

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCTOBER 21, 2014

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader  
Barbara-Ann Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I.  
Weinberg, Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D. Morrison

ABSENT Councillor Linda A. Russo

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:50 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.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

St. Isaac Jogues Church: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

MOTION By Barbara Rossi  
seconded by Esther Clarke  
to **adopt** the following resolution:

***Whereas**, St. Isaac Jogues Church in East Hartford Connecticut was established on May 2, 1964 to serve the growing population in Mayberry Village, Sunset Hills and northern East Hartford communities; and*

***Whereas** St. Isaac Jogues Church was appropriately named after a man who provided missionary work among Native Americans; and*

***Whereas**, under the quiet, firm leadership of its longtime pastor, Father Vincent Cronin, St. Isaac Jogues Church became a strong charitable presence and religious home; and*

***Whereas**, St. Isaac Jogues Church provided critical services to its parishioners and to the residents of the community surrounding the church; and*

***Whereas**, the growth and changes in St. Isaac Jogues Church reflected the startling growth in East Hartford in the post World War II years, the Vatican II reforms and culture changes of the 1960's and 1970's, the growing diversity of the recent decades; and*

***Whereas**, through these 50 years, St. Isaac Jogues Church has continued to be a guiding force for many East Hartford residents.*

***Now therefore be it resolved** that the East Hartford Town Council and Mayor Marcia Leclerc recognize the many contributions of St. Isaac Jogues Church and its parishioners to our community and congratulates the priests and laity of St. Isaac Jogues Church on its fifty year anniversary.*

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

The Councillors extended their good wishes to St. Isaac Jogues parish on this momentous occasion.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) distributed to the Chair information off the judicial website regarding the East Hartford Housing Authority's tax appeal of King Court; (2) suggested that the Council include an update from the East Hartford Housing Authority at the next Town Council meeting; and (3) mentioned that the Hartford Courant has an FOI complaint against the East Hartford Housing Authority.

Mayor Leclerc addressed the Council on the following: (1) she will be in attendance at the celebratory Mass at St. Isaac Jogues' on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>; (2) looks forward to the update on the progress of the Raymond Library; (3) announced that the Library and ChildPlan were awarded a \$25,000 grant to present "Mother Goose on the Loose", a pre-school program for literacy improvement; (4) the Electric Run, recently held at Rentschler Field, emitted amplified sound beyond the ordinance limits – a meeting with Global Spectrum was called and it was emphasized that the town's Code of Ordinances must be strictly followed; (5) the soccer event held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Rentschler Field produced significant traffic delay into neighborhood streets – Global Spectrum was notified that this situation cannot happen again; (6) on October 8<sup>th</sup>, the I.T. department of the Bank of America volunteered to clean headstones at Veterans' Field – it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that Bank of America employees have volunteered for this; (7) the last Farmers' Market will be held Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>; (8) the Police and Fire Departments, along with the town's Health Department and the East Hartford Public School system, have worked together to ready the 911 operators with standardized questions regarding any health issues in light of the nation's recent Ebola problem; (9) the last senior flu clinic will be held on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 1PM to 4PM at the south end Senior Center; (10) the auditors are in the middle of the town's annual audit, which should be ready for presentation mid-December; (11) the Board of Education is preparing their 2015-2016FY budget; (12) the town is preparing their 2015-2016 budget, which will be presented to the Town Council by February 23<sup>rd</sup>, pursuant to the Town Charter.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### October 7, 2014 Executive Session

MOTION        By Barbara Rossi  
                     seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the October 7, 2014 Executive Session.  
                     Motion carried 8/0.

### October 7, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION        By Barbara Rossi  
                     seconded by Anita Morrison  
                     to **approve** the minutes of the October 7, 2014 Regular Meeting.  
                     Motion carried 8/0.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### Responses to Questions Asked of Administration

#### Savings from the use of Solar Panels

The town has two solar sites. One of the two town sites is at the Public Safety Complex, the smallest installation for the town, therefore the savings are slight, roughly \$500 per month. The other site is the East Hartford Community Cultural Center with savings of about \$1500 per month. Over 20 years, the estimated savings based on current costs is \$480,000.

#### Update on the Raymond Library Expansion Project

Mary Martin, Project Administrator, and Susan Hansen, Library Director, updated the Council as to the progress of the Raymond Library expansion. So far, the project is within budget and major construction will be completed by late January, which is about a month earlier than expected. The move-in process could take another six to eight weeks, bringing the formal opening to late March. Through a short PowerPoint presentation, the Council saw the construction progression over the past several months, as well as a sampling of the furniture that will be purchased for the various new rooms within the expanded structure.

#### Maintenance of Town Buses

The town buses receive regularly scheduled maintenance and our drivers follow appropriate protocols. Occasionally, there are issues with a vehicle that surface and they are addressed proactively. The buses are in very good shape; our drivers perform vehicle checks daily. The maintenance of the senior buses is performed by our vendor Tolland Auto Body. This arrangement was made several years ago since they have the ability to service all aspects of the vehicle including the lifts and they are certified for repairs related to the DMV bus inspections. The certified DMV inspectors provide the annual inspection. As with all Town vehicles, the driver is responsible to report any suspected deficiencies with the vehicle to the Fleet garage, i.e. engine light, squeaky brakes, headlights, wiper blades, worn treads, etc. These items are typical pre-trip and walk-around items that each driver is required to perform.

#### Collection Rate of Taxes Collected

The tax collection rate is calculated one time during the year and it's calculated by the auditors as part of their examination and annual report. They need to take both the July and January collections, the 60 day post June 30th collections and adjust for the current and the prior advance collections, movements to suspense, and factor in an allowance for uncollectible.

The 2013 Fiscal Year collection rate is published in the audit which is online. The 2014 Fiscal Year rate as described above will be available when the audit is received in draft, sometime the first week of December. Overall, calculation of the collection rate is a bit of a process and just a single part of the larger reconciliation of the Town's rate book.

## East Hartford Housing Authority: CCTV at Miller Gardens

Deb Bouchard, Executive Director of the EHHA, reported via email that “after several attempts to get Comcast out to the Miller Gardens property to address the CCTV problem, we were finally successful. They...replaced the modulator that we had been complaining about. Once it was replaced, the lobby cameras were back online.”

Majority Leader Barbara Rossi, who initiated the report to the EHHA on this security issue, thanked those involved for making the residents of Miller Gardens feel safe in their homes.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Greater Hartford Transit District Grant re: Dial-A-Ride Program

MOTION        By Bill Horan  
                     seconded by Barbara Rossi  
                     to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** The Greater Hartford Transit District has made available Operating Assistance Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2014-2015; 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 \$14,132.87 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.

### Local Prevention Council Grant re: ERASE

MOTION        By Ram Aberasturia  
                     seconded by Barbara Rossi  
                     to **adopt** the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that Marcia A. Leclerc Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of this municipality a grant application in an amount not to exceed \$5,675 with the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to support the activities of a local alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse Prevention Council, and to execute and file any contracts, amendments or reports as may be required to successfully complete the terms of the grant contract.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc's term of office began on January 10, 2013 and will continue until November 9, 2015. As Mayor, Marcia A. Leclerc serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of East Hartford, and is duly authorized to enter into agreements and contracts on behalf of the Town of East Hartford.

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

## Refund of Taxes

**MOTION** By Marc Weinberg  
seconded by Barbara Rossi  
to **refund** taxes in the amount of \$4,677.47  
pursuant to Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.  
Motion carried 8/0.

Bill	Name	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Over Paid
2013-03-0050675	ALERT SCIENTIFIC INC	2005/2G2WP542951219716	-36.09
2013-03-0052006	AVDIAJ DHIOLAND	2001/WDBJF82J31X050244	-17.34
2013-01-0006452	BABA REALTY LLC	40 HILLSIDE ST B-20	-607.36
2013-03-0052547	BARRY THOMAS F OR	1995/WVWBC81E1SK004171	-12.57
2013-03-0052935	BELL SUSAN M	2001/JTEHH20V510030966	-31.33
2013-03-0053637	BOGGIO ALLAN MILKO GIULI	2006/1NXBR30E36Z616302	-44.36
2013-03-0058586	DAIGLE NICOLE M	2006/KM8JN12D66U293718	-87.07
2013-03-0060363	DUAME EMMANUEL	2001/JM3LW28G510187964	-12.45
2013-03-0061900	FIRST GROUP LEASING	2012/4DRBUSKP8CB621476	-329.34
2013-03-0062049	FIRST STUDENT INC	2002/1HVBABP42B918074	-35.32
2013-03-0062052	FIRST STUDENT INC	2002/1HVBABP52B945879	-35.32
2013-03-0062053	FIRST STUDENT INC	2002/4DRBRABN72A947364	-35.32
2013-03-0062055	FIRST STUDENT INC	2002/1HVBABP12B945877	-35.32
2013-03-0062090	FIRST STUDENT INC	2002/4DRBRABP82B946249	-35.32
2013-03-0062092	FIRST STUDENT INC	2002/4DRBRABP42B946314	-35.32
2013-03-0062101	FIRST STUDENT INC	2009/4DRBUSKP09A685445	-236.18
2013-03-0062661	FOSTER BRETT K	2003/1FTSX31P03EB39571	-54.79
2013-03-0066881	HUDKINS JENNIFER E	2001/1GNCS18W81K217282	-64.19
2013-03-0067138	HYUNDAI LEASE TITLING TR	2013/5NPEB4AC4DH675469	-142.42
2012-04-0084422	LAMBERT MICHAEL L	1996/1GCEC19M6TE262153	-12.65
2013-03-0070863	LOMBARDO JOSEPH F	1970/444670H333847	-5.67
2013-03-0071337	MACDONOUGH WALLACE H	2004/3G7DA03E84S506758	-13.62
2013-03-0071341	MACDONOUGH WALLACE H	1994/1HD1GGL1XRY315558	-12.35
2013-03-0072596	MAZZOLI MATTHEW D	1999/4T1BF18BXXU335185	-49.44
2013-03-0073398	MERCER RICKEY OR	2004/1GN1T13S142305813	-54.48
2013-03-0074586	MT CARMEL NEWTESTAMENT	2012/1FBSS3BL4CDA67570	-356.62
2013-03-0074855	NAMPEWO CATHERINE	1999/2T1BR12E2XC132982	-9.85
2013-03-0074966	NEGRON BEATRICE M	2006/1G1AL55F767841098	-17.85
2013-03-0074967	NEGRON BEATRICE M	1999/4T3ZF13C8XU139199	-13.08
2013-03-0075339	NIPPON AUTO LEASING INC	2010/JTMBF4DV6A5018351	-163.84
2012-03-0075315	NISSAN INFINITI LT	2010/1N6AD0EV6AC414331	-726.98
2013-03-0075379	NISSAN INFINITI LT	2010/1N6AD0EV6AC414331	-707.34
2013-03-0079224	RED THREAD SPACES INC	2003/1FTNE24LX3HB50534	-16.03

2013-03-0079227	RED THREAD SPACES LLC	2005/1FTNE24L45HA53414	-21.25
2012-03-0080782	ROHAN REV JOHN P C/O DAVID A GOLAS	2011/1N4BL2AP7BN506184	-275.86
2012-03-0083758	SOTO MIGUEL A JR	1993/1FACP40M7PF113203	-18.01
2013-03-0084558	SUMMERS DENISE L	1998/3VWRB81H2WM232994	-69.24
2013-03-0085113	THERIAULT CLAYTON J OR	2002/1HFSC49322A003408	-12.35
2013-03-0087428	VU NGUYET T	2001/1HGEM22961L027965	-13.62
2013-03-0087762	WARE THOMAS MELVIN	2000/4N2XN11T8YD804501	-10.03
2013-03-0087826	WATSON NATASHA D	1995/1J4FY19P7SP293070	-25.24
2013-03-0087888	WEBBER JAMES F	1985/1GBJP37W0F3335668	-41.59
2013-03-0089193	ZIMMERMAN CHARLES W	2006/4T1BE32K96U728343	-143.07
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ -4,677.47</b>

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Ram Aberasturia acknowledged the efforts of Majority Leader Barbara Rossi for bringing the problems of the residents of Miller Gardens to the EHHA's attention and following through to a positive resolution of that issue. Councillor Rossi thanked Councillor Aberasturia for his acknowledgement and wished him a belated Happy Birthday.

Pat Harmon (1) thanked the Mayor for her attention to the noise issue at Rentschler Field; (2) had reported that the blight issue at 64 Lafayette Street still exists; and (3) would like a list of all town-owned vehicles and which ones are taken home, by whom and why. (2) *Mayor Leclerc explained that 64 Lafayette is bank-owned and the town is working in cooperation with them.* (3) *the Mayor agreed to get a list of vehicles to the Council.*

Anita Morrison announced that the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are holding their annual food drive on Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>, putting bags at residents' front doors and collecting them on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>. She urged all to help with this important project.

Bill Horan thanked the Mayor for her swift action on the noise issue at Rentschler Field – commenting on her responsiveness to the concerns of the residents.

#### COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

East Hartford Business Park, LLC v Town of East Hartford, involving 88 Long Hill Street

MOTION      By Barbara Rossi  
                   seconded by Marc Weinberg  
                   to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle pending real property tax appeal known as East Hartford Business Park LLC v Town of East Hartford Docket No. HHB-CV-14-6025238S, involving 88 Long Hill

Street from the fair market value of \$10,870,610 to the fair market value of \$8,500,000 which shall generate a reduction of \$75,338.00 in property taxes, commencing the Grand List Year of 2013.  
Motion carried 8/0.

Tairah Merrill, ppa Carly Ann Merrill v Marcus Tappin and Town of East Hartford

MOTION        By Barbara Rossi  
                     seconded by Marc Weinberg  
                     to **accept** Corporation Counsel's recommendation to settle the  
                     pending superior court action known as Tairah Merrill v Marcus  
                     Tappin and Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV-12-6035844S,  
                     for the full and final settlement of \$13,000.00.  
                     Motion carried 8/0.

*The vote on the above agenda item should not, in any way, be an indication that the Council holds the employee responsible for any wrong doing.*

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Leclerc thanked Mary Martin and Susan Hansen for their hard work and dedication to the Raymond Library expansion project. Additionally, Mayor Leclerc recognized Mike Walsh, Finance Director and Tim Bockus, Public Works Director for their involvement with the project.

The Mayor also stated that rumors she is closing the restaurant at the East Hartford Golf Course are not true. While the restaurant is closing for the winter season, that decision was made by BCG, the managers of the golf course. Also, the Mayor affirmed that the house located on the golf course is not being torn down – it is being renovated with a new roof, windows, siding and shutters.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION        By Esther Clarke  
                     seconded by Bill Horan  
                     to **adjourn** (9:12 p.m.).  
                     Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, due to Election Day on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

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