

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER/MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

MARCH 9, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

2022 MAR 10 AM 9:06

Robert J. Cook

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson (via Teams), 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 7:03 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 FY2022-23 budget which totals \$204.5 million. The budget reflects a 1.64% increase in expenses. The Board of Education's share of the budget is \$96.0M. Property Tax revenue is the same as in 2021-22. The Mayor's budget contains no new positions. All service levels to East Hartford residents are maintained in this budget. The recommended mill rate to support this budget will be 41.54 for Real Estate and Personal Property which is a decrease from the current mill rate.

The town conducted its mandatory revaluation of property for tax purposes – current taxes are based on a property's value in October, 2016. Since 2016, residential real estate values rose at a much higher level than commercial real estate values. As a result, although the town will collect the same amount of property tax revenue next year as in the current year, most homeowners will see a significant increase in taxes and most businesses will see a significant decrease. The town council will consider expanding the senior citizens' tax credit program. In addition, the state is considering lowering the motor vehicle mill rate to 29 mills and providing the town with the lost revenue. If passed, such action will substantially reduce the tax increase for many homeowners.

The following citizens came forward to speak:

Rachel Hernandez, 86 Williams Street, expressed concern over the quality of education in East Hartford and that more resources should be available for students. Ms. Hernandez feels that more money should be put towards staffing and support of special education programs throughout the town and not specifically to individual schools and requested that the Council hold the Superintendent more accountable for student performance and services. Ms. Hernandez requested more support of Hockanum Park, an East Hartford Housing Authority property, due to the poor conditions.

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 14th to vote on the proposed budget in Town Council Chambers, and reminded those in attendance that the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held in Hartford starting from the State Capitol building on Saturday, March 12 at 11 a.m.

Attest _____


Jason Marshall
Town Council Clerk