

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

March 15, 2022

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.

ALSO Mayor Michael Walsh
PRESENT Richard Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel (Via Teams)
Connor Martin, Chief of Staff
Paul O'Sullivan, Grants Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:36 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 joined him in the pledge of allegiance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **add** to the agenda under New Business item 8G- "Referral to Personnel and Pensions Committee: Compensation Plan for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees"

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Walsh (1) wished all a good evening. (2) thanked the Council for their engagement in the budget cycle. (3) Connecticut Department of Transportation has announced the permanent closures of both the Route 2 Eastbound Sutton Avenue Off-Ramp and the Route 2 Westbound Cambridge Drive On-Ramp (Exits 5B) starting March 13, 2022. (4) The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at McAuliffe Park, 30 Remington Road on Saturday, April 9th at 12:00pm. (5) East Hartford Youth Services is bringing back Prevention Idol after a two-year hiatus. Registration to participation will be open from March 11th to April 1st. (6) The Mayor's office has produced a School Traffic Concerns Survey that is available online. The Mayor is seeking input from the community with suggestions regarding possible solutions to help with safety. (7) The first edition of "Pulse of East Hartford" electronic newsletter is available on Social Media and via email.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 28, 2022 Budget Workshop

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Tom Rup
to **approve** the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Budget Workshop.

Motion carried 9/0.

March 1, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by John Morrison
to **approve** the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried 9/0.

March 2, 2022 Budget Workshop

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Travis Simpson
to **approve** the minutes of the March 2, 2022 Budget Workshop.

Motion carried 9/0.

March 5, 2022 Budget Workshop

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Tom Rup
to **approve** the minutes of the March 5, 2022 Budget Workshop.

Motion carried 9/0.

March 7, 2022 Budget Workshop

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by John Morrison
to **approve** the minutes of the March 7, 2022 Budget Workshop.

Motion carried 9/0.

March 9, 2022 Public Hearing

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Travis Simpson
to **approve** the minutes of the March 9, 2022 Public Hearing.

Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discontinuance of Congress Street as a Town Road

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
 seconded by Harry Amadasun
 to **approve**:

That the Town Council, having complied with the notice requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 13a-49 (a) (2), vote pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13a-49 to discontinue the road known as Congress Street, as shown on the attached map entitled "PLAN SHOWING ROADWAY DISCONTINUANCE OF CONGRESS STREET IN EAST HARTFORD CONNECTICUT APRIL 30, 2021, BSC GROUP, which map is filed in the East Hartford Town Clerk's Office, as a Town road, and authorize Chairman Richard Kehoe to provide the notices of discontinuance required under Connecticut General Statutes Section 13a-49 (a) (3), and to take all further steps necessary to effectuate such discontinuance.

Motion Carried 9/0

St. Isaac Jogues Lease- Parking Area: Council Action as Committee of the Whole

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Don Bell

to **approve** the draft lease with the North American Martyrs Parish effective April 1, 2022 through April 1, 2025 as provided to Town Council Chair Richard Kehoe in a memo dated March 4, 2022.

Motion Carried 9/0

2022 AARP Community Challenge Grant

Motion By Don Bell
 seconded by Angie Parkinson
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS; the AARP Community Challenge is offering "quick action" grants to make communities livable for people of all ages, and,

WHEREAS; these grants are available to create vibrant public places through solutions that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make application to, and execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all documents, contracts, and amendments as may be required by AARP as they pertain to this Community Challenge grant.

On call of the vote, the resolution carried 9/0.

Historic Document Preservation Grant

Motion By Don Bell
 seconded by Travis Simpson
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS; The Public Records Administration of the Connecticut State Library offers a non-competitive grant each year to the Town Clerk's Office and

WHEREAS the grant for the fiscal year of 2023, is in the amount of \$7,500.00 and

WHEREAS said grant supports the preservation of Historic Documents in the Town Clerk's Office,

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make application to, and execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all documents, contracts, and amendments as may be required by the Connecticut State Library Public Records Administrator as they pertain to this Historic Documents Preservation Program.

On call of the vote, the resolution carried 9/0.

Setting Public Hearing Date: Recommendation from Ordinance Committee re; Voting Districts

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by John Morrison

to set a public hearing date of April 5, 2022 @ 7:00pm in Town Council Chambers as well as via the Teams platform, to hear public comment on town voting district ordinance as recommended by the Ordinance Committee and authorize the Registrars of Voters or the Town Clerk to submit the voting district ordinance as amended by the March 9, 2022 ordinance or a map conforming to such ordinance to the Secretary of the State as required by the provisions of Title 9 of the CT General Statutes prior to final approval of the March 9, 2022 Ordinance.

Motion carried 9/0

Appointment to Boards and Commissions

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
seconded by Don Bell
to **approve** the following appointments:

Commission on Culture and Fine Arts (5-year Term)

D Lakisher K. Hurst 118 Oxford Drive 12/24

Motion Carried 9/0.

Referral to Personnel and Pensions Committee: Compensation Plan for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Tom Rup

to **refer** to the Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee the compensation plan for non-bargaining unit employees with instructions to review a compensation plan and report back to the full Council with its recommendations, if any.

Motion Carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Rup asked for an update on the Silver Lane Plaza development plans. *Pullman and Comley, LLC has been brought in to assist with engagement with the owners of the property. The goal is still to acquire the property by fall 2022.*

Councillor Tsegai requested attention provided to town parks as the weather warms and use increases. *The Mayor stated that the recently approved budget includes an allocation of funds for park upgrades and a plan will be shared with the Council in the coming weeks.*

Councillor Morrison expressed concern that the St. John's Church Soup Kitchen may be closing due to a lack of funds. *The Mayor stated that Paul O'Sullivan, Grant Administrator has incorporated the needed funds within the Community Development Block Grant to support the kitchen.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Don Bell

to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending workers' compensation claims of former Town employee, Kenneth Sullivan, for a total sum of \$80,000.00.

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** 8:18 p.m.
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair wished all a good evening and announced that the next regular meeting of the Town Council would be April 5, 2022.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK