

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAY 3, 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 7:36 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.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **amend** the agenda as follows:

- ~~Town Council Acting as Committee of the Whole~~ **Referral to Ordinance Committee** re: Technical Change to Town Ordinance §10-47
- Referral to Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee: Police Department:
 1. ~~Data~~ **Research** Analyst – New Job Description

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

John Provau, 224 Burnside Avenue, is a property owner whose house is on the tax lien list and doesn't know what to do to protect his rights. *The Chair suggested he contact the Finance Department.*

Susan Kniep, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) questioned the location of the Lamar billboard issue; (2) inquired on the impact of the State's budget to the town; and (3) believes that the number of homes on the town's tax lien sales indicates the hardship that homeowners in East Hartford have paying their taxes.

Mayor Leclerc (1) is working with the town's Legislative Delegation regarding the impact the state's budget will have to East Hartford; (2) the Prescription Drug Take Back Day was a success; (3) a section of Brewer Street – and Farnham Drive – is scheduled for road reconstruction; (4) National Public Works Week is May 15th through May 21st; (5) the Assistant Librarian continues to take charge in the absence of a Library Director; (6) the DOT performed a road safety audit for Main Street on April 26th; (7) the Mayor has formed

a Bicycle Safety Committee; and (8) several Capital Improvement projects have started, some of which are the tennis courts at EHHS and the parking lot at labor Field.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 19, 2016 Special Meeting/EHPOA

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

April 19, 2016 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **approve** the minutes of the April 19, 2016 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 9/0.

NEW BUSINESS

2016-2017 School Readiness Grant

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Linda Russo
 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 in the amount of \$2,872,860.00 with the State of Connecticut to support School Readiness programs for East Hartford children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that Marcia A. Leclerc, 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, motion carried 9/0.

Referral to Fees Committee: ADA Transportation Voucher Proposal

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **refer** to the Fees Committee the possibility of the town adopting a ticket system which will be presented to residents who use the ADA transportation provided by the Greater Hartford Transit District with

instructions to investigate the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
Motion carried 9/0.

Lamar Advertising: Billboard Relocation

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
that the East Hartford Town Council's October 6, 2015 motion approving the proposed agreement between the Town of East Hartford, Goodwin College, Inc., TLC Properties LLC d/b/a TLC Properties of Connecticut Inc. and Lamar Central Outdoor Inc., to relocate 2 billboards located at 361 Main Street and 2 of the 4 billboards at 1179 Burnside Avenue to a location facing I-84 westbound be **amended** to reflect that the actual new location is 9 Roberts Street, East Hartford.
Motion carried 8/0.

Recommendation from Investigation & Audit Committee re: Appointment of Town Auditor

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Marc Weinberg
that the East Hartford Town Council **appoint** Blum Shapiro as the town's auditors for fiscal year 2015-2016 to perform required financial audits consistent with the most recent proposal of \$69,900.00.
Motion carried 9/0.

Tax Lien Sales – RFP

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
seconded by Bill Horan
to **authorize** the administration to conduct a tax lien sale by way of a Request For Proposal (RFP) and to seek and receive sealed bids pursuant to an invitation to bid on a number of tax liens held by the town on specific real property as listed and produced by Finance Director Mike Walsh and attached to a memorandum dated January 13, 2016 from Mayor Marcia Leclerc to Town Council Chair Richard Kehoe, subject to the following four conditions:

1. The Collector of Revenue shall notify the record owner of each property subject to a lien that is to be included in the tax lien sale, by certified mail, that the lien is being included in the request for proposal and invitation to bid, and that the owner should contact the Town immediately to pay the taxes or seek a payment plan if they wish to keep the Town's tax liens on their property from being sold;
2. In order to qualify for a payment plan, the property owner must meet the following three criteria:
 - They must remit 25% of the outstanding amount due

- They cannot have defaulted on a prior payment arrangement
 - Their property must not have active property code violations
3. The letters from the Collector of Revenue to each property owner shall notify the property owner that the purchaser of the tax lien on their property shall have the right to foreclose on that property; and
 4. The Administration shall return to the Town Council with the results of the request for proposal and that the proposal for each tax lien must be approved by the Town Council before it is sold.

And further to **authorize** the Administration to assign the subsequent tax liens as listed totaling \$561,151.43 to the vendors who currently hold the prior year tax liens on these properties.

Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to the Ordinance Committee – Section 10-47 Revision

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the possibility of revising §10-47 of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, due to the State's recent elimination of the fee charged municipalities to report delinquencies, and to report back to the Town Council with its recommendation if any.
 Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee: Research Analyst – Police Department

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **refer** the new job description of Research Analyst to the Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee with instructions to review this new position and report back to the Town Council with its recommendation, if any.
 Motion carried 9/0.

11th Annual Abelon Memorial Walk

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **waive** the 30-day filing period as required by §5-2 (a) of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances and **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "11th Annual Abelon Memorial Walk" submitted by Rachel Buck, Vice President of the Michael Abelon Memorial Foundation, to conduct a walk to raise money and awareness for pancreatic cancer research and to provide a college scholarship for a Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy student on Saturday, May 14th on the grounds of the Connecticut

International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street from approximately 7:30AM to 2PM; 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, and to **waive** the associated permit fee under the provisions of Section 5-6(a) in the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, as this is a not-for-profit student initiated event.

Motion carried 9/0.

5th Annual CT River Academy at Goodwin College Scholarship Walk

MOTION

By Joe Carlson

seconded by Ram Aberasturia

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "5th Annual CT River Academy at Goodwin College Scholarship Walk" as submitted by Nancy Pereau, President of the CT River Academy at Goodwin College Parent Group, to conduct a 4-mile walk on Friday, May 13, 2016 from 9AM to 10:30AM beginning at 9 Riverside Drive, through Ensign Street to Main Street, turn at Willys Street and then back to 9 Riverside Drive, 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; and to **waive** the associated permit fee under the provisions of Town Ordinance §5-6(a) as this is a fundraiser to benefit scholarships provided to some of this year's graduating seniors.

Motion carried 9/0.

3rd Annual East Hartford Parks & Recreation Car Show

MOTION

By Joe Carlson

seconded by Marc Weinberg

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application, entitled 3rd Annual East Hartford Parks & Recreation Car Show, submitted by Ted Fravel, Director of the East Hartford Parks and Recreation Department, to conduct a car show for viewing with awards and live musical entertainment at Sunset Ridge School, 450 Forbes Street, on Saturday June 25th from 10AM to approximately 5PM – music from 1PM to 5PM – with a rain date of Sunday, June 26th utilizing the same times for the car show and music; 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Pat Harmon had several questions regarding traffic issues on (1) Columbus Circle – parking in “no parking” zone, garbage receptacles in street, speeding; (2) Norris School – parents parking where they shouldn’t while waiting to pick up their children; (3) installation of a left-hand turn signal at Main Street northbound onto Governor Street; and (3) concern about the bicycle lanes on Burnside Avenue as it relates to school buses dropping and picking up students. *Chief Scot Sansom addressed Councillor Harmon’s questions and concerns. He’ll follow up with a report to the Mayor.*

Esther Clarke inquired if the town has received state money promised for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. *Mayor Leclerc stated that money promised from the state has not been received yet – she’s working with the town’s Legislative Delegation toward a positive outcome.*

Mike Kurker asked if the current job description Accounts Clerk III – Police Department will remain vacant. *Mayor answered that the position will remain vacant as it was used to fund the proposed Research Analyst job.*

Rich Kehoe inquired on the extra tickets residents purchase to use the town’s landfill/transfer station. *Mayor Leclerc stated that the extra tickets purchased have no expiration date.*

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, spoke to the following issues (1) subsequent tax lien sales; (2) ethics laws should be reviewed; (3) Center School contract should be audited; and (4) transparency in union contracts.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (8:50 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be May 17th.

Attest _____
Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK

