Robert J. Park

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

2021 DEC 20 AM 10: 11

DECEMBER 14, 2021

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Thomas Rup and Travis Simpson

ABSENT Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m. He indicated that tonight's Council meeting was a "hybrid", a mix of in-person and virtual participants via 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Vanessa Jenkins, 26 Suffolk Drive, is the Chair of the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities. She posed a question from the Commission to the developers of the proposed development on the Showcase property which was "What is the ratio of accessible units that this project will have? Ms. Jenkins urged the developers to consider all residents in their project.

Mayor Walsh commented on (1) wished all Happy Holidays; (2) there are employment opportunities for a Human Resources Director, a Fire Chief and a Finance Director; (3) the "Town Hall" on January 19th will be for residents to see a short presentation on projects that the Administration is considering; (4) the mask mandate is back; (5) Stop & Shop on Silver Lane has confirmed their departure from East Hartford on January 6, 2022; (6) the second sweep for leaf collection has been completed, but bagged leaves will be picked up through the end of the year; (7) Augie & Ray's will celebrate 75 years in East Hartford in early 2022; (8) Paul O'Sullivan, Grants Manager, will provide a presentation on ARPA funds; (9) free radon kits are available in the Health Department for any town resident; (10) Paul Barry, US Marine Corps, and Jim Shelmardine, US Army, were inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame on December 3rd; (11) the Brian Aselton Snow Dash will be held January 9, 2022; (12) the town's application to the DOT for a Senior/Disabled Persons Transportation Bus in the amount of $73,000 has been approved; and (13) the Administration has begun the FY23 budget process.

Chair Kehoe called for a moment of silence to honor the lives of Robert "Bob" Keating, Robert "Bob" Damaschi and Richard "Dick" Mourey.

Bob Keating worked for the East Hartford Health Department for many years. He also served as the Chair of the East Hartford Housing Authority.

Bob Damaschi served on several of the town's Boards and Commissions, and he was also elected to the Board of Education and Town Council.

Dick Mourey was very involved in the community, having sat on the East Hartford Board of Assessment Appeals and the East Hartford Board of Finance, to name just two agencies.

They will be missed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 29, 2021 BoE Budget Workshop

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Tom Rup
to **approve** the minutes of the November 29, 2021 Board of Education Budget Workshop.
Motion carried 7/0.

November 30, 2021 Executive Session

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** the minutes of the November 30, 2021 Executive Session.
Motion carried 7/0.

November 30, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Travis Simpson
to **approve** the minutes of the November 30, 2021 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 7/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Presentation on Showcase Cinemas Property by Jasko Development

Eileen Buckheit, the Town's Development Director and Michael Goman, Principal, Goman & York Advisory Services, provided the Councillors with a PowerPoint on the proposed development of the former Showcase Cinemas property.

Resignations from Various Boards and Commissions

Chair Kehoe announced the following resignations and thanked these individuals for their commitment to the town:

From the Building Board of Appeals: Val Povinelli and Robert Damaschi
From the Board of Assessment Appeals: Timothy Siggia and Hassan Robinson
From the Pension & Retiree Benefits Board: Elaine Dube
From the Veterans Commission: Tia Woods
From the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities: Bernard Corona and Arthur Parker

NEW BUSINESS

East Hartford Middle School Roof Replacement Project

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Travis Simpson
to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN APPROPRIATION, TO AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION, AND TO SEND THE PROJECT TO THE PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

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

WHEREAS, the cost of the roof replacement including design and construction is anticipated to total $ 4,642,952 with the State reimbursing 76.43% of eligible costs or $3,005,796 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% of eligible costs or approximately $1,637,156 which includes an amount for known and unforeseen ineligible costs; and

WHEREAS, the project has been approved in Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan and the local share of the project was authorized via a bond referendum question in November 2020.

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

1. The appropriation of $4,642,952 to fund the East Hartford Middle School Roof Replacement Project,
2. 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 Roof Replacement Project,
3. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the East Hartford Middle School Roof Replacement Project,
4. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the East Hartford Middle School Roof Replacement Project.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0.

Goodwin School Flooring Abatement Project

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Angie Parkinson
to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO ADD A PROJECT TO THE TOWN'S 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, TO AUTHORIZE AN APPROPRIATION, TO AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION, TO SEND THE PROJECT TO THE PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSON, AND TO FUND THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE PROJECT COST

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

WHEREAS, the cost of the flooring abatement including design and construction is anticipated to total $513,203 with the State reimbursing 76.43% or $392,241 leaving the School District to pay 23.57% or approximately $140,000 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 Goodwin School Flooring Abatement Project in the amount of $513,203.

2. The appropriation of $513,203 to fund the Goodwin 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 Goodwin School Flooring Abatement Project.

4. That the Town's Public Building Commission is hereby charged with the oversight and approval of the Goodwin School Flooring Abatement Project.

5. That the East Hartford Board of Education has budgeted the local share for this project in the Board's FY 22 capital improvement budget.

6. That the Town of East Hartford hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Goodwin School Flooring Abatement Project.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0.

Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant Program

Eileen Buckheit, Development Director, and Todd Andrews, Goodwin University, gave a brief presentation to the Council on the benefits of this Grant for the marina that is contained in Goodwin University's Master Plan.

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is undertaking a competitive grant application process to fund multiple projects under the CT Communities Challenge Grant Program; and

WHEREAS this program represents an opportunity to secure funding to improve the livability, vibrancy, convenience and appeal of the Town of East Hartford.

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 DECD as they pertain to this CT Communities Challenge Grant Program.

On call of the vote, motion carried 7/0.

Bid Waiver: East Hartford Public Library re: Digital Navigator Pilot Grant

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Tom Rup
that the Town Council **waive** the bidding requirements of Section 10-7 of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances, and **authorize** the purchase of 150 refurbished computers in accordance with a Digital Navigator Pilot Grant received by the East Hartford Public Library at a cost not to exceed $29,000.00.
Motion carried 7/0.

Referral to Ordinance Committee re: Section 9-1 Voting Districts Boundaries

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by John Morrison
to **refer** to the Ordinance Committee the revisions to Chapter 9 of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances, entitled "Voting District Boundaries" as presented by the Reapportionment Commission of the Connecticut General Assembly, with instructions to review the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations if any.
Motion carried 7/0.

Appointment of Harry Amadasun, Jr. to fill Town Council Vacancy

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **appoint** Harry Amadasun, Jr. to the East Hartford Town Council to fill the Democratic vacancy; such appointment effective December 22, 2021.
Motion carried 7/0.

2022 Town Council Regular Meetings Schedule

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Tom Rup
to **approve** the 2022 Town Council meeting dates, which will beheld – unless indicated otherwise – on Tuesdays in the Town Council Chambers or virtually with access information posted on the agenda; the start time for regular meetings is 7:30pm as follows:

January 4	July 12
January 18	August 2
February 1	August 16
February 15	September 6
March 1	September 20
March 15	October 4

April 5	October 18
April 19	November 1
May 3	November 15
May 17	December 13
June 7	
June 21	

Motion carried 7/0.

FY 2022-2023 Town Council Budget Workshop Schedule

MOTION By Angie Parkinson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **approve** the FY2022-2023 Town Council Budget Workshops schedule which will be held either in person in the Town Council Chambers or virtually with access information posted on the agenda, and the start time for each workshop shall be as follows:

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Monday, February 28, 2022

Mayor's Summary of Budget		**6:30 p.m.**
Police Department	Chief Sansom	
Police Administration Operations Criminal Investigation Police Capital Improvements		
Public Safety Complex	Chief Sansom	
Public Safety Communications		
Fire Department	Interim Fire Chief Munson	
Administration Suppression Fire Training Fire Marshal Apparatus Maintenance Alarm Maintenance Emergency Medical Service Emergency Management Fire Capital Improvements		

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Inspections and Permits		
Administration	Gregg Grew	**6:30 p.m.**
Board of Education		
Superintendent of Schools Information Technology	Nathan Quesnel	

Saturday, March 5, 2022

Town Treasurer	John Murphy, Jr.	**8:30 a.m.**
Town Council	Rich Kehoe	
Town Clerk	Robert Pasek	
Registrars of Voters	Mary Mourey & Steve Watkins	
Selectmen		
Probate Court	Scott Chadwick	
Corporation Counsel	James Tallberg	

Development

Administration	Eileen Buckheit
Redevelopment Agency	
Economic Development Commission	
Planning & Zoning Commission	
Grants Administration	

Finance — Mike Lupkas, Linda Trzetziak

Administration
Accounts and Control
Purchasing
Assessor
Revenue and Collections
Employee Benefits
Risk Management
Debt Services
Contingency
Capital Improvements
Revenues

Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Summary
Project Narratives
- Finance
- Public Library
- Other Departments

Boards and Commissions

Beautification Commission
Inland/ Wetlands/Environment Commission
Personnel Board of Appeals
Emergency Medical Services
Zoning Board of Appeals
Board of Ethics
Commission on Aging
Commission on Services for Persons w/Disabilities
Veterans Commission
Board of Assessment Appeals
Historic District Commission
Commission on Culture & Fine Arts
Public Building Commission
Pension & Retiree Benefit Board
The Hockanum River Commission

Lunch Break — **12:30 p.m.**

Executive

Office of the Mayor	Michael Walsh, Connor Martin, Jessica Carrero
Human Resources	Sandy Franklin
Public Library	Sarah Morgan
Youth Services	Cephus Nolen

Monday, March 7, 2022

Health and Social Services

Administration	Laurence Burnsed	**6:30 p.m.**
Community Health & Nursing Services		
Environmental Control		
Social Services		

Public Works	
Administration	John Lawlor
Engineering	
Highway Services	
Flood Protection	
Waste Services	
Fleet Services	
Building Maintenance	
Metropolitan District Commission	
Park Maintenance	
Public Works Capital Improvements	
Library	
Parks and Recreation	
Administration	Ted Fravel
Other Facilities	
Senior Services	
Park Special Program	
Parks & Recreation Capital Improvements	
Services for Seniors	

Public Hearing – Budget	Wednesday, March 9	7:00 p.m.
Special Meeting – Budget	Monday, March 14	7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting	Tuesday, March 15	7:30 p.m.

Motion carried 7/0.

Recommendation from Personnel & Pensions re: Directors' Compensation Study

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
seconded by Tom Rup
in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.4 and Section 5.25 of the East Hartford Town Charter, I move that the Town Council establish the pay plan for directors, mayor's chief of staff and the police and fire chief as set out in a document entitled "Uniform Compensation Plan for Directors of the Town of East Hartford" dated January 1, 2022, provided further that the Town Council shall annually review such plan and adopt any appropriate changes as part of the annual adoption of the town budget.
Motion carried 7/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Travis Simpson indicated that a resident had inquired about a legal notice that was published in the Hartford Courant that the town was attempting repairs to a fishing pier. *Chair Kehoe believes that this notice is to replace the wooden fishing pier at Great River Park with a non-wooden pier to slow deterioration. Mayor Walsh will contact Riverfront Recapture to obtain estimated costs and get back to Councillor Simpson.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Workers' Compensation Claim of former Town Employee, Thomas Jascowski

No action taken at this time.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
seconded by Sebrina Wilson
to **adjourn** (9:46 p.m.).
Motion carried 7/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be January 4, 2022.

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