

*Robert J. Park*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL 2020 APR 13 A 8:52

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

APRIL 7, 2020

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., and Councillor John Morrison

VIA

TELEPHONE Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, and Patricia Harmon

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Due to Governor Lamont's Executive Order regarding the closure of Town Hall to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic, it was not necessary for the Chair to announce the exit locations. He did lead the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

As a matter of record and in accordance with the latest social distancing and 5-person rule, the Chair stated the physical presence of himself, Mayor Leclerc, Don Bell, John Morrison and the Council Clerk in the Chamber. The remainder of the Council joined the meeting via telephone, plus any member of the public could call in as well.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mike Walsh, 79 Fitzgerald Drive, (1) extended well wishes to all in these difficult times; (2) offered his condolences to Vice Chair Don Bell on the recent death of his uncle; and (3) believes that Town Hall employees should be 'teleworking' in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Mayor Leclerc thanked Mr. Walsh for his comments but explained that there were issues that he was not aware of. The Mayor said that the Governor's executive order contained suggestions – not laws – for handling social distancing, protective equipment, etc. She stated that some employees did utilize the emergency FMLA due to their physician's suggestion. Also, 40 laptops were borrowed from the East Hartford Board of Education and given to Directors and some employees, whose job duties could be performed remotely. She went on to explain that the town does not have the equipment to work remotely and that most employees' job functions cannot be processed from home. The Mayor also announced that she has initiated a freeze on hiring, overtime and spending and is tracking expenses to submit to FEMA for reimbursement. The Tax Deferment Plan, which is on tonight's agenda, has been vetted through the Corporation Counsel and the Finance Department and will provide eligible East Hartford taxpayers with a 90-day deferment to pay their property taxes due July 1<sup>st</sup>, without interest or penalty.

Additionally, Mayor Leclerc announced (1) the Bakery on Main is starting a community garden on the Kilty Farm property; (2) Showcase Cinema site is progressing and an RFQ



WHEREAS the Connecticut State Library has made funds available through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS the LSTA promotes access to information resources provided by all types of libraries throughout Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, 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 as they pertain to this Library Services and Technology Act grant.

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

~~Setting an Inspection Fee for Salons Acting as the Committee of the Whole re: Fees Committee~~

Referral to the Fees Committee: Inspection Fee for Salons

MOTION        By Connor Martin  
                         seconded by Sebrina Wilson  
                         to **refer** to the Fees Committee a review of the fee charged by the town's Health Department for the inspection of all hairdressing, cosmetology, barbers, nail technicians and esthetician businesses as set forth in Public Act 19-117, with instructions to investigate the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.  
                         Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to Tax Policy Committee re: Subsequent Tax Lien Assignments

MOTION        By Angie Parkinson  
                         seconded by Don Bell  
                         to **refer** to the Tax Policy Committee the 59 properties where prior year tax liens have sold and now the subsequent liens need to be assigned to existing lien holders totaling \$450,749.09 as listed and attached to a memorandum dated March 27, 2020 from Linda M. Trzetzak, Director of Finance to Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor with instructions to review the proposed assignments and to report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.  
                         Motion carried 9/0.

Referral to Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: 1177 Burnside Avenue

MOTION        By Angie Parkinson  
                         seconded by John Morrison  
                         to **refer** to the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee the possible acquisition of 1177 Burnside Avenue as referenced in a letter to Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc received in her office on March 23, 2020 from the owners' representative Liane Lombardi.  
                         Motion carried 9/0.

### East Hartford's Back to School Rally

MOTION      By Awet Tsegai  
                 seconded by Sebrina Wilson  
                 to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit entitled "East Hartford's  
Back to School Rally" as submitted by Cephus Nolen, Jr., Director,  
Youth Services to conduct a back to school rally on Thursday, August 20,  
2020 from 3PM to 6PM at the Town Green and Gazebo with food and  
backpack giveaways, and music from 3PM to 5PM; subject to compliance  
with adopted codes and regulations of the State of Connecticut, the Town  
of East Hartford, and any other stipulations required by the Town of East  
Hartford or its agencies.  
Motion carried 9/0.

### Appointments to Boards & Commissions

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                 seconded by John Morrison  
                 to **approve** the following appointments and reappointments:

- To the Historic District Commission  
                 Jeffrey W. Cummings, 641 Hills Street; term to expire December 2023
- To the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities  
                 Arthur W. Parker, 13 Mercer Avenue; term to expire December 2021  
                 Bernard A. Corona, 27 Winding Lane; term to expire December 2021
- To the Veterans Commission  
                 James Shelmerdine, 745 Tolland St; term to expire December 2021
- To the Commission on Aging  
                 Maria Elena Potvin, 38 Matthew Road; term to expire December 2022
- To the Economic Development Commission  
                 Anita Morrison, 34 Jonathan Lane; term to expire December 2020

Motion carried 9/0.

### Refund of Taxes

MOTION      By Connor Martin  
                 seconded by Don Bell  
                 to **refund** taxes in the amount of \$421,697.76  
                 pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.  
                 Motion carried 9/0.

Bill	Name	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Total	Int Paid	Over Paid
2018-03-0050561	AGUILAR MILAGROS	2009/ 5FNRL38499B011732			-310.94
2013-03-0050654	ALERIA FRANK J	2006/1FMYU94186KC74246		0	-68.10
2014-03-0050651	ALERIA FRANK J	2006/1FMYU94186KC74246		0	-68.79
2015-03-0050679	ALERIA FRANK J	2006/1FMYU94186KC74246		0	-55.50
2016-03-0050728	ALERIA FRANK J	2006/1FMYU94186KC74246		0	-48.00
2016-09-0050728	ALERIA FRANK J	2006/1FMYU94186KC74246		0	-10.50
2017-03-0050777	ALERIA FRANK J	2006/1FMYU94186KC74246		0	-67.50
2018-03-0050727	ALERIA FRANK J	2006/1FMYU94186KC74246		0	-67.50
2017-03-0053741	BLACK OLAYINKA A	2012/1VWBP7A3XCC044352		-49.67	-301.05
2018-01-0009480	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS	1905 MAIN ST		0	-2,275.51
2016-01-0008576	CP PLAZA HOLDINGS	940 SILVER LN		0	-64,155.63
2017-01-0008576	CP PLAZA HOLDINGS	940 SILVER LN		0	-185,138.14
2018-03-0064759	GRAVESANDE LYNETTE	2013/5TDBK3EH3DS188891		0	-267.30
2018-03-0066045	HERNANDEZ WANDA	2007/JTHCK262075015069		0	-56.11
2018-03-0066498	HOLMES LUZ I	2016/3N1CE2CP2GL354251		-20.86	-278.10
2017-01-0006787	IDAHO HOUSING LLC C/O LERETA LLC	52 BRANDON RD		0	-2,549.34
2018-03-0067498	JACKSON EBONY S	2010/2HNYB1H40AH000467		0	-392.85
2018-01-0007398	JONES ARTHUR W IV	193 OCONNELL DR		0	-2,183.19
2018-03-0070812	LISBOA DAIAN	2014/ JH4CU2F85EC004236			-71.21
2016-03-0071656	LOVE DANIELLE M	2011/JN8AS1MW5BM140581		0	-243.84
2018-01-0015485	MANAHAN KIMMARIE	41 WHITNEY ST		0	-2,071.95
2017-04-0085666	MORENO ERNESTO E	2010/1HGCS1B76AA019317		-4.98	-161.10
2018-03-0074277	MORENO ERNESTO E	2010/1HGCS1B76AA019317		-11.56	-256.95
2017-03-0075543	NAZARIO ELIZABETH	2015/5NPE24AF5FH042640		-18.79	-417.60
2018-03-0074927	NAZARIO ELIZABETH	2015/5NPE24AF5FH042640		0	-388.35
2018-01-0010520	NEZNAYKO ROGER D & BARBARA ANN	67 BATES DR		0	-143.41
2016-03-0075834	NIEVES JACKELINE	2007/3N1AB61E17L722010		0	-12.92
2018-03-0075445	NISSAN INFINITI LT- TAX OPERATIONS	2016/JN8AT2MV4GW151383		0	-491.89
2018-03-0075455	NISSAN INFINITI LT- TAX OPERATIONS	2016/5N1AZ2MH7GN127973		0	-622.72
2018-03-0075475	NISSAN INFINITI LT- TAX OPERATIONS	2017/3N1AB7AP1HY347666		0	-73.00
2018-03-0076653	OUK SOPHA & RITTY C	2017/4S4BSACC1H3302434		0	-5.57

2018-04-0086377	OUK SOPHA & RITTY C	2006/JF1SG63676H745769	0	-2.40
2018-01-0010961	OUK SOPHA & RITTY C	33 BERKELEY LN	0	-46.87
2018-02-0041417	ROGO DISTRIBUTORS	65 OLDE ROBERTS ST/PPR03010	0	-27,864.28
2017-03-0081025	ROBINSON AISHA V	2013/JTDKN3DU0D1679907	0	-113.19
2018-03-0089634	SPECIALTY PACKAGING SUPER SAVER	2003/1GTHG35U031131083	0	-185.85
2018-02-0040257	LAUNDROMAT	1210 MAIN ST/PPP04060	0	-348.24
2018-03-0087614	VW CREDIT INC	2018/WA1BNAFY9J2171178	0	-1,082.93
2018-03-0087618	VW CREDIT INC	2018/WA1ANAFY5J2074071	0	-1,004.99
2018-03-0087620	VW CREDIT INC	2018/WA1ANAFY2J2042887	0	-1,004.99
2018-03-0087626	VW CREDIT INC	2018/WAUENAF44JA167302	0	-982.84
2018-03-0087627	VW CREDIT INC	2018/WAUENAF41JN003434	0	-982.84
2018-03-0087633	VW CREDIT INC	2018/WA1JCCFS8JR030893	0	-879.8
2018-03-0087635	VW CREDIT INC	2018/WA1ANAFY6J2018933	0	-1,004.99
2018-01-0011791	UTC-PRATT & WHITNEY	1 PENT RD	0	-122,382.12
2018-03-0088571	WILLIAMS LENWORTH	2014/1N4AA5AP4EC437893	0	-451.01
		SUBTOTAL	-105.86	-421591.9
		TOTAL		\$ (421,697.76)

Selection of Tax Deferment Program as Required by Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7S, Issued April 1, 2020

MOTION By Connor Martin  
seconded by Don Bell  
to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order 7S on April 1, 2020 (the "Executive Order"); and

**WHEREAS** paragraph 6 of the Executive Order, requires the East Hartford Town Council (the "Town Council") to select at least one of two programs designed to provide support to those who have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 crisis; and

**WHEREAS** such programs are described in the Executive Order as the Deferment Program and the Low Interest Rate Program; and

**WHEREAS** after review of such programs, the ability of the Town to implement such programs, and with the goal of meeting the desired result of relief for taxpayers whose ability to pay taxes has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Council has determined that the most beneficial program to implement is the Deferment Program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Town of East Hartford shall participate in the Deferment Program as set forth in paragraph 6a. of the Executive Order; and

2. The Deferment Program shall be open to taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents who attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with eligibility based upon guidance issued by the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Connecticut as applied by the Town of East Hartford's Finance Department and Tax Collector's Office; and
3. The Mayor be asked to notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management of the Town Council's decision to select the Deferment Program prior to April 25, 2020.

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

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

John Morrison inquired on the condition of the East Hartford Police Officer who was recently stabbed while responding to a call. *Mayor Leclerc said that the officer was recovering. However, the Mayor reminded all that increases in domestic disturbances and disorderly conduct may increase as we continue to practice social distancing.*

Esther Clarke asked what the town was doing to enforce social distancing. *The Mayor said that the suggestions from the Governor are suggestions only and not enforceable by the police. There are no fines associated with social distancing. However, the police are disbursing groups of people when they come across them during their work shift. Mayor Leclerc reiterated that suggestions are not enforceable in a private residence.*

#### COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mike Walsh, 79 Fitzgerald Drive, reiterated his stance on the safety of Town Hall employees and urged the Mayor to allow employees to work from home.

Vice Chair Don Bell paid tribute to his uncle, LeRoy Wilson, who recently died from complications due to the coronavirus. Mr. Wilson had a profound effect on Don's life, paving the way for the Vice Chair to become involved in community service. While his family will miss him, Mr. Wilson's gentle demeanor and strong sense of right and wrong will continue to live through Don.

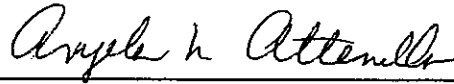
Gary Zalucki, CSEA Local 2001 President, is concerned about the safety of the members of his union as well as the entire staff in Town Hall due to the possible exposure of the coronavirus. He believes that employees should be given the opportunity to work from home and to apply their accumulated sick time toward their weekly salary.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                 seconded by Don Bell  
                 to **adjourn** (8:40p.m.).  
                 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be April 21<sup>st</sup> and probably teleconferenced as was done this evening.

Attest



Angela M. Attenello  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK