

*Robert J. Back*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2019 APR 22 A 8: 36

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

APRIL 16, 2019

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

ABSENT Councillors Joseph R. Carlson and Shelby J. Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:35 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.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to amend the agenda as follows:

Under New Business, **delete** items:

- 8. F. 3. entitled "Riverfront Summer Pops",
- 8. F. 4. entitled "Riverfront Fireworks"
- 8. F. 5. entitled "Head of the Riverfront Regatta" and

Under New Business, **add** item:

- 8. H. Setting a Public Hearing Date re: 53 Main Street

Motion carried 7/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Reed Berube, 35 Naomi Drive, asked that the town be responsible for leaf pickup in the right-of-way that runs along the right side of 670 Forbes Street – owned by the DePietro family – and goes back about 300'. Mr. Berube believes this is a way for the town to show their appreciation for the land the DePietro family deeded to the town.

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) believes that there should be a "zero" percent increase for elected officials' salaries since any increase would set a precedent for union employees; (2) suggested that the Town Council's Investigation and Audit Committee audit Center School; and (3) will be sending another FOIA request regarding Boards and Commissions.

Since the Mayor was unavailable to attend tonight's meeting, Chair Kehoe announced the following: (1) the Mayor's Clean-up Day is Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> along Burnside Avenue and

into Mayberry Village; (2) lunch with the Mayor will be held on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the Welling Conference Room in Town Hall; (3) all town offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>; curbside trash pickup and recycling normally scheduled for Friday will be picked up on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>; (4) the Silver Lane Advisory Committee will host a public forum on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at Town Hall; and (5) the deadline to submit nominations for the Service to Youth Award is Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### April 2, 2019 Executive Session

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Pat Harmon  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Executive Session.  
                     Motion carried 7/0.

### April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Linda Russo  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.  
                     Motion carried 7/0.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### Arbor Day Recognition – Silver Lane School

Chair Kehoe announced that Silver Lane School will host an Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. All are invited to attend.

### Veterans Commission – Flag Retirement Boxes

John Cook, Chair of the Veterans Commission, and Awet Tsegaj, Vice Chair of the Veterans Commission, introduced the Council to the flag retirement box that is used for the removal of worn flags. The boxes will be in three locations: the East Hartford Police Department, Raymond Library and Town Hall (1<sup>st</sup> floor “Veterans Corner”). The Boy Scouts are assisting the Veterans Commission with the removal of the flags in the appropriate manner as outlined in the U.S. Flag Code.

Additionally, Mr. Cook addressed the Council on the upcoming events planned for Memorial Day: (1) Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Hillside Cemetery: a brief ceremony @ 8AM where there is the placing of a wreath at the flagpole; (2) Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – an evening at East Hartford High School: patriotic music, refreshments; and (3) Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> – Bicentennial Park @ 6PM will be the Honor Roll Call of the Fallen.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Recommendation from Ordinance Committee re: Revisions to Chapter 2 of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances

#### Section 2-3 Mayor's Salary, Section 2-5 Vacation

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Esther Clarke  
                 to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by repealing Sections 2-3 and 2-5 and to substitute in lieu thereof the revised March 18, 2019 draft, entitled "Mayor's Salary and Vacation" ordinance which was unanimously approved by the Ordinance committee at their March 18, 2019 meeting.  
                 Motion carried 7/0.

#### Section 2-3b Registrars of Voters Salary

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
                 to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by revising Section 2-3b entitled "Registrars of Voters Salary", consistent with the draft dated March 18, 2019, as unanimously approved by the Ordinance committee at their March 18, 2019 meeting.  
                 Motion carried 6/0. **Abstain:** Clarke

#### Appointment of Town Auditor for FY 2018-2019

MOTION      By Ram Aberasturia  
                 seconded by Esther Clarke  
                 to **approve** the hiring of Blum Shapiro to provide auditing services for the Town of East Hartford for FY ending June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$72,400, as presented at the February 20, 2018 Investigation and Audit Committee meeting.  
                 Motion carried 7/0.

#### Connecticut State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis – Community Mini Grant

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Marc Weinberg  
                 to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council has announced the Connecticut State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis - Community Mini Grant opportunity; and

**WHEREAS** overall, opioid-related deaths in Connecticut have grown at 4 times the rate of the national average; and

**WHEREAS** there has been a steady increase in total overdose deaths among Connecticut residents from 357 deaths in 2012 to 1,040 deaths in 2017.

**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 Capital Area Substance Abuse Council as they pertain to this Connecticut State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis - Community Mini Grant opportunity.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0.

#### Municipal Tax-exempt Lease Purchase Financing Agreement

**MOTION** By Linda Russo  
seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
to **adopt** the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A MUNICIPAL TAX-EXEMPT LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Hartford approved the purchase of various capital equipment including renovations to the Wickham Library, a Public Safety enclosure to store equipment, Information Technology servers and software, two riding mowers, one backhoe, three Fire Department light duty vehicles, and Town Hall carpeting as part of the Town of East Hartford's Approved 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the fiscal years 2019-20 through 2023-24; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the various capital equipment designated for lease-purchase financing totals \$1,259,768; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town will budget \$350,000 in fiscal years 2020-21 through 2023-24 in the General Operating Fund to pay principal and interest on the purchases.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor of the Town of East Hartford is authorized to enter into a master lease purchase agreement and related documents with TD Equipment Finance, Inc. or their affiliates in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,259,768. The interest rate, payment schedule and other details of the financing shall be mutually determined between the company and the Mayor, whose signatures will indicate approval of specific terms and conditions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town declares its intent to be reimbursed for any temporary advances from the General Fund to pay for any part of the equipment from proceeds of the lease financing in accordance with Treasury Regulation 26 CFR 1.103-18 and/or 26CFR1.150-2.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0.

#### Silver Lane School: Roof Replacement Project

**MOTION** By Marc Weinberg  
seconded by Caroline Torres  
to **adopt** the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION TO ADD A PROJECT TO THE TOWN'S 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, TO AUTHORIZE AN APPROPRIATION, TO AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION, TO SEND THE PROJECT TO THE PUBLIC BUILDING COMMITTEE, AND TO FUND THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE PROJECT COST**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Hartford Board of Education has identified that a roof replacement project at the "Main Building" at Silver Lane School is a priority of the school district and qualified for State School Construction reimbursement; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the roof replacement including design and construction is anticipated to total \$166,934 with the State reimbursing 76.43% or \$127,588 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% or approximately \$47,000 which includes an amount for unforeseen ineligible costs.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the following items:

1. The addition by resolution to the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the Silver Lane School Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$166,934,
2. The appropriation of \$166,934 to fund the Silver Lane School Roof Replacement Project,
3. The authorization of the East Hartford Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Silver Lane School Roof Replacement Project,
4. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the Silver Lane School Roof Replacement Project,
5. That the East Hartford Board of Education has budgeted the local share for this project in the Board's FY 20 budget,
6. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Silver Lane School Roof Replacement Project.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0.

#### East Hartford Parks & Recreation Car Show

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application, entitled "East Hartford Parks & Recreation Car Show", submitted by Sharon O'Neil, its Recreation Supervisor, to conduct a car show for viewing with awards and musical entertainment at Sunset Ridge School, 450 Forbes Street, on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to approx. 5PM – music from 1PM to 5PM – with a rain date of Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> utilizing the same times for the car show and music; 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 7/0.

#### Girl Scouts of Connecticut – Bridge Over Connecticut

**MOTION** By Linda Russo  
seconded by Pat Harmon  
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Girl Scouts of Connecticut – Bridge Over Connecticut" submitted by Karen Sheehan, Event Coordinator, for the Girl Scouts of Connecticut to conduct a bridge walk to celebrate all girls bridging to the next level of Girl Scouts, on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 3PM at the Founders Bridge Walkway near East River Drive;

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 7/0.

Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions

MOTION By Esther Clarke  
seconded by Caroline Torres  
to **approve** the following appointments and reappointments:

Name	Address	Term Expires
<b>Commission on Aging</b>		
Anita Morrison	34 Jonathan Lane	December 2019
Priscilla Lancaster	151 Oxford Drive	December 2019
<b>Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities</b>		
Art Parker	139 Mercer Avenue	December 2019
<b>Inland/Wetlands Environmental Commission</b>		
Stephen Roczynski	25 Cree Road	December 2022
<b>Veterans Commission</b>		
Richard Bates	103 Timber Trail	December 2019

Motion carried 7/0.

Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions

MOTION By Marc Weinberg  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **approve** the following appointments and reappointments:

Name	Address	Term Expires
<b>Commission on Culture and Fine Arts</b>		
Elizabeth Russell	118 Oak Street	December 2023
<b>Economic Development Commission</b>		
Joelle Murchison	230 Timber Trail	December 2019
<b>Veterans Commission</b>		
Awet Tsegai	19 Home Terrace	December 2019
John Cook	329 Long Hill Street	December 2019
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>		
Connor Martin	86 Ensign Street	December 2023
Fady El-Hachem, Alternate	65 Sedgwick Rd	December 2023

Motion carried 7/0.

Setting a Public Hearing Date re: Sale of 53 Main Street

MOTION      By Ram Aberasturia  
                  seconded by Linda Russo  
                  that the East Hartford Town Council, in accordance with §7-163e of the  
                  Connecticut General Statutes, **set** a public hearing date of Tuesday,  
                  May 7, 2019 @ 7:15 p.m. in Council Chambers to hear public comment on  
                  the possible sale of 53 Main Street.  
                  Motion carried 7/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

None

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Peter Caro v Town of East Hartford

MOTION      By Ram Aberasturia  
                  seconded by Marc Weinberg  
                  to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and  
                  finally settle the pending Superior Court action known as Peter Caro  
                  vs Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV-17-6083957-S, for a  
                  total sum of \$36,000.00.  
                  Motion carried 7/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Caroline Torres noticed that potholes on Governor Street, and throughout town, have recently been patched and wished to thank the staff of the Public Works department for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                  seconded by Linda Russo  
                  to **adjourn** (8:58 p.m.).  
                  Motion carried 7/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Attest Angela M. Attenello  
                  Angela M. Attenello  
                  TOWN COUNCIL CLERK