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TOWN CLERK EAST HARTFORM

MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

DECEMBER 21, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING/TAX DEFERMENT EXTENSION

PRESENT Via Teams Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Connor Martin, Angela

Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Patricia Harmon and John Morrison

ALSO

Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor

PRESENT

Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel

Via Teams

Linda Trzetziak, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

Linda Trzetziak explained that the town was only recently notified that the Governor issued an executive order allowing towns to extend the payment for taxes due on January 1, 2021 until April 1, 2021, provided that any late payments after that date would have interest charged retroactive to January 1, 2021. Taxpayers do not have to file any request for the extension although landlords will have to file a new application in order to qualify for such extension.

Unfortunately, the tax bills were already issued with the January 1, 2021 due date so if the Town Council acts on the resolution, the town will issue press releases and place prominent notices on the website in order to let the taxpayers know of this extension of time.

MOTION

By Sebrina Wilson

seconded by Awet Tsegai

to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order 7S on April 1, 2020 (the "April 1, 2020 Executive Order); and

Whereas paragraph 6 of the April 1, 2020 Executive Order, required the East Hartford Town Council (the "Town Council") to select at least one of two programs designed to provide support to those who have been economically impacted by the COVID 19 crisis; and

Whereas such programs are described in the April 1, 2020 Executive Order as the Deferment Program and the Low Interest Rate Program, and

Whereas after review of such programs, the ability of the Town to implement such programs, and with the goal of meeting the desired result of relief for taxpayers whose ability to pay taxes was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Council on April 21, 2020 resolved:

- 1. The Town of East Hartford shall participate in the Deferment Program as set forth in paragraph 6 a. of the Executive Order; and
- 2. Eligibility for the Deferment Program shall be open and extended to all: (i) taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents; and (ii) landlords who comply with the provisions of paragraph 6 c. of the Executive Order, and
- 3. The Deferment Program shall not apply to Escrow Payments as set forth in paragraph 6 d. of the Executive Order; and

Whereas Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order 9R on December 16, 2020 (the "December 16, 2020 Executive Order); and

Whereas, the December 16, 2020 Executive Order provides for the continuation of the Deferment Program and Low Interest Rate Program for tax bills that become due and payable on January 1, 2021; and

Whereas, the December 16, 2020 Executive Order allows for the Town Council to make a new election concerning the Deferment Program and Low Interest Rate Program, or to continue to participate in the same program that it elected pursuant to the April 1, 2020 Executive Order.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That pursuant to, and consistent with, Section 1 of the December 16, 2020 Executive Order, the Town Council elects that the Town of East Hartford continue to participate in the Deferment Program, on the same terms and conditions as set forth in its April 21, 2020 resolution, for tax bills that become due and payable on January 1, 2021.

On call of the vote, motion carried 9/0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

By Esther Clarke seconded by Don Bell to adjourn (5:53 p.m.) Motion carried 9/0.

> Richard F. Kehoe Town Council Chair