

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Robert F. Park

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

2021 AUG -9 AM 11:11

AUGUST 3, 2021

TOWN CLERK

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, ~~ESTHER B. CLARKE~~ Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai and John Morrison

ABSENT Councillor Patricia Harmon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:31p.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 Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Connor Martin
to **amend** the agenda as follows:

add, under New Business, item 8.G. Referral to the Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee: Revised Job Description – Town Council Clerk.
Motion carried 8/0.

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by Angie Parkinson
to **amend** the agenda as follows:

add, under Communications and Petitions, item 6. B. ARPA Funding Presentation.
Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 13, 2021 Executive Session

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** the minutes of the July 13, 2021 Executive Session.
Motion carried 8/0.

July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by John Morrison
 to **approve** the minutes of the July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 8/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Disposition of Town-owned Property Other Than Real Estate

The Chair stated that the Mayor intends to dispose of or auction the following items, having been certified by the Finance Director to be unsuitable for town use:

- Red rocks, timber, storage trailer#2, 4 heavy duty tail gates, a 2012 Ford E350 Bus and a 1994 Royer Screener from Public Works

Pursuant to §10-3 (c) of the Code of Ordinances, the Mayor must notify the Council of her decision to dispose of such furniture/equipment. No action by the Council is necessary.

ARPA Funding Presentation

Mayor Leclerc provided the Council with a PowerPoint to illustrate the following projects that the \$24.6M in American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to East Hartford would be invested in:

- Public Health – renovation of north-end Community Center
- Household Assistance – Food Program
- Household Assistance – Internet Access Program
- Job Training Assistance – Employment Support and Incentive
- Small Business Economic Assistance
- Aid to Non-profits
- Aid to Other Impacted Industries
- Educational Assistance (Wickham Library)
- Social Detriments of Health – Community Violence Interventions
- Storm Water Management Repair
- Goodwin University Storm Water Management Repair & Replacement
- Post Office Planning and Abatement
- Expansion of Staffing for Senior Center
- EHHS Tennis Courts
- Technology Upgrades and Improvements
- Public Safety Garage
- Repairs to Historic Properties

The Mayor also reviewed the available bond monies (Silver Lane, Municipal Buildings and Town Hall HVAC) and extra revenues from bonding bids, FEMA reimbursements, golf course income and additional state aid.

NEW BUSINESS

Set a Public Hearing Date of Tuesday, August 17, 2021 re: City & Town Development Act

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by John Morrison
 to **set** a public hearing date of Tuesday August 17, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers to hear public comment on a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of East Hartford, re-adopting the Connecticut City and Town Development Act and authorizing the Town to undertake Silver Lane and South Meadows economic development programs and projects authorized under the Act.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Non-union Employee Pay Increases for FY22

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Angie Parkinson
 to **transfer** funds in the amount of \$21,654 to fund non-union employee pay increases for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 as noted by Finance Director Linda Trzetzak in the Request for Budgetary Transfer of Funds dated July 29, 2021 as follows:

From Account G9600 63492	Contingency	\$21,654
To Account G2100 60110	Mayor's Office – salaries	\$ 1,120
To Account G2200 60110	Corp Counsel – salaries	\$ 3,797
To Account G2300 60110	Human Resources – salaries	\$ 3,407
To Account G2400 60110	Library – salaries	\$11,920
To Account G2600 60110	Youth Services – salaries	\$ 1,410

Motion carried 8/0.

FCC: Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

MOTION By Connor Martin
 seconded by Awet Tsegai
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Emergency Connectivity Fund is a \$7.17 billion program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to help schools and libraries support remote learning; and

WHEREAS the Raymond Library wishes to help low-income students who currently lack necessary Internet access or the devices they need to effectively use online learning resources.

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 Federal Communications Commission as they pertain to this Emergency Connectivity Fund grant.

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

Department of Children and Families: 2021-2023 Youth Service Bureau Grant

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Angie Parkinson
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Connecticut Department of Children and Families has made available funding through the Youth Service Bureau Grant Program; and

WHEREAS the purpose of this program is to assist municipalities (or private agencies serving youth which are designated to act as agents for such municipalities), in establishing, maintaining or expanding such Youth Service Bureaus.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of this municipality a grant application to the State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families for a "Youth Service Bureau Grant" and to file any amendments or reports as may be required to successfully complete the terms of the grant contract.

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

Retirement Plan for Paraprofessional Employees of the East Hartford Board of Education

MOTION By Connor Martin
 seconded by Angie Parkinson
 to **approve** the retirement plan between the Town of East Hartford Board of Education and the East Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals, CFEPE, AFT, AFL-CIO, as well as the Defined Contribution Plan for those paraprofessionals hired after July 1, 2015; both plans were ratified by the bargaining unit members on July 15, 2021 and is effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.
 Motion carried 8/0.

A copy of both plans follow these minutes.

Intercommunity, Inc. National Health Center Week Community Event

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Angie Parkinson
 to **waive** the time requirement for filing an outdoor amusement permit application and **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Intercommunity, Inc. National Health Center Week Community Event", submitted by Tracey Decker, Chief Administrative Officer to conduct a free health and wellness community engagement event to celebrate National Health Center Week on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 281 Main Street from 11AM to 3PM with music, food, games for kids and more; subject to 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 section 5-6(a)

as the goal of this event is to raise awareness of the accomplishments of America's health centers over the past five decades.
Motion carried 8/0.

Referral to the Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee: Town Council Clerk Job Description

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by John Morrison
 to **refer** to the Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee the revised job
 description for the Town Council Clerk. .
 Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Esther Clarke asked if the town could make a donation to the YMCA in East Hartford.
Awet Tsegai, who is on the YMCA Board of Directors, stated that the town has made a \$10,000 donation.

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Workers' Compensation Claim of former Town and Board of Education employee, Eric Barboza

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by a Awet Tsegai
 to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally
 settle the pending workers' compensation claim of former Town and Board
 of Education employee, Eric Barboza, for a total sum of \$87,500.00.
 Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Leclerc commented on (1) the town continues to hold Covid clinics, including at the Sounds of Summer concert and the Farmers' Market; (2) the reinstatement of facial masks at Town Hall; (3) for the 25th year, East Hartford has been recognized as Tree City USA; (4) the trees on Main Street on the state median need to be replaced; (5) National Night Out is today; (6) the Fremont Group sold property in Prestige Park that brought in conveyance tax to the town of \$142,000; (7) the EHPD's Citizen Academy begins September 8th; (8) the ribbon cutting for the new Senior Center will be Wednesday September 15th @ 11:00AM; (9) the Mayor's Charity Ball will be October 9th at the Senior Center; and (10) hopefully, the Showcase Cinema purchase and sale agreement will be on the August 17th agenda.

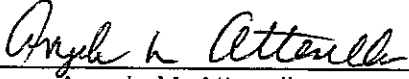
Rich Kehoe attended the National Night Out event. He commented that he understood the advantage of holding this event in four different settings (Gorman Park, Hockanum Park, Martin Park, and Labor Field) is bringing the event to where the people are. The disadvantage is that the event is spread out quite a bit. However, he commended the Police for their outreach to the community.

Don Bell inquired of the Mayor if the town has seen an uptick in vaccinations due to the delta variant of Covid-19. *Mayor Leclerc said the town is holding its own. She did comment that the town has seen an increase in the over-12 category.*

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** (9:00p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

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

Attest 
Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK