

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCTOBER 20, 2015

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., 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.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
seconded by Anita Morrison
to **amend** the agenda by adding, under New Business, item 8. G. entitled
"Recommendation from the Investigations & Audit Committee re: Tax
Department Internal Audit".
Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Janice Mastropasqua, 42 Hills Street, spoke against the proposed revisions to the ordinance regarding the keeping of hens and chickens.

Susan Kniep, 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) asked that any tax appeal cases approved by the Council have the tax differential included in the motion; (2) asked that all law suits include a docket number so the residents can access the details on the state's website; (3) is opposed to a casino in East Hartford and suggested that the issue be included in a referendum so the citizens of East Hartford can voice their opinion; and (4) is opposed to the City and Town Development Act that is part of the referenda for November.

Tim Siggia, 145 Arbutus Street; John Finn, 285 School Street; and Don Sugalski, 1736 Main Street are opposed to a casino in East Hartford.

Mike Kurker, 38 Prasser Drive, had concerns regarding traffic generated by a casino in the Silver Lane area.

Mayor Leclerc (1) stated that the City and Town Development Act on November's referendum is not connected to the casino; (2) reminded citizens that taxes are based on assessment value; (3) the textile collection at the town's transfer station has been very successful; (4) five Public Works employees who attended the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials Snow Plow Safety Rodeo received commendations for their skills in operating snowplows; (5) today at Town Hall, Mayor Leclerc recognized October as Breast Cancer Awareness month; (6) leaf collection will begin November 2nd –

excluding Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving – through December 11th; (7) Friday October 23rd from 1PM to 3M is a flu shot clinic at the south end senior center; and (8) recognized Sue Tukey and Tonya Rosario for their service to the town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 6, 2015 Executive Session

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **approve** the minutes of the October 6, 2015 Executive Session.
 Motion carried 8/0.

October 20, 2015 Public Hearing/Hens and Spas

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **approve** the minutes of the October 20, 2015 Public Hearing.
 Motion carried 8/0.

October 20, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **approve** the minutes of the October 20, 2015 Regular meeting.
 Motion carried 8/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Resignation of Susan Tukey from the Patriotic Commission

The Chair thanked Ms. Tukey for her service to the town through her term on the Patriotic Commission.

Resignation of Tonya Rosario from the Commission on Services for the Disabled

The Chair thanked Ms. Rosario for her service to the town through her term on the Commission on Services for the Disabled.

OLD BUSINESS

Postponed from the October 6th meeting: Recommendation from the Ordinance Committee: Keeping Swine & Poultry §6-5, 6-8 & 6-10

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Esther Clarke
 to **amend** the East Hartford Code of Ordinances by revising

sections 6-5, 6-8 and 6-10 regarding the keeping of swine and poultry, consistent with the draft dated September 14, 2015 which was unanimously approved at the Ordinance Committee meeting held September 14, 2015.
Motion carried 8/0.

NEW BUSINESS

Response to MMCT RFP: Tribal Casino

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

Whereas, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes have formed a partnership entitled MMCT Venture LLC and have issued a request for proposals (RFP) pursuant to Special Act 15-7; and

Whereas, the RFP asks for proposals from towns that “wishes to become home to the Facility that will provide significant and lasting benefits to the residents of the community, the region and the State of Connecticut and will deliver an overall experience that residents and tourists will enjoy for years to come; and

Whereas, the RFP describes the Facility as one “that would service 10,000 visitors daily” and “would be programmed to provide ample parking, food and beverage and other amenities that would result in a first class experience for these visitors and would complement the existing assets of the community and region; and

Whereas the RFP says that “the RFP does not constitute an offer of any nature to any respondent”; and

Whereas, any casino constructed in East Hartford, if the town were selected, would be subject to further action by the Connecticut General Assembly and further review and approval by the town and Town Council of any final project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council:

Appreciates the opportunity for underutilized property consisting of Showcase Cinema and other surrounding properties to be developed into a vibrant commercial facility; and

Desires to work with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes for whom we have great respect and any other individual wishing to bring jobs and economic development to the town; and

Recognizes the professional, quality operation of casinos in Connecticut by the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes; and

Wishes to see a facility that will (1) provide significant dollars annually in additional property tax and other revenue to the town, (2) employ hundreds of workers including residents of East Hartford, (3) include a plan agreeable to the town to reduce any negative traffic impact on Silver Lane and the surrounding areas; (4) consist of restaurants, bars and other entertainment facilities that will attract non-gaming consumers; and (5) include a cooperative arrangement with the East Hartford Police Department to minimize or prevent criminal activities within the facility and in the town; and

With these findings in mind and recognizing any final facility and project would be subject to additional review and approval, authorizes the mayor to file a proposal involving the Showcase Cinema site and surrounding underutilized properties.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/1. **Nay: Morrison**

Dial-A-Ride Operating Systems Grant

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Anita Morrison
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Greater Hartford Transit District has made available Operating Assistance Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2015-2016; 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 \$14,133.00 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 8/0.

Homeland Security Grant Program

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

RESOLVED: that the Town of East Hartford may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, including the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that Marcia A. Leclerc, 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.

On call of the vote, motion carried 8/0.

Refund of Taxes

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **refund** taxes in the amount of \$3,689.34
pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
Motion carried 8/0.

Bill	Name	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Int Paid	L/F Paid	Over Paid
2012-03-0051277	ANKOMAH ANITA	2010/2T3ZF4DV0AW022922	18.94	5	-553.38
2013-03-0051310	ANKOMAH ANITA ASUBONTENG EVANS	2010/2T3ZF4DV0AW022922	44.71	5	-546.39
2014-03-0051908	AMPONSA	1994/1HGCD555XRA109514	0	0	-63.61
2014-03-0054694	BUD BEHLING LEASING	2012/1FTNE2EW7CDA70897	0	0	-49.58
2013-03-0058904	DAVIDSON CHARLES A	2013/YV1612FS4D1216245	0	0	-47.35
2014-03-0060098	DL PETERSON TRUST	2004/1XKDDU9X34J055138	0	0	-299.92

2014-03-0060667	DUNNELLS CALVIN L JR	1998/4S2CM58WXW4332301	0	0	-15.68
2014-03-0064200	GOMEZ GREGORIO	2000/1FAFP42XXYF177449	0	0	-12.93
2014-03-0064748	GRANT ICAH L	1992/1B7FL23X2NS619801	0	0	-5.83
2014-03-0065066	GUERRA ADAN E	1997/1G8ZG1274VZ387409	0	0	-12.71
2014-03-0066008	HENSON LEON	1994/2B5WB35Z5RK134164	0	0	-79.83
2014-03-0066009	HENSON LEON	1990/1G6DW5479LR720632	0	0	-71.33
2014-03-0067573	JACQUES DRYWALL LLC	2003/1GCHG35U531137459	0	0	-37.93
2014-03-0068267	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK	2012/4S3BMBA60C3039850	0	0	-452.51
2014-03-0069254	KOVENSKY NEIL B OR	1999/1HGCG6676XA071404	0	0	-11.32
2014-03-0069255	KOVENSKY NEIL B OR	2004/1HGCM66524A080023	0	0	-22.66
2014-03-0073551	MICHAUD ANN C	2009/1NXBU40E29Z052019	0	0	-26.74
2014-03-0073566	MICHAUD DENNIS J	2005/1D7HW48N95S338796	0	0	-29.20
2014-03-0075626	NOEL WILLIAM R	2005/1GCEC14X85Z343359	0	0	-48.49
2014-03-0084211	STEEL JAMES M	2014/3FADP4AJ8EM159189	0	0	-104.88
2014-03-0086108	TRUONG KIMLOAN	2000/1FMYU70E5YUA04847	0	0	-7.66
2014-03-0086453	USB LEASING LT	2014/1G6DE1E30E0107135	0	0	-999.16
2014-03-0086485	UTZTRAN LLC	2011/1FC2E3KL1BDA11961	0	0	-182.85
2013-03-0087324	VIROLA LUZ C	1997/2G4WS52M9V1431932	0	0	-7.40
TOTAL					\$ (3,689.34)

Appointment of Peter Beley, Jr. to the Patriotic Commission

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
seconded by Linda Russo
to **approve** the appointment of Peter J. Beley, Jr., 22 Milwood Road, to the Patriotic Commission, whose term shall expire December 2016.
Motion carried 8/0.

Appointment of Kathleen Stephens as Tenant Commissioner

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Anita Morrison
to **approve** the appointment of Kathleen Stephens, 58 Mill Road, to the position of Tenant Commissioner for the East Hartford Housing Authority, whose term shall expire July 31, 2017.
Motion carried 8/0.

Tax Department Internal Audit

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Anita Morrison
 to **accept** the internal audit performed by BlumShapiro and approved by
 the Investigations & Audit Committee at their October 20, 2015 meeting,
 entitled "Departmental Operational Controls Assessment Findings and
 Recommendations Final Version, August 2015".
 Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Ram Aberasturia commented on the need for repairs to the driveway at the Food Bank. *The Mayor will look into where the property line is on the driveway and see if anything can be done.*

Anita Morrison announced that 2 area restaurants – Al Fresco's and C&E Pizza – will hold a fund raiser on Sunday, November 1st to benefit local food banks. Additionally, the annual food drive will be held on Saturday, November 7th.

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Personal Injury Claim of Brittany Cone

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending
 superior court action known as Brittany Cone v Town of East Hartford, et al,
 Docket No. CV-15-6060022S, for the total sum of \$22,500.00.
 Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Susan Kniep (1) commended Councillor Morrison for her stance on the resolution concerning the possibility of a tribal casino; (2) inquired on the availability of the completed RFP to the public; (3) asked if there has been any discussion on abating property taxes for the casino; and (4) believes that the tax differential for any tax appeal cases settled should be included in the motion.

Marc Weinberg acknowledged the birthdays of Ram Aberasturia, Peg Byrnes and Ellen McCreery.

Anita Morrison reminded all that Tuesday November 3rd is Election Day.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (9:24 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair announced that the next regular meeting of the Town Council would be held on November 17th.

Attest _____
 Angela M. Attenello
 TOWN COUNCIL CLERK