

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER AUDITORIUM / MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

MARCH 6, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET

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.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:02 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.

The Chair gave a brief overview of the Mayor's recommended FY2024-25 budget which totals \$221,482,324. The budget reflects a 4.9% increase in expenses over FY2023-24.

The Board of Education's share of the budget is \$102.5 million. This is an increase of \$4.4 million over the previous fiscal year and their request is fully funded under the proposed budget. The Mayor's budget contains changes to staff to support the reorganization of departments to serve the public more effectively. All service levels to East Hartford residents are maintained in this budget. The proposed budget fully funds the town's obligations for the pension plan and the health insurance fund for active and retired town employees. It also reflects additional debt payments as a result of bonds issued for road improvements and town building repairs including Town Hall.

The recommended mill rate to support this budget would increase from 42.54 mills to 44.00 mills for Real Estate and Personal Property. The mill rate for motor vehicles remains the same as the current year at 32.46 mills.

The following residents came forward to speak:

Holly Reed, 93 Michael Avenue, is against the town increasing the mill rate. Ms. Reed expressed appreciation for the Mayor's vision for East Hartford and current level of service. Ms. Reed recommended cutting leaf pickup service as an expense.

Dorothelia Barnett, 12 Oakwood Street, expressed similar concerns regarding the increased mill rate and encouraged staff to support local small businesses.

Ned Lomerson, owner of Positive Battery Company, 200 Prospect Street, proposed limiting salary increases to Town staff.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION     By John Morrison  
                 seconded by Don Bell  
                 to **adjourn** (7:36 p.m.)

Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair shared that the Town Council will hold a special meeting on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to vote on the proposed budget in the Community Cultural Center Auditorium.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
                 Jason Marshall  
                 Town Council Clerk