

TOWN COUNCIL MAJORITY OFFICE

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 15, 2015

PRESENT Rich Kehoe, Chair; Councillors Esther Clarke and Bill Horan

ALSO Marcia Leclerc, Mayor
PRESENT Mary Mourey and Judi Shanahan, Registrars of Voters
Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Tim Bockus, Public Works Director
Town Councillors Ram Aberasturia, Anita Morrison, Linda Russo
and Marc Weinberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 16, 2014 Meeting

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Bill Horan
to **approve** the October 16, 2014 Ordinance meeting minutes.
Motion carried 3/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

OLD BUSINESS

Councillor Clarke recused herself from any discussion or vote on the following issue.

Review of Registrar of Voters Salary

The Chair explained that the Registrars salaries had been increased several months ago. The proposed draft would set a \$23,000 annual salary for the Registrars and would put in Ordinance the deputy registrar salary of \$8,000; their current salary is \$4,000. The intent behind these salary increases is to reflect the need for ongoing professionalism in the Registrars' office, increasing responsibility regarding Election Day procedures, and an intent to insure that future Registrars will maintain minimum standards set forth in the Ordinance for the operations of the Registrars' office as a condition of salary.

The draft ordinance would also for the first time require: (1) the office to be opened a minimum of 24 hrs. per week; (2) the Registrars and deputy Registrars to conduct no less than six voter outreach sessions; (3) the Registrars and deputy Registrars to take the state-mandated training; and (4) the Registrars to provide a written report after each election to the mayor and town council which shall consist of an overview of the office's activities for the year, an appraisal of the voting process for the previous election and recommendations for improving the election process.

The proposed ordinance would, for the first time, set out clear standards for the operation of the office, most of which are met by the current Registrars and would link their salary to meeting those standards. This is a reflection on the recent problems in Hartford's Registrars' office where the Registrars are paid a significantly higher salary and yet fail to meet what most people would consider to be minimum standards. While the town may not remove a Registrar or a deputy Registrar from their office under current state statutes, the town does have the ability to condition its payment of these salaries on the office holders meeting these minimum standards.

The Registrars indicated that six voter outreach sessions may be more than necessary and suggested a minimum of four outreach sessions instead. The Committee agreed to that change.

MOTION By Bill Horan
 Seconded by Rich Kehoe
 To send the January 15th draft of Registrar of Voters Salary Ordinance
 to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date.
 Motion carried 2/0.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS SALARY

(January 15, 2015)

Section 2-3b of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

Beginning on January 1, 2015, the salary for each registrar of voters shall be ~~[\$21,750]~~ \$23,000 [which is an increase of \$1,750 representing the increase in the consumer price index for calendar years 2009 through 2013.] and the salary for each of the deputy registrar of voters shall be \$8,000, provided: (1) the registrar of voters office shall be open to the public no less than twenty-four hours per week; (2) the registrar of voters and deputy registrar of voters shall conduct no less than four voter outreach session in locations outside of town hall annually; (3) the registrars of voters and deputy registrars of voters shall take state mandated training for such offices; and (4) the registrars of voters shall provide an annual written report to the mayor and town council within two months after each election which shall consist of an overview of the office's activities for the year, an appraisal of the conduct of voting process for the previous election including any primary or special elections and recommendations for improving the election process.

Review of Mayor's Salary

The Chair explained that every two years the Town Council must review all elected officials salaries. In previous years, the Council reviewed the Mayor's salary with towns of similar size to East Hartford who also have a strong Mayor form of government with no town manager. After reviewing those salaries and excluding Fairfield and Greenwich which are of similar size but in Fairfield County where the cost of living is significantly higher, the average

salary is very close to the current Mayor's salary. Therefore the proposed ordinance would simply maintain the Mayor's salary with a COLA of 1.5% in 2015 and 1.8% in 2016 which would reflect the inflation rate for the years 2013 and 2014 respectively. This inflation rate is similar to what the federal government uses to base increases to Social Security.

MOTION By Bill Horan
seconded by Esther Clarke
to send the January 15th draft on the Mayor's Salary ordinance to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date.
Motion carried 3/0.

Sec. 2-3. Mayor's Salary

(January 15, 2015 Draft)

Beginning November 14, 2007, the Mayor's salary shall be \$78,723, which is a zero increase and beginning on November 14, 2008, the Mayor's salary shall be \$81,400 which is an increase of 3.4%, representing the increase in the consumer price index for 2005. Beginning November 11, 2014 and annually thereafter, the Mayor's salary shall increase by fifty percent of the increase in the consumer price index-all urban consumers for the preceding calendar year, provided that the Mayor's salary for November 11, 2013 shall be increased by fifty percent of the consumer price index-all urban consumers for the calendar years 2006 through 2012 inclusive. Effective November 2015, the Mayor's salary will be \$90,067 which is based on the increase in the 2013 consumer price index. Effective November 2016, the Mayor's salary will be \$91,688 which is based on the increase in the 2014 consumer price index.

Section 18-19, Parking Lot Entrances & Exits

The Chair summarized the Committee's previous discussions on this issue noting that §18-19 of the Code of Ordinances has a restriction on the width of a parking lot curb cut of 20' in width. An individual has a circumstance where a width exceeding 20' may be appropriate, but there is no discretion in the ordinance to waive the 20' width limit. The Chair noted that §18-19 seemed to overlap and may conflict with the provisions of §18-26. The January 15 draft would repeal §18-19 of the Code of Ordinances and would put the 20' width restriction within §18-26 and provide for the ability of the Director of Public Works to waive the 20' maximum limit under certain circumstances where the proposed driveway would comply with sound engineering principles and public safety interests. Upon further discussion there was a recommendation to clarify the Director of Public Works would be able to waive the 20' restriction as follows:

Such driveway will comply with sound engineering principles and is in the best public safety interests of the town including consideration of the impact of such driveway on neighboring property, public sidewalks and roadways.

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Bill Horan
to send the January 15th draft of the Driveway Curb Cut ordinance, as amended, to the Town Council for the purposes of setting a public hearing date.
Motion carried 3/0.

DRIVEWAY CURBCUT ORDINANCE (January 15, 2015)

Section 18-19 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of East Hartford is hereby repealed.

Section 18-26 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of East Hartford is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

- (a) No driveway shall be constructed beyond the property line into a sidewalk area or public way in the Town without first obtaining a permit from the Director of Public Works or his designee. Such driveway shall conform with lines, grades and specifications required by the Director of Public Works or his designee. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to reconstruction or repair of an existing driveway.
- (b) No permit shall be issued pursuant to this section unless the applicant for such permit has obtained all approvals from the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals or Inland Wetlands Commission as required by law.
- (c) In determining whether to grant or deny such permit, the Director or his designee shall consider the application's compliance with the Town of East Hartford's Manual of Technical Design, sound engineering principles and public safety interests; provided that no residential property driveway shall exceed twenty feet in width unless the director or designee determines that such driveway will comply with sound engineering principles and is in the best public safety interests of the town including consideration of the impact of such driveway on neighboring property, public sidewalks and roadways. As used in this subsection, "residential property" shall mean any property used for a single family residential dwelling or multi-family residential dwelling not exceeding six units.
- (d) No permit shall be issued pursuant to this section unless: (1) the applicant submits a Certificate of Insurance, evidencing coverage by a Comprehensive General Liability (CGL) policy with a one million dollar per occurrence limit approved by the Finance Director or the director's designee. Such certificate shall name the Town of East Hartford as an additional insured against liability arising from the construction of such driveway; (2) such applicant signs a hold harmless agreement approved by the Corporation Counsel that will hold the Town of East Hartford harmless from any and all claims and demands for damages to property or injuries to persons arising out of the construction of such driveway and (3) such applicant pays the fee for such driveway permit as provided by the Town Council in the Schedule of Fees.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (7:18 p.m.)
 Motion carried 3/0.

cc: Mayor Leclerc
Town Council