

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER AUDITORIUM

April 16, 2024

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Don Bell, Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councilors Angie Parkinson, Travis Simpson, Thomas Rup, Awet Tsegai and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

ABSENT

ALSO Mayor Connor S. Martin
PRESENT Melissa McCaw, Chief Administrative Officer and Finance Director
Laurence Burnsed, Director of Health and Human Services
Robert Fitzgerald, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Steve Hnatuk, Assistant Director of Development (via Teams)
Paul O'Sullivan, Grants Manager (via Teams)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. 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

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Daniel Moura, President of the Holy Ghost Portuguese Society, spoke in support of approval of the Amusement Permit requests brought to the Council by his organization. He noted that a new administration has taken over the Society and is working to be more collaborative with the town and the neighborhood. The Society will be taking many steps to ensure that the two amusements will be conducted in a way that is respectful of the neighboring community.

Holly Reed, 93 Michael Avenue, expressed concern over the safety of children with regards to the at-grade crossing located between Veteran's Terrace and McAuliffe Park. Mayor Martin explained that the crossing is being built to safety specifications by the railroad company and has been approved by the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

JoAnn Bittner, 23 Rowland Drive, resides in a home abutting the property owned by the Holy Ghost Society. The resident is concerned that the Society's social activities and proposed amusements are detrimental to the solitude of the neighborhood. The resident requested that the organization provide to the neighboring property owners information regarding upcoming events and developments more proactively.

Sandy Ferrante, 15 Rowland Drive, voiced concern over the noise from the Holy Ghost Society's construction vehicles that are being used to restore portions of the property per a town cease and desist order as a result of the previous Society administration creating a race track on the property without permits.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 2, 2024 Executive Session

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by John Morrison

to **approve** the minutes of the April 2, 2024 Executive Session

Motion carried 9/0

April 2, 2024 Public Hearing

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Travis Simpson

to **approve** the minutes of the April 2, 2024 Public Hearing

Motion carried 9/0

April 2, 2024 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Tom Rup

to **approve** the minutes of the April 2, 2024 Public Hearing

Motion carried 9/0

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Agreement with Connecticut Department of Agriculture re: 2024 Certified CT Grown Farmers' Market

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Don Bell

to **allow** Health and Social Services Director Laurence Burned to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) that permits the Town of East Hartford to serve as a “2024 Certified CT Grown” Farmers’ Market as detailed in a memo from Mayor Connor S. Martin to Town Council Chair Richard F. Kehoe on April 10, 2024.

Agreement Between the Town of East Hartford and CT Department of Agriculture re: Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors

Motion carried 9/0

Director Melissa McCaw and attached to a memorandum dated March 25, 2024 from Finance Director Melissa McCaw to Mayor Connor S. Martin subject to the following four conditions:

1. The Collector of Revenue shall notify the record owner of each property subject to a lien that is to be included in the tax lien sale, by certified mail, that the lien is being included in the request for proposal and invitation to bid, and that the owner should contact the Town immediately to pay the taxes or seek a payment plan if they wish to keep the Town's tax liens on their property from being sold;
2. In order to qualify for a payment plan, the property owner must meet the following three criteria:
 - They must remit 25% of the outstanding amount due
 - They cannot have defaulted on a prior payment arrangement
 - Their property must not have active property code violations;
3. The letters from the Collector of Revenue to each property owner shall notify the property owner that the purchaser of the tax lien on their property shall have the right to foreclose on that property; and
4. The Administration shall return to the Town Council with the results of the request for proposal and that the proposal for each tax lien must be approved by the Town Council before it is sold.

Motion carried 9/0

Referral to Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee re: Proposed Revision to Job Description of Master Mechanic (Fire Department)

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Tom Rup

to refer to the Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee the Proposed Revision to Job Description for the position of Master Mechanic in the Fire Department as provided in a memo from Mayor Connor S. Martin to Rich Kehoe, Town Council Chair dated April 10, 2024 with instructions to review the position and report back to the full Council with its recommendations, if any.

Motion carried 9/0

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

MOTION By John Morrison
seconded by Don Bell

to **approve** the appointment to Robin A. Carlough, 150 Naubuc Ave, to the Historic District Commission, term to expire December 2027.

Motion carried 9/0

Holy Ghost Portuguese Society – Annual Car Gathering

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “Holy Ghost Portuguese Society – Annual Car Gathering” as submitted by Mack Hawkins, Chief of Police, scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm with a rain date of Saturday April 27, 2024 at the same time on their premises at 341 R Forest Street, 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.

to **amend** the motion on the table by adding the following stipulation after “agencies” as follows: “and representations made to the Town as part of the application process.”

On call of the vote, the motion as amended carried 9/0

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “Holy Ghost Portuguese Society Annual Holy Ghost Feast” as submitted by Mack Hawkins, Chief of Police, to conduct a religious celebration on Friday, May 24, 2024 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm, Saturday, May 25, 2024 from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm and Sunday, May 26, 2024 from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm and Monday, May 27, 2024 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on their premises located at 341 R Forest Street, with food and liquor served, and music on Saturday May 25 and Sunday May 26th, and a small procession on the premises, 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 and representations made to the Town as part of the application process.

Request for Bid Waiver re: Town Hall Enhancements

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to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS, during October of 2022, this Council authorized the Town Hall Mechanical Engineering, Plumbing, and Renovations project (the “Project”) to modernize the East Hartford Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Project is nearing substantial completion; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2024, this Council authorized the transfers of ARPA funds for certain additional listed Town Hall Improvements (“Improvements”); and

WHEREAS, in order to complete the Improvements in a manner that saves on costs as well as in order to avoid any disruption to Town Hall employees and Town citizens the Town desires to seek the following bid waivers for the Town Hall Improvements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby find the following bid waiver to be in the best interest of the Town and does approve the following items:

1. pursuant to Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council waive the bidding procedures required by Section 10-7(a) and further authorize the Town to enter into the following agreements:
 - a. A contract with ACOUSTICS., INC for Town Hall Vault door removal and replacement in an amount not to exceed \$10,888.91;
2. That Mayor, Connor S. Martin, is hereby authorized to make, execute and deliver all agreements, amendments, additional and supplemental documents, and to do and perform such acts and to take such actions as may be necessary or required for the consummation of the transactions provided for and contemplated by this Resolution.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Morrison requested an update on the Concourse Park project (936 Silver Lane). *The Mayor anticipates having an update shared with the Council by the end of April, which is the deadline currently in place for the Town to transfer the property over to Jasko Development.*

Councillor Bell asked if there have been any changes to the timeline for the planned refurbishing of the Town’s outdoor basketball courts due to recent rain. *Mayor Martin said that no significant delays have occurred and anticipates the project to be completed in the coming weeks.*

Councillor Simpson asked for an update on the demolition of McCartin School. *The Mayor stated that additional funding is required to complete the work as planned. A request for*

bonding support from CRDA is being created that will include demolition of the building as well as installation of infrastructure that would support future residential development.

Councillor Tsegai proposed new nets and fresh line striping to the basketball courts that are not a part of the ongoing project.

Councillor Bell asked for an update on the relocation of the remaining tenants of Silver Lane Plaza. *Four tenants are in those buildings and the Town has moved forward with the eviction process of each. A trial date has been set with one of the tenants and the remaining three are still to be scheduled. The goal is to mediate relocations without going to trial.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Don Bell

to **adjourn** (9:27 pm)

Motion carried

The Chair wished all a good evening and announced that the next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Tuesday May 7th.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK