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EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK EAST HARTFORD

JANUARY 2, 2019

PRESENT

Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Linda A. Russo, Majority Leader Ram Aberasturia, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc Weinberg, Joseph R. Carlson, Shelby J. Brown, Patricia Harmon and Caroline Torres

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:37p.m. He wished all a Happy New Year. 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

Mayor Leclerc (1) wished the Council and the residents a Happy New Year; (2) is looking forward to the introduction of Roberta Pratt, the new joint Town of East Hartford and Board of Education Information Technology Director; (3) reminded viewers that Christmas trees will be picked up curbside by Public Works until January 11th; (4) recognized Sarah Morgan, Library Director, for the wonderful Holiday Programs at Raymond Library; (5) announced the 2019 Art Project Grant that Director Morgan applied for was approved; and (6) the Brian Aselton Road Race will be Sunday January 6th at Langford School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 11, 2018 Executive Session

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

seconded by Marc Weinberg

to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Executive Session.

Motion carried 9/0.

December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

seconded by Caroline Torres

to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Joint Town and Board of Education Information Technology Director

<u>Mayor Leclerc</u> introduced <u>Roberta Pratt</u> to the Council – the new Joint IT Director – who then gave a summary of her education and experience to the Councillors. Ms. Pratt stated that due to the security issues that came to light under the penetration test audit of the IT

department, the need for hiring a Joint IT Director became more significant. Since her employment with the Town and with the cooperation of the IT Department – both the Board and Town side – many of the security issues have been addressed. Ms. Pratt explained that there will always be "soft spots" which is the nature of technology, but that she will continue to monitor the town's vulnerabilities to keep them at a low level.

Wickham Memorial Library Renovation

Mayor Leclerc introduced <u>David Stein</u>, a principal with Silver Petrucelli & Associates, the Architects who are designing the Wickham Library Expansion and Renovation project. Mr. Stein presented the Council with the plans for the new addition to the Library which will house the elevator and bathrooms. The addition will have 3 levels – basement level, main level and second floor level – with an ADA compliant bathroom on each of those levels. Also, the existing bathrooms will be renovated and the parking and exterior landscaping designs will tie into the Public Safety Complex, which is located just steps away. The estimated cost of this project is \$1.76M.

Senior Center Design Update

Mayor Leclerc introduced Christopher Williams, Principal with Christopher Williams Architects, LLC, and Portia Elmer, Architectural Designer with Christopher Williams Architects, LLC who provided the Council with a virtual tour of the proposed new Senior Center which will be located at 15 Millbrook Drive – the former Blessed Sacrament Church. The estimated cost of this project is \$6.8M. The anticipated completion date is Spring 2020.

DEEP Emissions Reduction Act Program Grant Awarded

<u>Chair Kehoe</u> announced that the Town was the recipient of the DEEP Emissions Reduction Act Grant, which was on the December 11th Council agenda. The funds received under this program – which is approximately \$90,000 – will be used for the scrappage and replacement of a1999 backhoe and a 2001 tractor mower and a 2010 tractor mower.

NEW BUSINESS

<u>Town Council – acting as the Committee of the Whole for the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: Conveyance of 67 Woodbridge Avenue</u>

MOTION

By Joe Carlson

· seconded by Linda Russo

that the East Hartford Town Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole for the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee, and in accordance with Section 7-163e of the Connecticut General Statutes, set a public hearing date of Tuesday, February 5th @ 7:15P.M. in Council Chambers to hear public comment on the possible transfer of 67

Woodbridge Avenue to Habitat for Humanity.

Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to the Ordinance Committee re: (1) Public Act 1765 – Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents and Spouses; (2) Raising Minimum Legal Sales Age to Purchase Tobacco Products to Twenty-one

MOTION

By Linda Russo

seconded by Esther Clarke

to refer to the Ordinance Committee the following issues:

(1) a property tax exemption as outlined in State of Connecticut Public Act No. 17-65 entitled "An Act Concerning a Municipal Option Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents and Spouses", which was enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in the Connecticut General Assembly effective October 1, 2017; and (2) drafting a new ordinance for raising the minimum legal sales age for all tobacco products to twenty-one

with instructions to investigate both matters and return to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Caroline Torres is concerned about the number of vehicles that are still parking on front lawns. Mayor Leclerc stated that the two community police officers are enforcing the local ordinance which prohibits parking on front lawns. The Mayor also went on to say that she is putting together a committee of her staff and Councillors to review the ordinances to ensure that they are actionable and understood by the residents.

The Mayor informed the Council that the new "My East Hartford" app is available to download. This is another way for residents to get involved by helping with reporting matters such as blight and code enforcement issues, animal issues, potholes, parking issues, construction issues, etc.

Esther Clarke said that she has observed vehicles parking on the wrong side of the street all night for about over a week and no tickets were issued. Mayor Leclerc said that this is where residents could help by reporting these matters to the police and they will respond.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

By Esther Clarke

seconded by Linda Russo to **adjourn** (9:25 p.m.). Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council will be January 15th.

Attest

"Angela M. Attenello TOWN COUNCIL CLERK