

Town Council Chambers
 East Hartford, Connecticut
 March 11, 2014
 Special Meeting/Budget

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., 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

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. He announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 29-381, after which the Council joined him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the 2014-2015 Budget

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Linda Russo
 to **adopt** the following budget for 2014-2015 in accordance with Section 6.4(b) of the Town Charter, as follows:
 That the Mayor's proposed budget which
 resulted in the Town Government Budget of-----\$ 78,407,732
 Board of Education Budget of-----\$ 85,766,419
 and a Debt Service payment of -----\$ 8,068,079
 and a Capital Improvement Budget of----- \$ 1,487,140

 for a total budget of -----\$173,729,370
 be **amended** as follows:

Account Number	Description	Amount	Comments
G0610-41231	Building Structure Fees	250,000	Inc due to UTC and other economic activity
G0990-42512	Special Education	100,000	Inc due to higher expected costs paid by BOE
G0120-43610	Record Legal	25,000	Inc due to higher economic activity
G0120-43615	Conveyance Tax	25,000	Inc due to higher economic activity
G0370-40067	Current Tax Levy	920,300	Inc due to BOE funding support
Subtotal - Revenue Increase (Decrease)		1,320,300	
G1200-63221	Town Clerk - Printing	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G1300-60121	Registrar of Voters - Temporary	(7,000)	Council directed reductions

G2100-62216	Mayor's Office - Prof. Development	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G2200-63230	Corp. Counsel - Legal	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G2400-65252	Library - Electric	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G2500-63221	Probate - Printing	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G3300-63159	IT - Staff Training	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G3300-63234	IT - Lease Purchase	(4,000)	Council directed reductions
G3300-64500	IT - Capital Equipment	(4,000)	Council directed reductions
G3300-64602	IT - Computer, Printers	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G4100-63138	Development - Contractual	(2,000)	Council directed reductions
G5203-62277	Police - Care/Feeding Prisoners	(2,500)	Council directed reductions
G5203-62321	Police - Gasoline	(25,000)	Council directed reductions
G5316-63133	Fire - Professional Services	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G5316-63600	Fire - Matching	(33,159)	Council directed reductions
G2950-63600	Grants - Matching	33,159	Council directed addition
G5317-63363	Fire - Cleaning/Laundry	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G5320-62321	Fire - Gasoline/Diesel	(7,100)	Council directed reductions
G5320-62323	Fire - Batteries	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G5322-63348	Fire - Radio Repair	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G5322-65212	Fire - Telephone	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G5323-62335	Fire - Medical Supplies	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G5323-63159	Fire - Staff Training	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G5324-63550	Fire - CERT	(2,000)	Council directed reductions
G5400-60150	PSC - OT	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G5400-62219	PSC - Training	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G6100-63221	Inspections - Printing	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G6100-63236	Inspections - Office Eq. Maint.	(1,000)	Council directed reductions
G7200-63175	PW - Engineering	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G7300-63138	PW - Contractual	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G7300-63242	PW - Rental	(2,000)	Council directed reductions
G7310-63138	PW - Contractual	(10,000)	Council directed reductions
G7400-63410	PW - Tipping Fees	(25,000)	Council directed reductions

G7400-63510	PW - Recycling	(10,000)	Council directed reductions
G8100-62314	Parks - Photo Supplies	(500)	Council directed reductions
G8100-63370	Parks - Special Events	(5,000)	Council directed reductions
G9200-62367	Nursing - Medical Supplies	(4,000)	Council directed reductions
G9400-65212	Social Services - Telephone	(700)	Council directed reductions
G9844-63230	Redevelopment - Legal	(500)	Council directed reductions
G9885-60120	Hockanum River - Clerk Wages	(300)	Council directed reductions
G9885-63999	Hockanum River - Other	(100)	Council directed reductions
G9990-69999	BOE	1,500,000	Increase to met MBR
Subtotal - Expenditure Increase (Decrease)		<u>1,320,300</u>	
Net Increase (Decrease) to Mayor's Recommended Budget		<u>-</u>	

MOTION By Esther Clarke
seconded by Pat Harmon
to **amend** the motion as follows:

From the Mayor's recommended budget of:

Board of Education Budget	\$ 85,766,419
Town Budget	54,124,791
Health Benefits	12,274,592
Pension/ss benefit costs	12,008,349
Town and Board Debt	8,068,079
Capital Improvements	1,487,140
Total Mayor's Recommended Budget	\$173,729,370

Revise as follows:

Additional Income:

G0350-42526	Municipal Revenue	\$	1,500,000.00
G0120-43610	Recorded Legal Trans	\$	100,000.00
G0120-43615	Conveyance Tax	\$	100,000.00

January 1, 2015, except when the tax due is not in excess of \$300 and then it shall be due and payable in full on July 1, 2014, or when the property tax due is in an amount less than \$5.00, such tax shall be waived pursuant to C.G.S. Section 12-144c.
Motion carried 9/0.

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Marc Weinberg
to **adopt** the following receipts for the
2014-2015 uniform fiscal year in accordance
with Section 6.4(b) of the Town Charter as follows:

Grand List as of October 1, 2013	\$ 2,692,513,341
Tax Collection Rate 97.80	
Mill Rate of 45.4019	
Generating taxes of	\$ 119,555,929
(Local Elderly, Veteran's, Leased Engines Relief)	- 1,025,000
Other Receipts	\$ 56,518,741
Total Revenue	\$ <u>175,049,670</u>

Motion carried 6/3. **Nays:** Clarke, Harmon, Morrison

Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Funding

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
seconded by Ram Aberasturia
to **adopt** the following resolution:

Whereas, the town of East Hartford currently has a mill rate of 43.85 and struggles to maintain a properly funded police, fire, health, parks, youth and other departments within the town administration given the limited growth in the grand list that East Hartford – along with virtually every other town in the state encounters; and

Whereas, the town has increases in excess of \$2.2 million for contractual settlements of less than 2% and another \$1.4 million increase in pension plan and health benefit contributions; and

Whereas, the town has reduced its town employees, excluding police and fire, by 25% since 1990 or more than 77 employees, negotiated health insurance plans that focus on wellness in order to limit medical expenses, eliminated its pension plan for most new hires after 2006, and limited outstanding bond indebtedness, yet still has multi-million dollar increases in costs; and

Whereas, such budget constraints limit the town's ability to provide additional funds to the board of education for their increased costs in the 2014-2015 fiscal year; and

Whereas, since 2012, the amount of state educational cost sharing funds provided to the town has not increased, yet the town has increased its contribution to the board of education by \$4.7 million so the town has done what it can when funds are available; and

Whereas, under the Alliance school district plan, the state has diverted normal ECS funding increases, providing the following funds directly to the board of education: \$1.7 million (2013); \$4.4 million (2014) and \$6.5 million (2015), yet restricted such grants to new programs; and

Whereas, the Alliance funding program means that next year, the board of education will have \$6.5 million in funding for new programs but no funding to pay for any increased costs associated with current programs such as math, science and art teachers, guidance services, and textbooks; and

Whereas, this imbalance means that while the board of education's new programs have abundant resources, their existing core instruction programs will be starving;

Now therefore be it resolved that the East Hartford Town Council urges the Governor, the General Assembly and the town's legislative delegation to revise the Alliance school district funding criteria to allow flexibility to use those funds for existing instructional support increased costs and more specifically to allow the unrestricted use of the approximately \$2.5 million increase in Alliance school district funding association with ECS funding provided directly to the board.

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

Resolution Approving the Proposed Special Revenue Program and Budget for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Anita Morrison
 to **adopt** the following resolution:

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED:

That the East Hartford Town Council does hereby approve the Mayor's recommendation for the Special Revenue Programs to be conducted during the fiscal year 2014-2015 on a self-supporting basis, and further requires that any new programs to be offered under Special Programs Fund must first be approved by the Town Council. The Council further requires that any excess funds accruing in this account at the end of each fiscal year, as determined by the independent auditors, shall be transferred to the General Fund as revenue in the next succeeding fiscal year.

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

Adoption of the Town of East Hartford's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

MOTION By Barbara Rossi
 seconded by Marc Weinberg
 to **adopt** the Town of East Hartford's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for
 fiscal years 2014-2015 through 2018-2019 as contained in the Mayor's
 Recommended Budget for Fiscal year 2014-2015.
 Motion carried 9/0.

Councillor Harmon asked for a point of personal privilege to announce that a memorial service honoring the life of Marcus Oladell, once a member of the Board of Education for eight years, will be held on Monday, March 17th at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy. She urged all to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Esther Clarke
 seconded by Bill Horan
 to **adjourn** (8:30 p.m.)
 Motion carried 9/0.

Attest _____
 Angela Attenello
 Town Council Clerk