

*Robert J. Bick*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2020 APR 27 A 10:29

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

APRIL 21, 2020

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Councillors Angela Parkinson and John Morrison

VIA

TELEPHONE Vice Chair Don Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader  
Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Awet Tsegai and Pat Harmon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:35 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, Angie Parkinson, 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

Mayor Leclerc (1) reported that last week was Telecommunicators Week and thanked them for their service during these difficult times; (2) commented on the cooperation and support of the East Hartford Police Department with the recent distribution of groceries by Foodshare at Rentschler Field; (3) reported the latest statistics of East Hartford residents that have been affected by the coronavirus: 575 residents tested, 274 have tested positive of which 51 are at Riverside Healthcare, 65 have been hospitalized and 30 deaths have been recorded; (4) thanks to Governor Lamont, testing for the coronavirus has been made available to East Hartford's first responders in New Haven; (5) encouraged the public to register for EH Alert which would bring the latest emergency information to residents electronically; (6) announced that the town's Economic Development Commission started the "East Hartford Eats" contest to encourage East Hartford residents to patronize local restaurants through take-out, curbside delivery or gift card purchases; (7) thanked the Council for their agreement to address the Tax Deferment plan again as it is an expanded version from the agreement passed at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting; and (8) during these troubling times the town's Youth Services Department has counseling available online. More information is available on the town's website.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### April 7, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION      By Sebrina Wilson  
                 seconded by Angie Parkinson  
                 to **approve** the minutes of the April 7, 2020 Regular Meeting.  
                 Motion carried 9/0.

## OLD BUSINESS

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

### Rescission of Motion from the April 7, 2020 Meeting

MOTION      By Sebrina Wilson  
                 seconded by Angie Parkinson  
                 to **rescind** the motion that passed at the April 7, 2020 Town Council meeting to adopt the Tax Deferment Program. (see resolution below)  
                 Motion carried 9/0:

**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.

### Expanded Tax Deferment Program

MOTION      By Sebrina Wilson  
                 seconded by John Morrison  
                 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. Eligibility for the Deferment Program shall be open and extended to all (a) taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents; and (b) landlords who comply with the provisions of paragraph 6.c. of the Executive Order; and
3. The Deferment Program shall not apply to Escrow Payments as set forth in paragraph 6.d. of the Executive Order: and
4. 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program**

**MOTION** By Don Bell  
seconded by Awet Tsegai  
to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has made grant funds available through Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program; and

**WHEREAS** this program will provide funding to assist eligible states, local units of government, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.

**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 DOJ as they pertain to this Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program grant.

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

### Body-worn Recording Equipment Grant

MOTION        By Awet Tsegai  
                  seconded by John Morrison  
                  to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** The State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is providing reimbursement grants to assist municipalities, local police departments and university police forces with the procurement and implementation of Body-Worn Recording Equipment (BWRE); and

**WHEREAS** Law enforcement agencies are using body-worn cameras in various ways: to improve evidence collection, to strengthen officer performance and accountability, to enhance agency transparency, to document encounters between police and the public, and to investigate and resolve complaints and officer-involved incidents.

**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 Office of Policy and Management as they pertain to this BWRE grant.

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

### Outdoor Amusement Permit Applications:

#### Gengras Spring Open House

MOTION        By Angie Parkinson  
                  seconded by John Morrison  
                  to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "The Gengras Spring Open House", submitted by Steve Bray, Events Coordinator for Gengras Motor Cars, Inc., to conduct an open house at 221 Governor Street with sales and vendor tents, music and free food, on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 5PM, with music from 11AM to 3PM; subject to compliance with adopted codes, regulations and executive orders 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.

### Pappy's Golf Tournament and Customer Appreciation Days

MOTION        By Angie Parkinson  
                  seconded by John Morrison  
                  to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Pappy's Golf Tournament and Customer Appreciation Days", submitted by Arthur Rancourt, Permittee, for Rancourt Enterprises, Inc., DBA: Pappy's Café, to conduct two Customer Appreciation Day cookouts on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> (the June 27<sup>th</sup> cookout will be preceded by the golf tournament) from 12PM to 8PM with food and liquor to be served both days at Pappy's Café on 37 Burnside Avenue; subject to compliance with

adopted codes, regulations and executive orders 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

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK


Chair Kehoe stated that while everyone acknowledges the difficulty in teleconferencing these meetings, it is still imperative that the Town Council carry on with the critical business issues that face the town. He, along with the rest of the Council, looks forward to the day "...when all of us can be together in one room."

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                  seconded by Don Bell  
                  to **adjourn** (8:15 p.m.).  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Attest

  
Angela M. Attenello  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK