

EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAY 19, 2015

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr. (arrived 8:10 p.m.), Majority Leader Barbara-Ann Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Linda A. Russo, Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D. Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.

Chair Kehoe called for a moment of silence to honor the life of Clarence A. Drumm, Jr., who served as the East Hartford Chief of Police from 1973 to 1984. He will be missed.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

East Hartford Fire Department: Climb for Air

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to **adopt** the following the resolution:

***Whereas** the American Lung Association has held "climbs" in prominent skyscrapers, stadiums or arenas, involving walking, running or racing up hundreds of steps all over the country; and*

***Whereas** such climbs raise awareness of lung conditions, such as asthma, and funding for critical research; and*

***Whereas** these climbs are sometimes called a "vertical road race" whereby teams use the event as a fitness target; and*

***Whereas** the American Lung Association of New England's 8th Air Climb was held on April 25, 2015 at City Place in Hartford; and*

***Whereas** East Hartford Firefighters participated in this climb whose names are: Christopher Goglia, Eric Ramsay, Zachary Brown and Daniel Foran; and*

***Whereas** Christopher Goglia was awarded 1st place in his division which consisted of 109 participants from fire departments all over the State of Connecticut; and*

***Whereas** the American Lung Association awarded Christopher Goglia the 1st place male firefighter Award for his outstanding record of 6 minutes 18 seconds.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the East Hartford Town Council, along with Mayor Marcia Leclerc, recognizes and acknowledges the honor that this achievement brought, not only to Christopher Goglia but to the Town of East Hartford and the East Hartford Fire Department and extends its appreciation for the professionalism of the East Hartford Fire Department and our firefighters' commitment to charitable works.*

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

Fire Chief John Oates introduced two of the firefighters involved in the climb – Eric Ramsay and Zachary Brown – along with Joy Morse, Development Manager for the American Lung Association, who presented the 1st place trophy to the firefighters.

Mayor Leclerc, along with the Chair Kehoe, praised the Fire Department for their involvement within the community.

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Kniep, 44-46 and 50 Olde Roberts Street, (1) applauded the paramedics of the East Hartford Fire Department for their commitment to saving lives; (2) is against the proposed bond referendum; (3) believes that the lease for the East Hartford Community Cultural Center should be referred to the Investigation and Audit Committee; and (4) will request a map from the Capital Region Development Authority which outlines the CRDA's boundaries.

Mayor Leclerc (1) introduced Jordan Otero, a Hartford Courant reporter and Kathleen McWilliams, a Journal Inquirer reporter; (2) reminded all of the various Memorial Day events; (3) Mike Zaleski has been appointed the new CEO for Riverfront Recapture; (4) the Brian Aselton Motorcycle Ride is May 31st; (5) the MDC has partnered with CPTV in producing a documentary on the history of the MDC; (6) the Stop Log exercise will be held June 13th on Main Street; (7) this week is Public Works week; the town will sponsor a cookout on Ecology Drive on May 21st from 11AM to 1PM; and (8) since the end of April, there has been multiple spray applications to control the mosquito population.

At this point, Vice Chair Horan joined the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 5, 2015 Executive Session

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 to **approve** the minutes of the May 5, 2015 Executive Session.
 Motion carried 9/0.

May 5, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Pat Harmon
 to **approve** the minutes of the May 5, 2015 Regular Meeting.
 Motion carried 9/0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

East Hartford Housing Authority Update

Chair Kehoe gave a brief history of the formation of the East Hartford Housing Authority and its purpose in the community.

Deb Bouchard, EHHA Executive Director, reported that the EHHA scored a perfect hundred rating on their management of the Section 8 program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Additionally, the EHHA achieved a high performer rating in several other areas of operations from HUD.

Ms. Bouchard stated that the proceeds from the sale of King Court were used to pay back all debts on this property, including repaying the monies borrowed from Veterans Terrace to pay for the maintenance of King Court; the remainder of the funds was split equally between the state and the town.

Andrew Daniels, Developer Consultant for the Veterans Terrace project, was also present. Mr. Daniels and Ms. Bouchard discussed plans to upgrade and renovate the housing units at Veterans Terrace.

Proposed Bond Referendum – Capital Improvement Plan Projects & Senior Center/Multipurpose Facility

Mike Walsh, Finance Director, reviewed with the Council the possible financial impact that the two proposed bond referenda would have on property taxes. The proposed referenda are \$4,625,000 for Capital Improvement Plan Projects and \$5,000,000 for the Senior Center/Multipurpose Facility. The Council will have additional meetings and hold a public hearing for resident input on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

ChildPlan Grant Application: Graustein Memorial Fund

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 seconded by Anita Morrison
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Children's Fund of Connecticut and the Annie E. Casey Foundation are partnering with the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund to advance the Discovery Birth-to-Eight Initiative by aligning their funding for community grants; and

WHEREAS, East Hartford ChildPlan, Inc., in collaboration with its members including the Town of East Hartford, desires to make and execute an application for funding in the amount of \$45,500.00 with the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund to support the continued implementation and refinement of the community plan known as "East Hartford's Plan for Healthy and Successful Young Children Age Birth to 8."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford is hereby authorized to execute such application and other documents as may be required by the grant.

On call of the vote, motion carried 8/0. **Abstain:** Kehoe

MOTION By Linda Russo
seconded by Barbara Rossi
to **adopt** the following resolution:

On call of the vote, motion carried 9/0.

Senior Support Services

\$9,750

Funding for the delivery of services to East Hartford's elderly population. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 570.201(e), meets HUD national objective criteria under 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(i)(A).

Youth Services Bilingual Counselor

\$3,000

Funding to support the hiring of a part-time Spanish-speaking counselor to help provide free counseling services to East Hartford families. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 570.201(e), meets HUD national objective criteria under 24 CFR 570.208 (a)(2)(i)(B).

PROJECTS

Commercial Rehabilitation

\$30,000

Funding for limited façade improvements to commercial properties along major thoroughfares in low to moderate income areas, including, but not limited to, sign replacement. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 570.202(a)(3), meets HUD national objective criteria under 24 CFR 570.208(a)(1)(i).

Housing Rehabilitation

\$120,000

Funding for limited housing rehabilitation of one to four unit owner-occupied properties inhabited by low and moderate income families. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 570.202(a)(1), meets HUD national objective criteria under 24 CFR 570.208(a)(3).

Parks Improvements

\$84,795

Funding for improvements to parks in low to moderate income areas. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 570.201(c), meets HUD national objective criteria under 24 CFR 570.208 (a)(1)(i).

Larson Community Center Improvements

\$30,000

Funding for improvements at the East Hartford Housing Authority's Larson Community Center, including, but not limited to, sidewalk replacement and limited facility rehabilitation. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 570.201(c), meets HUD national objective criteria under 24 CFR 570.208(a)(2)(i)(B).

Streetscape Improvements

\$75,000

Funding for physical improvements along major arteries leading into downtown, including, but not limited to, bus shelters, trash receptacles, sidewalk replacement, and benches. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 270.201(c), meets HUD national objective criteria under 24 CFR 570.208(a)(1)(i).

ADMINISTRATION

Program Administration

\$104,261

Oversight, management, monitoring and coordination of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Eligible activity under 24 CFR 570.206.

TOTAL

\$521,306

Fees Committee:

Referral: Lease for Circle of Life: Arts for All

MOTION

By Marc Weinberg
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **refer** to the Fees Committee the lease renewal and lease fee for

“Circle of Life Arts for All, Inc.” located at 50 Chapman Place in the East Hartford Cultural Community Center with instructions to review the issue and report back to the Town Council with its recommendations, if any.
Motion carried 9/0

St Isaac Jogues Church Parking Lot

MOTION By Marc Weinberg
 seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 that the Town Council – acting as a committee of the whole for the Fees Committee – **approve** the lease renewal and lease fee of \$1 annually for the parking lot on the corner of Home Terrace and Community Street to St. Isaac Jogues Church for the next three years; St. Isaac Jogues will maintain the lot and provide insurance protection.
Motion carried 9/0.

Outdoor Amusement Permits:

31st Annual Riverfest 5K and Kids 1K

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Anita Morrison
 to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application entitled “31st Annual Riverfest 5K & Kids 1K”, submitted by Ted Fravel, Director of the East Hartford Parks & Recreation Department to hold a 5K and a 1K road race, in conjunction with the July 4th Riverfest events on Saturday, July 11, 2015 – the 5K race will start at approximately 6AM to 11AM, beginning and ending at Goodwin School/Park, 1235 Forbes Street, and the 1K Kid’s Run will begin at 8AM held entirely on School and Park grounds; subject to 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 9/0.

Sounds of Summer Concert Series – Great River Park

MOTION By Bill Horan
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **approve** the outdoor amusement permit application, entitled “Sounds of Summer Concert Series” submitted by Kristine Vincent, Recreation Supervisor, for the East Hartford Parks & Recreation Department to conduct a series of summer evening concerts at the Amphitheater located in Great River Park from 6PM to 8PM on the following Thursdays in 2015:

July 23rd, July 30th and August 6th

and, pursuant to §14-7(b) and §14-10(13) of the East Hartford Code of Ordinances, **authorize** the applicant to sell or dispense alcoholic beverages in connection with these three events; 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 9/0.

Recommendation from the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee re: 118 Main Street Rear

MOTION By Linda Russo
 seconded by Anita Morrison
 that the East Hartford Town Council: (1) **waives** the requirements of §10-19 of the Town ordinances concerning the receipt of an appraisal; and (2) **accepts** the recommendation of the Real Estate Acquisition & Disposition Committee and agrees to convey the property known as 118 Main Street, East Hartford, Rear, as described in a Certificate of Title dated January 27, 2015 (attached hereto) to Brumax, LLC for the sum of \$915.00.
 Motion carried 9/0.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Esther Clarke (1) was told the town's bookmobile is housed in the fire station on Main Street near Brewer Street and is concerned about mold in that building. *Mayor Leclerc believes that mold is not a threat to the bookmobile.* (2) Councillor Clarke asked the Mayor for any information she can share regarding the lease renewal for the East Hartford Community Cultural Center. *Mayor Leclerc gave Councillor Clarke a brief history of the lease of the apartments at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center which started during Mayor DeCrescenzo's administration.*

Pat Harmon (1) noted that there are old vehicles at the firehouse on Forbes Street and asked when they will be removed; and (2) asked when the tree belts in the Sandra/Barbara Drive neighborhood will be re-landscaped. *Mayor Leclerc will get back to her with answers to these questions.*

Ram Aberasturia asked if Godar Terrace will be on the list of roads to be repaved. Additionally, Councillor Aberasturia suggested the formation of a Boys/Girls Club in East Hartford.

Anita Morrison asked if there will be concerts on the Town Green this summer. *Mayor Leclerc assured her there will be.*

COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

Susan Kniep (1) asked that the lease for the East Hartford Community Cultural Center be referred to the Investigation and Audit Committee; (2) inquired on the status of the Madigan lawsuit against the EHHA; (3) asked for the total amount of money paid for legal fees due to the Madigan lawsuit; (4) inquired on the East Hartford Affordable Housing affiliation with the East Hartford Housing Authority; and (5) reported that Olde Roberts Street is in dire need of repair due to poor drainage.

Eugene Pushefski, 58 Barbara Drive, believes the town needs to re-landscape the lawn at the end of his property near the street which was damaged after road work was performed.

Bill Horan reported that East Catholic High School Baseball team is heading for the state tournament.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (10:02 p.m.).
 Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Town Council would be June 2nd.

Attest _____
Angela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK