

Robert J. Bask

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2018 MAY -7 A 9:07

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

MAY 1, 2018

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

ABSENT Councillor Joseph R. Carlson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) had questions regarding the School Readiness Grant – the Chair indicated that there will be a speaker later who will address the grant; and (2) believes that the reports of Town Council liaisons should be made available to the public by posting them to the town's website and by including them on a Council agenda.

Mayor Leclerc commented on (1) the Arbor Day celebration at Mayberry School was a success; (2) thanked the Protectors of Animals for their donations which resulted in a bullet-proof vest for Capo; (3) the transfer station will be opened every weekend in the month of May and the office also will be opened if citizens want to renew their bulky waste permit; (4) there will be a low-cost rabies clinic on Saturday, May 12th at Firehouse #1; (5) the newly formed Cultural and Fine Arts Commission is doing wonderfully – their programs are well attended; and (6) the Parks & Recreation Department is beginning their Spring/Summer programs and starting registration for summer camp.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 17, 2018 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Pat Harmon
to **approve** the minutes of the April 17, 2018 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 8/0.

April 25, 2018 Special Meeting

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Caroline Torres
to **approve** the minutes of the April 25, 2018 Special Meeting.
Motion carried 7/0. **Abstain:** Russo

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Presentation from Hooker and Holcombe re: Other Post-Employment Benefits

Mike Walsh, Finance Director, introduced Evan "Bill" Woollacott, Vice President, Consulting Actuary from Hooker & Holcombe, the firm that provided the town with the GASB valuation report as of July 2015. Mr. Woollacott led a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted 5 funds – two of which are trust funds; the pension trust fund and the other post-employment benefits trust fund (OPEB). While the town has implemented a funding policy for the pension trust, there isn't a consistent policy to fund the OPEB trust. Mr. Woollacott strongly recommended that the Council implement a funding policy for the OPEB. His current calculations for the long term liabilities assume a 4% rate of return of the assets held currently in the OPEB. That assumed rate could increase if a policy is established and additional funding is provided.

The Chair noted that the following item, under New Business, reflects the Town Council's intent to establish such a policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Referral to Ordinance Committee: Reserve Fund and Long-term Budget Principles

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Esther Clarke
 to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the issue of developing an ordinance regarding annual budget goals for long-term liabilities of the town including, but not limited to, reserves for active and retired employee health insurance, reserve for workers compensation and general liability, pensions and fund balance and report back to the council with its recommendations, if any.
 Motion carried 8/0.

2018-2019 School Readiness Grant

Jessica Carrero, Co-Chair, School Readiness Council, introduced Julie Giaccone, Early Childhood Education Coordinator for Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), who serves as the East Hartford School Readiness Council Liaison. This grant is an initiative from the Office of Early Childhood which provides families with affordable options within the community for pre-school – either public or private – for 3 and 4 year olds. By state statute, any municipality that receives this funding must convene a School Readiness Council (SRC). The SRC makes decisions for the best use of the funding based on their local needs. In December 2017 the town contracted with CREC to act as fiduciary for the grant. CREC assigned a liaison – Julie Giaccone – for East Hartford's SRC.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Department of Education is authorized to extend financial assistance, through the School Readiness Grant Program, to Priority Communities for the development of a network of school readiness programs that provide open access for children to quality programs that promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal schooling; and

WHEREAS the Town of East Hartford and East Hartford Public Schools desire to make and execute an application for funding in the amount of \$2,885,178 with the State of Connecticut to support School Readiness programs for East Hartford children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is hereby authorized to execute such application and, upon approval of said application, to enter into and execute a funding agreement and any amendments and other documents as may be required by the State of Connecticut for the School Readiness Program.

On call of the vote, motion carried 8/0.

Referral to Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: State-owned Property near the Burnside Avenue "S" Curve, a.k.a. 365-369 and 375-379 Burnside Avenue

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **refer** to the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee the town's possible acquisition of state-owned land at the "S" curve on Burnside Avenue, as referenced on the town's GIS as Map 25, Lot 154 – 365-369 Burnside Avenue and Map 25, Lot 153 – 375-379 Burnside Avenue with instructions to investigate the matter and report back to the Town Council with its recommendation if any.
Motion carried 8/0.

Outdoor Amusement Permit Applications:

World Vision Global 6K for Water

MOTION By Shelby Brown
seconded by Linda Russo
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "World Vision Global 6K for Water" submitted by Michael Bassett, Warehouse Manager for World Vision, Inc., to conduct a walk to raise funds for World Vision's clean water programs on Saturday, May 19th from 8AM to 12PM at McAuliffe Park, 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 to **waive** the associated permit fee due the town of East Hartford as this is a not-for-profit event.
Motion carried 8/0.

Pappy's Café Golf Tournament and Customer Appreciation Days

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Pappy's Golf Tournament and Customer Appreciation Days", submitted by Arthur Rancourt, Permittee, for Rancourt Enterprises,

Motion carried 8/0.

MOTION

Motion carried 8/0.

MOTION

Motion carried 8/0.

MOTION

Motion carried 7/0. **Abstain:** Torres

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

MOTION By Pat Harmon
 seconded by Esther Clarke
 to **approve** the following appointments:

- To the Board of Assessment Appeals, the appointment of Timothy M. Siggia, 145 Arbutus Street, whose term shall expire December 2019.
- To the Commission on Aging, the appointment of James Shelmerdine, 745 Tolland Street, whose term shall expire December 2019.

Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

None

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

N/A

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, had concerns about the report from Hooker & Holcombe regarding the OPEB trust fund and asked that the report be posted to the town's website.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **adjourn** (9:08 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be May 15th.

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