Robert J. Crack

MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

2021 APR -5 A 9 06

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN CLERK EAST HARTFORD

MARCH 30, 2021

PRESENT

Rich Kehoe, Chair; Councillors Sebrina Wilson and Esther Clarke

Via "Teams"

ALSO Marcia

Marcia Leclerc, Mayor

PRESENT Via "Teams"

Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel Mary Mourey, Republican Registrar of Voters

Steve Watkins, Democratic Registrar of Voters

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 27, 2021

MOTION

By Sebrina Wilson

seconded by Esther Clarke

to approve the January 27, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion carried 3/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

OLD BUSINESS

<u>Italian and Native American Heritage Day: Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day</u> Ordinance

The Chair explained that at the Ordinance Committee's January 27th meeting, there was discussion on the draft of the ordinance and the interest by the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts to conduct programming for the recognition of the contributions of both immigrants as well as indigenous people to the community of East Hartford specifically, and the United States, more broadly. There was strong support overall for making this change to be reflective of the trends that we are seeing across Connecticut and, indeed, across the nation.

MOTION

By Sebrina Wilson

seconded by Esther Clarke

to **send** the January 31st draft of the Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day Ordinance to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date.

Motion carried 3/0.

COLUMBUS DAY/INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY ORDINANCE (January 31, 2021)

Sec 1. The Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding a new Section 1-16 as follows:

Notwithstanding any provision of town contracts or state or federal law, the Town of East Hartford shall recognize the second Monday in October as "Indigenous People's Day".

- Sec.2. Section 14-1 of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:
- (a) There is established the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts which shall consist of fifteen members appointed for a term of five years. Terms shall be staggered so that three members are appointed each year. On the effective date of this ordinance, the Commission members shall consist of the members of the Fine Arts Commission and the Library Commission who shall serve until their terms expire. Vacancies shall be filled once the membership of the commission is no more than 15 members.
- (b) The Commission shall promote and stimulate general interest among the citizens of the town in the fine arts and other cultural arts and the town libraries. On or about the second Monday in October, the Commission shall conduct ceremonies or recognition activities to further the public's understanding of the history and contributions of Indigenous People to the community of East Hartford and the United States. The Commission shall also further the recognition of the many groups that emigrated to the United States and their contributions to the town of East Hartford and the nation.
- (c) The Commission shall work with the Town Librarian to encourage the use of the Raymond Library and other town libraries for the display of fine arts and other cultural arts. The Commission may charge a fee for any activity that it conducts. Such revenue shall be credited to an account for use by the Commission on future projects or to offset expenses of such activity.

Section 2-3. Mayor's Salary

The Chair reviewed the history of the Mayor's salary with the Committee. About 15 years ago, the Town Council had substantially increased the Mayor's salary, which had been frozen for many years, and established a biennial review of the Mayor's salary in order to increase the salary to reflect any inflation over the past two years. The Council has consistently provided such an increase to ensure that the Mayor's salary, which was determined to be equitable and fair in 2007, would remain so in the current year. As a result, the January 31st draft of the Mayor's Salary ordinance: (1) increases the Mayor's salary, effective November 8, 2021, by \$1,800.00 to \$102,000 annually, which reflects a 1.7% increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2019; and (2) increases the Mayor's salary, effective November 1, 2022, by \$1,000.00 to \$103,000 annually, which reflects a 1% increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2020.

Esther Clarke expressed satisfaction with the current salary of \$100,221 and was not in favor of the January 31st draft which would increase the Mayor's salary consistent with the inflation rate for 2019 and 2020.

MOTION

By Sebrina Wilson seconded by Rich Kehoe

to **send** the January 31st draft of the Mayor's Salary Ordinance to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date. Motion carried 2/1. **Nay**: Clarke

MAYOR'S SALARY (January 31, 2021)

Section 2-3 of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

Beginning November 14, 2007, the Mayor's salary shall be \$78,723, which is a zero increase and beginning on November 14, 2008, the Mayor's salary shall be \$81,400 which is an increase of 3.4%, representing the increase in the consumer price index for 2005. Beginning November 11, 2014 and annually thereafter, the Mayor's salary shall increase by fifty percent of the increase in the consumer price index-all urban consumers for the preceding calendar year, provided that the Mayor's salary for November 11, 2013 shall be increased by fifty percent of the consumer price index-all urban consumers for the calendar years 2006 through 2012 inclusive. Effective November 2015, the Mayor's salary will be \$90,067 which is based on the increase in the 2013 consumer price index. Effective November 2016, the Mayor's salary will be \$91,688 which is based on the increase in the 2014 consumer price index. Effective November 13, 2017, the Mayor's salary shall be \$93,522 which is an increase of 2% and effective November 1, 2018, the Mayor's salary shall be \$95,392 which is an increase of 2%. Effective November 11, 2019, the Mayor's salary shall be \$97,777 which is an increase of 2.5% based on the increase in the 2017 Consumer Price Index. Beginning November 1, 2020, the Mayor's salary shall be \$100,221 which is an increase of 2.5% based on the Consumer Price index for 2018. Effective November 8, 2021, the Mayor's salary shall be \$102,000 which is based on the 1.7% increase in the Consumer Price Index for 2019. Effective November 1, 2022, the Mayor's salary shall be \$103,000 which is based on the 1% increase in the Consumer Price Index for 2020.

Esther Clarke indicated she would abstain from discussion on the following agenda item.

Section 2-3b. Registrars and Deputy Registrars of Voters Salaries

The Chair explained that the salary increase for the Registrars of Voters would be from the current salary of \$27,000 annually to \$28,000 annually effective January 1, 2022 and the Deputy Registrars' salaries will increase from the current salary of \$9,000 to \$10,000 effective January 1, 2022. The ordinance provides for a change that no longer requires the Registrar of Voters office be opened to the public no less than 24 hours a week, but rather to have the Registrars of Voters work no less than 24 hours a week. The Chair noted that the vast majority of voter registrations occur online or through the Department of Motor Vehicles and as such there is less foot traffic in Town Hall requiring extended periods of time for the Registrars' office to actually be opened to the public. Nonetheless, the work of the Registrars of Voters office in handling the new registrations, updating the registrations, change of address forms, etc., still requires a substantial amount of work and verification. As such, the 24 hour a week requirement for the Registrars to be working is consistent with what would be necessary to keep up with all the changes in the registrations.

MOTION

By Sebrina Wilson seconded by Rich Kehoe to **send** the January 31st draft of the Salaries of Registrars and Deputy Registrars of Voters Ordinance to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date.

Motion carried 2/0. **Abstain:** Clarke

SALARIES OF REGISTRARS AND DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF VOTERS (January 31, 2021)

Section 2-3b of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

Beginning [on January 1, 2020, the salary for each registrar of voters shall be \$26,000 and the salary for each of the deputy registrar of voters shall be \$9,000 and beginning] January 1, 2021 the salary for each registrar of voters shall be \$27,000 and the deputy registrar of voters shall be \$9,000 and beginning January 1, 2022, the salary for each registrar of voters shall be \$28,000 and the salary for the deputy registrars of voters shall be \$10,000 provided: (1) the registrar of voters [office] shall [be open to the public] work no less than twenty-four hours per week; (2) the registrar of voters and deputy registrar of voters shall conduct no less than four voter outreach session in locations outside of town hall annually; (3) the registrars of voters and deputy registrars of voters shall take state mandated training for such offices; (4) the registrar of voters and the deputy registrar of voters shall comply with all state election law requirements; and (5) the registrars of voters shall provide an annual written report to the mayor and town council within two months after each election which shall consist of an overview of the office's activities for the year, an appraisal of the conduct of voting process for the previous election including any primary or special elections and recommendations for improving the election process. The Town Council may reduce the salary of a registrar of voters or a deputy registrar of voters if it determines that such person violated any provision of this section.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

By Esther Clarke seconded by Sebrina Wilson to **adjourn** (6:01 p.m.) Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Mayor Leclerc

Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel Mary Mourey, Republican Registrar of Voters Steve Watkins, Democratic Registrar of Voters