

*Robert J. Back*

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2018 JUL 16 A 8:36

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

JULY 10, 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 and Caroline Torres

ABSENT Councillors Shelby J. Brown and Patricia Harmon

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.

Chair Kehoe called for a moment of silence to honor the life of William P. Foran, a 42-year employee of the East Hartford Fire Department, who retired as Deputy Chief. Mr. Foran served his country during World War II as a Medic in the Army. Upon his return from the war, he continued service to the community by volunteering at Hose Club #2 and as a sexton for St. Mary Cemetery. He will be missed.

Chair Kehoe announced that he attended the reception for Deputy Chief Timothy McConville, who retired from the East Hartford Police Department after 32 years of dedicated service. DC McConville's administrative acumen, as well as his positive interactions with the citizens of East Hartford, highlighted his competence and caring. He will be missed. We wish him well.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **amend** the agenda as follows:

Under New Business, add item 8.E. entitled "Recommendations from the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: 111 Ellington Road, 13-17 Village Street – Easement Agreement and 365-369 & 375-379 Burnside Avenue".

Motion carried 7/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, asked if the proposed bond for the Town Hall Improvements is a new bond; and (2) is concerned about the assessment appeal of Hartford East Elderly Apartments and asked that the Council delay a vote on this item.

Mayor Leclerc (1) noted that any proposed settlement of an assessment appeal brought before the Council typically stems from a Superior Court proceeding where the legal issues have been vetted; (2) Keith Chapman, Interim Public Works Director, is here this evening to address the increased cost in the proposed Town Hall improvement bond; (3) on Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup> the band "Locomotion" will be playing at the Amphitheater; (4) Parks and Recreation and the Library have been extremely busy with several interesting events and programs; (5) on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, Raymond Library will host an Art Show by Stanwyck Cromwell from 1-4PM and the Hartford Steel Band will be playing on the front lawn from 2-3PM; (6) the Special Olympics volunteers and participants were involved in the opening ceremony at the Hartford Yard Goats Stadium; (7) the EHPD kicked off their Youth Basketball league at Martin Park and Hockanum Park on alternating Thursdays through July; and (8) the Farmers' Market started last Friday and is held from 9AM to 1PM on the front lawn of the Raymond Library.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### June 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Linda Russo  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the June 19, 2018 Regular Meeting.  
                     Motion carried 7/0.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### EHFD: Public Protection Classification Survey

John Oates, Fire Chief and Kevin Munson, the new Assistant Fire Chief, gave the Council a brief overview of the importance of the ISO Public Protection Classification Survey (PPC). The PPC provides fire departments and communities, with a valuable benchmark when planning, budgeting and justifying fire protection improvement. The Chief compared the survey to a "report card" for the town's fire protection system. The most recent PPC survey for East Hartford resulted in a "Class 2" level— first time in the Department's history. In Connecticut, there are only 4 Fire Departments rated "Class 2" and only 3 departments with a "Class 1" rating. The improvements needed to achieve a "Class 1" rating are being reviewed, but one of the upgrades needed is a centralized fire training facility – a burn house – that would be located in East Hartford. The Chief indicated that discussion is ongoing statewide regarding the actual need for each town in Connecticut to have their own burn house. The Chief has been directed by the Mayor to look into funding opportunities, such as grants, to help with the cost of advancing to a "Class 1" rating.

## NEW BUSINESS

*To accommodate those present, the following motion was made.*

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Linda Russo  
                     to take item 8. D. 2. "Pedal to the Medal as part of the Eversource

Hartford Marathon" under New Business, out of order.  
Motion carried 7/0.

Pedal to the Medal as part of Eversource Hartford Marathon - 2018

MOTION By Marc Weinberg  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit entitled "Pedal to the Medal as part of Eversource Hartford Marathon" submitted by Josh Miller, Technical Director for the Hartford Marathon Foundation to hold a recreational bike ride along the course of the Hartford Marathon on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 4AM to 7AM; 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 7/0.

*The Council then returned to the order of the agenda.*

Setting a Public Hearing Date of August 7, 2018 re: Proposed Bonds for Town Hall Improvements and the Road Program

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **set** a public hearing date of Tuesday August 7, 2018 @ 7PM in Council Chambers to (1) hear public comment on a Resolution Appropriating \$4,500,000 for the Planning, Design, Replacement, Construction and Reconstruction of Improvements to the Town Hall and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,500,000 bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose; and (2) to hear public comment on a Resolution Appropriating \$15,000,000 for the Planning, Design, Construction and Reconstruction of Town Roads and Parking Lots and Authorizing the Issuance of \$15,000,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose.  
Motion carried 7/0.

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Grant: Senior Center Project

MOTION By Joe Carlson  
seconded by Marc Weinberg  
to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Town is engaged in the creation of a new Senior Center at the former Blessed Sacrament Church; and

WHEREAS the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving provides funding to support a variety of broad-based areas that reflect the diverse needs and interests of our region, including health, education and family and social services.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make application to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in an amount not to exceed

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0.

MOTION By Linda Russo  
seconded by Caroline Torres  
to **refer** to the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee the  
possible sale of 67 Woodbridge Avenue, a property owned by the town, to  
Habitat for Humanity, with instructions to review the matter and report back  
to the Town Council with its recommendations if any.  
Motion carried 7/0.

MOTION

By Joe Carlson  
seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “The Hartford Steel Symphony Outdoor Concert” submitted by Sarah Kline Morgan, Library Director for the East Hartford Public Library/Town of East Hartford, to conduct a free concert on the front lawn of the Raymond Library on Saturday, July 14, 2018 from 2PM to 3:30PM in connection with the opening of an Art Show featuring the works of Stanwyck Cromwell; 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 7/0.

Recommendations from the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee:

111 Ellington Road

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Caroline Torres  
                 that the Town Council **not** acquire the 4.48 acre parcel of land known as  
                 111 Ellington Road.  
                 Motion carried 7/0.

13-17 Village Street

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Caroline Torres  
                 that the Town Council, cognizant of all pertinent and applicable surveys  
                 and in receipt of the Planning and Zoning Commissions' favorable 8-24  
                 report, (1) **grant** an easement to 13-17 Village Street LLC, in the form  
                 attached hereto, for the purposes of parking vehicles on Town land  
                 abutting the Town's levee, as such land is described in the attached  
                 easement; and (2) in recognition of the fact that such property has been  
                 used for over 40 years for this purpose, **waive** the appraisal requirements  
                 set forth in 10-19 (c) of the Town Ordinances.  
                 Motion carried 7/0.

*A copy of the easement follows these minutes.*

365-369 and 375-379 Burnside Avenue

MOTION      By Linda Russo  
                 seconded by Caroline Torres  
                 that the Town Council **not** acquire the state-owned land at the "S" curve on  
                 Burnside Avenue, as referenced on the town's GIS as Map 25, Lot 154 –  
                 365-369 Burnside Avenue and Map 25, Lot 153 – 375-379 Burnside  
                 Avenue.  
                 Motion carried 7/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Ram Aberasturia reported that on June 10<sup>th</sup>, he rented Lord pool in Gorman Park for his daughter's birthday party and was impressed with the facility and the staff. Many of the parents in attendance, who were from outside the community, agreed with Councillor Aberasturia. He commended the Mayor and Ted Fravel, Parks and Recreation Director for their efforts.

In light of the recent drowning of a teenager in the Keney Park pool, Esther Clarke asked what security measures and surveillance equipment is in place at East Hartford's pools. *Mayor Leclerc was not sure to what degree the pools are monitored, but would report back to the Council with this information.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Jane Boston v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. CV-15-6057681-S

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Marc Weinberg  
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending Superior Court action known as Jane Boston v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. CV-17-6038263-S, for total sum of \$17,500.00.  
Motion carried 7/0.

Hartford East Elderly Apartments Limited Partnership v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. CV-17-6037473-S, Assessment Appeal

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia  
seconded by Marc Weinberg  
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending assessment (tax) appeal known as Hartford East Elderly Apartments Limited Partnership, Docket NO. CV-17-6037473-S involving real property located at 886 Main Street, from the fair market value of \$8,875,885 to the following:

1. Grand List Year of 2016: \$6,800,000
2. Grand List Year of 2017: \$7,700,000
3. Grand List Year of 2018: \$9,200,000
4. Grand List Year of 2019: \$9,200,000
5. Grand List Year of 2020: \$9,200,000

This settlement will generate a reduction of \$68,369.00 in property taxes for the Grand List Year of 2016 only.

Motion carried 7/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

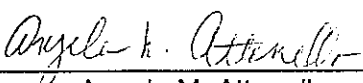
None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke  
seconded by Linda Russo  
to **adjourn** (9:08 p.m.).  
Motion carried 7/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Attest

  
Angela M. Attenello  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK