

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DECEMBER 10, 2013

PRESENT 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

ABSENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Horan called the meeting to order at 7:39 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 Barbara Rossi
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **amend** the agenda as follows:

add, under New Business, Item 8.D. entitled "Electric Vehicle
Charging Station Incentive Program Grant".
Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 26, 2013 Executive Session

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **approve** the minutes of the November 26, 2013 Executive
Session – as corrected on December 4, 2013.
Motion carried 7/0. **Abstain**: Aberasturia

November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Anita Morrison

to **approve** the minutes of the November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting – as corrected on December 4, 2013.
Motion carried 7/0. **Abstain:** Aberasturia

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Update form the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)

Bart Halloran, District Counsel for the MDC, William DiBella, Chair of the MDC, and Pasquale “Bud” Salemi, an East Hartford Commissioner on the MDC, spoke on the upcoming rate increase that was recently included in the budget passed on Monday, December 9th. The largest increase is the \$2.1Billion federally-mandated Clean Water Project. Residents and businesses of member towns are responsible for paying this increase, which will raise the quarterly payment by \$49.00, based on a 25-year bond note.

Vice Chair Horan stated that, as the Council liaison, he will continue to update the public and the Council on the progress that the MDC makes in their Clean Water Project, etc., during the upcoming year.

Disposition of Furniture/Desks from the Library

Vice Chair Horan stated that, pursuant to Section 10-3 (c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, Library Director Susan Hansen has reported the disbursement of various furniture items through public auction. A copy of the list is on file in the Town Council office.

Resignation of Anita Morrison from the Insurance Committee

Vice Chair Horan announced the resignation of Anita Morrison from the Insurance Committee.

Certificate of Appreciation: CT Veterans’ Day Parade

Vice Chair Horan announced that the East Hartford Town Council has received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ferris Group for their participation in the November 2013 Annual Connecticut Veterans Parade.

NEW BUSINESS

Tentative Agreement between the Town of East Hartford and the East Hartford Supervisors’ Union, Local 818, AFSCM, Council 4:

Approval of Agreement:

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Linda Russo

to **approve** the tentative agreement between the Town of East Hartford and the East Hartford Supervisors Union, Local 818, AFSCM, Council 4, as outlined in and attached to a memo from Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor, dated December 2, 2013 to Richard F. Kehoe, Town Council Chair.
Motion carried 8/0.

Once fully executed, a copy of the contract will follow these minutes.

Supplement Budget Appropriation:

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Esther Clarke
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION AND FUND BALANCE TRANSFER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014 TO FUND THE CONTRACT SETTLEMENT FOR THE 818 SUPERVISOR'S CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Town of East Hartford and the 818 Supervisor's Union have successfully negotiated a successor collective bargaining agreement between the two parties, and

WHEREAS, with respect to the wage portion of the award, the Town must budget for a general wage increase of 2% per year for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, June 30, 2014, June 30, 2015, and June 30, 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve this Supplemental Budget Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$130,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance and to reflect the addition of the attached Supplemental Revenue Appropriation and Expenditure Appropriation.

G0320-55900	Fund Balance Appropriation	130,000
G2400-60110	Permanent Services – Library	4,402
G3200-60110	Permanent Services - Accounts and Controls	6,562
G3300-60110	Permanent Services - Information Technology	5,603
G3600-60110	Permanent Services - Assessor	5,952
G3700-60110	Permanent Services - Tax Office	5,677
G5203-60110	Permanent Services - Police Administration	4,442
G5400-60110	Permanent Services - Communications	17,356
G7200-60110	Permanent Services - Engineering	6,250
G7300-60110	Permanent Services - Public Works – Hghy Srvcs	18,299
G7400-60110	Permanent Services - Public Works - Waste Srvcs	5,330
G7700-60110	Permanent Services - Public Works - Fleet	5,084
G7800-60110	Permanent Services - Building Maintenance	10,484
G8100-60110	Permanent Services - Parks - Administration	5,399
G8200-60110	Permanent Services - Parks - Maintenance	13,837
G9300-60110	Permanent Services - Environmental Control	4,527
G9400-60110	Permanent Services - Social Services	5,397

Funds certified as unobligated and available.

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

Hockanum River Linear Park Trail – Phase III

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Barbara Rossi
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Hartford, through its Town Council, does acknowledge that a Public Information Meeting was conducted on October 30, 2013 and after consideration of input received does support the advancement of design and subsequent construction of the Hockanum River Linear Park Trail (Phase III) for extension of the existing trail from 1,000 feet east of the Hillside Road parking area to Olde Roberts Street at an estimated construction cost of \$720,000 utilizing funding from the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 Division I, Title I, Section 125 Surface Transportation Priorities and other municipally-secured funding sources, otherwise identified as State Project 42-TBD5 be, and hereby is, approved.

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

Refund of Taxes

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **refund** taxes in the amount of \$1,129.48
 pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Bill	Name	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Over Paid
2012-03-0052392	BARNES DESIREE D	2005//1HGCM56445A163679	\$ (199.09)
2012-03-0061363	FALLETTI NATINA	2005//1YVHP80D755M29415	\$ (107.29)
2011-03-0062821	FORD MOTOR CREDIT	2002//1FDWE45F32HB53083	\$ (350.02)
	HERNANDEZ-COLLAZO		
2012-03-0065991	SOVIHA	1998//JF1SF6550WH750514	\$ (42.98)
2012-03-0066587	HONDA LEASE TRUST	2010//1HGCS2B82AA005431	\$ (314.34)
2007-03-0069039	JOHNSON JAMES L	2000//JHLRD1860YC040084	\$ (6.64)
2011-03-0087182	VANSOEST AMY M	2001//4A3AC44G21E191853	\$ (109.12)
	TOTAL		\$(1,129.48)

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Incentive Program Grant

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Barbara Rossi
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has funding available through Electric Vehicle Charging Station Incentive Program for the installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging stations; and

WHEREAS, funding for the grant comes from provisions of the April 2012 settlement agreement with the State of Connecticut that allowed for the merger of Northeast Utilities and NStar; and

WHEREAS, the growing use of electric vehicles offers the promise of cutting costs for motorists but also improving our environment and public health.

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 Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as they pertain to this Electric Vehicle Charging Station Incentive Program.

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

The new Grants Administrator, Paul O'Sullivan, introduced himself to the Town Council, who welcomed him and wished him well.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Pat Harmon (1) inquired on the necessity of the fence by the walking trail near Riverpoint Condominiums. *Tim Bockus indicated that the fencing was part of the timber bulkhead replacement project and should be removed in the next couple of weeks.* (2) stated that there are piles of construction materials for the solar panels project at the Norris School parking lot and wanted to know what was happening with that. *Tim Bockus said that the construction project is under the guidance of Al Costa, Facilities Manager for the Board of Education, but believes that the project is moving along on schedule.* (3) noticed that the East Hartford Middle School has a pile of used furniture for sale and asked if the schools have a regulation that is similar to the town's ordinance that must be complied with for the disposition of furniture and equipment. *The Mayor said that she would contact the Board of Education for an answer.* (3) thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the streets safe and passable in today's storm and also commented on a job well done for leaf collection.

Anita Morrison (1) asked if the Mayor will be updating the Council on the progress of the Raymond Library renovations and inquired on a re-opening date for the Library. *Mayor Leclerc stated that the timeline for completion is March 2015; the contractor understands that failure to meet this deadline will result in liquidated damages* (2) heard that the north end Senior Center – near Anna Norris School – was closing due to finances and asked if that was true. *Mayor Leclerc stated that there has been no discussion about closing the north end Senior Center.* and (3) thanked the efforts of the East Hartford Police Department for the “Stuff the Cruiser” event held at ShopRite and Stop & Shop Supermarkets on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Barbara Rossi thanked Tim Bockus, Public Works Director, for the solar stop sign recently installed at the corner of Maple and Forbes Streets.

Esther Clarke (1) asked if there have been any complaints from neighbors in the area of the newly installed solar stop sign. *Tim Bockus said there have been no complaints.* and (2) thanked the Mayor for her response on the newly opened massage parlors in East Hartford and added that there is another parlor that has opened on Connecticut Boulevard. *The Mayor said she and her staff were not aware of it, but will look into it.*

Bill Horan recognized Anita Morrison's service to the town by volunteering on the Insurance Committee, from which she just resigned due to her election to the Council.

Merchant Founders Lodging, LLC v. Town of East Hartford

By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Linda Russo
to **accept** the Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the
pending real property tax appeal known as Merchant Founders
Lodging, LLC v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-10-6006974S,
involving 351 Pitkin Street, from the fair market value of \$9,676,130 to the fair
market value of \$9,574,400, which shall generate a reduction of
\$2,407.58 in property taxes, for the Grand List Year of 2009 only.
Motion carried 8/0.

By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Linda Russo
to **accept** the Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the
pending real property tax appeal known as 860 Main, LLC v. Town of East
Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-13-6020158S, involving 860 Main Street,
from the fair market value of \$1,420,371 to the fair market value of
\$1,285,000, which shall generate a reduction of \$4,160.23 in property taxes,
Commencing the Grand List Year of 2012.
Motion carried 8/0.

By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **table** the matter known as Brenda Rose v. Town of East Hartford,
Docket No. HHD-CV-11-6023968S, for further negotiations.
Motion carried 8/0.

Mayor Leclerc (1) announced that there is a parking ban in effect until further notice; (2) stated that Holiday Fest 2013 was a success. This year's new event "Have Your Picture Taken with Santa Underwater" was a big hit and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for this great idea; (3) the 28th Annual Santa's Visit drew over 280 children to it; (4) reminded all that January 5th is the Annual Brian Aselton Snow Dash; (5) announced that Gregg Donato, a 36 year town employee from the Inspections and Permits Department, is retiring on Thursday, December 12th; (6) was happy to report the hiring of the town's new Chief of Police, Scott Sansom, who will start on January 7th; (7) wanted to recognize Officers Barboza and Sullivan who played Santa Claus and Santa's elf at the New Covenant Church, distributing gifts to children; and (8) wished everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season.

Bill Horan wished the outgoing Chief of Police, Mark Sirois, a good retirement and commented on a job well done.

Ram Aberasturia asked that the Mayor extend an invitation to Chief Sansom to participate in the Aselton Snow Dash.

Marc Weinberg wished people of all faiths a safe and peaceful Holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **adjourn** (9:40 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Vice Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be January 7, 2014.

Attest _____
Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK