

*Robert J. Beck*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2018 JUN 11 A 9:23

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

JUNE 5, 2018

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:34 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) inquired on the town's collection rate for the current fiscal year's taxes; (2) is interested in the Golf Course update, specifically what the financial results are for the town; (3) asked for a list of town-owned properties & what, if any, the financial benefits are for the town; and (4) asked if the residents near the Showcase Cinema properties have been notified of the town's intent to purchase this land.

Dan Matos, President of The Matos Group, 367 Silver Lane, is a member of the Silver Lane Advisory Committee and supports the purchase of the Showcase Cinema properties.

Craig Stevenson, 52 Milwood Road, former Chair of the East Hartford Economic Development Commission and member of the Silver Lane Advisory Committee, supports the acquisition of the Showcase Cinema properties.

Mayor Leclerc (1) introduced her newest staff member, Ekaterine "Kate" Tchelidze, Communications Officer; (2) the Historic Document grant will be used to continue the digitizing of town records – so far the Town Clerk has converted over 680,000 land records that date back to 1967; (3) Neighborhood Assistance Act – while not a guarantee – is a win-win situation for everyone involved; (4) June is Dog License month – every dog over 6 months old must be registered at the Town Clerk's office; (5) CT Trails Day was Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Mayor recognized Boy Scout Troop 61, which was among the many volunteers who cleaned up the trails along the back edge of Martin Park; (6) the town's pools will open June 20<sup>th</sup>; summer camp registration has started; and (7) Effie DiBenedetto, a Library Specialist at the Raymond Library, was the 2018 recipient of the East Hartford Service to Youth Award.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 15, 2018 Executive Session

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Marc Weinberg

to **approve** the minutes of the May 15, 2018 Executive Session.  
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain: Harmon**

May 15, 2018 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **approve** the minutes of the May 15, 2018 Regular Meeting.  
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain: Harmon**

May 30, 2018 Joint Meeting/Board of Education

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Pat Harmon  
to **approve** the minutes of the May 30, 2018 Joint Meeting/Board of  
Education.  
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain: Brown**

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Update by Billy Casper Golf re: East Hartford Golf Club

Chris Gibbs, General Manager of the East Hartford Golf Club, and Greg Sinder, Regional Director of Sales & Marketing for Billy Casper Golf (BCG), led a PowerPoint presentation. Also in the audience was Ryan Phelps, Vice President of Operations for BCG and Bill Abbe, Superintendent of Property for the East Hartford Golf Club.

The presentation showed that, while the number of golf rounds has decreased – due to poor weather conditions – the total revenue has increased – which indicates that golfers are willing to play the premium times and pay about \$2 more per round.

The course updates include: (1) a new awning installed over the decking that overlooks the 18<sup>th</sup> hole which draws people to stay longer at the course; (2) a Cleveland/Srixon Demo Day which allows someone to try out new equipment for no charge; (3) a Night Golf Shootout; (4) the release of a new East Hartford Golf app – it's free to download, has a course GPS and allows you to book a tee time; (5) tree trimming was a focus for the new management team – it opened up the course visually to golfers; (6) the completion of the new well; the expected average annual savings on water expenses will be approximately \$40,000; (7) the final equipment lease payment of \$146,000 will be made this October – which is the bulk of the deficit that the golf club is showing annually; and (8) the World's Largest Golf Outing will be held on Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> at the East Hartford Golf Club – all proceeds will be donated to the Fisher House Foundation, a charity which donates housing free of charge for military & Veterans' families while a loved one is in the hospital.

Chair Kehoe announced that in August 2011, the Town Council voted unanimously to allow the Rotary Club of East Hartford use of the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse for its weekly meetings for no charge, provided the Club donate a minimum of \$10,000 for the benefit of East Hartford residents on a yearly basis. A report containing such information would be due by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Below is that report for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Abelon Walkathon Cancer Prevention (CIBA)	\$ 200
Academy of Finance for EHHS students	\$ 1,000
EH Social Services Holiday Adopt Families	\$ 2,582
EH Social Services: "Coats for Kids"	\$ 3,360
EH Holiday Fest (Circle of Life)	\$ 200
EH Little League baseball	\$ 500
EH Parks Dept. Summer Concerts	\$ 300
EH Public Library book donation	\$ 500
EH YMCA Strong Kids Program	\$ 4,000
EH Youth Football	\$ 750
EHIM Human Needs Fund	\$ 500
Food Banks (5)/Soup Kitchen	\$ 2,000
Goodwin College Scholarship Program	\$ 1,000
Habitat for Humanity (homes in East Harford)	\$ 350
Intercommunity comprehensive health	\$ 500
Laptops for Life Science	\$ 250
Literacy Volunteers (CT River Valley)	\$ 750
Scholarships (6 @\$2,000) announced May 2017	\$12,000
School Leadership Innovation Program EHPS	\$ 7,500

## Volume 87

## 2018-2019 Neighborhood Assistance Act

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                  seconded by Marc Weinberg  
                  to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program provides State of Connecticut tax credits to businesses who contribute to community programs benefiting low income or handicapped individuals in such areas as: job training, job education, community services, and energy conservation; and

**WHEREAS** twenty-five proposals have been received from area agencies, listed on the 2018 State of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Proposal Summaries sheet as attached, and have requested to be included in the 2018 State of Connecticut tax credit program through the Town of East Hartford; and

**WHEREAS** a Public Hearing to present these applications was held on May 23, 2018, as required by the State of Connecticut.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED:** That Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to forward these applications to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services for their review and inclusion into the 2018 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

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

## Board of Education FY2018 Capital Reserve Fund Transfer

MOTION      By Shelby Brown  
                  seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
                  that in accordance with Article 7 Section 10-38 of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council **approve** the Board of Education's request to expend \$904,364 (or such lesser amounts as deposited based on the proceeds as forwarded by the Board of Education) from the Board of Education Capital Reserve Account for the purposes of funding capital improvements at the East Hartford Middle School for a partial roof replacement and districtwide for cloud storage and server upgrades, and for various other general improvement projects which are all consistent with the projects contained in the district's approved Capital Improvement Plan.  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

## East Hartford Middle School Roofing Project

MOTION      By Shelby Brown  
                  seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
                  to **adopt** the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO ADD A PROJECT TO THE TOWN'S 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, TO AUTHORIZE AN APPROPRIATION, TO AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION, TO SEND THE PROJECT TO THE PUBLIC BUILDING COMMITTEE, AND TO FUND THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE PROJECT COST**

WHEREAS the Town of East Hartford Board of Education has identified that a roof replacement project at the East Hartford Middle School is a priority of the school district and qualified for State School Construction reimbursement; and

WHEREAS the cost of the roof replacement including design and construction is anticipated to total \$550,000 with the State reimbursing 76.43% or \$420,365 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% or approximately \$137,500 which includes an amount for unforeseen ineligible costs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the following items:

1. The addition by resolution to the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the East Hartford Middle School Roofing Project in the amount of \$550,000;
2. The appropriation of \$550,000 to fund the East Hartford Middle School Roofing Project;
3. The authorization of the East Hartford Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the East Hartford Middle School Roofing Project;
4. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the East Hartford Middle School Roofing Project;
5. That, in accordance with Article 7 §10-38 of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council previously approved the Board of Education's request to expend \$137,500 from the Board of Education's Capital Reserve Account for the purposes of funding the local share of the East Hartford Middle School Roofing Project;
6. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the East Hartford Middle School Roofing Project.

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

Referral to Budget Committee re: Joint Town and Board of Education Information Technology Director

MOTION By Joe Carlson  
seconded by Marc Weinberg  
to **refer** to the Budget Committee the possibility of establishing a new supervisory position at the Board of Education, entitled "Director of Information Technology/Chief Information Officer", which position would be shared by both the Town and the Board of Education and to review the proposed job description attached to a memo from Mayor Marcia Leclerc to Town Council Chair Rich Kehoe dated May 28, 2018 and to report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.  
Motion carried 9/0.

Suspense List:

Grand List Year 2014– Personal Property and Motor Vehicle  
Grand List Year 2016 – Personal Property

MOTION By Linda Russo  
seconded by Marc Weinberg  
to **transfer** the uncollected personal property and motor vehicle – including

motor vehicle supplemental – taxes on the 2014 and 2016 Grand Lists as referenced in a memo dated May 22, 2018 from Iris Laurenza, Collector of Revenue, to Marcia Leclerc, Mayor to the suspense rate book in the total amount of \$575,432.28 as follows:

Personal Property	Grand List Year 2014	\$ 58,031.70
	Grand List Year 2016	\$ 61,881.10
Motor Vehicle	Grand List Year 2014	\$455,519.48

Motion carried 9/0.

Outdoor Amusement Permit Application: "Out of the Darkness Walk"

MOTION      By Marc Weinberg  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Out of the Darkness Walk" submitted by Michelle Peters, Area Director for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, CT Chapter, to conduct a charity walk on Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 7:30AM to 1PM at Great River Park with refreshments, food and music to be provided from 9:00AM to 12PM, 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 under the provisions of Town Ordinance §5-6(a) as this is a not-for-profit organization which hopes to bring attention to the issue of suicide prevention.  
Motion carried 9/0.

Prior to calling for a vote on the following motion, Mayor Leclerc and Eileen Buckheit, Development Director, provided a brief history of the Town's efforts to revitalize the Silver Lane corridor through state grants, economic studies, and the creation of the Silver Lane Advisory Committee.

Recommendation from the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: Council Approval of the Acquisition of the Showcase Cinema Property, Subject to Subsequent Council Action

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
that the East Hartford Town Council **authorize** the Mayor to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with respect to the acquisition of the properties known as 936-960 Silver Lane (a/k/a 936 Silver Lane, 942 Silver Lane, 944 Silver Lane and 960 Silver Lane) and 285-291 Forbes Street (also known as 285 Forbes Street Rear and 291 Forbes Street) for the sum of \$3,400,000 or less, solely using state bond funds; said agreement to contain all necessary and appropriate contingencies including the need for inspections, reports and surveys that comply with the provisions of §10-18

of the Town Ordinances, and that the final acquisition shall be subject to review and approval of the East Hartford Town Council after review of such inspections, reports and cost estimates. The Town should immediately begin marketing such property upon final approval in order to expedite putting such property on the taxable grand list.  
Motion carried 9/0.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Ram Aberasturia wished his son, Maseo Luis, a Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday. He also congratulated the East Hartford Boys Varsity Baseball Team who made it to the quarter finals and the East Hartford Boys Volleyball Team who made it to the semi-finals.

#### COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Esther Clarke  
                  seconded by Linda Russo  
                  to **adjourn** (9:35 p.m.).  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be June 19<sup>th</sup>.

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