

Robert J. Paset

EAST HARTFORD VETERANS COMMISSION 2019 MAR 25 A 9:02

EAST HARTFORD TOWN HALL

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

WELLING CONFERENCE ROOM.

MARCH 20, 2019

PRESENT Chair John Cook, Vice Chair Awet Tsegai, Treasurer Melodie Wilson,
Secretary Timothy Siggia, Vincent Parys, and James Shelmerdine, Jr.

ABSENT Eugene Pushefski

It was noted with sadness that David Whalen, a member of the this Commission and a U. S. Navy veteran who served in the Vietnam War, passed away recently. His service to this country will not be forgotten.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Chair announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-381, after which he asked Mr. Siggia to lead the Commission in the pledge of allegiance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

ROLL CALL

As accounted for.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

At this point, Howard Satalino, 72 Spruce Drive, a member of the VFW, participated in the meeting. He agrees that the VFW partnering with the Commission on events that focus on veterans' concerns is a good idea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 27, 2019

MOTION By Vinny Parys
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** the minutes of the February 27, 2019 meeting.
Motion carried 6/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INVOICES

Vinny Parys submitted an invoice in the amount of \$72.00 for monogrammed caps for the Commissioners.

MOTION By Jim Shelmerdine
seconded by Tim Siggia
to **approve** the reimbursement of \$72.00 to Vinny Parys as submitted.
Motion carried 6/0.

John Cook indicated that the paving stone for the Veterans' Minuteman Park at the State Armory was going to cost \$200.00 – not \$150.00 as had been expected and approved. (see motion under "Purchase of Paving Stone for Veterans' Memorial at State Armory")

Also, Chair Cook stated that Craig Jordan, a South Windsor resident and former Principal of East Hartford High School, is too busy to participate in the Veterans Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Gold Star Essay Awards

The Gold Star Essay contest is an event in which high school seniors write biographies of veterans who are on the Gold Star Honor Roll. A winner is chosen and receives a plaque or citation in recognition of their achievement. The Commission had discussed presenting the winner of the contest with a monetary prize, but Corporation Counsel stated that nothing of any monetary value can be awarded. It was suggested that the Commission work with the local chapter of the VFW to award a scholarship to the winner.

Mr. Satalino will bring this idea to the VFW – of which he is a member – to discuss the concept of partnering with the Commission on this, and other veteran-related events, and the dollar amount that could be offered to the winner.

Procedural Rules – report from Commissioner Tsehai

At the February 27th meeting, Awet Tsegai said he would contact Sarah Morgan, Library Director, to inquire if the Commission could use the Raymond Library as their storage facility. As of this date, Mr. Tsegai has not heard from Ms. Morgan.

Budget Update

Melodie Wilson, Treasurer, reported that the Commission has approximately \$15,167 available and that the expenditures to date are \$487.76.

Mr. Tsegai reported that Sarah Morgan, the Library Director, has agreed to the placement of a box at Raymond Library for the retirement of flags.

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Vinny Parys
to **approve** the purchase of four boxes to be used as flag receptacles in
an amount not to exceed \$70.00.
Motion carried 6/0.

Veterans Commission Minutes

representative) together with a member of the Military, another elected official, etc. No decision was made at this time.

East Hartford High School –

The Commission needs to apply for the use of the auditorium at the high school for the Memorial Day events. It was suggested that the Commission invite the EHFD and request a color guard for the activities.

- Vinny Parys and Awet Tsegai will coordinate obtaining refreshments.
- Melodie Wilson will contact "Accapella" a singing group to perform.
- Howard Satalino and Melodie Wilson will inquire of clergy to give the convocation
- The Commission's newly formed Communications Subcommittee will invite Town Officials.

Bicentennial Park –

The Commission would also like a member of the clergy to give the convocation at the "reading of the names".

At this point, the Chair asked Mr. Satalino if he would consider being the VFW liaison to the Veterans Commission. He said he would think about it.

NEW BUSINESS


Melodie Wilson reminded the Commission that she has the plaque ready to present to the students at O'Connell School for their participation in Wreaths Across America, but cannot attend due to a previous commitment.

Jim Shelmerdine announced that Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks is being rededicated to Lee Hartell, who was the recipient of the Medal of Honor for his heroic deeds during the Korean Conflict.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Tim Siggia
 seconded by Jim Shelmerdine
 to **adjourn** (8:15 p.m.).
 Motion carried 6/0.

Attest



Angela M. Attenello

VETERANS COMMISSION CLERK