

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Robert J. Park
2021 NOV 22 PM 2:35

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson (arrived 7:35pm), Minority Leader John Morrison, Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Tom Rup and Travis Simpson

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Pat Sirois, 45 Jefferson Lane, Chair of the Beautification Commission, spoke on the festivities that are planned for Holiday Fest. The theme this year is "Peace, Love, Joy".

Mayor Walsh reviewed with the Council his memo to the Council on the transition of his Administration and his East Hartford Master-To-Do list. A copy of this memo will be included at the end of these minutes.

In addition, Mayor Walsh commented on: (1) leaf collection is progressing nicely; (2) a possible monthly retiree breakfast for former East Hartford employees; (3) HR will send an update on new hires to the Town Council on a monthly basis; (4) the Mayor will sign off on new hires with a focus on a commitment to diversity and a commitment to East Hartford residents where it makes sense; (5) Stop and Shop will more than likely not renew a lease with the owner of the Charter Oak Plaza; (6) lifted the mask mandate; (7) continues to work with SiFi for the installation of broadband; (8) a Library vaccination clinic was held last Saturday; and (9) a new document entitled "Control Tower" will be available to residents on town initiatives and projects.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 19, 2021 Executive Session

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** the minutes of the October 19, 2021 Executive Session.
Motion carried 8/0.

October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson

seconded by Don Bell
to **approve** the minutes of the October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 8/0.

November 8, 2021 Organizational Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
 seconded by Tom Rup
 to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Organizational meeting.
 Motion carried 8/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Resignation of Travis Simpson from Various Boards/Commissions

Chair Kehoe announced that due to his election on the Town Council, Travis Simpson is resigning from the Historic District Commission, Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals, Public Building Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

None

To accommodate those present, the following motion was made:

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by John Morrison
 to take item 8.I. out of order.
 Motion carried 8/0.

NEW BUSINESS

Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Hartford and CSEA/SEIU Local No. 2001 effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025:

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Angie Parkinson
 to **approve** the successor collective bargaining agreement effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025 entitled "Tentative Agreement Between the Town of East Hartford and the East Hartford CSEA/SEIU Union, Local 2001" as attached to a memo dated November 15, 2021 from Mayor Michael P. Walsh to Town Council Chair Rich Kehoe and ratified by the bargaining unit members on November 10, 2021.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Once signed, a copy of this contract will follow these minutes.

The Council then returned to the order of the agenda.

The Council noted that the installation of shrubbery would help soften the appearance of the equipment.

SiFi Project Agreement: Equipment and Easements at EHHS and PSC

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Tom Rup
 that the Town Council, acting as a Committee of the Whole for the Real Estate Acquisition and Disposition Committee, hereby **authorizes** Mayor Michael Walsh to execute the attached First Amendment to Public Way License Agreement, with such changes as he deems necessary to allow for the placement of equipment and granting of associated easements, for SiFi Networks East Hartford, LLC's fiber optic system.
 Motion carried 8/0.

A copy of this agreement follows these minutes.

2021 State Bond Commission Urban Act Grant:

East Hartford Senior Center Generator

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Tom Rup
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS pursuant to PA 79-607, As Amended Sec. 21 the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of East Hartford make an application to the State for \$100,000 in order to undertake the East Hartford Senior Center Emergency Generator Project and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; that the Town Council is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by PA 79-607, As Amended Sec. 21, and that the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of East Hartford in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 is hereby approved; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of East Hartford.

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

Renovations to the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Awet Tsegai

to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS pursuant to PA 79-607, As Amended Sec. 21 the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of East Hartford make an application to the State for \$400,000 in order to undertake renovations to the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Town Council is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by PA 79-607, As Amended Sec. 21, and that the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of East Hartford in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 is hereby approved; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that Michael P. Walsh, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of East Hartford

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

Silver Lane Sidewalk Project Encroachment Agreement

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Don Bell
to **approve** the encroachment agreement No. 8.09-01 (21) entitled "Encroachment Agreement between the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation and the Town of East Hartford" for the maintenance of branches, trash receptacles, bus stop landing pads, sidewalks and ADA ramps in the State Highway's right of way on Route 502 as part of Phase 1 of the Silver Lane sidewalk Project.
Motion carried 8/0.

A copy of this agreement follows these minutes.

Emergency Management Performance Grant FY22

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by John Morrison
to **adopt** the following resolution:

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that Michael P. Walsh, as Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, Connecticut, 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 he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

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

2021 Homeland Security Grant Program

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
 seconded by Don Bell
 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, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Michael P. Walsh, as 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 he 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.

Referral to Ordinance Committee re:

Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by John Morrison
 to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the possible creation of a Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund with instructions to investigate the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Elderly Tax Freeze Program

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Tom Rup
 to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the feasibility of an Elderly Tax Freeze Program, which would become effective with the October 1, 2021 Grand List for the July 1, 2022 tax bill with instructions to investigate the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Local Option Tax Credit Program – Increase Review

MOTION By Don Bell
 seconded by Travis Simpson
 to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the possible increase of the \$700 annual tax credit in the existing Local Option Tax Credit Program to \$1,000 effective with the October 1, 2021 Grand List for the July 1, 2022 tax bill with instructions to investigate the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
 Motion carried 8/0.

Referral to Fees Committee re: GHTD Surplus Ticket Books

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Don Bell
to **refer** to the Fees Committee a reduced sales price for the 3,628 ticket books for the Greater Hartford Transit District Ride Program purchased by East Hartford residents with instructions to investigate the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations if any.
Motion carried 8/0.

Outdoor Amusement Permit Application: "Holiday Fest 2021"

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Angie Parkinson
to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled "Holiday Fest 2021", as submitted by Patricia Sirois, Event Chair for the East Hartford Beautification Commission, to conduct a winter holiday festival, starting with a tree lighting ceremony with music and a Carol sing with Santa on the lawn of the Town Green on Friday December 3rd between the hours of 6 and 8PM and a Tree of Lights ceremony with a Carol sing to be held at the small green in front of 886 Main Street (Hartford East Apartments) on Monday, December 6th between the hours of 5:30 to 6:30PM; subject to compliance with adopted codes and regulations of the State of Connecticut, the Town of East Hartford, and any other stipulations required by the Town of East Hartford or its agencies.
Motion carried 8/0.

Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Hartford and CSEA/SEIU Local No. 2001 effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025:

Contingency Transfer:

MOTION By Don Bell
seconded by John Morrison
to **approve** a contingency transfer in fiscal year 2021-2022 to provide a source of funds to settle the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Hartford and CSEA Local No. 2001 as follows:

FROM		
Account Number	Name	
Amount		
G9600-60201	Contingency Reserve-Contract Negotiations	\$ 100,954
TO		
Account Number	Name	
Amount		
G1200-60110	Permanent Services – Town Clerk	\$ 3,591
G2100-60110	Permanent Services – Mayor's Office	1,408
G2400-60110	Permanent Services – Library	1,567
G2600-60110	Permanent Services – Youth Service	3,825
G2950-60110	Permanent Services – Grants Administration	1,381
G3200-60110	Permanent Services – Accounts and Control	3,213
G3300-60110	Permanent Services – Information Technology	8,811

