

Robert J. Clark

TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE 2017 MAY -8 A 9:09

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

MAY 3, 2017

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair (arrived 6:15 p.m.); Councillors Bill Horan (via telephone) and Esther Clarke

ALSO PRESENT Marcia Leclerc, Mayor
Eugene Pushefski, Tim Siggia, Melodie Wilson, Susan Tukey
Joan Coates, Glynis McKenzie, Marie Beaulier, Anita Morrison
Eileen Driscoll, Craig Stevenson, Paul Sousa, Gloria Visgilio-Lupi

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Clarke called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 11, 2017 Meeting

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **approve** the corrected April 11, 2017 meeting minutes.
Motion carried 2/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

OLD BUSINESS

Boards and Commissions Review

Councillor Clarke provided an overview of the clerk and administration section of the April 25th draft of the boards and commission review to the attendees of the meeting.

1. Clerks:

There was discussion with regard to general support for the need for a clerk for the boards and commissions that would be adequately trained. The attendees had several questions regarding the details of how this new process would operate and affect the boards and commissions. It was explained that the new clerk position would allow for greater uniformity and reliability in this process. While the Mayor

would appoint certified people to the board, each board or commission would select their clerk from the individuals on the certified board.

2. Consolidation/elimination of Boards and Commissions:

There was a presentation by Craig Stevenson, former Chair of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), offering an alternative to the elimination of the EDC that would present a more focused Commission. The Committee received a draft revised ordinance for its further review. It was decided that another meeting would be scheduled between the Ordinance Committee and the members of the EDC to determine what would be the appropriate way to handle citizen involvement in economic development matters in East Hartford. It was suggested that the Ordinance Committee look at what other towns are doing with regard to their citizen-based economic development commissions and see if that input would be useful.

Chair Kehoe joined the meeting at this point.

Chair Kehoe explained the reasoning behind merging Fine Arts Commission and Library Board and merging Patriotic Commission and Veterans' Affairs Commission. He also explained the reasoning for the elimination of EDC, Insurance Commission, Youth Council and EMS Commission. The reasons behind these consolidations and eliminations is that some of these groups have not operated over the past few years or, as in the case of Youth Council, have never had a member appointed to a Commission. After decades of operating in the same fashion with the same charge, it was recognized that times change and that perhaps a different approach would be a more efficient and effective way in which the citizens of East Hartford can participate in town government. The Chair stressed that these ideas are proposals only and that the Ordinance Committee wants to work with all boards and commissions members to determine if it makes sense to go forward with the suggested consolidations and eliminations. He also emphasized there would be open communication between the Ordinance Committee and the boards and commissions members.

3. Consolidation of the Fine Arts Commission and the Library Board:

Some commission members felt the two commissions were focused on different ideas; the Library Board on library operations – which is more than simply performances and other events at the library – and the Fine Arts Commission focuses on events and not the operation of the facility. The challenge is whether there can be a single commission – perhaps made up of all the current members of the Library Board and the Fine Arts Commission – and have it function in an efficient manner that would enhance the development of cultural activities in the town of East Hartford in addition to having a focus on the role of the library in the cultural and educational goals of the town.

After much discussion, it was agreed that there would be another meeting – with perhaps a broader cross-section of the commission members – where we could improve on how we develop our cultural activities and the role of the Library in the development of those activities. Such meeting would be between the Ordinance Committee and the members of the Library Board and Fine Arts Commission with a goal of coming to a consensus on the best path forward.

4. Consolidation of the Patriotic Commission and the Veterans' Affairs Commission:

The Patriotic Commission members pointed out the fact that they are an event oriented commission whereas the Veterans' Affairs Commission is focused on providing services to our veterans. The members who were at the meeting acknowledged that the Patriotic Commission's events are all veterans' oriented and that there is a possibility of combining the two commissions amicably. The Ordinance Committee members agreed to schedule another meeting with the Patriotic Commission and Veterans' Affairs Commission members for further discussion on how that consolidated commission would operate.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Bill Horan
to **adjourn** (7:20 p.m.)
Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Mayor Leclerc
Town Council
Members of:
Economic Development Commission
Patriotic Commission
Veterans' Affairs Commission
Fine Arts Commission
Library Board