and execute all necessary supplemental documents required to process Medicare Part B payment.

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

2023-24 Connecticut State Department of Education School Readiness Program Grant

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Tom Rup

to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Department of Education is authorized to extend financial assistance, through the School Readiness Grant Program, to Priority Communities for the development of a network of school readiness programs that provide open access for children to quality programs that promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal schooling; and

WHEREAS, the Town of East Hartford and East Hartford Public Schools desire to make and execute an application for funding with the State of Connecticut to support School Readiness programs for East Hartford children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is hereby authorized to execute such application and, upon approval of said application, to enter into and execute a funding agreement and any amendments and other documents as may be required by the State of Connecticut for the School Readiness Program.

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

Bid Waivers

Goodwin Schoolhouse Roof Repair

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Travis Simpson

pursuant to Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council **waive** the bidding requirements required by Section 10-7(a) and allow the town to contract with Glastonbury Restoration Company for repair work on the Goodwin Schoolhouse Roof for the sum of \$5,800 and accept the donation of roofing shingles for use in the repairs.

Motion carried 8/0

Real Estate Appraisals re: Tax Assessment Appeals

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
 seconded by Tom Rup

pursuant to Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council **waive** the bidding requirements of Section 10-7(a) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances to authorize the Town to enter into a contract with Arnold J. Grant Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$37,100.00 for real estate appraisals and \$350 per hour for partners and \$300 per hour for associates for additional necessary services; which is in the best interest of the Town as it will allow the Town

Motion carried 8/0

Motion carried 8/0

Motion carried 8/0

Bill	Name/ Check payable to:	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Int	Over Paid
2021-02-0040004	144 TOLLAND STREET ONE INC	86 CLOVERCREST RD	WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109	144 TOLLAND ST	0	(19.50)
2021-01-0000023	145 TOLLAND STREET ONE INC	86 CLOVERCREST RD	WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109	144 TOLLAND ST	0	(86.31)
2017-03-0056274	CASTANEDA ERASMO W	327 TOLLAND ST FL 3	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	2014/5XXGN4A78EG337735	0	(455.86)
2018-03-0055932	CASTANEDA ERASMO W	327 TOLLAND ST FL 3	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	2014/5XXGN4A78EG337735	(63.31)	(422.10)
2021-01-0002151	CORELOGIC REFUND DEPT	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	282 HOLLISTER DR	0	(900.00)
2021-01-0006114	CORELOGIC REFUND DEPT	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	128-130 BURNSIDE AVE	0	(4,380.85)
2021-01-0008887	CORELOGIC REFUND DEPT	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	11 CENTRAL AVE	0	(2,692.41)
2021-03-0059594	DILL MARK A DILL LAURA L	1366 SILVER LN	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-1333	2020/3GTU9FEL8LG218250	0	(310.14)
2020-04-0082845	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	8 ELLA GRASSO TURNPIKE	WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06096	2019/3N1CN7AP0KL828433	0	(73.80)
2021-03-0061911	FIGUEROA JOSE	41 ARAWAK DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-2532	2002/4T1BF28B32U231698	0	(107.07)
2021-03-0061959	FINANCIAL SER VEH TRUST	1400 CITY VIEW DR	COLUMBUS, OH 43215	2019/WBA4J7C52KBM75541	0	(273.38)
2021-03-0088204	FRITZ WARREN	466 PARK AVE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-1828	2019/1FTEW1EP3KFA47846	0	(534.12)
2021-01-0005224	FYDENKEVEZ JOSEPH T JR FYDENKEVEZ H	133 CRESCENT DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	133 CRESCENT DR	0	(200.00)
2021-03-0063618	GIARENAKIS NICHOLAS G	10 JERRY RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-3118	2021/WZ1DB0C00MW036508	0	(156.88)
2021-03-0064937	HAJDAREVIC SEVLEDIN ATANOVIC MEDIS	151 DAVIS RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-3017	2018/WBAJE7C51JG891864	0	(329.34)
2021-01-0006277	HARTL LINDA	481 GOOSE LN	COVENTRY, CT 06238	752 FORBES ST	0	(305.62)
2021-03-0066136	HOLMES LAURIE A	51 GREAT HILL RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-2826	2019/3GNAXVEX2KS554212	0	(83.26)
2021-01-0001765	HOME LOAN SERV	PO BOX 7899	BOISE, ID 83707	130 BRITT RD	0	(2,614.98)
2020-02-0040823	HURLEY ARTHUR J CO	2500 WASHINGTON ST	BOSTON, MA 02119	60 MEADOW ST	0	(1,057.02)
2021-02-0040857	HURLEY ARTHUR J CO	2500 WASHINGTON ST	BOSTON, MA 02119	60 MEADOW ST	0	(2,436.22)
2021-03-0067033	ISSAKA SUSUANA	32 GRAHAM RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	2020/5XXGT4L32LG383509	0	(225.25)
2021-03-0067372	JENKINS VANESSA A	26 SUFFOLK DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-2652	2004/JF1SG65654H756604	0	(90.56)
2021-03-0074518	NGUYEN THU H	9210 SHARPVIEW DR	HOUSTON, TX 77036-5526	2010/4T1BF3EK4AU073574	0	(45.76)
2021-03-0074715	NISSAN INFINITI LT LLC	PO BOX 650214	DALLAS, TX 75265	2018/1N4AZ1CP0JC308512	0	(359.63)
2021-04-0085423	PORSCHE LEASING LTD	ONE PORSCHE DRIVE	ATLANTA, GA 30354	2018/WP1AA2A52JLB10926	0	(258.80)
2021-01-0012990	SCHWAGGER DONALD LAROSA KATHERIE	62 ELMER ST	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	62 ELMER ST	0	(2,514.94)
2018-01-0013691	SMITH RICHARD F & MARYANN	441 HILLS ST	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	443 HILLS ST	0	(23.88)
2021-03-0084029	THOMAS JUDITH B	210 FARMINGTON AVE APT 506	HARTFORD, CT 06105	2020/JA4AT4AA1LZ013196	0	(256.68)
2021-03-0084640	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	20 COMMERCE WAY STE 800	WOBURN, MA 01801-1057	2018/2T3BFREV7JW852522	0	(435.03)
2021-04-0086895	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	21 COMMERCE WAY STE 800	WOBURN, MA 01801-1057	2019/JTMG1RFV9KD005406	0	(332.06)
2021-01-0014650	TYRSECK PHILOMENA	71 CRESTWOOD TR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	71 CRESTWOOD TR	0	(900.00)
2020-03-0086343	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2019/WA1BNAFYXK2125151	0	(1,251.46)
2020-03-0086344	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2019/WAUENAF40KN017973	0	(1,099.36)
2020-03-0086345	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2019/WA18NAF43KA111945	0	(1,285.20)
2020-03-0086346	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2019/WAUENCF56KA076392	0	(1,242.00)
2020-04-0089543	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA1LXAF70MD011852	0	(1,004.85)
2020-04-0089544	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2020/WA1ANAFY3L2068241	0	(681.97)
2020-04-0089548	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2020/WAUJEGFF5LA022338	0	(622.12)
2020-04-0089549	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2020/WAUJEGFF8LA014749	0	(622.12)
2021-04-0087257	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2022/WAUA8AF46NN002728	0	(73.72)
2021-04-0087258	VW CREDIT INC	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2022/WAUCBCF59NA005837	0	(82.61)
2020-04-0089562	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA13AAGE9MB012976	0	(217.75)
2020-04-0089565	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA1EECF34M1079001	0	(104.00)
2020-04-0089566	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA1BAAFY9M2051851	0	(125.77)
2020-04-0089568	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA1AJAF75MD017056	0	(143.69)
2020-04-0089569	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WAUDAAF48MA014224	0	(106.92)
2020-04-0089570	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WAUK2AF27MN035030	0	(156.33)
2021-03-0086395	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA1AJAF75MD017056	0	(1,248.74)
2021-03-0086396	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WAUDAAF48MA014224	0	(929.34)
2021-03-0086397	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA1BAAFYXK2068805	0	(1,087.74)
2021-03-0086399	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-4460	2021/WA1BAAFY1M2069003	0	(1,119.56)
2021-01-0015672	WOJTYNA JOSEPHINE R	28 MICHAEL AVE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	28 MICHAEL AVE	0	(22.50)
SUB TOTAL					(63.31)	(36,109.20)
TOTAL						(36,172.51)

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Councilor Simpson offered assistance to the Administration in serving as a champion in efforts to grow the Grand List and encouraged fellow Council members to do the same.

Councilor Amadasun encouraged residents to attend upcoming Town events such as the Memorial Day Parade and Juneteenth Celebration.

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Gary Roy, 61 Matthew Road, thanked the Mayor and Council for answers during the meeting to a number of questions he asked earlier. Mr. Roy asked if the historical structures located at Martin Park could have better accessibility for handicapped residents. *The Mayor shared that administration is currently gathering assessments on four historical buildings in Town. Once assessments are completed, accessibility projects and other needed improvements to those buildings can be put to bid. \$1.25 million is allocated for improvements, but the Mayor stated that more will be required to properly repair all four buildings.*

Mayor Walsh shared:

- last week during a rebuild of a sewer grate, the Department of Public Works ruptured a gas line. The department failed to follow call before you dig measures and an investigation is ongoing.
- OSHA visited the Town Hall site and confirmed that PPE equipment is to be required of all parties entering into the areas of construction.
- At the next scheduled Town Council Regular Meeting on May 16th, three presentations will be provided as communications. Developer Vincent DiCarlo will be attendance to assist with the Administration's presentation regarding the potential Sports Complex project and Development will provide updates on plans for Silver Lane Plaza and Church Corners Inn.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Tom Rup
 to **adjourn** (10:09 pm)

Motion carried 8/0

The Chair wished all a good evening and announced that the next regular meeting of the Town Council would be on May 16, 2023.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK