

Robert J. Baek

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2017 JUN 26 A 10: 51

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

JUNE 20, 2017

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Majority Leader Linda A. Russo, Minority Leader
Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Ram Aberasturia, Joseph
R. Carlson, Patricia Harmon and Michael G. Kurker

ABSENT Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:32 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.

The Chair called for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of two individuals who were an integral part of East Hartford: Richard Buchanan and Fred Balet. Mr. Buchanan had served as the town's Assessor for approximately 15 years, bringing integrity and professionalism to a sometimes difficult job. He was courteous and a gentleman to all. Mr. Balet served as the Town's first Youth Services Director and in fact, the first such Director in Connecticut. Later, he served as the Town's Parks and Recreation Director. They will be missed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, suggested that the Council delay voting on the agenda items that directly affect the financial capability of the town until after the state has set its budget.

Mayor Leclerc (1) introduced Matthew Larson who just recently joined her staff; (2) is looking forward to the SiFi presentation; (3) thanked her Directors for their help in addressing the impact of reduced State aid in this year's budget; (4) bulky waste permits are up for renewal on July 1st; (5) the Mayor, along with the Development Department, will start visiting local businesses throughout the summer months to get to know them better; (6) the United Way Summer Meal blitz will begin Wednesday June 21st at Silver Lane School with Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman; (7) the road improvement program is progressing; (8) the Library and the Board of Education are working cooperatively through their Summer Reading Program; and (9) the town's pools are opened and various summer programs through the town's Parks and Recreation Department have started.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 6, 2017 Executive Session

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **approve** the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Executive Session.
Motion carried 8/0.

June 6, 2017 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **approve** the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 8/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Presentation from SiFi Networks: Broadband in Connecticut

Before the presentation from SiFi Networks, Finance Director Michael Walsh gave the Council background on the benefits of this form of high-speed internet service on the town government operations and local businesses.

Scott Bradshaw, President of SiFi Networks, led a PowerPoint presentation on the benefits of partnering with SiFi on broadband fiber optics installation in East Hartford. Each home or business will be connected to the fiber networks. Each consumer has the option of contracting with an internet provider for such service, delivered over SiFi's network. There is no financial risk to the town. The Town only needs to provide an easement to install the fiber network on town property like local roads. The expected start date would be early 2018 with an anticipated end date of 2020.

Elliot Ginsberg, President, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, supports the installation of broadband fiber optics installation as a benefit for drawing high tech start-ups.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation from Ordinance Committee: §2-3, Mayor's Salary and §2-3b, Registrars of Voters Salary

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **amend** the East Hartford Code of Ordinances by revising Chapter 2, Section 2-3, entitled "Mayor's Salary" consistent with the draft dated May 21, 2017 as approved by the Ordinance Committee, and by revising Chapter 2, Section 2-3b, entitled "Registrars of Voters Salary" consistent with the draft dated May 21, 2017 as approved by the Ordinance Committee.
 Motion carried 7/0. **Abstain:** Clarke

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children

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

WHEREAS the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program) is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for services including provision of nutritious food, nutrition and health education, breastfeeding promotion and referrals to healthcare and social services for categorically eligible individuals found to be at nutritional and/or medical risk; and

WHEREAS the Town of East Hartford is submitting a proposal for WIC Program funding to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for the period October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of East Hartford does support and authorize the submission of a proposal for WIC Program funding.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford and in her absence, Richard F. Kehoe, Chair of the East Hartford Town Council, have been empowered to sign contracts and any of its amendments hereto, on behalf of the Town of East Hartford, between the Town of East Hartford and the Department of Public Health or its successor agency.

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

2017-2018 Neighborhood Assistance Act

MOTION By Joe Carlson
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **rescind** the following motion made at the May 16, 2017 Town Council meeting 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, eighteen proposals have been received from area agencies, listed on the 2016 State of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Proposal Summaries sheet as attached, and have requested to be included in the 2017 State of Connecticut tax credit program through the Town of East Hartford; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing to present these applications was held on April 26, 2017, 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 2017 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

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

2017-2018 Neighborhood Assistance Act – Revised

MOTION By Joe Carlson
seconded by
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, nineteen proposals have been received from area agencies, listed on the 2017 State of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Proposal Summaries sheet as attached, and have requested to be included in the 2017 State of Connecticut tax credit program through the Town of East Hartford; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing to present these applications was held on June 19, 2017, 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 2017 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

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

End of Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Preliminary Year-end Financial Results

Michael Walsh, Finance Director, reviewed the 2016-2017 fiscal year results with the Town Council. There was a favorable close to the end of the year – fund balance should end at 10.6% of the town budget which meets the target that the financial rating agencies prefer.

Interdepartmental Budget Transfers

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **approve** the interdepartmental transfers for fiscal year 2016-2017 consistent with the transfers listed in a memorandum from Finance Director Michael Walsh to Mayor Marcia Leclerc dated June 9, 2017 totaling \$660,000.00 in transfers within the General Fund as follows:

The Town of East Hartford
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
Year-End Budget Transfers

9-Jun-17

General Fund To Account Number	Name	Amount
G1300-62360	ROV - Election Day Expenses	5,000
G2200-63230	Corp. Counsel - Legal	55,000
G2300-63129	Human Resources - Consultant	75,000
G9400-63402	Social Services - Emergency Relief	25,000
C1410-52000	Town - Capital Reserve	500,000
	TOTAL	660,000
General Fund From Account Number	Name	Amount
G9510-66416	General Government Debt - Principal	240,000
G3800-63499	Employee Benefits - Severance	270,000
G9600-63492	Contingency - Reserve	40,000
G9700-63244	Capital Improvement - Lease payments	110,000
	TOTAL	660,000

The funds being transferred are certified as available and unobligated.

Motion carried 8/0.

Approval of Sale of Individual Tax Liens

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
seconded by Linda Russo
to **approve** the sale of tax liens as listed on the report attached to a memorandum dated June 6, 2017 from Finance Director Michael Walsh to Mayor Marcia Leclerc which lists and enumerates 27 properties, along with the amount of the tax lien for each property and the high bid for each property, resulting from the request for proposal relevant to the tax lien sale and to **award** the high bid for the 27 properties which collectively totals \$390,971.30 as follows:

- ❖ Fig Investments – 21 bids totaling \$325,769.67; and
- ❖ Empire VIII CT Portfolio, LLC – 6 bids totaling \$105,416.00

Motion carried 8/0.

Town of East Hartford Retiree Pension Increases

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

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ONE PERCENT COST OF LIVING INCREASE TO TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD RETIREES WHO RETIRED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2001 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005

WHEREAS, the Town of East Hartford, through its Pension and Retiree Benefits Board, is contractually obligated to study every three years, the effect that economic conditions has had on retiree payments; and

WHEREAS, the results of the Retirement Board commissioned study shall be submitted to the Mayor who shall forward it to the Town Council for possible action; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council jointly recognize the economic impacts that have caused retiree pensions to fail to keep up with the effects of inflation and will fund an increase in the fiscal year 2017-18 budget to provide for this increase in retiree pensions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves an annual one percent cost of living adjustment for retirees and beneficiaries who retired after December 31, 2001 through June 30, 2005 to be paid as part of the pension payment for the period beginning July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0 **Abstain:** Harmon

Referral to Fees Committee: Inspections/Permits Department

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **refer** to the Fees Committee the proposed fee changes requested by the Inspections & Permits Department as presented in a memo dated June 13, 2017 from Greg Grew, Director of Inspections & Permits to Mayor Marcia Leclerc, with instructions to review the proposed changes and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
Motion carried 8/0.

Appointment of Rosamond White to the Personnel Board of Appeals

MOTION By Joe Carlson
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **approve** the appointment of Rosamond S. White, 93 Sandra Drive,
to the Personnel Board of Appeals as an Alternate; whose term shall
expire December 2019.
Motion carried 8/0.

Outdoor Amusement Permit Applications:

Gengras Harley-Davidson Summer Kickoff

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Gengras HD Summer Kickoff Event" submitted by Mallory Craig, Marketing and Events Coordinator for Gengras Motor Cars, Inc., to conduct an event to kickoff summer with live music and raffles on Saturday, June 24th from 9AM to 5PM with music from 12PM to 3PM at 221 Governor 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 8/0.

Gengras Harley-Davidson Independence Event

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Gengras HD Independence Event" submitted by Mallory Craig, Marketing and Events Coordinator for Gengras Motor Cars, Inc., to conduct an event with live music, raffles and vendors on Saturday, July 22nd from 9AM to 5PM with music from 12PM to 3PM at 221 Governor 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 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Ram Aberasturia congratulated the East Hartford High School Volleyball Team for placing 2nd in the state and ranked 96th of all high schools in the nation. He asked that the team be honored at an upcoming Town Council meeting.

Esther Clarke had an inquiry from a citizen regarding where bingo will be held while the South End Senior Center is being renovated. *Mayor Leclerc suggested that the resident try the North End Senior Center since they have bingo on their schedule.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Westman vs EAN Holdings, LLC

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to compromise the
 workers' compensation lien of Deputy Fire Chief Richard Westman in the
 amount of \$27,872.55 by accepting in satisfaction thereof the total sum of
 \$18,581.70 from the third-party action known as *Westman v. EAN*
 Holdings, LLC.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Brow vs EAN Holdings, LLC

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to compromise the
 workers' compensation lien of Firefighter Leroy Brow in the amount of
 \$48,307.44 by accepting in satisfaction thereof the total sum of \$32,204.96
 from the third-party action known as *Brow v. EAN Holdings, LLC*.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Pending Workers' Compensation Claim of Mark Callahan

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally
 settle any and all workers' compensation claims of former employee,
 Mark Callahan, for the total sum of \$7,500.00.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Pending Superior Court Action: MacKenzie Dodge

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the
 pending state court action known as Mackenzie Dodge, ppa et al. v. Dru
 Schlosser, et al., Docket No. HHD-CV-13-6041778S, for a total sum of
 \$107,500.00, subject to Probate Court approval.
 Motion carried 6/0. **Abstain:** Clarke, Harmon


OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **adjourn** (10:11 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be on July 11th.

Attest 
 Angela M. Attenello
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK