

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER AUDITORIUM

April 18, 2023

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councilors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai (via Teams), Travis Simpson, Thomas Rup and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT Mayor Michael P. Walsh
Melissa McCaw, Finance Director (via Teams)
Connor Martin, Chief of Staff (via Teams)
Eileen Buckheit, Development Director
Kevin Munson, Fire Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:35 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

Mayor Walsh

- wished all a good evening
- Effective Monday, May 1, a portion of Brewer Street in East Hartford will be closed through November 2023. The closure is necessary to replace the bridge over Pewterpot Brook. The road will reopen prior to Thanksgiving.
- Sutton Avenue will be closed effective April 24 from 7 am - 4 pm due to construction on Route 2. The closure will affect foot and vehicular traffic and is expected to last for about a week.
- Japan Week festivities will begin on Friday April 21 at 4:30 pm with the dedication of two cherry trees at Wickham Library, 656 Burnside Avenue.
- The East Hartford Commission on Culture & Fine Arts presents Pianist Paul Bisaccia on Sunday, April 30th at 2 pm at First Congressional Church (837 Main Street)
- Community Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, April 29 from 10 am - 1 pm at Alumni Park (1021 Main Street). Registered volunteers who show interest to participate will partake in a variety of spring cleanup tasks including but not limited to park cleanup, mulching flower beds, weeding and painting.

WHEREAS, registered donors provide hope, strength and life, and all who wish to register to become a donor can do so through the Department of Motor Vehicles by sharing their wishes with family members, or by registering online with Life Choice Donor Services, a Donate Life Organization.

“Donate Life Month”

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application re: Smoke Alarms

to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS; the purpose of this program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards by assisting fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research and development.

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

pursuant to Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council **waive** the requirement to obtain three quotes under Section 10-7(a) of the Town of East Hartford Code of

Ordinances to ratify entry and further authorize the Town to enter into a contract with Outside Perspectives for facilitated outdoor challenge and youth leadership training and activities, that such waiver is in the best interest of the Town as it will allow East Hartford Works to more efficiently provide youth development and professional readiness skills to participants in the summer youth employment and learning program.

Motion 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 2024, is in the amount of \$8,000.00 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.

Motion carried 9/0

Recommendation from Ordinance Committee re: Reserve Fund Requirements Ordinance

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Tom Rup

to amend the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by repealing Subsection (b) of section 10-52 of the East Hartford Town Ordinances, "Retiree Benefit Trust Fund" and substituting in lieu thereof language that is consistent with the draft dated March 27, 2023 which was approved at the March 27, 2023 Ordinance Committee meeting.

Motion carried 9/0

Recommendation from Tax Policy Committee re: Tax Stabilization Agreement for 1-36 Jaidee Drive

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
 seconded by Travis Simpson

to **authorize** Mayor Michael P. Walsh to enter into a fifteen year Tax Assessment Agreement with Jaidee Drive Association Limited Partnership, that fixes the tax payment of the property located at 1-36 Jaidee Drive aka "Easton Place" at \$83,689 per year, beginning with the Grand List of October 1, 2023 in accordance with the terms set forth in the attached Tax Stabilization Agreement as provided to the Town Council as approved by the Tax Policy Committee at its April 17, 2023 meeting.

Motion carried 9/0

A copy of the agreement follows these minutes.

Recommendations from Fees Committee re: Fire and Building Inspection Permit Fees

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
seconded by Travis Simpson

to approve the revised Fire Marshal Fees Schedule as follows effective April 19, 2023:

1. Projects without fire protection system (s) review:
\$20 for 1st \$1,000 of construction with an additional fee of \$13 per \$1,000 of estimated costs.
2. Projects with fire protection feature system (s) requiring review:
\$20 for 1st \$1,000 of construction with an additional fee of \$15 per \$1,000 estimated costs.
3. Projects with fire protection system (s) requiring review accompanied by a certification of a fire protection engineer (or equivalent as determined by the Fire Marshal) that the proposed plan meets the minimum requirements of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code:
\$20 for 1st \$1,000 of construction with an additional fee of \$13 per \$1,000 of estimated costs.

Motion carried 9/0

Referral to Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee re: Job Description and Compensation Plan for Assistant Collector of Revenue

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Tom Rup

to **refer** to the Personnel & Pensions Subcommittee the proposed job description and compensation plan for the position of Assistant Collector of Revenue as provided in a memo from Mayor Michael P. Walsh to Richard Kehoe, Town Council Chair dated April 5, 2023 with instructions to review the position and report back to the full Council with its recommendations, if any.

Motion carried 9/0

Amusement Permit Application re: Lung Force Walk

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
 Seconded by Don Bell

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Lung Force Walk" as submitted by Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2023, rain or shine, to conduct a walk on the grounds of Great River Park, 301 E River Drive, with an opening ceremony at the Amphitheater 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

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Councilor Simpson asked if the Administration would consider participating in one of the class action lawsuits against Kia and Hyundai to recover costs related to the time and resources spent addressing the theft of such vehicles by the Police Department. *The mayor indicated that he would have Corporation Counsel review this.*

Councilor Tsegai asked if any RFP's have come back on proposed revisions to Veterans Memorial Clubhouse. *The Mayor stated while the Town has been granted \$4 million by the State to support the project, a bond question would be required to secure the necessary additional funds to move forward. A few vendors have engaged with the administration regarding the operation of the Clubhouse, but await the completion of the renovations. The Town Council will review such renovations as part of the upcoming discussion on bond questions for the November election.*

Councilor Tsegai also asked for an update on the Showcase Cinema site and its timing of groundbreaking. *Councilor Simpson shared that Jasko Development provided a presentation for the public at the April 12th Planning and Zoning meeting, but no action was taken by the Commission. Mayor Walsh confirmed that there is a deadline of September 30th for the developer to provide proof of project funding before fines start to occur. The Mayor feels confident there will be no issue and groundbreaking will begin soon after proof is provided.*

Councilor Wilson thanked the Mayor for the Police Department's theft deterrence efforts to address the Kia/Hyundai issue.

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Walsh summarized a document that was shared to the Council regarding two buildings located at Silver Lane Plaza. Administration is assessing whether the buildings should be left in place for future renovation or if they are fully demolished and welcomes thoughts of the Council on next steps.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** (8:39 pm)

Motion carried 9/0

The Chair wished all a good evening and announced that the next regular meeting of the Town Council would be on May 2, 2023.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK