EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JULY 14, 2015

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader

Barbara-Ann Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Linda A. Russo, Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D.

Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

<u>Susan Kniep</u>, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) spoke to the proposed bond issue and the financial impact to the town; and (5) the sale of individual tax liens.

MaryAnn Lee, 446 Main Street, Chair of the Commission on Aging, spoke in favor of a new senior center.

Ron Arpin, 32 Pendleton Drive, a Public Works Highway Supervisor, spoke in favor of the proposed capital improvement and equipment bond.

<u>Don Sugalski</u>, 1736 Main Street, asked for clarification on the amount of the state grant for the senior center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 16, 2015 Executive Session

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Ram Aberasturia

to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015 Executive Session.

Motion carried 9/0.

June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Linda Russo

to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Rock Cats Baseball: East Harford Community Night

<u>Chair Kehoe</u> noted that the Rock Cats game on Tuesday, August 4th will be deemed East Hartford Night, with an in-stadium food drive to benefit St. Mary's food pantry.

Resignation of Frank Vignati from the Pension and Retiree Benefits Board

<u>Chair Kehoe</u> announced the resignation of Frank Vignati from the Pension and Retiree Benefits Board. Minority Leader Clarke expressed her personal appreciation for Mr. Vignati's service to the town, having served with him on different commissions.

NEW BUSINESS

<u>Pension Agreement: Town of East Hartford and the East Hartford Federation of</u> Paraprofessionals

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Linda Russo

to **approve** the pension agreement between the Town of East Hartford and the East Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals AFT, AFL-CIO which was ratified by the bargaining unit members on June 17, 2015 and is

effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020.

Motion carried 9/0.

A copy of the tentative agreement follows these minutes.

<u>Proposed Bond Referendum – Capital Improvement plan Projects & Senior Center/Multipurpose Facility</u>

Presentation from the Administration:

<u>Mayor Marcia Leclerc</u> offered a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed senior center, using a picture display of the existing senior center to highlight the need for a new building. The Mayor stressed the importance of having a shovel-ready project in order to attract other sources of funding including state grants. She cited the newly renovated Raymond Library as an example.

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Anita Morrison

to **set** a Public Hearing Date of August 4, 2015 @ 7PM in Town Council Chambers to hear public comment on Appropriating \$5,000,000 for The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Construction and/or Renovation of a Senior Center/Multi-purpose Facility and Authorizing The Issuance of \$5,000,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof The Making of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Motion carried 9/0.

Presentations from Police, Fire and Public Works Departments:

EHPD Deputy Chief Tim McConville, EHFD Assistant Superintendent of Alarms Bob Merski, Fire Chief John Oates and Public Works Director Tim Bockus used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the need for dispatch consoles, a fire ladder truck, a rescue squad vehicle, a fire engine, 2 dump trucks and a waste removal truck.

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

to **set** a public hearing date of August 4, 2015 @ 7PM in Town Council Chambers to hear public comment on Appropriating \$4,625,000 for The Planning, Design, Acquisition, and Construction of Various Public Improvements and Equipment and Authorizing The Issuance of \$4,625,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof The Making of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose.

Motion carried 9/0.

Board of Education Budget Transfer FY2014-2015: Capital Reserve Fund

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia

seconded by Linda Russo

that, in accordance with Article 7, §10-38 of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council **approve** the Board of Education's request to expend \$872,000 (or such lesser amounts as deposited based on the proceeds forwarded by the Board of Education) from the Board of Education's Capital Reserve Account for the purposes of funding capital improvements at Sunset Ridge School, the Middle School, Silver Lane School, Willowbrook School, and for the purchase of one truck and two vans which are all consistent with the projects contained in the district's approved Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion carried 9/0.

2015 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

MOTION By Bill Horan

seconded by Barbara Rossi to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, has funding available to the Town of East Hartford under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program through the State of Connecticut JAG Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, these funds may be used to improve or enhance Law Enforcement Programs with no cash match by the Town of East Hartford; and

WHEREAS, the East Hartford Police Department desires to use these funds to purchase traffic enforcement equipment including a Police Motorcycle, together with required installation of lighting.

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 U.S. Department of Justice as they pertain to this Justice Assistance Grant.

On call of the vote, motion carried 9/0.

East Hartford Police Department: K9 Primo

MOTION By Linda Russo

Seconded by Anita Morrison

to **approve** the transfer of ownership of Primo, a 10-year old German Shepard, from the Town of East Hartford to Todd Mona, pursuant to

Section 10-3 of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances.

Motion carried 9/0.

Recommendation from Fees Committee for Fee Revisions:

Police Department Fees:

MOTION By Marc Weinberg

seconded by Ram Aberasturia

that the Town Council **approve** the following fees as requested by the Police Department and outlined in a memo dated August 12, 2014 from Mayor Marcia Leclerc to Rich Kehoe Town Council Chair and further detailed on a memo dated June 2, 2015 from Scott Sansom, Chief of Police to Marcia Leclerc, Mayor:

<u>Alarms</u>

| Alarm Registration Fee | \$ 5 |
|--|---------------------|
| Failure to Register | \$99 |
| *False Alarm Fee: | |
| 0-3 avoidable alarms | 0 |
| 4 th and 5 th avoidable alarms | \$25 each incident |
| 6 th to 8 th avoidable alarms | \$50 each incident |
| Oth to 10th avoidable alarma | PTE analy inclident |

9th to 10th avoidable alarms \$75 each incident 11th or more avoidable alarms \$100 each incident

Alarm Renewal Fee \$5

Parking Ticket Fines

| Handicapped Parking | \$125 |
|----------------------|-------|
| Fire Lane | \$ 50 |
| Snow Ban | \$ 45 |
| All other Violations | \$ 45 |

And that the recipient of the parking ticket have 10 calendar days (starting on the issue date) to pay the original fine and on the 11th day the ticket will double, with no increase thereafter; all fees to be effective October 1, 2015.

Motion carried 9/0.

^{*} per registration year

Inspections & Permits Department Fees:

MOTION By Marc Weinberg

seconded by Linda Russo

that the Town Council **approve** the following fees as requested by the Inspections and Permits Department as outlined in a memo dated August 12, 2014 from Mayor Marcia Leclerc to Rich Kehoe, Town Council Chair:

Building Permits

Building Plan Review & Permit Fee – 1st \$1,000:

Commercial \$30

Building Plan Review & Permit Fee – 2nd \$1,000 and any \$1,000 after:

Commercial \$20

Demolition Permit

1st \$1,000 - \$3,000 each:

Res/Commercial \$30

Any \$1,000 after:

Res/Commercial \$17

Cert of Occupancy

Per \$1,000 up to \$2,000:

Res \$25 fixed Comm \$50 fixed

Cert of Approval

Per \$1,000 up to \$2,000:

Res \$10 fixed Comm \$20 fixed

Temp Cert of Occupancy

1st 30 days:

Commercial \$75

Add 'I 30 day periods:

Commercial \$200

Re-inspections:

Construction inspections:

Res \$10 Comm \$20

Site Plan Approval:

Residential \$150 Commercial \$150

All fees to be effective October 1, 2015.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia

seconded by Marc Weinberg to **amend** the motion as follows:

Cert of Occupancy

Per \$1,000 up to \$2,000:

Res \$25 fixed Comm \$50 fixed

Cert of Approval

Per \$1,000 up to \$2,000:

Res \$10 fixed Comm \$20 fixed

Motion carried 9/0.

On call of the vote of the amended motion, motion carried 9/0.

Individual Tax Lien Sales

MOTION By Bill Horan

seconded by Barbara Rossi

to **approve** the sale of tax liens as listed on the report attached to a memorandum dated June 19, 2015 from Finance Director Michael Walsh to Mayor Marcia Leclerc which lists and enumerates 43 properties, along with the amount of the tax lien for each property and the high bid for each property resulting from the request for proposal relevant to the tax lien sale and to **award** the high bid for the 43 properties which collectively totals \$648,113.19 as follows:

❖ Empire VII CT Portfolio, LLC – 8 bids totaling \$ 78,503.00

❖ ATCF II, Connecticut LLC – 35 bids totaling \$ 569,610.19

Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: 9-11 Moore Avenue

MOTION By Linda Russo

seconded by Bill Horan

to **refer** to the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee the possible acquisition and transfer of ownership of 9-11 Moore Avenue, with

instructions to consider the request of Habitat for Humanity to develop the property, and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.

Motion carried 9/0.

CT Department of Social Services: Senior Center Bond Grant

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Linda Russo

to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Mayor, Marcia A. Leclerc, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of this Contractor with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Neighborhood Facilities program, and to affix the corporate seal.

On call of the vote, motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

<u>Pat Harmon</u> inquired on the deadline for purchasing tickets for the Rock Cats game. Shawn Perry, Sales Representative for the Rock Cats, addressed the Council on the possibility of having an East Hartford Night on any date in August that is amenable to the Councillors.

Esther Clarke asked for any information on road repairs/renovations to Route 2 in East Hartford. Mayor Leclerc said the state DOT has been in contact with her office over the last three years, discussing improvements to Route 2 from Pitkin Street into Glastonbury. While there is no set date for a public meeting, it could be as early as this Fall or as late as Spring 2016.

<u>Anita Morrison</u> asked when the Raymond Library will re-open. The Mayor stated that due to HVAC issues, the opening date has been delayed until any problems have been resolved; an opening is possible for late September. Councillor Morrison commented that she likes the informational sheet on the new bulky waste permit fees.

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

<u>OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK</u>

<u>Mayor Leclerc</u> spoke on the following: (1) distributed the reverse 911 "Alert" brochures issued by the EHPD; (2) the groundbreaking for the expansion and renovation of the United Technologies Research Center was June 22nd; (3) on Thursday, July 16th, Pratt & Whitney will have the groundbreaking for their new World Headquarters at 3PM; (4) the new bulky waste permit fees became effective July 1st; (5) the Mayor's Clean-up Day will be Saturday, September 12th from 9am to 1pm; (6) the Farmers' Market is held in front of the Raymond Library; (7) one of the Sounds of Summer events will be Thursday, July 16th

on the Town Green; and (8) acknowledged the resignation of Frank Vignati and thanked him for his service to the town.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke

seconded by Bill Horan to **adjourn** (10:43 p.m.). Motion carried 9/0.

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

Attest_____ Angela M. Attenello TOWN COUNCIL CLERK