

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader Barbara-Ann Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Linda A. Russo, Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D. Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:35 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.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Beautification Commission – August 2015 Awards:

Patricia Sirois, Chair of the Beautification Commission, presented the August awards for residential landscaping to the Fusco Family, 50 Blackstone Lane and the award for business landscaping to James Carter, owner of 101 Pitkin Street.

The Council joined Ms. Sirois in thanking the recipients for making East Hartford a prettier place to live.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) is looking forward to the Horizon Group's presentation; (2) congratulated Joseph Kronen for his appointment to the Board of Ethics; (3) supports the Youth Services grant on tonight's agenda; (4) suggested that the Council liaisons present a monthly report on the entity they are assigned to; and (5) asked for an update on the Madigan vs East Hartford Housing Authority law suit.

Timothy Larson, 33 Gorman Place, strongly supports economic development along the Silver Lane/Rentschler Field corridor and is extremely interested in the Horizon Group's presentation.

Mayor Leclerc announced (1) the newly renovated Raymond Library will have a soft opening on September 8<sup>th</sup> and a grand opening on September 26<sup>th</sup>; (2) Mayor's Clean-up Day is September 12<sup>th</sup>; (3) accepted a \$200,000 EPA assessment grant on August 28<sup>th</sup>; and (4) attended Goodwin College's Manufacturing Center ribbon cutting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 18, 2015 Public Hearing

MOTION By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
to **approve** the minutes of the August 18, 2015 Public Hearing/Parking  
Ticket Procedures and CTDA.  
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Horan

#### August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Barbara Rossi  
seconded by Marc Weinberg  
to **approve** the minutes of the August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting.  
Motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Horan

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

##### Responses to Questions Asked of Administration – August 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting re: Graffiti

Mayor Leclerc's email response:

*A review of the graffiti on Park Avenue (333, 433, 455, 465, 481 Park Avenue) was photographed and documented today. Additional markings were also photographed on Tolland Street. Each property owner was notified and asked to remediate the graffiti on their respective buildings and was given a two week time period to resolve. The owner of 455 Park Avenue indicated they have tried, without success, two different products to remove the graffiti without success but will continue to find solutions.*

##### On-Call Service Contracts Report: FY 2014-2015

Chair Kehoe briefly explained the conditions of Town Ordinance §10-6(a) and the compliance with that ordinance. The town has five outstanding on-call contracts which will be in effect for a maximum of five years from the date of the award of the contract or for a maximum dollar amount of \$100,000, whichever comes first.

##### East Hartford Housing Authority

Chair Kehoe announced that Kathleen Stephens, who resides at Shea Gardens, was elected to the position of Tenant Commissioner on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Kehoe also announced the resignation of Robert Keating from the East Hartford Housing Authority. Mr. Keating served as Chair for most of his 14 years on the Board of Commissioners. He also worked for 30 years in Town Hall and served 8 years on the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. He guided the East Hartford Housing Authority through a difficult financial period but leaves the Authority in a very strong financial and managerial condition. Chair Kehoe wished him well in his retirement.

##### The Horizon Group Presentation

Mayor Leclerc introduced members of the Horizon Group Properties – including Gary Skoien, CEO of the Horizon Group – who are planning a significant retail development at

Rentschler Field. The Mayor also introduced Dan Matos, President of the Matos Group – the preferred developer of Rentschler Field – and Charlie Veley of United Technologies Corporation.

A PowerPoint presentation showed a planned outlet center of over 400,000 s.f. as well as mixed-use retail, restaurants, residential units and two hotels. Anticipated start date is this Fall with completion of construction by early 2017. This development will be the catalyst for future development along the Silver Lane/Rentschler Field corridor.

The Council strongly supports this initiative and hopes that any negotiations between the Horizon Group and the State of Connecticut – regarding financial incentives – are favorable.

## NEW BUSINESS

### State of Connecticut Cemeteries Grant

MOTION        By Marc Weinberg  
                     seconded by Barbara Rossi  
                     to **adopt** the following resolution:

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

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this program is to provide grants of up to \$2,000 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, and execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all 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 9/0.

### Youth Services Prevention Grant

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Anita Morrison  
                     to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the Town of East Hartford (Youth Task Force) has been identified In Public Act 15-5, SB 5102 to be a recipient of a \$85,200 per year grant from the State of Connecticut for the provision of preventive youth services for fiscal years 2016 and 2017; and

**WHEREAS** as a condition of the grant, the Town is required to provide documentation that details a plan for spending, monitoring, and reporting on these funds in a manner that is consistent with the intent of the Public Act.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**; that Marcia A. Leclerc, 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 State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Office of the Chief Court Administrator as they pertain to this Youth Services Prevention grant.

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

## Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Linda Russo  
                     to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, The Connecticut Department of Public Health has offered funding under the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program; and

**WHEREAS**, this money goes toward supporting planning, training, exercise, operations and intervention activity expenses relative to the prevention and/or mitigation of disease outbreaks and injuries resulting from epidemics, disasters and bioterrorism,

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc has been empowered to make, execute and approve on behalf of this corporation any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health to fund a \$74,468.00 "Public Health Preparedness" grant for the period July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.

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

## Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

### Pension and Retiree Benefit Board

MOTION        By Linda Russo  
                     seconded by Barbara Rossi  
                     to **approve** the appointment of Ellen McCreery, 39 Greene Terrace,  
                     to the Pension and Retiree Benefits Board, whose term shall expire  
                     December 2017.  
                     Motion carried 9/0.

### Board of Ethics

MOTION        By Pat Harmon  
                     seconded by Anita Morrison  
                     to **approve** the appointment of Joseph Kronen, 56 Farnham Drive, to the  
                     Board of Ethics, whose term shall expire December 2018.  
                     Motion carried 9/0.

## Outdoor Amusement Permit: "26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fest"

MOTION        By Marc Weinberg  
                     seconded by Barbara Rossi  
                     to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application submitted by Ted  
                     Fravel, Director of the East Hartford Parks & Recreation Department, to  
                     conduct the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fest– which will include children's activities  
                     such as arts and crafts, pumpkin painting, games, inflatables, contests,  
                     civic group booths, food and commercial vendors, pony rides and a petting  
                     farm – on the Town Green, Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 10AM to 4PM  
                     with music on the same date and time (rain date of Sunday, October 4,  
                     2015 same hours); 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 9/0.

Setting a Public Hearing Date re: Billboard Relocation Requests

MOTION        By Bill Horan  
                  seconded by Barbara Rossi  
                  that pursuant to Section 3-30(c) of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances,  
                  the Town Council **sets** a public hearing date of Wednesday September  
                  16<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM in Council Chambers to hear public comment on the proposed  
                  agreement by TLC Properties LLC d/b/a TLC Properties of Connecticut  
                  Inc. and Lamar Central Outdoor Inc. to relocate 2 billboards located at 361  
                  Main Street and 2 of the 4 billboards at 1179 Burnside Avenue to a location  
                  facing I-84 westbound at 65 Roberts Street.  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Pat Harmon had questions on road construction in the Forbes Street area. *Chair Kehoe answered her concerns.*

Councillor Harmon also reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school went smoothly with regards to the number of Dattco school buses on the road.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION        By Esther Clarke  
                  seconded by Bill Horan  
                  to **adjourn** (9:50 p.m.).  
                  Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be **Wednesday**, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Angela M. Attenello  
                  TOWN COUNCIL CLERK