

*Robert J. Paek*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2019 JAN 22 A 8:42

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

JANUARY 15, 2019

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Majority Leader Ram Aberasturia, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc Weinberg and Patricia Harmon

ABSENT Vice Chair Linda A. Russo, Councillors Joseph Carlson, Shelby Brown and Caroline Torres

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Chair noted that several of the Councillors were not in attendance due to illness and wished them all a speedy recovery. He then 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

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) asked what financial impact the transfer of money to the OPEB trust fund would have on East Hartford taxpayers; (2) suggested that the Town Council, with the Mayor, form a committee to determine what the town's assets are; and (3) believes there should be an audit of the East Hartford Community Cultural Center.

Mayor Leclerc (1) announced that Fire Chief John Oates will be inducted into the State of Connecticut's Firefighter's Association Hall of Fame on April 4<sup>th</sup>; (2) January's Lunch with the Mayor has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict; (3) the marriage license fee charged by the Town Clerk's office will be waived on February 14<sup>th</sup>; (4) the EHPD will host "Coffee with a Cop" on Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup> at Dunkin Donuts on Ellington Road from 8AM to 10AM; and (5) commented on the memo from MIRA regarding tipping fees that is included under "Communications" on tonight's agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 2, 2019 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Pat Harmon  
to **approve** the minutes of the January 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.  
Motion carried 5/0.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### Materials Innovation & Recycling Authority (MIRA): Possible Tip Fee Increase

Chair Kehoe stated that a letter from the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) indicated a serious mechanical failure with the trash-to-energy facility in Hartford's South Meadows in November 2018. While the repairs were underway, the costs to divert the waste processing averaged over \$100/ton. If this increase continues, it will be necessary to incorporate it into the tip fee for FY2020.

Chair Kehoe said that this situation serves to emphasize the importance for all residents to recycle.

### OPEB Contribution for FY2018 re: §10-52 of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances

Chair Kehoe explained the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) ordinance, adopted in June 2008, serves to address the long-term liabilities of the town by setting aside the excess in the town's Fund Balance that is over 10% of the current fiscal year's budget. This year that amount is \$1,587,900 which will be transferred to the OPEB Trust Fund.

The Chair went on to say that the town's funds are well managed – an opinion that is shared by Standard & Poor's, referencing their October 2018 report that states "East Hartford's budgetary performance is strong, in our opinion. East Hartford's budgetary flexibility is strong. East Hartford's liquidity is strong, very strong. East Hartford's debt and contingent liability profile is strong".

## NEW BUSINESS

### State Bond Commission Grant re: Athletic Fields at East Hartford High School and East Hartford Middle School

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Pat Harmon  
                     to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the Connecticut Bond Commission has approved grant funding in the amount of \$1 million for improvements to the athletic fields at the East Hartford middle and high schools; and

**WHEREAS** these funds are to be administered by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

**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 state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as they pertain to this Personal Services Agreement.

On call of the vote, motion carried 5/0.

### Referral to Ordinance Committee re: Increase of Cap for On-Call Service Contracts Under §10-6a of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances

MOTION        By Marc Weinberg  
                     seconded by Esther Clarke

## OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

## COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Marc Weinberg  
to **accept** in compromise of the Town's Workers' Compensation lien  
regarding current employee, Garrett Ostafin, the sum of \$10,000 to be  
received from the total settlement proceeds of \$20,000 in the third-party  
action known as Ostafin v McNeilly, et al, Docket No. CV-17-6084918-S.  
Motion carried 5/0.

None

MOTION By Esther Clarke  
seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
to **adjourn** (8:05 p.m.).  
Motion carried 5/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Attest Angela M. Attenello  
Angela M. Attenello  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK