

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

May 3, 2022

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

ALSO Mayor Michael Walsh
PRESENT Jessica Carrero, Durational Project Manager
Sarah Morgan, Library Director (via Teams)
Connor Martin, Chief of Staff (via Teams)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:49 p.m. 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Walsh (1) wished all a good evening; (2) On May 2, Volume 3 of “The Pulse of East Hartford” was produced. The “Pulse” is a free subscription newsletter provided by the Mayor’s office and sent via email with updates on a variety of newsworthy items. The newsletter is available in over 100 languages and currently has over 600 subscribers. The Mayor encouraged all to register. (3) A social media campaign on Earth Day 2022 has focused on Recycling Education and Enforcement. (4) Classes are being offered including Zumba and Yogalates by Parks and Recreation. Sessions are Tuesdays and Thursday evenings through June at Sunset Ridge Cafeteria. (5) All are encouraged to join the town’s first Juneteenth Celebration scheduled on Saturday June 18th from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Town Green. (6) A low cost rabies clinic is scheduled at Firehouse 1 located at 726 Main Street on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-Noon. (7) Foran Park located on Forbes Street has been proposed as an ideal area for a Dog Park. The Mayor estimates that the facility would be up and running by mid-July. (8) On April 30, Scott Chadwick, Probate Court Judge has resigned and accepted a position of Superior Court Judge. Other judges from other towns will assist in the interim until a new judge is sworn in at a future date. (9) The State of CT Legislative Session has ended today. As part of what is likely to be part of the updated budget will be a \$300 property tax credit available to qualifying taxpayers. The mill rate for cars will drop from 45 mills to 32 mills, providing additional tax rate and requiring future council action as the town’s current budget set the mill rate at 45 mills. This is also a new \$250 per child Tax Credit for up to three children.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Travis Simpson
 to **approve** the minutes of the April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Resignation from the Metropolitan District Commission Board of Governors and the Historic District Commission

The Chair stated that Gary Lebeau has announced his resignation from the Historic District Commission and MDC Board to his recent move from East Hartford to South Glastonbury. Gary was one of four members from East Hartford on the MDC Board of Governors. The Chair expressed his gratitude to Mr. Lebeau for his many years of service and contributions to East Hartford.

Report of Recommendations from Charter Revision Commission

The Chair shared that last year the Council established a Charter Revision Commission charged with reviewing the Charter and making suggested improvements. In particular, the Commission was focused on looking at relationships within Town Departments, Directors, and the potential value of a Chief Administrative Office. Council Vice Chair Don Bell serves as Chair of the Commission along with Councillors Tom Rup and Travis Simpson and six other community members. Later in this meeting, a Public Hearing date will be scheduled to hear the public's comment on the report and its recommendations.

Councillor Bell shared that roughly a year ago, the Council requested a group of residents to look over the Charter and propose changes that could enhance the efficiency of the town's government, including such topics as Strong Mayor vs. a Town Manager and whether the town would benefit from the development of a Chief Operating Officer position. The proposed report provides for a Chief Administrative Officer position in the Mayor's Office. The report also authorizes the Town Council and the mayor to merge or realign town departments to provide more flexibility and responsiveness to resident needs. Technical revisions are also provided to make the Charter's language gender neutral. The line of succession for Mayor is further developed. Additional items were reviewed that the Commission did not propose changes on, including increasing the term of office for Mayor and the Town Council. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the report as submitted.

Councillor Rup stated that the Commission's work was a great example of Democracy in Action. The Councillor commended both sides for their insights and passion in discussing the issues.

Councillor Simpson thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve with the Commission. A variety of perspectives and various experiences from amongst the Commissioners helped to provide frank and compassionate discussion throughout the process.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation from Personnel and Pensions Committee re: Systemic Compensation Plan for East Hartford Town Employees

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Tom Rup

in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.4 and Section 5.25 of the East Hartford Town Charter, that the Town Council establish the pay plan for non-bargaining unit, classified employees entitled “Systemic Pay Plan for East Hartford Town Employees” dated April 28, 2022, provided further that the Town Council shall annually review such plan and adopt any appropriate changes as part of the annual adoption of the town budget.

Motion carried 9/0.

AccelerateCT Summer Program Extension Grant

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by John Morrison
to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS; the State of Connecticut has announced the dedication of funding toward the expansion of programs that connect students to high-quality summer enrichment and recreational opportunities; and;

WHEREAS; these grants will be awarded to entities to expand existing enrichment opportunities and increase access for children who might otherwise not have access to summer camp or programming.

