

Robert J. Russo

2017 MAR 13 A 9:02

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER
EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

MARCH 8, 2017

PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET

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 (arrived 7:05 p.m.), Ram Aberasturia, Joseph R. Carlson and
Michael G. Kurker

ABSENT Councillor Patricia Harmon

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 2017-2018 budget which totals \$185,234,755. The proposed budget, which assumes a \$3.3M cut from state aid for education (ECS), would increase expenses by 1.9% with an average tax increase of .8% or \$44 annually.

The proposed budget would (1) fully fund the pension contribution requirement as recommended by the town's auditors; (2) reduce the town's rate of return on investments from 8% to 7.9% as also recommended by the auditors; (3) fully funds the self-insurance funds for health insurance for town and Board of Education employees; (4) maintains existing services of the town; (5) maintains the East Hartford Golf Course – despite operating at a loss; and (6) maintains the directors' salaries at their current levels, without an increase.

That portion of the Mayor's recommended budget which is allocated to the Board of Education is \$90,436,419 – an increase of \$1,170,000 from last year.

The following citizen came forth to speak:

Holly Reed, 93 Michael Avenue, (1) supports the Board of Education budget as presented, citing how important it is to fund education; (2) spoke against any increase in taxes, stating that since the majority of homes in town are smaller and therefore more affordable, those homeowners would be most impacted by the increase; and (3) is upset about the state deficit and its impact on the town's budget.

Chair Kehoe indicated that, while the state's budget definitely impacts the town, the town has no control over what the state passes for a budget.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (7:25 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair stated the Town Council is scheduled to adopt the 2017-2018 budget at a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 14th.

Attest Angela M. Attenello
Angela M. Attenello
Town Council Clerk