

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Robert J. Black
2019 DEC 23 A 8:29

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, and John Morrison

ABSENT Councillors Connor Martin and Patricia Harmon

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

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 26, 2019 Executive Session

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **approve** the minutes of the November 26, 2019 Executive Session.
Motion carried 7/0.

November 26, 2019 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Esther Clarke
to **approve** the minutes of the November 26, 2019 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried 7/0.

December 3, 2019 Joint BoE Budget Workshop

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by John Morrison
to **approve** the minutes of the December 3, 2019 Joint BoE Budget Workshop.
Motion carried 7/0.

To accommodate those present, the following motion was made:

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Sebrina Wilson
 to take "Presentation by the East Hartford Police Department: C.A.L.E.A. Accreditation" out of order.
 Motion carried 7/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Presentation by the East Hartford Police Department: C.A.L.E.A. Accreditation

Chief Scott Sansom, Chief of Police, introduced his C.A.L.E.A. team including Paul Gilligan, Accreditation Advisor, Deputy Chiefs Mack Hawkins, Robert Davis and Christopher Davis, and Officer Kate Weaver. The Chief reviewed the C.A.L.E.A. process that started in 2014 and culminated in 2019. Every policy is reviewed and revised as needed to mirror best policing practices. Only 5% of police departments nationwide are accredited. East Hartford is the 2nd largest accredited police department in Connecticut.

At this point in the meeting, the Council returned to the order of the agenda.

Presentation by the MDC: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget

Scott Jellison, MDC's Chief Executive Officer, and William "Bill" DiBella, Chair of the Board at the MDC, provided a presentation of the MDC's 2020FY budget. MDC Commissioners from East Hartford Gary LeBeau and Pasquale "Bud" Salemi were also in attendance.

Resignation of Sebrina Wilson from the Board of Assessment Appeals

The Chair announced the resignation of Sebrina Wilson from the Board of Assessment Appeals due to her recent election to the Town Council. The Chair asked that if any resident has interest in serving on a Board or Commission to contact the Mayor's Office or the Town Council's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Referral to Fees Committee re: Cemetery Service Fees

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **refer** to the Fees Committee the schedule of rates that are charged to residents for services at the town's cemeteries, with instructions to investigate the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
 Motion carried 7/0.

None

Merchant 99 111 Founders, LLC, et al v Town of East Hartford

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Don Bell
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending assessment (tax) appeal known as Merchant 99 111 Founders, LLC, et al v. Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037393-S, involving real property located at 323 Pitkin Street, 321 Pitkin Street and 262 Pitkin Street from a fair market value of \$24,232,770 to the fair market value of \$21,800,000, which shall generate a reduction of \$79,044.00 in property taxes for the Grand List Year of 2016.
Motion carried 7/0.

Pending tax appeal known as U.S. Bank National Association as Trustee, et al. v. Town of East Hartford

MOTION By Sebrina Wilson
seconded by Awet Tsegai
to **accept** the recommendation of Corporation Counsel to settle the pending assessment (tax) appeal known as U.S. Bank National Association as Trustee, et al v Town of East Hartford, Docket No. HHB-CV-17-6037264-S, involving real property located at 950 Silver Lane, 940 Silver Lane and 934 Silver Lane from a fair market value of \$18,323,370 to the fair market value of \$12,000,000, which shall generate a reduction of \$182,769.03 in property taxes for the Grand List Year of 2016.
Motion carried 7/0.

Mayor Leclerc (1) wished the Councillors a Happy Holiday season and a joyous New Year; (2) reported that the demolition of the Showcase Cinemas is coming to a conclusion; (3) noted that there is a new RFP out for either the leasing or acquisition of the Second North School; (4) commented on the financial challenges the town will face in the upcoming fiscal year as indicated by this evening's presentation of the MDC's budget; (5) has contacted one of the legislators to discuss sources of funding for Riverfront Recapture; (6) reminded all that the 28th annual Officer Brian Aselton Memorial Snow Dash will take place on Saturday January 5, 2020; (7) noted that the 2020 Census Team are recruiting part-time employees on Monday, December 23rd and Monday, January 6th; (8) announced that there are numerous winter programs sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department and the East Hartford Library that residents should take advantage of; (9) stated that the Historical Society is hosting a new exhibit titled "East Hartford

Schools: Reminiscences and Photos” and is asking the public to help identify some of the people in the photos that are from graduating classes in the 1950s; and (10) explained that the town will be walking through the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse on Thursday December 19th with an on-call architect to take another look at repairs needed to this facility.


Rich Kehoe inquired if MDC will coordinate with the town on road repairs to Brookfield Drive. The Mayor indicated that both MDC and the Engineering Department work cooperatively on road issues in town. Additionally, the Mayor indicated that since the town plans extensive road repairs on Sherwood Drive and the lower end of Burnham Street, it would be an appropriate time to transition to MDC water. To that end, a letter was sent to those residents in that area who are not serviced by MDC to see if there is any interest. The results indicated that more residents were interested than those who were not. These results were shared with the MDC who prepared their own survey – which included costs associated with the transition – and sent them to the homeowners in the areas involved.

Rich Kehoe congratulated the Mayor on receiving the Public Service Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Sebrina Wilson
 to **adjourn** (9:57 p.m.).
 Motion carried 7/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be January 7, 2020.

Attest 
Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK