

Robert J. Brock
EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

~~2020~~ OCT 13 P 12:07

OCTOBER 6, 2020

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, and John Morrison

PRESENT Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson and Councillor Patricia Harmon
Via "TEAMS"

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The Chair noted that the Council was, once again, holding a "hybrid" meeting – a combination of Councillors physically present in Chambers and those present through the Microsoft "Teams" platform. He then asked the Council to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **amend** the agenda as follows:

Item 8.A., under New Business, delete the words "Recommendation from" and add the words "The Town Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole for".

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Leclerc (1) thanked Frank Collins for his years of service to the town; and (2) introduced the new Human Resources Director, Theresa Buchanan, to the Town Council. The Mayor stated that she would make additional announcements at the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 15, 2020 Executive Session

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by John Morrison
to **approve** the minutes of the September 15, 2020 Executive Session.
Motion carried 9/0.

September 15, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Connor Martin
 to **approve** the minutes of the September 15, 2020 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 9/0.

September 22, 2020 Public Forum – Addressing Racism

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Awet Tsegai
 to **approve** the minutes of the September 22, 2020 Public Forum.
 Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Resignation of Frank Collins from the Economic Development Commission

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **accept**, with regret, the resignation of Frank Collins from the Economic
 Development Commission.
 Motion carried 9/0.

Election Day Budget Update

Robert Pasek, Town Clerk, reported to the Council that, as of today, his office has processed approximately 5,400 absentee ballots as compared to 697 absentee ballots during the last presidential voting cycle in 2016. Voting registration has increased by approximately 3,000 to a total of 33,792 registered voters in East Hartford. Eight individuals have been hired on a temporary basis to sort and process absentee ballots. The Welling Conference Room has been designated as the operations center for them; each person has a computer, scanner, label printer, mailing tray, etc. Mr. Pasek went on to say that since absentee ballots are **not** opened until the morning of Election Day – November 3rd – it is probable that the sheer volume of absentee ballots will likely prevent the final election results until the next day or even later that week.

Linda Trzetzak, Finance Director, reviewed the financial impact of Election Day with the Council. She stated that the total revenue received – including grants and direct funding from the state – is approximately \$83,200. With estimated expenses for both the Registrars of Voters and the Town Clerk's Office currently at \$71,600, it appears that there is enough revenue to cover expenses associated with the November 2020 election and that there should be no need for a contingency fund transfer.

Town Council – Acting as a Committee of the Whole for the Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition Committee re: Boundary Line Agreement for 144 Roberts Street, 95 Church Street and 100 Olde Roberts Street

Referral to the Tax Policy Committee re: Economic Development Incentive Guidelines

Referral to Investigations and Audit Committee re: Classified and Non-classified Service Compensation

Volume 89

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

DATE: October 1, 2020
TO: Town Council
FROM: Rich Kehoe, Chair; Esther Clarke, Minority Leader
RE: Non-union Wage Chart and Town Directors' Salaries

On March 3, 2020, the Town Council approved a motion to refer 'the task of reviewing the non-union wage chart for non-union, classified service positions and Town Directors' to the Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee. The subcommittee met and engage an outside consultant to review the compensation levels of such positions in similar municipalities in Connecticut. Such study is ongoing at this time.

The Town Charter provides that the Town Council fixes the compensation for non-classified service employees and establishes the qualifications for such positions. East Hartford Town Charter section 3.4 Further, the Town Charter provides that the Town Council shall determine the salaries of all directors 'in conformity, with a systematic pay plan for the position involved'. East Hartford Town Charter section 5.25. Finally, East Hartford Town Ordinances section 15-8a requires that the Town Council review the wage chart for non-union classified service positions and town directors annually.

The Town Council has not reviewed such wage chart and made adjustments for many years which is why in March the issue was referred the Personnel and Pensions subcommittee.

Since that time, several directors salaries have been set at amounts exceeding those established on the outdated wage chart.

The second issue involves the town's personnel rules which are embodied in a document entitled Personnel Rules and Merit System. These rules are enacted pursuant to Town Charter section 7.2 entitled classified service. In this section, a pay plan is established for all positions in the classified service (subsection (c)) and that the mayor shall prepare 'a set of personnel rules which shall provide, among other things, for the method of holding competitive examinations, administration of the classification plan, probationary periods of employment, hours of work, vacations, sick leaves and other leaves of absence, removals and such other rules as may be necessary to provide an adequate and systematic procedure for the handling of the personnel affairs of the town (subsection (d)). Such rules become effective upon filing of such rules with the Town Clerk and distributed to all members of the classified service.

Although this authority for these rules is based on Town Charter section 7.2, the rules over time --predating the current mayor -- have been extended to town directors and others who are not in the classified service. This seems in conflict with the Town Charter provision providing that the authority for compensation for non-classified service personnel is placed in the Town Council.

Given the potential problems with providing compensation above legally established pay grid amount for directors and non-classified service employees however well-intentioned and deserved and given that numerous provisions of the town's personnel rules for classified service have been extended inappropriately, again however well intentioned, to positions outside the classified service, we believe it is appropriate for the Town Council's Investigations and Audit subcommittee to jointly work with the Town Council's Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee to determine the appropriate course of action to bring compensation levels of those positions outside the classified service into line with the market rate for such similar positions and consistent with the compensation for those positions in classified service which serve under such directors or non-classified personnel.

It is important that such matters which are critically important to the hard-working members of the non-classified service are handled appropriately in recognition of their dedication to the people of East Hartford while at the same time handled consistent with the Town Charter and Town Ordinances.

Referral to Ordinance Committee:

Municipal Water Coordinator

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **refer** the issue of establishing a Municipal Water Coordinator position to the Ordinance Committee with instructions to review the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations if any.
Motion carried 9/0.

Renaming of Columbus Day

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the possible renaming of the Columbus Day holiday with instructions to review the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
Motion carried 9/0.

Telecommunications Operator – Public Safety Employees' Retirement Plan

MOTION By Connor Martin
seconded by Don Bell
to **approve** the retirement contract for the town's telecommunicators – public safety employees effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2030 as attached to a memo from Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc dated September 28, 2020 to Richard F. Kehoe, Chair and as ratified by the union members on August 11, 2020.
Motion carried 9/0.

A copy of the retirement plan follows these minutes.

Bid Waiver: Fire Department Apparatus

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **waive** the bidding requirements in accordance with §10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances to allow the East Hartford Fire Department to contract with FWD Seagrave for the repair of the Department's 2008 Seagrave Aerialscope (Ladder 1) with an estimated repair cost, dated September 24, 2020, of \$22,426.00, as it is in the best interests of the town.
Motion carried 9/0.

Dial-A-Ride Operating System Grant

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by Connor Martin
to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS The Greater Hartford Transit District has made available Operating Assistance Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS these funds can be used to pay a portion of the cost of operating the Dial-A-Ride system providing transportation to elderly and disabled citizens.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc is authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the Greater Hartford Transit District in relation to a \$13,840.00 grant to the Town of East Hartford to be used to support costs associated with the operation of the Dial-A-Ride Program.

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

Federal EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

MOTION By Connor Martin
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made funds available for the assessment of environmentally-compromised properties, known as Brownfields; and

WHEREAS these assessments are a necessary step in the remediation and redevelopment of these properties; and

WHEREAS cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment, reduces blight and takes development pressure off greenspaces and working lands.

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 EPA as they pertain to this Brownfields Assessment grant.

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

Outdoor Amusement Permit Application: Family Drive-in Movie Night:

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Connor Martin
that pursuant to Section 5-2(a) of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances the Town Council **waive** the 30-day filing requirement and **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Family Fun Drive-in Movie Night", submitted by Tyron Harris, Vice President, BSL Educational Foundation Inc. to add three days – Friday October 9th, Saturday October 17th and Saturday October 24th – to the "Family Fun Drive-in Movie Night" application previously approved by the Town Council on July 14, 2020 – those days were August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, to conduct a family drive in movie night at the Showcase Cinemas Lot, 936 Silver Lane, East Hartford beginning at sunset between the hours of 7pm - 9:30pm or 8pm -10:30pm; 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;

and to **waive** the associated permit fee under the provisions of town Ordinance section 5-6(a) due to the town of East Hartford as this is a not-for-profit charity which focuses on providing scholarships to college-ready students, youth development programs and training & development.

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Don Bell
to **amend** the motion by **deleting** "Friday, October 9th" and, in its place, **adding** "Saturday October 10th" to read as follows:

"...to add three days – ~~Friday October 9th~~ Saturday October 10th, Saturday October 17th and Saturday October 24th..."
Motion carried 9/0.

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

Refund of Taxes

MOTION By Connor Martin
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** a total refund of taxes in the amount of \$26,953.98 in accordance with §12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
Motion carried 9/0.

Bill	Name	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Int Paid	Over Paid
2018-03-0065294	HALL SONCHERAY S	2013/1N4AL3APXDC201956		-23.8
2018-03-0067553	MARLOW ANN	1997/1FTEF17L7VNC36519		-15.39
2018-03-0067554	MARLOW ANN	2002/1B4GP44332B619105		-38.02
2018-03-0082117	SANTIAGO ANGEL L	2015/1C4PJLDSXFW560378	52.08	-578.7
2018-04-0088557	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	2019/5TDEZ3DCXKS213863	0	-1,017.36
2018-04-0088559	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	2019/2T2BZMCA7KC187140	0	-942.17
2018-04-0088562	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	2018/JTMBFREVXJJ250910	0	-647.87
2019-01-0010596	NIMEROWSKI TERESA R	70 LAWRENCE ST	0	-42.38
2019-01-14678	GONDEK PAUL	36 MAIN ST		-19,863.42
2019-03-0051382	ANDERSON JIM E	2004/1J8GW58N14C162730	0	-36.45
2019-03-0051544	ANTONIO EDWARD	2014/KNDJP3A56E7085324	0	-49.99
2019-03-0051932	ARPIN RONALD J JR	2016/1C4AJWAG5GL144782	0	-119.78
2019-03-0052507	BAILES JAMES E JR	2011/JF1GE6B67BH518086	0	-88.96
2019-03-0053133	BEGARI GANGARAM	2010/4T1BF3EK2AU526932	0	-37.35

2019-03-0053136	BEGIN MONIQUE L	2008/3VWRZ71K58M126608	0	-76.59
2019-03-0054389	BRESSON RANDY A	1984/1G2AW87H2EL273593	0	-18.72
2019-03-0055625	CARDONO CHRISTOPHER J	2016/KMHCT4AE2GU050001	0	-121
2019-03-0056244	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	2017/1C4PJMCB2HW524405	0	-95.54
2019-03-0060617	DUBOIS KENNETH W	2005/1FTZR45EX5PA17346	0	-21.24
2019-03-0061647	ENGLISH MARGIE M	1995/1G3AJ85MXS6330367	0	-36.4
2019-03-0062914	FOISEY JEAN	2002/1J4FA29PX2P731381	0	-31.41
2019-03-0066695	HOFFMAN CAROLE G	2000/2G4WS52J1Y1149553	0	-33.52
2019-03-0066862	HONDA LEASE TRUST	2018/7FARW2H87JE087611	0	-143.6
2019-03-0066907	HONDA LEASE TRUST	2018/1HGCV1F44JA196116	0	-242.32
2019-03-0066922	HONDA LEASE TRUST	2017/3CZRU6H78HM716843	0	-315.9
2019-03-0066930	HONDA LEASE TRUST	2017/1HGCR2F55HA244039	0	-144.66
2019-03-0068293	JOHNSON BESSIE M	2003/4M2ZU86K43ZJ37438	0	-22.05
2019-03-0069849	OPOKU ASEIDU	2007/JHLRE48747C060330	0	-20.74
2019-03-0069927	LACHANCE VINCENT M JR	2005/JNKCVC54E35M404894	0	-151.2
2019-03-0071429	LOPEZ JAVIER	2007/1N4BA41E47C857136	0	-23.44
2019-03-0073734	MENDES TIVON M	2012/1HGCS2B80CA004748	0	-25.46
2019-03-0074167	MILLER LINDA L	2005/YV1RH592952485469	0	-17.64
2019-03-0074198	MILLER STEPHANIE M	2004/1N4BA41EX4C905508	0	-16.69
2019-03-0074312	MIRANDA JANISE M	2006/4T1BK36B56U093639	0	-60.52
2019-03-0075610	NGUYEN DENNIS	2001/JT3HN86R710329938	0	-178.2
2019-03-0075683	NGUYEN PHI T	2008/1HGCP26868A017586	0	-34.33
2019-03-0077666	PATEL PALI	2009/4T4BE46K99R102625	0	-16.38
2019-03-0078183	PERKINS INGRID	1999/4T1BG22KXXU543448	0	-5.62
2019-03-0079645	RANA CAB COMPANY LLC	2011/5TDDK3EH2BS068764	0	-82.44
2019-03-0079814	REESE LACARA L	2011/WAUFFAFL6BA067647	0	-45.54
2019-03-0080822	ROBERTS KIMBERLY L	2013/5NPDH4AE9DH298035	0	-19.5
2019-03-0081679	ROMERO-HERNANDEZ WILLIAM E	2007/2HGFA55537H706735	0	-67.52
2019-03-0082731	SANTIAGO ANGEL L	2015/1C4PJLDSXFW560378	0	-254.48
2019-03-0086105	TOMCZYK CURT A	2015/1HGCR2F86FA018468	0	-83.8

2019-03-0086500	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	2017/2T3RFREV9HW615815	0	-217.12
2019-03-0086512	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	2017/2T3RFREV1HW651580	0	-108.9
2019-03-0088347	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	2016/1VWAT7A30GC044423	0	-337.14
2019-03-0088356	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	2016/WAUB8GFF9G1023039	0	-189.86
2019-03-0089294	WILLIAMS SERENA D WINDSTREAM	2003/5J6YH28533L046734	0	-75.23
2019-03-0089473	COMMUNICATIONS LLC	2008/1GBDV13W78D208670	0	-65.56
SUBTOTAL			-52.08	-26901.9
TOTAL				-26953.98

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Esther Clarke inquired on the amount of tax payments received by the town that were extended until October 1st due to Governor Lamont's Executive Order on the pandemic. *The Mayor noted that a financial update is planned for the October 20th Town Council meeting.*

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Leclerc commented on the following: (1) the expenses from Storm Isaias total approximately \$774,000; (2) the 2020 Census deadline has been extended until October 31st. East Hartford's response rate is almost at 68%; (3) MDC is planning a Household Hazard Waste Collection Day on October 24th at East Hartford's transfer station on Ecology Drive; (4) the Civic and Tech Grant monies are already in the town's contingency fund; (5) the SiFi Networks Agreement – approved by the Council in November 2017 – should be ready to go by April 2021; (6) the Silver Lane RFP has been revised to require that the respondents demonstrate their fiscal strength, as well as including a financing pro forma; (7) the Senior Center is progressing quickly; (8) the Connecticut Coalition of Sustainable Materials Management, in partnership with DEEP, is trying to find alternatives to the MIRA plant and how municipalities dispose of their solid waste; (9) yesterday, the town accepted a 10,000 masks donation from the Rotary Club; (10) this season's flu clinics are starting up – both drive-thru and walk-in; (11) Governor Lamont will be in town tomorrow to announce that \$2.7M has been earmarked for several libraries in Connecticut to ensure that they re-open safely to the public; (12) the town is working with the Chamber of Commerce and Pratt & Whitney to hold a "drive-thru" trick or treat as an alternative to kids going door-to-door and for those handing out candy. "Trunk or Treat" will be held on Halloween, October 31st from Noon to 3PM at the Pratt & Whitney Airfield; (13) the town is also working with Pratt & Whitney for an alternative winter program that they are willing to fund. The program will consist of 10 life-size snowmen that will be distributed to groups, organizations or artists to be painted according to their own personal interpretation and then displayed outdoors for the winter; and (14) trash collection will be delayed by one day next week due to the town closing on Monday October 12th in observance of Columbus Day.

Awet Tsegai wished Connor Martin a Happy Birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** (9:10 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be October 20, 2020.

Attest



Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK