

Robert J. Clark

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2020 NOV -9 A 9:10

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

NOVEMBER 4, 2020

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Patricia Harmon (via Teams) and John Morrison

ABSENT Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. The Chair announced that Councillor Harmon was available through the "Teams" platform and that Majority Leader Wilson was absent for this meeting. He then asked the Council to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 20, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by Connor Martin
to **approve** the minutes of the October 20, 2020 Regular Session.
Motion carried 8/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Presentation by John Lawlor, Public Works Director re: Storm Isaias

Public Works Director John Lawlor provided the Council with a PowerPoint presentation on the costs the Town incurred due to Tropical Storm Isaias which struck Connecticut in early August 2020. Mr. Lawlor reviewed the line items from his memo to the Mayor dated October 28, 2020 (see below) which indicate a total cost of \$1,050,000. He noted that the Town will seek reimbursement from FEMA through the Finance Department. At 75% reimbursable funds, FEMA's cost share will be \$788,000, leaving the Town \$262,000.

October 28, 2020

MEMO TO: Marcia Leclerc, Mayor

FROM: John P. Lawlor Jr., Director of Public Works
CC: Linda Trzetzak, Director of Finance
RE: Storm Isaias Overtime and Other Costs – Public Works

This memo is a follow-up to my previous memo dated October 16, 2020. The following describes the approximate final costs by Public Works in response to Storm Isaias. These figures will be included in reimbursement submittals to FEMA. The total is \$1,050,000 as follows:

Ashbrite contract:	\$ 328,000
Hathaway Sidewalk Repair	\$ 5,600
Great River Park Tree Removal	\$ 14,800
Branch Drive Tree Removal	\$ 4,200
PW Overtime (Incl. Overhead)	\$ 191,000
PW Equipment Overtime	\$ 101,000 (FEMA Rates)
PW Straight-time (Incl. Overhead)	\$ 310,000
PW Equipment Straight-time	\$ 101,000 (FEMA Rates)

TOTAL \$ 1,050,000

As you can see above, the Public Works Department overtime budget incurred a \$191,000 impact that will have negative effects on other essential operations this year. Even though significant improvement has been made in the management of department overtime, the cost of Storm Isaias will significantly deplete our overtime funding.

Presentation: East Bank/Founders Plaza

Eileen Buckheit, Development Director, introduced Ted Cutler, Tecton Architects and Mike Goman, the Town's on-call Real Estate Consultant, to the Council. Mr. Cutler led the PowerPoint of the district development study of Founders Plaza.

A challenge to the development of Founders Plaza is the parking garage, which does not have excess capacity to support future site growth. However, with repair and sensible expansion, the structure could serve future demand and free up site development opportunities. The greatest asset for this area is that it borders the Connecticut River and the immediate access to downtown Hartford. The vision for this 12 ½-acre parcel is a mix of retail & commercial real estate, as well as residential units.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Council – Acting as a Committee of the Whole for the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: 103 Harvest Lane

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by John Morrison
that the Town Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole for the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee: (1) not seek bids with respect to the sale of 103 Harvest Lane, but instead deal directly with Richard and Sandra Marques, the owners of 99 Harvest Lane who have maintained 103 Harvest Lane for a number of years; (2) waive the appraisal requirement of Town Ordinances Section 10-19(c), given the

property's minimal size and its value well below \$10,000 as shown on the Town's Assessor's records; and (3) **approve** the sale of 103 Harvest Lane to Richard and Sandra Marques for the sum of \$2,200.00.

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by John Morrison
that the Town Council **postpone action** on the previous motion until such time as the Town Council receives a Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24 Report from the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission.
Motion carried 8/0.

Forward East Hartford Goals

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by Connor Martin
to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism that is interpersonal or systemic racism that is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks;

WHEREAS race is a construct with no biological basis;

WHEREAS racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities, and saps the strength and diminishes the potential of all society through the unequal allocation of resources;

WHEREAS racism is a root cause of poverty and constricts economic mobility;

WHEREAS racism causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes based on race in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment, criminal justice, and health;

WHEREAS in particular, racism and segregation have exacerbated a health divide resulting in people of color in Connecticut bearing a disproportionate burden of illness and mortality including COVID-19 infection and death, heart disease, diabetes, and infant mortality;

WHEREAS Black, Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Latino residents are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of inequities in economic stability, education, physical environment, food, and access to health care and these inequities are, themselves, a result of systemic racism;

WHEREAS more than 100 studies have linked racism to worse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS the economic growth and social well-being of East Hartford depends upon equitable access to opportunity for every resident regardless of the color or ethnicity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of East Hartford asserts that racism is a public health crisis affecting our town and all of Connecticut and has determined with public input that the following goals should be addressed in a thoughtful comprehensive manner to address the manifestations of systemic racism and will gather information and resources necessary to promote these goals:

1. Improve the Quality of Affordable Housing and Increase Home Ownership Opportunities
2. Encourage/Incentivize Growth of Small Businesses/Eliminate Barriers for People of Color-Owned Enterprises
3. Improve Financial Literacy
4. Enhance Civic Engagement Throughout the Community
5. Explore Partnerships to Increase Access to Adequate/Affordable Health Services
6. Ensure Sufficient Social and Mental Health Services for Youth

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

Volume 89

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Pending Superior Court Cases:

(A) Bell Court Condominium Association, Inc. v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV-18-5054628-S; (B) Town of East Hartford v. Bell Court Condominium Association, C/O Louis Maldonado, Docket No. HHD-CV-16-6071333-S; and (C) Town of East Hartford v. Bell Court Condominium Association, Inc., Docket No. HHD-18-6094423-S

MOTION

By Don Bell
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to resolve the pending Superior Court actions known as:

- Bell Court Condominium Association, Inc. v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHD- CV-18-5054628-S;
- Town of East Hartford v. Bell Court Condominium Association, Docket No. HHD-CV-16-6071333-S; and
- Town of East Hartford v. Bell Court Condominium Association, Inc., Docket No. HHD-18-6094423-S

Involving real property at 23 Bell Court, by the performance of capital Improvements in the amount of \$141,168.70, in full and final satisfaction of any and all outstanding liens and penalties. The settlement of the pending actions shall be memorialized in a stipulation, to be prepared and finalized by the Corporation Counsel, which shall address all of the issues necessary to completely resolve the ending actions.

Motion carried 8/0.

Riverside Health Care Realty, LLC v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-18-6045390-S, 751 Main Street

MOTION

By Don Bell
seconded by Angie Parkinson
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending assessment tax appeal knowns as Riverside Health Care Realty LLC v Town of East Hartford Docket No. HHB-CV-18-6045390-S, involving real property located at 751 Main Street, from the fair market value of \$9,580,738 to the fair market value of \$6,900,000, which shall generate a reduction of \$89,434.94 in property taxes, for the Grand List Year of 2017.
Motion carried 8/0.

CHRO Claim Known as Courtney Desilet v. Town of East Hartford, CHRO Case 2040116, involving current Town employee, Courtney Desilet

MOTION

By Don Bell
seconded by Connor Martin
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to fully and finally settle the pending CHRO Claim known as Courtney Desilet v Town of East Hartford, CHRO Case No. 2040116, involving current Town employee,

Courtney Desilet, upon the following terms:

1. Placement on an administrative leave for 12 months with corresponding wages and benefits; and
2. Lump sum payment of \$40,000.00;

which shall result in, among other things, the retirement of Courtney Desilet from Town service. The settlement of the pending CHRO claim shall be memorialized in a settlement agreement to be prepared by the Town's labor counsel, which shall address all of the issues necessary to completely resolve the pending claim to the satisfaction of the Corporation Counsel. Motion carried 8/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Mayor Leclerc commented: (1) on November 9th, the state is reverting back to Phase II of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) thanked those who volunteered to place flags on veterans' gravesites last weekend; (3) the town will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in recognition of Veterans' Day: trash will not be picked up and the transfer station will not be opened; (4) leaf collection will continue through December 11th: the town will perform a one-time sweep of leaves that are raked to the curbside; (5) October 24th was "Take Back Prescription Drugs Day" and a total of 110 lbs. of drugs were collected; (6) "Trunk or Treat" went very well as a diversion to "door-to-door" Halloween; (7) the textile recycling (pink bag) program is no longer available in East Hartford However textiles/clothing can be dropped off in a box on Ecology Drive; (8) thanked the residents for coming out to vote and approving the three bonds that were on the November ballot; and (9) the RFP for the Showcase Cinema property on Silver Lane is being extended to January 28, 2021.

Courtney Desilet, East Hartford Police Officer, thanked the Council for accepting the recommendation of the Town's Corporation Counsel to settle her lawsuit. Ms. Desilet also stated that it was an honor to serve the Town of East Hartford – a community she loved.

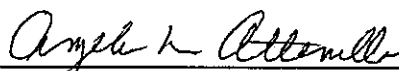
Esther Clarke asked the Mayor for a list of the Directors' current salaries.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** (10:10 p.m.).
 Motion carried 8/0.

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

Attest



Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK