

*Robert J. Pash*

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TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER  
EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

MARCH 4, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Patricia Harmon and John Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-381 after which the Council joined him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair gave a brief overview of the Mayor's recommended FY2020-2021 budget which totals \$196,642,306. The Mayor's budget contains an increase of \$1.2M – or .6% higher in overall costs – as compared to the FY2019-2020 budget. The recommended mill rate to support this budget will be 49.92 for Real Estate and Personal Property which is 1.6% higher than last fiscal year. However, the motor vehicle mill rate remains the same at 45.00. Accordingly, in total, the average taxpayer who owns a home assessed at 150,000 and has two vehicles will see a \$43 – or .69% – increase in taxes beginning July 2020.

That portion of the Mayor's recommended budget allocated to the Board of Education is \$92,679,245, which – when translated to dollars on a per student basis – ranks almost last in the State.

The following citizens came forward to speak:

Michael Walsh, 79 Fitzgerald Drive, the former Finance Director for East Hartford, addressed the Council on the personnel details of the Mayor's recommended budget – the number of town employees and their families who are the human part of this budget; the individuals who diligently collect the data needed; the many services included in East Hartford's mill rate that most surrounding towns do not offer. Mr. Walsh stated that he supports the Mayor's budget as presented.

Holly Reed, 93 Michael Avenue, is against another increase in taxes. Ms. Reed stated that, in the last 10 years, taxes have increased by 30%. She believes that the town should concentrate on cutting expenses in order to lower the mill rate. Additionally, Ms. Reed offered ways to gain additional revenue without raising taxes.

Marc Weinberg, 68 Silver Lane, stated that while no one wants taxes increased, it becomes a necessity as expenses, such as heating costs, rise.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke  
seconded by Don Bell  
to adjourn (7:36 p.m.).  
Motion carried 9/0.

Attest

*Angela M. Attenello*

Angela M. Attenello  
Town Council Clerk