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 Department of Education as they pertain to this AccelerateCT Summer Program Expansion Grant.

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

Sarah Morgan, Library Director provided details of the program. The Departments of Youth Services, the Library and Parks and Recreation will be working collaboratively. A goal is to repeat last year's partnership with the Connecticut Science Center for weekly programs. Campers also participated in the Library's Summer Reading Program as well as programming with a focus Arts and Culture and on the town's Makerspace STEM programs. The grant will fund social workers at each camp location. Families with interest are encouraged to attend a Camp Open House at 7 p.m. on May 11th where the programs will be discussed in more detail. Bus transportation for the camp is funded by the Board of Education. Students attending summer school will be able to participate in the camp programs in afternoons. Director Morgan estimated that the camp was able to serve between 300-400 children last year.

2022-23 School Readiness Grant

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
 seconded by John Morrison
 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 with the State of Connecticut to support School Readiness programs for East Hartford children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that Michael P. Walsh, 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, the motion carried 9/0.

Referral to Ordinance Committee re: Enterprise Zone Expansion

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Tom Rup

to refer the expansion of the state designated Enterprise Zone to the Ordinance Committee for review as requested by Mayor Michael P. Walsh in a memo to Town Council Chair Richard Kehoe dated April 22, 2022.

Motion carried 9/0.

Amusement Permits

Fiesta del Norte Mariachi Performance

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
 seconded by John Morrison

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Fiesta del Norte Mariachi Performance" as submitted by Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, scheduled for May 14, 2022 from Noon- 2:30 pm on the front lawn of Raymond Library at 840 Main 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.

Motion carried 9/0.

16th Abelon Memorial Walk

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
 seconded by John Morrison

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “16th Abelon Memorial Walk” as submitted by Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2022 on the grounds of Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street proceeding to Sunset Ridge School (450 Forbes Street) and back, 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.

Summer Reading Kickoff

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Travis Simpson

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “Summer Reading Kickoff” as submitted by Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2022 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on the front lawn of the Raymond Library at 840 Main 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.

Motion carried 9/0.

Nelson Bello Jazz Quintet

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Travis Simpson

to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “Nelson Bello Jazz Quintet” as submitted by Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 12:00-2:30 p.m. on the front lawn of the Raymond Library at 840 Main 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.

Motion carried 9/0.

Setting of Public Hearing re: Charter Revision Commission Report of Recommendations

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Tom Rup

to **set a public hearing** date of May 17, 2022 at 7 p.m. in Town Council Chambers as well as via the Teams platform, to hear public comment on

the Charter Revision Commission Report of Recommendations as provided to the Town Council Chair Richard Kehoe in a memo from Town Clerk Robert Pasek dated April 27, 2022.

Motion carried 9/0.

Refund of Taxes

MOTION

By Harry Amadasun
seconded by Tom Rup
to **approve** a total refund of taxes in the amount of \$35,450.42
pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Motion carried 9/0.

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Int	Over Paid
2020-03-0050154	ACAR LEASING LTD	PO BOX 1990	FT WORTH, TX 76101	2018/2GNAXSEV8J6255611	0	-315.90
2019-01-0011143	ALZATE EDGAR A	26-28 HIGBIE DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	26-28 HIGBIE DR	0	-1,942.96
2020-03-0051427	ANTOINE GREGORY P	841 BURNSIDE AVE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-2705	2016/JM1GJ1U54G1458992	0	-215.78
2020-01-0001164	BEDARD FELICIANO YOLANDA	250 RIDGEWOOD RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	250 RIDGEWOOD RD	0	-3,171.97
2020-03-0052987	BEJARANO YAIPEN HIGINIO E	101 BIRCH MOUNTAIN RD	MANCHESTER, CT 06040-6806	2015/5N1AT2MV6FC893727	0	-206.33
2020-04-0080886	BLASKO THEODORE & LUCILLE	61 WENTWORTH DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-1637	1995/2T1AE09B75C120218	0	-49.50
2020-03-0054172	BRESLIN JOHN J	9 GOULD DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-1118	2020/1FMSK8DH4LG813586	0	-319.30
2020-03-0055163	CAMPBELL MARCUS J	151 ELLINGTON RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-1104	2015/KNMAT2MV7FP519494	0	-101.62
2020-03-0056198	CHAPMAN JOHN R	96 COLBURN RD	STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT 06076	2019/1C6RR7LT2KS557485	0	-522.90
2018-01-0002775	CLOUD DENNIS	29 WINDING LN	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	29 WINDING LN	0	-40.76
2019-01-0002775	CLOUD DENNIS	29 WINDING LN	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	29 WINDING LN	0	-41.42
2019-01-0015830	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	47 PIPER LN	0	-4,304.35
2019-01-0013866	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	61 MCKEE ST	0	-2,074.18
2020-01-0009492	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	89 CRESCENT DR	0	-2,176.09
2020-01-0001026	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	45 TERRY RD	0	-2,489.46
2019-02-0043004	COMPLETE INTERIOR SYSTEMS INC	124 MAIN ST	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	124 MAIN ST	0	-247.86
2020-04-0081874	COSGROVE JOSEPH W	7 CLUNE CT	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-3425	1990/1LNCM93E5LY745115	0	-25.06
2020-03-0057436	COONEY DEBRA P	530 HILLS ST	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-3028	2021/5J8TC2H34ML003178	0	-269.21
2020-04-0082036	DAILEY MICHELE C	18 MOORE AVE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-2549	2000/JM3LW28GXY0113434	0	-16.79
2020-03-0058441	DALRYMPLE SUSAN W	34 SHANNON RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-1743	2015/2T3DFREV8FW376135	0	-303.98
2020-04-0082199	DELEON MIGUEL A	441 MAIN ST TRLR 911	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-1441	1995/2CNBE18U756936226	0	-51.62
2020-04-0082366	DIONE MARK E	50 ELM ST APT 18	SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074	1996/1J4FJ78SXTL247609	0	-46.89
2020-03-0060780	EASON SHAKIRA C	21 EDGEWOOD ST APT 3S	HARTFORD, CT 06112	2001/JHMC666861C004738	0	-110.25
2020-01-0009718	EQUITY SETTLEMENT SERVICES ATTN: GAIL BALDWIN	444 ROUTE 111	SMITHTOWN, NY 11787	23 COLUMBUS ST	0	-2,373.74
2020-01-0005436	GAYLE ONEIL & LAWSON GAYLE SABRINA	110 MCKEE ST	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	110 MCKEE ST	0	-2,250.36
2020-03-0063952	GONZALEZ-MARQUEZ LUIS E	184 WASHINGTON ST	VERNON, CT 06066	2020/3GTU9DED0LG376997	-46.33	-790.65
2020-03-0063953	GONZALEZ-MARQUEZ LUIS E	184 WASHINGTON ST	VERNON, CT 06066	2016/1GAZGPF67G1222113	-8.46	-281.93
2020-02-0040752	GUY DAIGLE FLOORING LLC	87 CHURCH ST #206E	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	87 CHURCH ST	0	-287.69
2020-04-0084649	JOHNSON EMMANUEL	16 BIDWELL AVE FL2	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	1999/WDBKK47FOXF137529	0	-112.50
2019-02-0040977	KV MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS INC	275 PARK AVE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	275 PARK AVE	0	-41.09
2019-01-0008263	LAVIGNE ALBERT D & KAREN L	130 SHERWOOD DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	130 SHERWOOD DR	0	-74.88
2020-01-0002775	GREEN LAW PC- KRISTA LIONELLO C/O HUBERT SILVERA	11 TALCOTT NOTCH RD	FARMINGTON, CT 06032	74 WELLS AVE	0	-2,670.58
2019-01-0000972	LUNA VONMARIE	26 WOODBRIDGE AVE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	26 WOODBRIDGE AVE	0	-187.20
2020-01-0004102	LERETA LLC ATTN: CENTRAL REFUNDS	901 CORPORATE CENTER DR	POMONA, CA 91768	194 HOLLISTER DR	0	-140.33
2020-04-0086424	NIEVES SANTIAGO YADIEL A	28 LIVINGSTON RD	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-3814	2000/1J4GW4856VC384719	0	-30.46
2019-01-0010821	NWABUDE LINDA N	63 BUENA VISTA DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118	63 BUENA VISTA DR	0	-3,673.12
2020-02-0041205	PRIME MATERIALS RECOVERY INC	99 EAST RIVER DR 2ND FL	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108	99 EAST RIVER DR	0	-28.43
2020-01-0004941	RICHARD QUINLAN, ESQ. C/O TRACEY FLETCHER	945 MAIN ST #201	MANCHESTER, CT 06040	225 RIDGEWOOD RD	0	-2,696.02
2020-04-0087947	ROLON MORALES JOSE L	346 SILVER LN	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-1029	1998/1FTZR15X3WPA60198	0	-46.80
2018-01-0013643	SMITH DAVID R & LINDA G	5342 SCHWARTZ ST	NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655	152 HENDERSON DR	0	-147.34
2019-01-0013643	SMITH DAVID R & LINDA G	5342 SCHWARTZ ST	NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655	152 HENDERSON DR	0	-112.32
2020-01-0013637	SMITH DAVID R & LINDA G	5342 SCHWARTZ ST	NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655	152 HENDERSON DR	0	-111.04
2020-04-0088984	THOMPSON RAYMOND M JR	144 SHADYCREST DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-2744	1983/1B4GW12T1DS418858	0	-33.75
2020-04-0089059	TORRES JULIO R	298 PARK ST 3W	HARTFORD, CT 06106	1998/1FTYR11X7WTA49908	0	-93.60
2020-04-0089567	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048	2021/WA1BAAFY3M2050324	0	-125.77
2020-04-0089971	ZAYAS JAVIER	17 HIGBIE DR	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108-2836	1998/2HGEJ623WH595043	0	-41.85
SUBTTOTAL					(54.79)	(35,395.63)
TOTAL						\$ (35,450.42)

Recommendations from the Ordinance Committee re:

Amendment to the Town's Tax Credit Program for Senior Citizens, Veterans and Disabled Persons

MOTION by Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Travis Simpson

to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by revising Sections 10-27 entitled "Exemption from Property Tax for the Blind"; 10-28 entitled "Exemption from Property Tax for Veterans"; 10-29 entitled "Exemption from Property Tax for Disabled Persons"; 10-30 entitled "Additional Exemptions From Property Tax for Totally Disabled Persons"; and 10-30a "Additional Property Tax Exemptions" with language that is consistent with the draft dated March 22, 2022 which was approved at the March 22, 2022 Ordinance Committee meeting provided the last word in subsection (a) of section 10-30 shall be deleted and "section" shall be inserted in lieu thereof.

Motion carried 9/0.

Food Truck Ordinance

MOTION by Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by John Morrison

to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by revising Sections 12-2 entitled "Definitions", 12-3 entitled "Requirements, and Subdivision 2 of subsection (a) of section 8-14, "Definitions" with language that is consistent with the draft dated April 5, 2022 which was approved at the April 5, 2022 Ordinance Committee meeting.

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Morrison acknowledged the great work of Principal Fox, staff and students at O'Connell Elementary School for their Arbor Day festivities.

Councillor Simpson asked for updates regarding the Building Department and shifting responsibilities to the Development Department. *The Mayor stated that Town Planner Jeff Cormier has accepted a position with another municipality. Bruce Cohen has taken charge as acting Interim Director of Inspections and Permits. Within the next few weeks, all development plans will be in on the Jasko/Silver Lane project where Development Director Eileen Buckheit has taken lead for the town. Administration is considering consultants to assist in the short term and an interim Town Planner. The Mayor feels this is an opportunity to consider potentially joining the Development Department with Inspections and Permits. The Mayor continues to focus on blight, and Director Buckheit will take on zoning issues with an outside agent looking at plan reviews. The Mayor also disclosed that the town has made offers to hire two Property Maintenance*

Inspectors as well as an administrative staff position in Inspections and Permits. An official announcement of changes will be provided to the council in the coming weeks.

Councillor Simpson then took a moment to recognize Jeff Cormier's service and contributions to the town and wished him the best on his next endeavor.

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

The pending CHRO claim know as Jacqueline Guadalupe-Rodriguez v. Town of East Hartford, CHRO Case No.2140322, involving former Board of Education employee, Jacqueline Guadalupe-Rodriguez.

No action taken.

The pending property damage claim of Farmers Insurance, as subrogee of Deborah Spieker.

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Travis Simpson

to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending property damage claim of Farmers Insurance, as subrogee of Deborah Spieker for a total sum of \$23,784.87.

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Harry Amadasun
 to **adjourn** (9:00 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 May 17, 2022.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK