

*Robert J. Pask*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2017 FEB 27 A 9:16

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader  
Linda A. Russo, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I.  
Weinberg, Ram Aberasturia, Joseph R. Carlson, Patricia Harmon and  
Michael G. Kurker

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:30 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

Mayor Leclerc stated that (1) the Council received the 2017-2018 budget books today; (2) thanked Mary Whaples and Bernie Corona for their service to the community; and (3) is looking forward to Officer Branon's presentation as the Community Service Police Officer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 7, 2017 Executive Session

MOTION By Linda Russo  
seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
to **approve** the minutes of the February 7, 2017 Executive Session.  
Motion carried 9/0.

February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Linda Russo  
seconded by Pat Harmon  
to **approve** the minutes of the February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting.  
Motion carried 9/0.

*To accommodate those present, the following motion was made.*

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Bill Horan  
to take the following agenda items, under New Business, out of order:

8. C. "Click It or Ticket" Grant Program

- Motion carried 9/0.

CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)re: Senior Center Bond Grant

MOTION      By Ram Aberasturia  
                 seconded by Linda Russo  
                 to **adopt** the following resolution:

**RESOLVED** that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of this Contractor, and to affix the corporate seal, and is authorized to make application to, and execute and approve on behalf of the Town of East Hartford, any and all documents, contracts, and amendments as may be required by the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as they pertain to this Capital Improvements Bond Fund Grant.

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

*To accommodate those present, the following motion was made.*

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
                 to take item 8. B., under New Business, "Recommendation from Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: Purchase of 1718 Main Street", out of order.  
                 Motion carried 9/0.

Recommendation from Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: Purchase of 1718 Main Street

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
                 that the Town Council **approve** the purchase of the property known as 1718 Main Street by the Administration for the sum of \$100,000.00, as recommended by the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee.  
                 Motion carried 9/0.

*At this point, the Council returned to the order of the agenda.*

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Presentation by Community Police Officer Theodore Branon

Deputy Chief Mack Hawkins and Lieutenant Josh Litwin introduced Officer Ted Branon, who was selected for the new position of Community Service Police Officer. Officer Branon outlined the various new programs geared to enhance the positive interaction between police officers and the community. Some of the programs are Coffee with a Cop, Sandwich with a Cop, Senior Fraud Safety Seminars, and Block Watch programs. Officer Branon stressed the importance of communication between the police force and the residents.

## Resignations of Mary Whaples and Bernard Corona

Chair Kehoe announced the resignations of Mary Whaples from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Bernie Corona from the Patriotic Commission. He thanked them for their long-term contribution to the community and wished them well in the future.

## Pension Valuation and Investment Results Presentations

Donald Currey, Town Treasurer and Chair of the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board (Retirement Board), thanked the Council for recently increasing the OPEB trust trigger to 10%. He stated that the Retirement Board, by unanimous vote, is recommending that the Council lower the discount rate (currently at 8%) to 7.9%. Mr. Currey stated that this will increase the town's contribution to the pension plan by approximately \$245,000 – difficult to consider due to the unknowns in the state's budget – which will be the right first step to lowering the discount rate to 7% or less by FY2019-2020 as is the goal of the Retirement Board.

## 3D Asset Management: Discussion of the Town's Portfolio – Equity Side

John O'Connor, President of 3D Asset Management, Inc., and Ben Lavine, Chief Investment Officer of 3D Asset Management, Inc., presented the returns on the equity side of the Town's portfolio for the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. 3D manages three accounts for the town: Pension Equity Account – which is a stock account, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) stock account and a cash management account. Mr. Lavine stressed the importance of global diversification with an investment portfolio. Mr. O'Connor stated that from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, the equity side of the pension is up by 5.8%.

## Fiduciary Investment Advisors: Discussion of the Town's Portfolio – Fixed Income Side

Christopher Kachmar, Chief Investment Officer of Fiduciary Investment Advisors (FIA) addressed the returns on the fixed income side of the Town's portfolio. As of the end of December 2016, the pension fixed income is approximately \$78.8M – he indicated this side of the town's portfolio is very diverse and very liquid. The OPEB fixed income, for the same time period, is approximately \$3.5M.

## Segal Company: Pension Contributions for FY2016-2017

Ann Gineo, Senior Vice President and Consulting Actuary, and John Stiefel, Vice President and Consulting Actuary reviewed the town's pension plan through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Stiefel reported that the town's contribution needed to fund the pension plan for the 2017-2018FY, after employee contributions, an 8% discount rate and a 3½% amortization increase, is \$13,180,000; after employee contributions, a 7.9% discount rate and a 3¼% amortization increase, the town's contribution needed is \$13,706,771, but provides a more realistic rate of return target and will reduce future increases in pension contributions.

Recommendation from Ordinance Committee re: Article 8, Section 13-31 "Outdoor Wood-burning Furnace"

MOTION      By Bill Horan  
                  seconded by Linda Russo  
                  to **amend** the East Hartford Code of Ordinances by adding Article 8, to  
                  Chapter 13, Section 13-31 entitled "Outdoor Wood-burning Furnace"  
                  consistent with the draft dated January 19, 2017 as unanimously approved  
                  by the Ordinance Committee.  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Ram Aberasturia reported that curbs along Grande Road were torn up and asked the Mayor if she could look into this. *Mayor Leclerc said she would address this matter promptly.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Leclerc (1) announced that State Senator Tim Larson will hold a meeting at Raymond Library on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5PM to 7PM on the Opioid issue; and (2) received notification that the town has been awarded the \$15,000 Connecticut Working Cities Challenge planning grant.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                  seconded by Bill Horan  
                  to **adjourn** (9:50 p.m.).  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next *regular* meeting of the Town Council would be March 7<sup>th</sup>.

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