

Robert J. Peseck

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2020 AUG 10 A 10:38

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 work needed for the replacement of both the Middle School and the High School. Ben Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer and former Director of Facilities, and Jim Rovezzi, 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

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.

Linda Trzetzziak, Finance Director, reviewed the process by which bonds are utilized within each project. Additionally, Ms. Trzetzziak 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.

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

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.

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

1. 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

2. 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

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

Pending Workers' Compensation Claim of Former Employee, Iran Jackson


OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

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