

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

March 1, 2022

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Thomas Rup, Travis Simpson and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

ALSO Mayor Michael Walsh  
PRESENT Kevin Munson, Interim Fire Chief

VIA TEAMS Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer- Metropolitan District Commission  
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer- MDC  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer MDC  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer MDC

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The Chair stated that this meeting was also available to the public through the “Teams” platform.

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 Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by Awet Tsegai  
to **delete** item 6B “Council Discussion Re: Fire Chief” from the Agenda.  
Motion carried 9/0

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Anne Larson 236 Main Street, spoke in favor of the proposed resolution to provide sound barriers along Route 2. She is looking forward to improved quality of life at her residence that sound barriers would provide to both her residence and the Senior Center and thanked the Mayor, Council and State Senator Anwar for their efforts thusfar.

Theresa Beaulieu 14 Sioux Road also spoke in favor of the proposed resolution. Ms. Beaulieu expressed concern regarding driving safety between exits 5 and 5A on Route 2. Ms. Boullier feels that the Route 2 expansion has had a negative impact on the atmosphere at the Senior Center and would like to see additional sound barriers provided in that location.

Don Currey, 14 Martin Circle, agreed with Ms. Beaulieu’s comments regarding Route 2 and stated that he recently reached out to State Representative Henry Genga with similar concerns. Mr. Currey then expressed his appreciation of updated lines drawn in the discussed area of Route 2 to help make driving lanes more clear for vehicles.

Mayor Walsh shared (1) A Juneteenth Celebration is scheduled for Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>. More details are forthcoming. (2) The Mayor's first monthly newsletter, "The Pulse of East Hartford" has been released and sent via email to those who registered. (3) East Hartford Youth Services will be hosting a webinar with State Representative Jeff Currey discussing youth substance abuse prevention that will be hosted on Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 pm. (4) East Hartford WIC is advising parents and caregivers of a recall issued by the FDA of specific Abbot Powder Baby Formulas. (5) East Hartford Youth Services will be hosting a presentation on the impact of COVID-19 on youth mental health and available services via Zoom on March 9 from 6-7 p.m. (6) East Hartford Public Library is hosting a virtual information session with Eversource on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. on winter heating and energy assistance. (7) Tyron Harris has been appointed as the Town's new Human Resources Director. (8) Melissa McCaw has been appointed as the Town's new Finance Director. (9) The Town Mask Mandate has been lifted, effective March 1, 2022. (10) The Town is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher with a deadline of March 9, 2022. (11) The Police Department has extended the deadline of accepting applications for Entry Level Officers to March 4. (12) 2022-23 Town Budget is in process. Workshops are occurring for various departments over the next few days. (12) VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program will be offering a free clinic at the Raymond Library on Sunday March 13 from 1-5 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### February 15, 2022 Executive Session

MOTION        By Sebrina Wilson  
                     seconded by Don Bell  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Executive Session.  
                     Motion carried 9/0.

### February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOTION        By Sebrina Wilson  
                     seconded by Don Bell  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting.  
                     Motion carried 9/0.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### 2022 Budget Presentation by Metropolitan District Commission

Chair Kehoe explained that the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is the regional governmental authority that provides the town of East Hartford with water supply, as well as supplies and maintains the sewer system. MDC has a budget based on the calendar year starting in January. The water bills are invoiced to the individual homeowner. The assessments levied on the sewers are invoiced to the town and paid by the town directly to the MDC thus its impact on the Town's budget.

Scott Jellison, CEO of the Metropolitan District briefed the council that there is a near zero increase to the 2021 budget; a very slight increase in Ad Valorem tax for sewer related expenses that is paid in the town's budget and 1.7% increase in water bills.

Robert Barron, CFO of the Metropolitan District Commission then provided a presentation of the 2022 MDC budget. Mr. Barron reviewed the budget process and core values of the MDC. Year to year residential bills are projected to increase 2.6% which equates to an average of roughly \$28.00 per household per year.

#### Council Discussion Re: Fire Chief

*This item was removed.*

#### Greater Hartford Transit District Vehicle Donation to EHFD

The Chair noted that the East Hartford Fire Department received the donation of a small bus from the Greater Hartford Transit District.

Mayor Walsh then introduced Interim Fire Chief Kevin Munson. The Mayor announced that Mr. Munson has officially been appointed as Fire Chief.

Chief Munson stated that the Fire Department previously had use of a similar bus in the past that has been decommissioned due to disrepair. The newly donated vehicle will serve to respond to fires as a comfortable mobile shelter for those affected by a fire and the firefighters. The vehicle is currently located at the Fire Headquarters, and will respond with on duty staff to respond to any working fires.

#### Resignations: Boards and Commissions

The Chair informed the Council that an individual has been removed as a member of the Veterans Commission. By Ordinance, the member is considered to have abandoned the post, due to lack of attendance.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Route 2 Expansion Project: Sound Barriers

MOTION           By Angie Parkinson  
                      seconded by Awet Tsegai  
                      to **approve** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has commenced a Route 2 Drainage and Widening Construction Project through the Town of East Hartford; and

**WHEREAS** the construction work on Route 2 has resulted in the extensive removal of trees, shrubbery, and other natural sound barriers and buffers for the abutting residential and commercial properties along Route 2 in East Hartford; and

**WHEREAS** the removal of trees and shrubbery creates a safety hazard in which children could easily wander onto the highway and cars could strike residents' homes if they leave the highway; and

**WHEREAS** the removal of natural buffers has already increased the amount of litter and solid waste being deposited into residents' backyards, and

**WHEREAS** current conditions lower property values and impact the quality of life for existing homeowners, some of whom cannot afford to sell; and

**WHEREAS** the state currently has received unprecedented infusions of federal money, much of which is earmarked for infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** even a low barrier would make a significant difference to nearby properties, since Route 2 is elevated well above most of these properties; and

**WHEREAS** barrier walls are effective in significantly reducing sound pollution for homes in close proximity to them; and

**WHEREAS** a sound barrier currently exists along part of Route 2 in Glastonbury, but many East Hartford residences are much closer to the highway than the ones protected by the Glastonbury wall;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the East Hartford Town Council joins Mayor Michael P. Walsh and strongly urges the CTDOT to take immediate action to mitigate the negative impacts of the Route 2 Drainage and Widening Construction Project on the residential and commercial properties along Route 2 through East Hartford for the purpose of providing meaningful and lasting noise buffering and other solutions including but not limited to sound barriers, natural buffers, and sound absorption plantings.

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

Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

MOTION        By John Morrison  
                     seconded by Tom Rup  
                     to **approve** the following appointments:

**Board of Assessment Appeals (3-year Term)**

|   |                      |                  |       |
|---|----------------------|------------------|-------|
| R | Matthew Charles Lauf | 26 Driver Rd B-2 | 12/23 |
|---|----------------------|------------------|-------|

**Economic Development Commission (3-year Term)**

|   |                     |               |       |
|---|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| R | Victor Rosas-Granda | 163 Forest St | 12/22 |
|---|---------------------|---------------|-------|

**In-Land Wetlands Environment Commission (4yr)**

|   |             |                 |       |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| R | Peter Marra | 80 Harvest Lane | 12/23 |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------|

**Pension & Retiree Benefit Board (5yr)**

|   |                 |                   |       |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| R | Esther B Clarke | 197 Langford Lane | 12/26 |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------|

**Planning & Zoning Commission (5yr)**

|   |             |                 |       |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| R | Peter Marra | 80 Harvest Lane | 12/23 |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------|

**Veterans Commission (2yr)**

|  |               |                  |       |
|--|---------------|------------------|-------|
| R  | Art Parker    | 139 Mercer St    | 12/23 |
| R  | Richard Bates | 103 Timber Trail | 12/23 |
| <b>Reappointment candidate Personnel Appeals Board (3yr)</b> |               |                  |       |
| R  | Richard Bates | 103 Timber Trail | 12/23 |

Motion carried 9/0.

Deputy Public Works Director Job Description

Motion By Awet Tsegai  
seconded by Harry Amadasun

to **refer** to the Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee the job description entitled "Deputy Director Public Works", a position within the Public Works Department, with instructions to review the positions and report back to the full Council with its recommendations, if any.

Motion Carried 9/0.

Refund of Taxes

MOTION By Harry Amadasun  
seconded by Awet Tsegai  
to **approve** a total refund of taxes in the amount of \$28,290.54 pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Motion Carried 9/0.

| Bill            | Name   | Prop Loc/Vehicle Info. | Int Paid | Over Paid |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 2020-04-0080256 | ALMARODE MICEHLLE                            | 1997/1HGEJ8246VL085001 | 0        | -57.38    |
| 2020-01-0000906 | BAKER DONALD G JR & NILSEN<br>BAKER KATHLEEN | 665 FOREST ST          | 0        | -50.60    |
| 2020-04-0080853 | BETANCOURT TYLER J                           | 1996/1HGCD5636TA300173 | 0        | -61.20    |
| 2020-01-0000210 | BETTER LOAN SOCIETY INC                      | 430 PARK AVE           | 0        | -27.00    |
| 2020-01-0001527 | BOLTON JETHRENE A                            | 48 FULLER AVE          | 0        | -2,428.02 |
| 2020-04-0080979 | BRADSHAW TIFFANY O                           | 1998/JT3HN86R1W0165786 | 0        | -109.49   |
| 2020-04-0081197 | BUSHNELL JONATHAN H                          | 1999/1FMZU24E1XUA88830 | 0        | -54.00    |
| 2020-01-0002695 | CHARTIER TRACY                               | 15 SCOTT CIR           | 0        | -20.49    |
| 2020-03-0056765 | COITEUX ROBERT A & COITEUX<br>DEBRA          | 2017/3FA6P0D95HR136012 | 0        | -300.15   |
| 2003-03-0058749 | CROCKER RODERIC L                            | 1989/1G2WJ14TKF329550  | -171.55  | -89.27    |
| 2020-03-0058671 | DAVIDSON MICHAEL W                           | 2010/JN8AS5MV5AW110823 | -9.01    | -120.15   |

|                 |                              |                        |         |           |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 2020-01-0004211 | DOUGLASS STEPHEN             | 200 TIMBER TR          | 0       | -4,961.90 |
| 2020-01-0004292 | DUDA DONNA                   | 102 MADISON ST         | 0       | -788.95   |
| 2020-04-0082933 | EFFAH KENNEDY                | 1998/4T1BF22K2WU073661 | 0       | -22.19    |
| 2020-04-0083144 | FERRELL SOPHIA L             | 1998/JT8BH28F7W0105339 | 0       | -152.55   |
| 2020-04-0083210 | FITZSIMMONS STEVEN C         | 1998/JT4UN22D0W0052025 | 0       | -52.65    |
| 2020-04-0083414 | GALLO SANTO P                | 1994/4S3BC633XR9645529 | 0       | -36.00    |
| 2018-03-0063875 | GIBSON AHMED W JR            | 2010/JTHBK1EG4A2367955 | 0       | -7.94     |
| 2020-04-0083710 | GOORAHOO JANET Z             | 2018/4S3GTAB63J3716663 | 0       | -26.78    |
| 2020-03-0064296 | GRANT REBECCA E              | 2011/4S4WX9GD9B4402951 | -13.43  | -298.35   |
| 2020-03-0064297 | GRANT REBECCA E              | 2015/2C4RC1CG9FR657004 | -11.04  | -245.25   |
| 2020-03-0064298 | GRANT REBECCA E              | 2015/4S4BSANC8F3320844 | -12.40  | -275.63   |
| 2020-03-0065641 | HERRERA-LANDAUER WILBER J    | 2016/1HGCT1A36GA001873 | 0       | -83.10    |
| 2020-04-0084608 | JIMENEZ EDUARDO N            | 2000/4T1BF22K9YU950584 | 0       | -51.89    |
| 2020-01-0007283 | KAMM MARTIN                  | 95 CENTRAL AVE         | 0       | -172.61   |
| 2020-03-0068356 | KERSHAW THOMAS J JR          | 2010/1HGCP2F48AA056649 | 0       | -109.57   |
| 2020-01-0007558 | KK PROSPECT LLC              | 386 PROSPECT ST        | 0       | -113.00   |
| 2015-03-0069218 | LABOY JOHANNA                | 2010/3FAHP0HA4AR284221 | -243.59 | -246.05   |
| 2020-04-0085092 | LAVEY JANET L                | 2000/YV1LS56D4Y2673639 | 0       | -58.05    |
| 2020-03-0069660 | LEE DENISE L                 | 2006/1FAHP34N96W230492 | 0       | -27.00    |
| 2020-01-0012378 | LERETA LLC ATTN: REFUND DEPT | 54 PALMER DR           | 0       | -3,460.92 |
| 2020-01-0009067 | LERETA ATTN: CENTRAL REFUNDS | 17 HOCKANUM DR         | 0       | -1,991.52 |
| 2020-04-0085721 | MAZZARELLA JOHN A 3RD        | 2014/5N1AT2MT6EC762942 | 0       | -29.97    |
| 2020-04-0085859 | MELENDEZ REYNOLD             | 1995/1HGCD5637SA120537 | 0       | -20.12    |
| 2011-03-0073567 | MELENDY MARGARET T           | 1999/1GHDT13W4X2707531 | 0       | -9.97     |
| 2019-03-0073939 | MESSIER GAIL M               | 1998/1GCCS1944W8177129 | 0       | -22.50    |
| 2020-03-0072774 | MESSIER GAIL M               | 1998/1GCCS1944W8177129 | 0       | -22.50    |

|                 |                                    |                        |         |           |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 2020-04-0085941 | MEZA ADOLFO J                      | 1996/1J4EZ58SXTC115068 | 0       | -66.91    |
| 2020-04-0086034 | MITSOULLIS MARK V                  | 1998/1FTZR15X1WTA01075 | 0       | -93.60    |
| 2020-04-0086054 | MOKBEL AZZUDDIN                    | 1997/1HGCD5533VA031280 | 0       | -65.21    |
| 2020-03-0073685 | MORRISON BARBARA F                 | 2016/2T2BZMCA0GC014129 | 0       | -159.93   |
| 2020-03-0073860 | MULHOLLAND JAMES M                 | 2014/19XFB2F87EE258236 | 0       | -244.30   |
| 2020-04-0086363 | NGUYEN DONNY T                     | 1999/WBAAM3333XFP52246 | 0       | -77.58    |
| 2020-03-0074377 | NGUYEN HIEU                        | 2000/2HKRL1869YH516062 | 0       | -22.50    |
| 2020-01-0010074 | NGUYEN HIEU                        | 14 AUTUMN LN           | 0       | -3,254.64 |
| 2020-01-0010094 | NGUYEN HIEU                        | 16-18 JERRY RD         | 0       | -3,376.04 |
| 2020-03-0074597 | NIEVES LUIS A                      | 2014/2T1BURHE1EC082027 |         | -103.24   |
| 2020-04-0086765 | ORTIZ-RAMIREZ NAKIAZARRET          | 1997/1HGEJ8240VL074348 | 0       | -28.76    |
| 2020-01-0011541 | PRIMUS COMPANY LLC                 | 633 BURNSIDE AVE       | 0       | -384.93   |
| 2020-03-0078602 | REYES-RIVERA JOHN M                | 2002/JS1GN7BA122100012 | 0       | -33.75    |
| 2020-04-0087672 | RIVERA MIGUEL                      | 1994/4T1SK12E7RU373300 | 0       | -9.41     |
| 2020-04-0087747 | ROBINSON GABRIELA                  | 2006/3N1CB51D66L486074 | 0       | -32.08    |
| 2020-03-0080572 | RUSSO ANDREW                       | 2011/JTHBK1EG1B2472311 | 0       | -268.65   |
| 2018-01-0012890 | SALVATORE HENRY JR &<br>PAULETTE I | 41 CARPENTER DR        | 0       | -29.31    |
| 2020-03-0081970 | SHAW MICHAEL A                     | 2018/HMCT124725073     | 0       | -18.90    |
| 2020-03-0081971 | SHAW MICHAEL A                     | 2012/1GCSGAFX9C1153232 | 0       | -315.90   |
| 2020-04-0088591 | SLEMP JOANNA I                     | 1984/WVWCA0159EK008369 | 0       | -43.65    |
| 2020-01-0014361 | THOMPSON DAVID J                   | 282 NAUBUC AVE REAR    | 0       | -744.45   |
| 2020-03-0084784 | TRAN JULIA H                       | 2015/2T2BK1BA0FC322033 | 0       | -77.40    |
| 2020-03-0085802 | VCFS AUTO LEASING CO               | 2019/YV4A22PL4K1454904 | 0       | -1,494.90 |
| 2020-03-0087694 | WUJCIK DEANNA K                    | 1997/1B7HF16Z1VS279967 | 0       | -20.21    |
| 2020-03-0087973 | ZERBA BRETT T JR                   | 2017/2GKALMEK1H6259312 | 0       | -258.56   |
| SUBTOTAL        |                                    |                        | -461.02 | -27829.52 |

\$(28,290.54)

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by Travis Simpson  
to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee, the including of Naubuc Avenue in  
the list of streets where through truck traffic is prohibited to Sec 21-14 in  
the Code of Town Ordinances.

### Job Description: Deputy Finance Director

Motion Carried 9/0.

Councillor Amadasun and the Council wished Councillor Parkinson a Happy Birthday.

None

## ADJOURNMENT

The Chair announced that the next regular meeting of the Town Council would be March 15, 2022.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Marshall  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK