

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER AUDITORIUM / MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

MARCH 4, 2024

BUDGET WORKSHOP
LIBRARY / DEVELOPMENT / FINANCE

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. (arrived 6:35 pm)

ALSO
PRESENT Mayor Connor Martin
Melissa McCaw, Chief Administrative Officer and Finance Director
Ekaterine Tchelidze, Chief of Staff (via Teams)
Sarah Morgan, Library Director
Eileen Buckheit, Development Director
Steve Hnatuk, Deputy Development Director
Christine Sasen, Risk Manager
Michelle Enman, Purchasing Agent
Joseph Ferraro, Interim Tax Assessor
Iris Laurenza, Tax Collector (via Teams)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:36 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 and those in attendance joined him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Kehoe provided an overview of the Council's review process for the Mayor's proposed budget, which will include a Public Hearing on March 6, 2024 and projected adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Town Budget on March 11, 2024.

The following departments provided presentations on their activities for the year and goals for the future. The Town Council reviewed the proposed budget for each of the following departments and asked questions about the budget line items and major initiatives the department is implementing.

Library Services (6:35 pm)

Sarah Morgan

Development (7:05 pm)

Eileen Buckheit
Steve Hnatuk

Inspections and Permits (7:55 pm)

Eileen Buckheit

Redevelopment Agency / Economic Development
Commission / Planning & Zoning Commission (8:18 pm)

Eileen Buckheit

Grants Administration (8:20 pm)	Eileen Buckheit
Finance (8:30 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Accounts and Control (8:58 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Purchasing (9:03 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Assessor (9:07 pm)	Melissa McCaw Joseph Ferraro
Revenue and Collections (9:12 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Employee Benefits (9:15 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Risk Management (9:25 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Debt Services (9:29 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Contingency (9:33 pm)	Melissa McCaw
Revenues (9:34 pm)	Melissa McCaw

Director McCaw then provided a brief overview of projected Grand List growth from current development projects, highlighting the Logistics and Technology Park project with National Development. The Finance Director noted that there would be a \$1.3 million reduction in the revenue the town will receive from the National Development project in FY 2025-2026 because the enterprise zone abatement will be implemented. Therefore, in order to avoid a revenue cliff in that fiscal year, the Administration is recommending changes to the proposed budget so as not to rely on \$1.3 million in revenue that will not reoccur in 2025-2026. The Director then shared a summary of the Five Year Capital Improvement Program and anticipated needs.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Don Bell
 to adjourn (10:27 pm)
 Motion carried 9/0.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 Town Council Clerk