

*Robert J. Peck*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2020 JUN 10 A 9:06

MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

JUNE 2, 2020

ATTENDING Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina  
VIA TEAMS Wilson, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela  
Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Patricia Harmon and John Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He explained that the Council is, meeting via the Microsoft Teams platform in order to comply with Governor Lamont's public health emergency executive order for social distancing. The Chair stated that residents may call in to access this meeting and announced the phone number and the conference ID number. Chair Kehoe then led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Leclerc commented on: (1) boat launch fees at Great River Park to be referred to the Fees Committee for review; (2) the Suspense List is a routine matter for the Council's approval; and (3) is in favor of the settlement regarding town receipt of funds to compensate for Fire Department property damage and usage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by Don Bell  
to **approve** the minutes of the May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting.  
Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Presentation: East Hartford's GIS Mapping

Roberta Pratt, Chief Information Officer, introduced Jennifer Petrario, GIS Analyst, and suggested that Ms. Petrario speak directly to the Council on her involvement in the Geographic Information System field. Ms. Petrario briefly summarized her educational and work force experiences and the benefits that GIS mapping brings to East Hartford.

She explained that GIS mapping is a combination of different pictorial data sets and how they overlap and come together to tell a greater story. One of the first projects that she worked on was the mapping produced for the routes driven by the Fire Department in

response to the calls they received in 2019. Another project was the mapping created for the DPW's snow plow operation. The existing 23 routes were consolidated to 20 routes, which would produce a more efficient workflow. The same efficiency will be applied to the DPW's trash collection mapping, which is presently under review. Additionally, GIS mapping could be used to locate gravesites in Silver Lane Cemetery, and eventually, in any cemetery in East Hartford. And of course, the Assessor's office utilizes the benefits of GIS mapping with each property located within East Hartford.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Referral to Fees Committee re: Boat Launch Fees at Great River Park

MOTION By Connor Martin  
seconded by Esther Clarke  
to **refer** to the Fees Committee, the proposed revisions to the fee schedule for the use of the boat launch at Great River Park as recommended by Riverfront Recapture, Inc., with instructions to review the changes as compared to surrounding towns and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.  
Motion carried 9/0.

### Suspense List: Grand List Year 2016 – Personal Property and Motor Vehicle

MOTION By Awet Tsegai  
seconded by Esther Clarke  
to **transfer** the uncollected personal property and motor vehicle – including motor vehicle supplemental – taxes on the 2016 Grand List as referenced in a memo dated May 20, 2020 from Iris Laurenza, Collector of Revenue, to Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor to the suspense rate book in the total amount of \$455,498.61 as follows:

Personal Property	Grand List Year 2016	\$ 69,142.68
Motor Vehicle	Grand List Year 2016	\$ 386,355.93

Motion carried 9/0.

### Settlement of Property Damage Claim: East Hartford Fire Department

MOTION By Don Bell  
seconded by Connor Martin  
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending property damage claim of the Town that was filed against Day & Ross, USA, Inc., A&S Kinard, MF Holdings and Norman Bliss, regarding Fire Department equipment damaged during a response to a motor vehicle accident, for a total sum of \$15,812.82.  
Motion carried 9/0.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Leclerc addressed the Town Council on the following: (1) the Covid-19 pandemic: the majority of affected citizens and Covid-19 related deaths are in nursing homes. Testing sites are available for East Hartford residents here in town and in some surrounding towns as well; (2) the Mayor is working with CRCOG and Capital Workforce Partners to provide summer work programs for East Hartford youths and believes that through East Hartford Connects, the town's summer work programs will be expanded; (3) June is Dog Licensing Month; (4) FoodShare at Rentschler Field has been extended through June 30<sup>th</sup>; (5) National Night out for 2020 has been canceled due to Covid-19 concerns; (6) at the Mayor's weekly visit to Riverside Healthcare, she learned that statistics concerning Covid-19 were stable; and (7) reminded all that Census 2020 is ongoing and reiterated how important it is to complete the Census 2020 form.

Mayor Leclerc, with an emotionally charged yet strong voice, read verbatim from a letter she personally wrote to the town's legislative delegation – outlining what East Hartford's citizens need to address the inequities they face every day. Child care, affordable health care, education and job opportunities are the major concerns.

The Mayor introduced Police Chief Scott Sansom to update the Council on policy and procedure within his department. Chief Sansom called for a moment of silence to remember the life of George Floyd – the Minneapolis resident who died while in police custody.

Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, summarized his numerous accomplishments in diversification within the East Hartford Police Department, as well as the other PDs he worked in. Chief Sansom stated that he is a proponent of "community-based" policing having implemented a program of dozens of annual events connecting the police with the community in a positive forum.

Vice Chair Don Bell thanked Chief Sansom for his leadership role in making East Hartford – a diverse community – a safer place for its residents. Mr. Bell eloquently shared his thoughts on the need for justice and freedom for all people.

Councillor Awet Tsegai asked Chief Sansom how Covid-19, and the cancellation of planned community-policing social events, has affected his Department.

Minority Leader Esther Clarke asked Chief Sansom how many police officers are East Hartford residents. The Chief responded that 10% live in East Hartford and the majority of the officers have connections with East Hartford and/or the surrounding communities including himself. Additionally, Mrs. Clarke inquired on how the Chief handles drivers who are stopped for violating speed limits. Later on in the meeting, Mrs. Clarke recalled an incident of racial prejudice on a Town Council visit to Georgia to review an EMS service against Odessa Terry, an African-American Councillor who served in the 1970's. She lauded the present Council for its fight against racism.

Councillor Connor Martin was concerned about how the police would respond to protests that could break out when residents march this Sunday against police brutality. Mr. Martin strongly believes that leadership is key when bringing about social change.

Chair Rich Kehoe stated that there is no quick fix to the unfair treatment of people of color. He believes that we need a commitment to a constant and continual attention to problems and the solutions to those problems.

Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, a mother of an African-American boy, feels the pain of the mothers whose sons have been victims of racism and police brutality. Ms. Wilson strongly believes that exercising your right to vote is the first step in making social change.

Councillor Angie Parkinson, a High School Social Studies teacher for 20 years, shared with the Council her reason for becoming a teacher: to educate and inform students in order to dissolve ignorance and bigotry. Ms. Parkinson went on to explain how bigotry, hate and injustice has played a part in developing countries around the globe. Ms. Parkinson poignantly stated "black lives matter to me and I will fight for them".

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Vanessa Jenkins, 26 Suffolk Drive, East Hartford Board of Education member, thanked the Council, the Mayor and Chief of Police for their comments. Ms. Jenkins asked a rhetorical question concerning racial bias: What are you going to do about it?

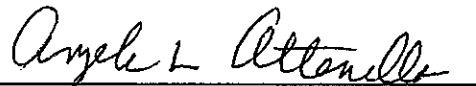
Rosamond White, 23 Sandra Drive, Chair of the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts, shared how the events of the past week affected her personally. Ms. White also explained that she is in favor of community policing.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                  seconded by Don Bell  
                  to **adjourn** (9:45 p.m.).  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Attest



Angela M. Attenello  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK