

## EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER AUDITORIUM

November 1, 2023

**PRESENT** Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Don Bell, Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councilors Angie Parkinson, Travis Simpson, Thomas Rup, Awet Tsegai and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

**ABSENT**

**ALSO PRESENT** Connor Martin, Chief of Staff  
Melissa McCaw, Chief Administrative Officer and Finance Director  
James Rovezzi, Assistant Director of Facilities, East Hartford Public Schools  
Laurence Burnsed, Director of Health and Human Services  
Alex Trujillo, Director of Public Works

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:30 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.

The Chair called for a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of former Town Council Chair Carol Guy. Ms. Guy served on the Board of Education and Town Council, serving as the first and only woman Council Chair from 1991-93 before stepping down as a promotion in state government prohibited her from running for elective office under the Hatch Act. The Council thanked Ms. Guy for her service to the community. She will be missed.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

**MOTION** By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by John Morrison

to **add** under New Business, Item 8F: “Resolution Honoring Mayor Mike Walsh” to the Agenda

Motion carried 9/0

#### RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

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

Eduardo Cruz Mazzini, owner of Malibu Sports Bar and Lounge (808 Silver Lane) and resident voiced concerns regarding how the East Hartford Police Department is responding to victims of crime who are undocumented.

Chief of Staff Martin

- wished all a good evening
- Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the Town of East Hartford the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.
- Mayor Walsh has appointed Assistant Chief of Police Mack S. Hawkins as Interim Police Chief effective Friday, October 20, 2023
- As part of the development of the Town's 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development., the Planning and Zoning Commission is seeking feedback from residents at a public workshop session on Tuesday, November 28 at the East Hartford Senior Center at 7:00 pm.
- Town-Wide Leaf Collection has begun and will continue through December 9th. A map of anticipated pick up areas is available on the Town Website and is updated weekly.
- All town offices, including the East Hartford Transfer Station will be closed Friday, November 10, 2023 in observance of Veterans Day and on Thursday, November 23, 2023 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.
- An in-person Food Drive will be held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at Shop Rite from 9:00 am – Noon.
- East Hartford Rotary Club & The East Hartford Senior Center will host the Annual Veterans Day Picnic on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon.
- A Veteran's Business Expo, hosted by the CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Community Cultural Center on Thursday, November 2 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 17, 2023 Executive Session

**MOTION** By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by John Morrison

to **approve** the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Executive Session

Motion carried 9/0

October 17, 2023 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson  
seconded by Tom Rup

to **approve** the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion carried 9/0

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

### Disposition of Obsolete or Broken Town-Owned Equipment

The Chair has stated that a number of chairs in poor condition are being disposed of by the Fire Department. Per Ordinance, as the items have no value, there is no Council action required for their disposal.

## OLD BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

Board of Education Construction Projects: Amendment of 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan, Appropriation of Funds, Authorization for State Grant Applications and Referral to the Public Building Commission

### Hockanum School Steam Tunnel Piping Abatement

MOTION        By Angie Parkinson  
                     seconded by Travis Simpson

to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Hartford Board of Education has identified that a piping abatement project at the ECLC at Hockanum School is a priority of the school district and qualifies for State School Construction reimbursement; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the flooring abatement and replacement including design and construction is anticipated to total \$330,000 with the State reimbursing 76.43% of eligible costs or \$250,000 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% of eligible costs or approximately \$80,000, which includes an amount for unforeseen ineligible costs.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the following items:

1. The addition by resolution to the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the ECLC at Hockanum School Tunnel Piping Abatement Project in the amount of \$330,000
2. The authorization of a total project cost of \$330,000 for the ECLC at Hockanum School Tunnel Piping Abatement Project;
3. The authorization of the East Hartford Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the ECLC at Hockanum School Tunnel Piping Abatement Project;
4. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the ECLC at Hockanum School Tunnel Piping Abatement Project;
5. That the local share of \$80,000 for this project will be funded through funds previously appropriated by the Town Council from the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund; and

6. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the ECLC at Hockanum School Tunnel Piping Abatement Project.

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

## East Hartford Middle School Partial Flooring Abatement

MOTION By Angie Parkinson  
seconded by Tom Rup

to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Hartford Board of Education has identified that a flooring abatement project at the East Hartford Middle School is a priority of the school district and qualifies for State School Construction reimbursement; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the flooring abatement and replacement including design and construction is anticipated to total \$458,334 with the State reimbursing 76.43% of eligible costs or \$348,334 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% of eligible costs or approximately \$110,000, which includes an amount for unforeseen ineligible costs.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the following items:

1. The addition by resolution to the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the East Hartford Middle School (B and H Buildings-Partial) Flooring Abatement Project in the amount of \$458,334.
2. The authorization of a total project cost of \$458,334 for the East Hartford Middle School (B and H Buildings-Partial) Flooring Abatement Project;
3. The authorization of the East Hartford Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the East Hartford Middle School (B and H Buildings-Partial) Flooring Abatement Project;
4. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the East Hartford Middle School (B and H Buildings-Partial) Flooring Abatement Project;
5. That the local share of \$110,000 for this project will be funded through funds previously appropriated by the Town Council from the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund; and
6. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the East Hartford Middle School (B and H Buildings-Partial) Flooring Abatement Project

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

## Norris Elementary School Roof Replacement

**MOTION** By Angie Parkinson  
seconded by Travis Simpson

to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Hartford Board of Education has identified that a roof replacement project at the Norris Elementary School is a priority of the school district and qualifies for State School Construction reimbursement; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the roof replacement including design and construction is anticipated to total \$450,600 with the State reimbursing 76.43% of eligible costs or \$270,600 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% of eligible costs or approximately \$180,000 which includes an amount for unforeseen ineligible costs and a limited-eligibility roof section.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the following items:

1. The addition by resolution to the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the Norris Elementary School Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$450,600
2. The authorization of a total project cost of \$450,600 for the Norris Elementary School Roof Replacement Project;
3. The authorization of the East Hartford Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Norris Elementary School Roof Replacement Project;
4. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the Norris Elementary School Roof Replacement Project;
5. That the local share of \$180,000 for this project will be funded through funds previously appropriated by the Town Council from the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund; and
6. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Norris Elementary School Roof Replacement Project.

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

## Norris Elementary School Flooring Abatement

**MOTION** By Angie Parkinson  
seconded by Travis Simpson

to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Hartford Board of Education has identified that a flooring abatement project at the Norris Elementary School is a priority of the school district and qualifies for State School Construction reimbursement; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the flooring abatement and replacement including design and construction is anticipated to total \$382,060 with the State reimbursing 76.43% of eligible costs or \$290,060 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% of eligible costs or approximately \$92,000, which includes an amount for unforeseen ineligible costs.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the following items:

1. The addition by resolution to the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the Norris Elementary School Flooring Abatement Project in the amount of \$382,060
2. The authorization of a total project cost of \$382,060 for the Norris Elementary School Flooring Abatement Project;
3. The authorization of the East Hartford Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Norris Elementary School Flooring Abatement Project;
4. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the Norris Elementary School Flooring Abatement Project;
5. That the local share of \$92,000 for this project will be funded through funds previously appropriated by the Town Council from the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund; and
6. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Norris Elementary School Flooring Abatement Project.

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

Grant Application from State of CT via CT Youth Services Association re: Support and Enhancement of Services of East Hartford Juvenile Review Board

**MOTION** By Harry Amadasun  
seconded by John Morrison

to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS;** the State of Connecticut, through the Connecticut Youth Services Association (CYSA), has made funding available for the support and enhancement of the East Hartford Juvenile Review Board (JRB), and;

**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 the State of Connecticut and/or the CYSA as they pertain to this JRB Support and Enhancement Grant.

### Allocation of ARPA Funds re: Fencing Upgrades at Town Pools

**MOTION** By Harry Amadasun  
seconded by Don Bell

to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**; the Town has been awarded \$24,561,068 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the U.S. Treasury; and

**WHEREAS**; in order to most effectively use these funds, the authorization of new projects is periodically necessary;

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED;** that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to add the following to the approved list of ARPA Projects:

- ## 1. “Upgrade Fencing at Town Pools”

**AND LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED;** that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make the following transfers among ARPA Accounts:

1. Transfer \$80,000.00 from “Small Business Support and Resources – Qualified Census Tracts” to “ARPA Unallocated Balance”
2. Transfer \$80,000.00 from “ARPA Unallocated Balance” to “Upgrade Fencing at Town Pools”

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

Bid Waiver: Purchase of Auto Parts for Fleet Vehicles from Best Automotive Parts, LLC

MOTION By Awet Tsegai  
seconded by Tom Rup

pursuant to 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(a) and **authorize** the Town Department of Public Works to

purchase automotive parts as necessary up to a limit of \$9,999.00 from Best Automotive Parts LLC. for fleet repairs under the Public Works jurisdiction to assure that fleet vehicles are repaired in a timely manner and to avoid delays on the acquisition of parts due to supply chain issues.

Motion carried 9/0

Recommendation from Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee re: Proposed Revision of Job Description for "Career Coach"

MOTION        By Awet Tsegai  
                     seconded by Tom Rup

to **approve** the proposed revised Job Description for the position of "Career Coach" dated November 1, 2023, as presented at the November 1, 2023 Personnel and Pensions Subcommittee Meeting.

Motion carried 9/0

Resolution Honoring Mayor Mike Walsh

MOTION        By Don Bell  
                     seconded by John Morrison

to **adopt** the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Michael P. Walsh has served as mayor of the Town of East Hartford since November, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, previously Mike Walsh served twenty-one years as the Finance Director for the Town and for two years as a Town Councillor; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure as Mayor, Mike Walsh has worked feverishly to improve the delivery of Town services in a more effective and responsive manner; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Walsh worked with the Charter Revision Commission to create the position of Chief Administrative Officer to provide better oversight of Town government operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Walsh has successfully encouraged major private economic development investment in the Town of East Hartford toward the goal of enhancing the quality of life of all residents in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his service to the Town of East Hartford, Mike Walsh has demonstrated the ability to work with every person in a collaborative spirit that results in a consensus solution.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

the East Hartford Town Council recognizes and appreciates Mike Walsh's deep dedication to our community and vision for a bright future; and



the East Hartford Town Council recognizes that Mike Walsh's many contributions to town government operations will be a lasting legacy; and

the East Hartford Town Council thanks Mike for his commitment to the town and looks forward to working with him on future projects that achieve our collective goal of economic growth and opportunities for all residents to live and work in East Hartford.

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

The Council thanked Mayor Mike for his passion for the residents of East Hartford and dedication of service and wished him well in his next ventures.

An official citation for Mayor Walsh from the Connecticut General Assembly was read into the record by Councilor Tsegai and will be presented to the Mayor.

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

Councillor Simpson requested that the Administration provide more specifics regarding the anticipated dates of leaf collection on the Town website's map.

#### COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

The pending assessment (tax) appeal known as 22 32 PROSPECT STREET, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD – HHB-CV22-6073226-S, involving real property located at 22-26-32 Prospect Street, East Hartford for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025.

MOTION        By Don Bell  
                         seconded by Tom Rup

MOVE THAT, this Council accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending tax assessment appeal known as 22 32 PROSPECT STREET, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD, Docket Number HHB-CV22-6073226-S, involving real property located at 22-26-32 Prospect Street, East Hartford, CT to adjust the Appraised Parcel Value of \$2,274,300.00 to \$2,150,000.00 for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025 and authorize a refund or reduction of \$3,567.42 for grand list year 2021, and a refund or reduction of \$3,701.42 for Grand list year 2022.

Motion carried 9/0

The pending assessment (tax) appeal known as 525-527 MAIN STREET EAST HARTFORD, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD – HHB-CV-22-6073230-S, involving real property located at 525-527 Main Street, East Hartford for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025.

MOTION        By Don Bell  
                         seconded by Travis Simpson

MOVE THAT, this Council accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending tax assessment appeal known as 525-527 MAIN STREET EAST HARTFORD, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD, Docket Number HHB-CV-22-6073230-S, involving real property located at 525-527 Main Street, East Hartford, CT to adjust the Appraised Parcel Value of \$2,343,585.00 to \$2,150,000.00 for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025 and authorize a refund or reduction of \$5,555.92 for grand list year 2021 and a refund or reduction of \$5,764.60 for Grand List Year 2022.

Motion carried 9/0

The pending assessment (tax) appeal known as BEBY, LLC SINGER REALTY v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD – HHB-CV22-6073432-S, involving real property located at 775 Silver Lane, East Hartford for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025.

MOTION        By Don Bell  
                     seconded by John Morrison

MOVE THAT, this Council accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending tax assessment appeal known as BEBY, LLC SINGER REALTY v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD, Docket Number HHB-CV22-6073432-S, involving real property located at 775 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT to adjust the Appraised Parcel Value of \$2,238,670.00 to the fair market value of \$2,088,672.00 for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025 and authorize a refund or reduction of \$4,304.98 for grand list year 2021 and a refund or reduction of \$4,466.66 for Grand List Year 2022.

Motion carried 9/0

The pending assessment (tax) appeal known as VILLAGE STREET PROPERTIES, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD – HHB-CV22-6073433-S, involving real property located at 48-54 Village Street, East Hartford for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025.

MOTION        By Don Bell  
                     seconded by John Morrison

MOVE THAT, this Council accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending tax assessment appeal known as VILLAGE STREET PROPERTIES, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD, Docket Number HHB-CV22-6073433-S, involving real property located at 48-54 Village Street, East Hartford, CT to adjust the Appraised Parcel Value of \$1,633,420.00 to \$1,235,000.00 for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025 and authorize a refund or reduction of \$11,434.90 for grand list year 2021 and a refund or reduction of \$10,615.87 for Grand List Year 2022.

Motion carried 9/0

The pending assessment (tax) appeal known as JAKIRAM, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD – HHB-CV22-6073234-S, involving real property located at 160 Governor Street, East Hartford and 182 Governor Street, East Hartford for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025.

MOTION        By Don Bell  
                     seconded by Travis Simpson

MOVE THAT, this Council accept the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending tax assessment appeal known as JAKIRAM, LLC v. TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD, Docket Number HHB-CV22-6073234-S, involving real property located at 182 Governor Street, East Hartford by adjusting the Appraised Parcel Value of 160 Governor Street, East Hartford, CT from \$891,400.00 to \$875,000.00 for the Grand List year 2021 through Grand List Year 2025 and authorize a refund or reduction of \$471.10 for grand list year 2021 and a refund or reduction of \$488.74 for Grand List Year 2022.

Motion carried 9/0

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Gary Roy, 61 Matthew Road expressed concern over the conditions of the town cemeteries, noting that the QR codes at Center Cemetery need to be updated and the statute honoring Civil War veterans should be cleaned and maintained. He noted that flowers used to be planted at the entrance. The Hillside Cemetery monuments need to be maintained and the town should not be spraying weed killer on the gravestones as the dead grass is not cleared out. He noted that veterans groups will come and assist the town in maintaining the cemeteries. Finally he noted that Enfield has a tax credit for volunteer work which the town should consider.

Chief of Staff Martin took a moment to acknowledge resident Gary Roy for his continued engagement in the community and involvement at Council Meetings.

Mr. Martin also encouraged all residents to exercise their right to vote on Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup>. Polls in East Hartford open at 6:00 a.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION        By John Morrison  
                     seconded by Don Bell

to **adjourn** (8:57 pm)

Motion carried 9/0

The Chair wished all a good evening and announced that the next meeting of the Town Council will be an organizational meeting to swear in newly elected officials on Monday, November 13th. The next Regular Town Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 21st.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Marshall  
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK