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EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK EAST HARTFORD

AUGUST 4, 2020

PRESENT

Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Minority Leader Esther B.

Clarke (via Teams), Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai and John

Morrison

ABSENT

Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Councillors Connor Martin and Patricia

Harmon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m. He asked that the Council join him in the pledge of allegiance. The Chair noted that Councillor Harmon was unable to join the meeting because of a lack of phone service and Councillor Martin was called back to work due to Tropical Storm Isaias.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION

By Angie Parkinson seconded by Don Bell

to amend the agenda as follows:

under New Business, add Item 8.C. entitled "Neglected Cemeteries Grant".

Motion carried 6/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 14, 2020 Executive Session

MOTION

By Angie Parkinson

seconded by Don Bell

to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020 Executive Session.

Motion carried 6/0.

July 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION

By Angie Parkinson seconded by Don Bell

to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried 6/0.

July 15, 2020 Public Forum – Policing in East Hartford

MOTION By Angie Parkinson

seconded by Don Bell

to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 Public Forum.

Motion carried 6/0.

July 22, 2020 Public Forum - Policing in East Hartford

MOTION By Angie Parkinson

seconded by Don Bell

to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 Public Forum.

Motion carried 6/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

2020 Proposed Bond Referenda

Mayor Leclerc gave a brief overview of the importance for each of the bond issues, which she is proposing to have on the ballot November 2020.

\$10M Town Building Improvements

John Lawlor, Public Works Director, detailed the recommended improvements to various town buildings, which are separate from the annual Capitol Improvement Projects appropriation. The facilities that would be covered in the \$10M bond issue are: Town Hall; Vehicle Storage Building at the PSC; Hockanum Library; North End Senior Center; Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse and Wickham Library. Also, the following feasibility study sites would be included in the same bond issue: DPW Facility; Fire Houses #1, #2 and #6 and Historic Buildings at Martin Park and Burnside Avenue. It was noted that the cost of the improvements will exceed the \$10M, but the town will look for other sources of funds to make up any difference.

\$15M Road Program

Mr. Lawlor stated that the majority of the \$15M bond issue is for road rehabilitation, including town sidewalks, town parking lots and other infrastructure improvements. These funds would continue the multi-year road-resurfacing plan.

\$11.6M East Hartford Middle and High School Roofs Replacement Project

Two representatives from the East Hartford Public Schools gave a summary of the worked needed for the replacement of both the Middle School and the High School. <u>Ben Whittaker</u>, Chief Operations Officer and former Director of Facilities, and <u>Jim Rovezzi</u>, Assistant Director of Facilities, stated that the roofs were last replaced in 1992. While various repairs were made over the years, it is time that the roofs were replaced. The replacement will be similar to the Middle School's "C" building – completed in 2019 – and

Langford School – completed in 2016. The barrel roof on the Middle School's gymnasium and the pool skylight areas will be addressed within the project as well.

Mr. Whittaker said that since this is part of the State's Office of School Construction

Grants Project process, at least 50% and up to 70% of the cost (\$11.6M) is funded by the state of Connecticut.

Financial Impact of Proposed Bonds to East Hartford

<u>Linda Trzetziak</u>, Finance Director, reviewed the process by which bonds are utilized within each project. Additionally, Ms. Trzetziak went over the projected debt service with the Councillors. The actual impact on the budget will depend on when the town issues the bonds, which could be several years depending on the projects being paid for with bond funds

NEW BUSINESS

Homeland Security Grant Program

MOTION

By Awet Tsegai

seconded by John Morrison to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Town of East Hartford may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, as Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Hartford and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

On call of the vote, motion carried 6/0.

Setting a Public Hearing Date of August 18, 2020 re: Bonds

MOTION

By Awet Tsegai

seconded by Angie Parkinson

to **set** a Public Hearing Date Of Tuesday August 18, 2020 @ 7pm In Council Chambers To Hear Public Comment On The Following Proposed Bond Resolutions:

 Resolution Appropriating \$15,000,000 For The Planning, Design, Construction And Reconstruction Of Town Roads, Town Parking Lots And Sidewalks 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
- Resolution Appropriating \$10,000,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Reconstruction And Equipping Of Improvements To Town Buildings And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$10,000,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose
- 3. Resolution Appropriating \$11,620,000 For The Planning, Design, Acquisition, Reconstruction And Equipping Of The East Hartford High School And East Hartford Middle School Roofs And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$4,000,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose

MOTION

By Awet Tsegai seconded by Esther Clarke to amend the motion as follows:

"...to set a Public Hearing Date Of Tuesday August 18, 2020 @ 7pm In Council Chambers, or by video conference to hear public comment..." Motion carried 6/0.

On call of the vote on the amended motion, motion carried 6/0.

Neglected Cemeteries Grant

MOTION

By Angie Parkinson seconded by Esther Clarke

to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the state Office of Policy and Management (OPM) makes funds available to municipalities under the Neglected Cemeteries Program; and

WHEREAS the purpose of this program is to provide grants to clear weeds, briars and bushes; to mow cemetery lawn areas; to repair fences and walls; to straighten memorial stones and perform other activities to keep neglected cemeteries in an orderly and decent condition.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make application to, accept, execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all agreements, documents, contracts, and amendments as may be required by the state Office of Policy and Management as they pertain to this Neglected Cemeteries Grant Program.

On call of the vote, motion carried 6/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

None

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS.

Pending Assessment Appeal: Leggett Street Realty LLC, Docket No. #HHB-CV-18-604579-S, involving real property at 69 Leggett Street and 34 Leggett Street

MOTION

By Don Bell

seconded by John Morrison

to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending assessment tax appeal known as Leggett Street Realty, LLC v town of East Hartford, Docket Number HHB-CV-18-6045749-S, involving real property located at 69 Leggett Street, from the fair market value of \$2,274,310 to the fair market value of \$1,250,000, which shall generate a reduction of \$34,172.70 in property taxes for the Grand List Year of 2017.

There will be no change in valuation for 34 Leggett Street.

Motion carried 6/0.

Pending Workers' Compensation Claim of Former Employee, Iran Jackson

MOTION

By Don Bell

seconded by Angie Parkinson

to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle all outstanding Workers' Compensation claims of former Town

employee, Iran Jackson, for a total sum of \$70,000.00.

Motion carried 6/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Leclerc (1) announced that Theresa Buchanan has been appointed the new Human Resources Director; (2) the replacement of the stairs at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center is completed; (3) the clapboard painting at the Brewer House is finished; (4) the new Senior Center project is on time and on budget; (5) State Representative Jason Rojas helped the town receive a grant from the state for a new generator; (6) the gate at the top of Great River Park will be closed at dusk and opened at dawn; (7) the town's camps and pool programs are going well; (8) the town's newly designed signs are ready to implement; (9) Covid-19 testing takes place every Friday at the Farmers' Market, as well as the Census 2020; (10) the distracted driving program will begin soon; and (11) there are several complications with the implementation of the absentee ballots for the August primary, but the Town Clerk has been working through the issues.

Rich Kehoe inquired if the town will collect brush and debris from tonight's storm. The Mayor stated that, at this point, the transfer station will be open this Saturday, but there are no plans to pick up debris left on the curb.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

By Esther Clarke seconded by Don Bell to **adjourn** (10:26 p.m.). Motion carried 6/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be August 18th.

Attest

Angela M. Attenello TOWN COUNCIL CLERK