

## EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

June 21, 2022

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

**ABSENT**

**ALSO PRESENT** Mayor Michael Walsh  
Marilyn Cruz-Aponte, Interim Director of Public Works (via Teams)  
Melissa McCaw, Director of Finance  
Laurence Burnsed, Director of Health and Social Services (via Teams)  
Paul O'Sullivan, Grants Administrator  
Connor Martin, Chief of Staff (via Teams)  
Sarah Morgan, Library Director (via Teams)  
Eileen Buckheit, Director of Development (via Teams)  
Michael Zaleski, President & CEO, Riverfront Recapture  
Alessandro Capossela, General Manager, East Hartford Golf Club  
Ryan Phelps, Vice President of Operations, Indigo Partners  
Steve Howard, Regional Director of Sales and Marketing, Indigo Partners

### CALL TO ORDER

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

The Chair took a moment to recognize the recent passing of former Mayor and State Representative Melody Currey. Melody believed in government providing a helping hand especially to those who were economically disadvantaged. She encouraged many people to participate in government and politics. Ms. Currey left a lasting impact on the Town of East Hartford and will be missed.

The Chair then called for a moment of silence in Ms. Currey's honor.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Deb Arrieta, 6 Sunset Ridge Drive, (1) thanked the council for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Charter Revision Commission; (2) requested assurance that in the charter, the Town Council be identified as "Town Council" in lieu of simply "the Council" for clarity; and (3) requested that November ballot questions regarding the charter be composed individually vs. a singular inclusive question.

Mayor Walsh shared (1) wished all a good evening; (2) confirmed municipal solid waste collection system will change to All American Waste, LLC as of July 1, 2022. Recycling

collection will not change. A new process regarding bulky waste will be in place where each single family residence in town will receive 2 free curbside pickups of waste annually with no fee required. From July 1 to October 1 the existing ticketing system at the Transfer Station will remain, with pricing changes to go into effect on October 1, 2022; (3) provided a detailed breakdown of a resident's tax bill based on revised rates. Town Hall resources are available for residents with questions regarding individual bills; (4) The Police Department "Safe Streets" initiative has resulted in an increase in motor vehicle stops, warnings and tickets written over the previous year. The Mayor encouraged the community to drive safely; (5) East Hartford Public Library will host Latin Jazz featuring Nelson Bello and his Quintet on June 25 at 1 pm on the library lawn; (6) Parks and Recreation announce the "Hornets Run It" Coed Basketball camp in collaboration with the women's basketball state champion East Hartford High School Hornets and Coach Myette. Clinics for children ages 5-15 will take place at the high school gymnasium starting July 11; (7) Summer Youth Tennis with Parks and Recreation is being held June 20 through July 18 on Mondays and Wednesdays at the East Hartford High School courts; (8) The "Sounds of Summer" concert series will begin at Great River Park on Thursday, June 23 at 6 p.m.; (9) The "Cruisin' East Hartford Car Show" will be returning on Saturday, July 16 from 1-4 p.m. at Sunset Ridge Middle School; (10) Town outdoor pools are open to residents as of June 18<sup>th</sup>. Admission is free to town residents; (11) East Hartford Police and Park and Recreation are offering a Youth Basketball program on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. from June 21-July 26, alternating between Labor Park and Hockanum Park; (12) The Library is looking for local artists to participate in a summer art show to be hosted on the Brewer House lawn on Saturday July 16 from 1-4 p.m.; (13) New Food Truck regulations are now in effect to streamline the application process and provide greater access for local businesses and residents.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOTION        By Sebrina Wilson  
                     seconded by John Morrison  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

Motion carried 9/0.

### June 13, 2022 Joint Meeting with Charter Revision Commission

MOTION        By Sebrina Wilson  
                     seconded by Don Bell  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the June 13, 2022 Joint Meeting with Charter Revision Commission.

Motion carried 9/0.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### Presentation by Riverfront Recapture

Councillor Wilson, who serves as Council liaison to the Riverfront Recapture Board of Directors, introduced Michael Zaleski President & CEO. The organization oversees maintenance of Greater Hartford area river parks, hosting a variety of activities throughout

the year. Mr. Zaleski shared a presentation detailing a variety of upcoming events and programs. Current projects under development to improve the riverfront include a new fishing pier, tree planting, and a 2.5 mile Riverwalk extension from Hartford to Windsor. A full calendar of events and volunteer opportunities is available on the web at riverfront.org.

#### Presentation on East Hartford Golf Course by Indigo Golf Partners

Ryan Phelps, Vice President of Operations and Steve Howard, Regional Director of Sales and Marketing for Indigo Partners, along with Alessandro Capossela, General Manager, East Hartford Golf Club provided a review of recent historical data and changes made at the East Hartford Golf Course. Fiscal year 2021 saw the highest number of participants play at the facility, as golf as a sport has seen major gains in popularity as a result of the pandemic. The course has gained profitability due to the increased attendance, outsourcing of food and beverage, and the retirement of previous equipment leases.

The course's water supply had been provided by the MDC but the town converted several wells on the property for use in watering the golf course, thereby substantially reducing the MDC expense for golf course operations.

As the pandemic has subsided, marketing and promotional efforts are now more focused on local participation, offering a reasonably priced activity that encourages a healthy lifestyle. The team hopes to promote more local and youth participation by proposing a "Kids Play Free" program for younger participants to encourage interest in playing at the facility.

Mayor Walsh provided the Council with a history of the town's management of the course. Before the Indigo group was brought in, the course ran at a significant deficit. With the current growth in participation, the course has become more viable financially but now faces challenges of maintenance from the increased use. As the course is on wetlands and in a low area, improving drainage will continue to be a focus.

#### Resignation from Historic District Commission

Gary Lebeau has resigned from his post as a member of the Historic District Commission as he has moved out of East Hartford. The Council thanks Mr. Lebeau for his valuable service in volunteering his time to the commission and his service as a town councillor, state representative and state senator.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

Melissa McCaw, Finance Director provided preliminary Fiscal Year 2022 financial results along with a summary of interdepartmental transfers to be approved by the Council that will allow the town's departments to balance and close the fiscal year "in the black."

#### End of Fiscal Year 2021-2022: Interdepartmental Budget Transfers

MOTION           By Sebrina Wilson  
                          seconded by Tom Rup

to **approve** the interdepartmental transfers for fiscal year 2021-2022

consistent with the transfers listed in a memorandum from Finance Director Melissa McCaw to Mayor Michael P. Walsh dated June 21, 2022 totaling \$1,564,428 in transfers within the General Fund as follows:

<b>The Town of East Hartford</b>	
<b>For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022</b>	
<b>Year-End Budget Transfers</b>	
<b>General Fund To</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Corp Counsel - Legal	(78,971)
Development - Contractual Services	(25,315)
Finance - Employee Benefits - Workers Compensation	(680,813)
Fire Supression Overtime	(376,038)
Health - Social Services - Emergency Services	(102,599)
Health - Environmental Health - Contractual Services	(49,852)
Human Resources - Permanent Services	(12,355)
Human Resources - Consultant Services	(48,528)
Mayor's Office - Permanent Services	(25,604)
Police - Overtime	(163,322)
Registrar of Voters	(1,031)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(1,564,428)</b>

General Fund From	
Name	Amount
Economic Development Board	31,873
Contingency - Reserve for Contingency	254,232
Capital Improvements - Debt Service Energy	799
Inspections and Permits - Permanent Services	152,216
Library - Permanent Services	50,000
Library - Temporary Services	22,256
Parks - Golf Course Subsidy	100,000
Parks - Seasonal Labor	32,000
Parks - Facilities - Cleaning Supplies	8,000
Parks - Facilities - Contractual Services	21,246
Parks - Facilities - Electricity	50,580
Senior Services - Contractual Services	90,902
Probate Court - Printing	7,572
Public Works - Engineering - Permanent Services	33,561
Public Works - Highway Services - Permanent Services	284,271
Public Works - Fleet Services - Permanent Services	61,695
Public Works - Building Maintenance - Permanent Services	35,937
Public Works - Public Safety Complex - Equipment Maintenance	4,111
Public Works - Metropolitan District Assessment	268,200
Town Council- Internal Audit Services	11,474
Town Council- Advertising	2,500
Town Council- Printing	3,500
Youth Services - Permanent Services	37,503
TOTAL	1,564,428

Motion carried 9/0

Fiscal Year 22 Supplemental Budget Appropriation re: Fire Department Overtime

MOTION      By Don Bell  
                          seconded by Tom Rup  
                          to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Hartford has experienced higher than budgeted costs for unbudgeted Firefighter overtime costs due to required minimum manning and the impact of COVID and carryover vacation allocations on staffing, and

**WHEREAS**, these expenses have been or will be paid from the Town's General Fund by June 30, 2022, and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the aforementioned, it is necessary for the Town of East Hartford to set aside additional budget contributions to fund a projected General Fund deficit in fiscal year 2021-22.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve this Supplemental Budget Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$932,097 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance for the purpose of funding a fiscal year 2021-22 deficit as listed below and does hereby amend the current 2021-22 fiscal year Operating Budget to reflect the attached Supplemental Revenue Appropriation and Expenditure Appropriation.

G0320-55900	Fund Balance Appropriation	932,097
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G5317-60141	Fire Suppression – Overtime	932,097
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On call of the vote, the motion carried 9/0

### ARPA Account Reallocation Adjustments

**MOTION** By Awet Tsegai  
seconded by Angie Parkinson

to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**; the Town has been awarded \$24,561,068 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the U.S. Treasury; and

**WHEREAS**; in order to most effectively use these funds, reallocations among project accounts are periodically necessary;

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED;** that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make the following transfers among ARPA Accounts:

1. Transfer \$1,865,000.00 from “Renovation of North End Community Center” to “ARPA Unallocated Balance”
2. Transfer \$3,000.00 from “COVID-19 Response Retroactive Pay: East Hartford Police Officers’ Association” to “ARPA Unallocated Balance”
3. Transfer \$63,755.00 from “COVID-19 Response Retroactive Pay: Local 1174, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO” to “ARPA Unallocated Balance”

On call of the vote, motion carried 9/0

## ARPA Allocation- Summer Youth Program Expansion

**MOTION** By Angie Parkinson  
seconded by Don Bell

**WHEREAS**; families with children in East Hartford have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and

**WHEREAS;** this impact has created the need for a Summer program designed to address the social, emotional, and academic needs of children in East Hartford,

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED;** that the Town Council designates the Summer Youth Program Expansion Project as a project to be funded by the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation

**AND LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED;** the Town Council appropriates \$72,500 from the town's unallocated balance of ARPA funds for the implementation of this project

On call of the vote, the motion carried 8/0 (Simpson out of Chamber)

Annual Per Capita Grant Allocation from Department of Public Health

MOTION        By Awet Tsegai  
                     seconded by John Morrison  
                     to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS;** the Connecticut Department of Public Health has allocated funds to the Town under the Per Capita Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS;** these funds can be used to provide essential health services to the residents of the Town of East Hartford,

**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 Department of Public Health as they pertain to this Per Capita grant.

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

License Renewal: Community Garden at Kilty Farm

MOTION        By Angie Parkinson  
                     seconded by Awet Tsegai  
                     to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS;** the Growing Roots Community Garden LLC has operated a community garden at the former Kilty farm since April, 2020 under a license from the Town and;

**WHEREAS;** the community garden has provided fresh food for several nonprofits based in the area, and;

**WHEREAS;** Growing Roots Community Garden LLC that requested an extension of the license and an amendment allowing children 12 and over to visit the site.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED;** that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to execute and approve on behalf of this

corporation, an amendment to this license that extends the term to April 1, 2024 and permits children 12 and over to visit the site with adult supervision.

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

## Charter Revision Commission Final Report

MOTION      By Don Bell  
                     seconded by Tom Rup

That the proposed amendments to the East Hartford Town Charter recommended by the Charter Revision Commission as contained in the revised charter dated 6/13/2022 are **approved**.

Motion Carried 9/0

MOTION      By Don Bell  
seconded by Harry Amadasun

That the proposed amendments to the East Hartford Town Charter adopted by the Town Council on June 21, 2022 be submitted to the Town Electors for approval or disapproval at a referendum in conjunction with the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (E.S.T.) and that the warning of said referendum shall state the question to be voted upon as follows:

**Shall the Town Charter be amended to provide flexibility in reorganizing town departments, create a position of Chief Administrative Officer, eliminate the minimum voter turnout requirement for referendum in Section 8.5, eliminate the Personnel Appeals Board, clarify the line of succession in the event of a Mayoral vacancy and make minor and technical changes?**

That the warning shall also state that the full text of the aforesaid charter amendments is on file, open to public inspection, in the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town of East Hartford Website, and that the referendum will be conducted in accordance with state law, and absentee ballots will be available in accordance with state law in the office of the Town Clerk.

That the ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

**Shall the proposed amendments to the East Hartford Town Charter that were recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Town Council be approved?**

Yes      No

That pursuant to Section 9-369b(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes the Town Clerk is authorized to prepare explanatory text for the Ballot Question.

Motion carried 9/0

## Recommendations from Fees Committee: Transfer Station Permit Fees



MOTION By Harry Amadasun  
seconded by Awet Tsegai

to adopt/approve the following Transfer Station fee schedule effective October 1, 2022:

\$10 (\$5 for town residents 65 and older) for a passenger vehicle, mini-van, SUV, single axle trailer without rails and pickup truck.

\$40 for large quantity vehicles, defined as a pickup with side rails, cargo van, single axle trailer with side rails. No senior discount will apply.

\$60 for large quantity vehicles, defined as a pickup with side rails and with single axle trailer attachment with side rails or an enclosed trailer maximum 12 feet. No senior discount will apply.

\$80 for large quantity vehicles, defined as a pickup truck with rails and attached enclosed trailer maximum 12 feet. No senior discount will apply.

\$100 for large quantity vehicles, defined as a box truck maximum 15 feet. No senior discount will apply.

Annual Bulky Permit Tickets sold between July 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022 for use as payment from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 may be used until these tickets expire; with a value of \$10 or \$5 if purchased at a discounted rate.

Red non-expiring Tickets will have a value of \$10. These tickets will stop being sold at the discretion of the Public Works Director as the program transitions to the new format.

Motion carried 9/0

Recommendation from Ordinance Committee: Enterprise Zone

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson  
Seconded by John Morrison

to **amend** the town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances by repealing Sections 2-117 "Findings and Purpose" and 2-118 "Municipal Enterprise Zone Established" of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances and substituting in lieu thereof language that is consistent with the draft dated May 31, 2022 which was approved at the May 31, 2022 Ordinance Committee meeting.

MOTION By Tom Rup  
Seconded by Harry Amadasun

to **amend the** motion to reflect the ordinance be effective on October 1, 2022.

Motion carried 9/0

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

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

Councillor Tsegai requested an update on the SiFi FiberCity project. *The Mayor shared that trenching has begun in the Hill Street area. The process is taking more time than expected. Roughly 3-5 miles of fiber has been laid thus far.*

Councillor Simpson asked whether the town would be held responsible for repaving after trenches are laid by SiFi or other utility companies. The Councillor also shared that site plan for the Jasko development on the Showcase Cinema site was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and not well received. The Councillor asked if there was a chance that as the Enterprise Zone is changed, if the site plan be consolidated. *The Mayor stated that administration is working with Corporation Counsel to review the responsibilities of the Planning and Zoning Commission as the site plan has evolved.*

Councillor Morrison requested an updated on the administration's use of unallocated ARPA funds. *The Mayor disclosed that the Town Hall renovation project is estimated to be more expensive than anticipated. At a future Council meeting (likely August) a full disclosure of where ARPA funds are programmed will be provided, with a focus on completion of the renovation which may require reallocation of ARPA funding.*

Councillor Bell thanked the Mayor and administration for their efforts and the success of the recent Juneteenth event.

#### COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

MOTION        By Sebrina Wilson  
                     seconded by Don Bell

to accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending workers' compensation claims of former Town employee, Joseph DiMarco, for a total sum of \$42,500.00.

Motion carried 9/0

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Walsh stated that the dilapidated residence at 12 Bodwell Street has been demolished. The building located at 1030 Tolland Street that suffered fire damage beyond repair is still in process to be taken down.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION        By John Morrison  
                     seconded by Don Bell  
                     to **adjourn** (10:39 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 July 12, 2022.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Marshall  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK