

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCTOBER 20, 2020

*Robert J. Beck*

OCT 26 A 9:18

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader  
Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai  
and John Morrison

PRESENT Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr. and Councillor Patricia Harmon  
Via "TEAMS"

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m. He noted that this is a combination – or hybrid – form of meeting where citizens, as well as Councillors, have the option of attending these meetings remotely, if so desired. He then invited the Council to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Vanessa Jenkins, 26 Suffolk Drive, a member of the East Hartford Board of Education, spoke to the importance of transparency in government and suggested that the Council add it to the "Forward East Hartford Goals" that it will consider at the next Town Council meeting. Ms. Jenkins also stated that Board of Education members serve without compensation of any kind.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 6, 2020 Public Hearing/Boundary Line for 144 Roberts Street

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by Esther Clarke  
to **approve** the minutes of the October 6, 2020 Public Hearing.  
Motion carried 9/0.

October 6, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by John Morrison  
**approve** the minutes of the October 6, 2020 Regular Meeting.  
Motion carried 9/0.

Chair Kehoe recognized Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson's father, Johnnie Wilson Sr., who came up from Charlotte North Carolina, to visit his daughter.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### Presentation: Hartford 400 Initiative

Mayor Leclerc introduced United States Congressman John Larson who called on Doug Suisman, Architect, with the Hartford 400 Initiative, to lead a PowerPoint discussion for a new river-centered vision focused on Hartford and East Hartford. This focus will include the restructuring of the highway system to connect both cities to the Connecticut River – and to each other – with new parks, boulevards, and much needed urban development. This would be accomplished by removing (relocating) the I-91 and I-84 interchanges, turning the 5 miles of concrete that is the basis for the “mixmaster” into approximately 130 acres of developable land. This allows for direct access to the Connecticut River via roadways and bicycle and walkable trails.

### Financial Updates from Finance Director Linda Trzetziak

#### FY ending June 30, 2020 Financial Results

Linda Trzetziak, Finance Director, reported that compared to the budget figures that were given to the Council in June 2020, the revenues are \$3M over the budgeted amount while expenses are \$800,000 under budget. The bulk of the positive revenues are attributable to additional State funds over what was anticipated. She did note that a few of the departments showed revenues somewhat under budget due to the onset of COVID-19. Those departments are: Fire, Health, Tax, Parks & Recreation and Inspections & Permits.

As a percentage of budget, the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2020 will be at 10.3%, which will trigger an additional contribution to the OPEB Trust fund for retiree health insurance liabilities under the Town Ordinance §10-52 of nearly \$620,000.

#### FY ending June 30, 2021 (September 30<sup>th</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update)

Linda Trzetziak, Finance Director, reported that considering the pandemic, the town remains consistent with previous budgets at the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the fiscal year – cautiously optimistic. There are some revenue shortfalls directly impacted by the pandemic, such as building rental fees, building and fire marshal inspection fees and other user generated fees. Director Trzetziak stated that her office is still working through the process for reimbursement for the COVID-19 expenses from FEMA and the State OPM Cares Act funding. When received, the revenue will be recorded as unbudgeted General Fund revenue. Tax Collections are encouraging; we have collected 54.1% of current year budgeted revenue roughly the same as in fiscal year 2019-2020.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Municipal Tax-exempt Lease Purchase Financing Agreement: 5-year CIP

MOTION      By Angie Parkinson  
                  seconded by Connor Martin  
                  to **adopt** the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A MUNICIPAL TAX-EXEMPT  
LEASE PURCHASE FINANCING AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS** the Town of East Hartford approved the purchase of various capital equipment including Town Hall furniture, vehicles for the Police, Fire and Public Works departments, cardiac monitors, Police body cameras, SWAT armor and helmets, and a Police real time crime center as part of the Town of East Hartford's Approved 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the fiscal years 2020-21 through 2024-25; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of the various capital equipment designated for lease-purchase financing totals \$2,538,220; and

**WHEREAS** the Town will budget \$546,000 in fiscal years 2021-22 through 2025-26 in the General Operating Fund to pay principal and interest on the purchases.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor of the Town of East Hartford is authorized to enter into a master lease purchase agreement and related documents with TD Equipment Finance, Inc. or their affiliates in the principal amount not to exceed \$2,538,220. The interest rate, payment schedule and other details of the financing shall be mutually determined between the company and the Mayor, whose signatures will indicate approval of specific terms and conditions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town declares its intent to be reimbursed for any temporary advances from the General Fund to pay for any part of the equipment from proceeds of the lease financing in accordance with Treasury Regulation 26 CFR 1.103-18 and/or 26CFR1.150-2.

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

Community Connectivity Grant

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

**WHEREAS** the of Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has made available funds under the Community Connectivity Program; and

**WHEREAS** the program seeks to improve accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians in urban, suburban and rural community centers.

**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 DOT as they pertain to this Community Connectivity grant.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Awet Tsegai inquired on (1) the progress of development at the Founders Plaza project; (2) the status of the repairs to the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse; and (3) the repaired cupola on Town Hall. *Mayor Leclerc, along with Development Director Eileen Buckheit, told the Council that the town is working with CRDA, First Merchant Group and Tecton Architects to create a new urban*

