

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

October 18, 2022

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Travis Simpson, Thomas Rup and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT Mayor Michael P. Walsh
Connor Martin, Chief of Staff
Doug Wilson, Town Engineer
Stephen Alsup, Assistant Fire Chief
Lt. Paul Neves, East Hartford Police Dept.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:51 pm. The Chair stated that this meeting was also available to the public through the "Teams" platform.

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.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Walsh stated (1) wished all a good evening; (2) encourages residents to subscribe to EH Alert!, which provides town notifications via text or phone call. Information is available on the town website; (3) Funeral Services for Bristol Police Officers Dustin Demonte and Alex Hamzy will be held at Rentschler Field on Friday, October 21 at 11 a.m.; (4) East Hartford Interfaith Ministries is dissolving as of December 31st, this will include the closing of the Friendship Soup Kitchen; The town will seek volunteers to assist should the kitchen be reopened. (5) A Free Trunk or Treat Drive Through will be held rain or shine on Sunday October 30 from Noon to 3 pm at the Pratt and Whitney Runway. Registration is required; (6) Curbside leaf collection will begin on Monday October 31st and is expected to be completed by December 10th. DPW will be publishing a weekly update on the streets where leaves will be collected. Curbside bag collection and transfer station disposal is also available. (7) East Hartford Parks and Recreation Basketball registration is now open for children grades K-8. Clinics will begin the week of November 7th. (8) The MDC will hold a Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday October 29th at 65 Pitkin Street. A full list of acceptable items is available on the town website. (9) The statewide general election will take place Tuesday, November 8th from 6 am -8 pm at designated polling places. All citizens must be registered voters to participate. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 1st. (10) Administration is

requesting residents complete a survey to help develop the town's affordable housing plan that is required by state law. (11) The Health Department is offering a number of COVID-19 booster clinics and flu clinics in the coming weeks. Please call the Health Department for options; (12) East Hartford Works invites residents to a "Living Room Conversation" on the topic on "Does My Vote Really Matter?" at the East Hartford Public Library on October 24th from 6-7 pm; (13) A wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Library on Veterans' Day, November 11th at 10:30 am; (14) Take Back Drug Day will occur on Saturday, October 29th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Public Safety Complex; (15) Social Services encourages residents to participate in their annual holiday food and children's gift basket programs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 4, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Don Bell

to **approve** the minutes of the October 4, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Ordinance 10-3(c)- Disposition of Obsolete or Broken Town-Owned Equipment

The Chair disclosed that with the temporary relocation of Town Hall operations during the renovation project, administration has provided a list of furniture and items that are obsolete and of no value. They will be disposed of.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Waiver: Fire Department Re: Patient Care Reporting Platform

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Angie Parkinson

that in accordance with Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council **waive** the bidding procedures required by Section 10-7(b) and allow the Fire Department to renew their agreement with Sansio Health EMS with a 3-year subscription to their electronic patient care reporting platform.

Motion carried 9/0.

Grant Resolutions

Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection ARPA Auto Theft & Violence Grant Program

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
 seconded by John Morrison
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS; the state Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP) has made American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available through the Auto Theft & Violence Grant Program, and

WHEREAS; the purpose of these funds is to assist local law enforcement in reducing auto theft and other crimes related to auto theft,

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; that Michael P. Walsh, 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 DESPP as they pertain to this Auto Theft & Violence grant.

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

Greater Hartford Transit District Dial-A-Ride Program

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
 seconded by Tom Rup
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Greater Hartford Transit District has made available Operating Assistance Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 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 Michael P. Walsh 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, the motion carried 9/0

Cost Share Agreement Between Army Corps of Engineers, City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford re: Hartford, CT Levee Rehabilitation Project

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Don Bell

move that the Town of East Hartford **enter into an agreement** with the City of Hartford and the Department of the Army to authorize the examination of the feasibility of improvements to two existing levee systems, the Connecticut River and Park River, Hartford, Connecticut, Local Flood Protection Project and the Connecticut River, East Hartford, Connecticut, Local Flood Protection Project, to better meet present and

Motion carried 9/0.

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Awet Tsegai

Motion carried 9/0.

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
seconded by Travis Simpson

Motion carried 9/0.

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Tom Rup

(i) waive the requirements of Town Ordinances Section 10-18(b) with respect to obtaining an appraisal of the property known as 26 Oxford Drive (the "Property"), a Phase 1 Environmental Report on the Property, a survey of the Property, and title report, such waiver being in the best interests of

the Town, given the fact that the Property is the subject of a court ordered foreclosure sale wherein such information is generally available, the Property is shown on a map filed in the Town Clerk's Office, and the Property has had a residential use that pre-dates the enactment of the Connecticut Transfer Act;

(ii) authorize the Administration to bid on the Property at the upcoming foreclosure sale in an amount deemed reasonable and appropriate to acquire such property; and

(iii) appropriate the necessary funds to make such acquisition, from sources determined by the Finance Director.

Motion carried 9/0.

Refund of Taxes

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
 seconded by Travis Simpson

to **approve** a total refund of taxes in the amount of \$2,036.19 pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

No one came forward.

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Councillor Simpson requested an update regarding a previously discussed study of the Town's unutilized property assets. *The Mayor stated that the process has begun and anticipates that the study should be complete in the coming months.*

Councillor Simpson also proposed the administration consider more cost efficient use of underutilized town parks, specifically mentioning DiPietro Park. *The Mayor stated that there are plans in place to create a walking path and surrounding gardens at that park with assistance of volunteer staff.*

The pending workers' claims of former Board of Education employee, Anna Smith.

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Don Bell

to accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending workers' compensation claims of former Board of Education employee, Ana Smith, for a total sum of \$12,000.00.

Motion carried 9/0,

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** (8:58 pm)

Motion carried 9/0

The Chair wished all a good evening and announced that the next regular meeting of the Town Council would be on November 1, 2022.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK