

Robert J. Beak

2018 MAR 16 A 8:45

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER
EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

MARCH 8, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Linda A. Russo, Majority Leader Ram Aberasturia, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Joseph R. Carlson, Patricia Harmon and Caroline Torres

ABSENT Councillor Shelby J. Brown

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 2018-2019 budget which totals \$188,118,621. The proposed budget includes a \$3.6M cut in State aid and a \$1.5M cut in non-State aid, which equates to a \$5.1M decrease in revenue when compared to FY2017-2018. The average taxpayer, with a home assessed at approximately \$100,000 and 2 vehicles, will see a 2.9% increase in taxes which equates to about \$151 annually.

The proposed budget would include (1) a pension amortization reduction from 3.25% to 3% and a reduced rate of return on investments from 7.9% to 7.75% as recommended by the town's actuaries; (2) a contribution increase of \$1.8M in Retirement Benefit Costs to provide adequate funding for its defined benefit pension plan; (3) an increased debt service payment predominately on road resurfacing bonds; and (4) a higher sewer rate paid to the MDC as a result of their Clean Water Project. Additionally, the Mayor's proposed budget contains no increase in the number of employees and the only changes are the contractual raises that average 1%-2%. The vast majority of the budget accounts are the same as the current year.

That portion of the Mayor's recommended budget which is allocated to the Board of Education is \$90,436,419 – the same as last year.

The following citizens came forth to speak in support of an increase to the Board of Education's budget in order to restore some of the positions that were proposed to be cut:

Annie Irvine, teacher at Langford School and President, East Hartford Education Association; Amy Holt, teacher, Mayberry School; David Beal, Media Paraprofessional, Pitkin School; Mary Symkowicz, Special Education Paraprofessional, 805 Tolland Street; Amanda Seals, teacher, Langford School, 9 Forest Street; Annette Morgan, 46 Hanmer Street; Kim Tipton, 147 Kingston Drive.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **adjourn** (7:53 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair stated the Town Council is scheduled to adopt the 2018-2019 budget at a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 13th.

Attest Richard F. Kehoe
 Richard F. Kehoe
 TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR