

Robert J. Pasch

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2016 OCT 24 A 8: 33

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

OCTOBER 18, 2016

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader
Linda A. Russo, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I.
Weinberg, Ram Aberasturia, Joseph R. Carlson and Michael G. Kurker

ABSENT Councillor Patricia Harmon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) noted that approximately 85% of all municipal budgets are allocated to personnel-related expenses; (2) believes that contract negotiations should be made public; and (3) inquired on the impact the Connecticut City and Town Development Act would have on East Hartford, if the taxpayers vote it down in November.

Don Currey, 14 Martin Circle, (1) applauded Esther Clarke's service on the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board; and (2) recognized the efforts of the Town Council relative to the town's bond rating.

Mayor Leclerc (1) thanked Esther Clarke for her service on the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board; (2) the Moody's rating for the town is Aa2; (3) the town has submitted an addendum to their response to the MMCT venture; (4) the town's emergency management team was recognized for their professionalism by state and federal authorities during the investigation of the recent plane crash on Main Street; (5) "Thinking Money" is a new exhibit being held at Raymond Library from October 19th to November 28th; (6) the "Prescription Drug Take-back Day" will be held Saturday October 22nd at the Public Safety Complex; (7) the Willow Street Extension exit off of Route 2 East will be closed from October 24th to October 25th; and (8) October 31st will be the start of leaf pick-up – the route will be posted to the town's website – starting at Pitkin Street and going clockwise through town; the town will collect bagged leaves through December 9th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 5, 2016 Executive Session

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **approve** the minutes of the October 5, 2016 Executive Session.
Motion carried 8/0.

October 5, 2016 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **approve** the minutes of the October 5, 2016 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 8/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Resignation of Esther Clarke from the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board

Chair Kehoe announced Councillor Clarke's resignation from the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board and thanked her for her service to the town. The Chair also announced that he has appointed Councillor Joseph Carlson to serve as the Council representative on the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Library Administration and Operations Contract:

Presentation by Bridget Quinn-Carey, Hartford Public Library

Mayor Leclerc stated that the town has conducted a continuous search for a Library Director through advertising in the Hartford Courant, postings in various Library associations and electronic bulletin boards as well as the town's website. While a few candidates applied, she did not find anyone who could handle the newly expanded operations of the Raymond Library. After careful consideration, a Library Administration and Operations Contract with the Hartford Public Library System to partner with the Town of East Hartford is presented to the Council for approval.

Mike Walsh, Finance Director, provided the financial vetting process for the Council. Mr. Walsh stated that most everything in the Library will remain the same – employees, payroll, vendor payments, budgetary issues, IT support, grounds keeping, etc. He noted that the existing library budget is approximately \$1.2M and will be set in the usual manner, with funding remaining substantially unchanged.

Bridget Quinn-Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Hartford Public Library, offered the Council a PowerPoint presentation that explained the things that will change at the Library under the proposed contract: new senior management, different long term planning and programming and interface with the Mayor's office. All decision making will be made in collaboration with Raymond Library employees and town officials. East Hartford will make the final decision on all programming and budgetary matters. Ms. Quinn-Carey believes that the partnership of the East Hartford Public Library and the Hartford Public Library is a win-win for both communities. The leadership team that the proposed contract provides will only enhance and strengthen future service opportunities for East Hartford.

Scott Chadwick, Corporation Counsel, reviewed the proposed contract with the Council and answered questions that were raised. Attorney Chadwick noted that he negotiated

to **refer** to the Fees Committee a review of Food Service fees charged by the town's Health Department as presented in a memo dated October 12, 2016 from Mayor Marcia Leclerc to Town Council Chair Rich Kehoe, with instructions to review the proposed increases and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Esther Clarke asked if the latest response to the MMCT will have to be presented to the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission. *Mayor Leclerc indicated it would not be necessary.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Rafael Zeligzon, 430 Burnside Avenue, addressed the Council on his personal views regarding the recent plane crash and the upcoming Presidential election.

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, suggested that Esther Clarke ask for a legal opinion on behalf of the town's residents regarding the CTDA bond referendum.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (10:35 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be on November 1st.

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