

The East Haven Town Council Hearing Committee held a public hearing Thursday, April 17, 2008, at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT with regard to the following:

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call – 9 Present 6 Absent (Camera, Parlato, Arpino, DePalma, Toothe, and Diana Badamo)

Pledge of Allegiance and A Moment of Silence

Councilman Toothe arrived at 7:02p.m.

Councilman Cofrancesco read the following public hearing notice in its entirety:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING THE 2008-2009 BUDGET

In accordance with Chapter VII, Section 5 of the East Haven Town Charter, the East Haven Town Council will hold two public hearings regarding the proposed 2008-2009 fiscal year Town budget, as follows:

1. A public hearing with regard to the Town and Capital Improvement portion of said budget will be held at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.
2. A public hearing with regard to the Board of Education portion of said budget will be held at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the budget presented by the Mayor to the Town Council:

REVENUES

Current & Delinquent Town Taxes	\$ 51,515,504
State and Federal Grants for Education	\$ 21,590,458
State Grants and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 1,871,555
Other State Grants	\$ 92,624
Income from Short Term Investments	\$ 675,000
Licenses, Permits, Fees and Services	\$ 1,813,960
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,631,500
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$ 81,190,601

APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$ 2,252,708
Employee Benefits	\$ 5,785,600
Public Services	\$ 5,530,672

Public Safety	\$ 9,501,046
Health	\$ 216,846
Social Services	\$ 78,093
Housing Code	\$ 1,900
Counseling & Community Services	\$ 557,450
Housing Authority	\$ 84,565
Urban Renewal	\$ 70,152
School Building Committee	\$ 1,985
Library	\$ 697,460
Recreation	\$ 450,714
Recreation/Ice Rink	\$ 470,570
Senior Center	\$ 197,955
Debt Service	\$ 7,625,743
Community Services	\$ 100,450
Insurance	\$ 1,634,080
General Services	\$ 2,180,000
Total Municipal Appropriations	\$ 37,437,989
Total of Board of Education	\$ 43,752,612
TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 81,190,601

Copies of the proposed budget are available at the office of the East Haven Town Clerk, Town Hall, 250 Main Street, East Haven.

Councilman Arpino arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Chairman Thompson recognized the following for public comment:

George Mingione, 65 Crest Avenue, East Haven, CT (Zoning Official, Town of East Haven). Mr. Mingione submitted a statement regarding the hourly cut in his position with the town and the negative effects it will have on the town, potential developers and residents. When he was first hired there were 6 employees in the Planning and Zoning Department and now there is a full time secretary, part-time Deputy Zoning Official and Mr. Mingione. The deputy duties and his duties are entirely different; she works with complaints, investigates and violations. Mr. Mingione outlined jobs in other towns and their salaries along with the cost of benefits within his office regardless if he is full time or part-time. Also included in his hand out are letters of support regarding the value of his full-time position. If you wish to do the job you were elected to do as a Council then reinstate the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer to full- time because it's in the best interest of the Town of East Haven, which it's been a pleasure to serve.

Benjamin Mazzucco, 140 Thompson Street, East Haven, CT, stated that Mr. Mingione is a valuable asset to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning and Zoning due to his vast knowledge of the regulations. In the absence of the Assistant Town Attorney his abilities are very useful. The Zoning Department is the gateway to new taxation for the town. Mr. Mazzucco believes that this cut back in hours regarding Mr. Mingione's position is

politically motivated. As Town Council Members you should all be fully aware that you were elected to do a job; please do the right thing.

Margaret Raccio, 57 Massachusetts Avenue, East Haven, CT (Purchasing Agent, Town of East Haven). Mrs. Raccio stated her concerns for another position within the purchasing department; under the direction of the Board of Education and overseeing the entire department. She has been in her position over 13 years and does not need anyone looking over her shoulder she has done her job well and thanked the Council.

Arthur DeSorbo, 494 Silver Sands Road, East Haven, CT, stated that two individuals are being targeted for reduction. While he was the Town's Director of Administration both these individuals were an integral part of lessening the burden on the tax payers through their efforts in bring business to the town, it was a team effort to lessen the tax burden in a less than ideal economy. Yet, the plan is to create a new job at \$66,000 annually, what is the real motive. I implore you in the best interest of the tax payer not to make this tragic mistake.

Councilman Badamo moved to adjourn.
Councilman Toothe seconded the motion.
Voice vote – all in favor. None opposed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca
Temporary Council Clerk

The East Haven Town Council Hearing Committee held a public hearing Thursday, April 21, 2008, at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT with regard to the following:

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call – 11 Present 4 Absent (Parlato, Arpino, Toothe, and Riolino)

Pledge of Allegiance and A Moment of Silence

Councilman Toothe arrived at 7:02p.m.

Vice Chairman DePalma read the following public hearing notice in its entirety:

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1. A public hearing with regard to the Town and Capital Improvement portion of said budget will be held at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.
2. A public hearing with regard to the Board of Education portion of said budget will be held at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the budget presented by the Mayor to the Town Council:

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General Services	\$ 2,180,000
Total Municipal Appropriations	\$ 37,437,989
Total of Board of Education	\$ 43,752,612
TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 81,190,601

Chairman Thompson recognized the following for public comment:

Jane Bigler, 1 Burr Street, East Haven, CT; remarked that there isn't very much participation from the Board of Education especially since there are errors and omissions regarding the Board of Education Budget. The grants should be included in the Board of Education. The schools, at times, are lacking a school nurse and librarians. The library is vital to high school students because they will be required to write and research papers. The Mayor needs to get a grip on the problem with education; if the board doesn't have the money the kids loose.

Andrea DeCorte stated that she had children in the system which has taken progressive steps forward and now will be going backward.

Marilyn Vitale, 47 Forest Street, East Haven, CT thanked the Council for putting some of the funds which are needed back into the budget. We now have to change the way we do business and the Board will make do; hopefully, the sub committee will have input in that manner.

Councilman Cofrancesco moved adjourn.

Councilman Anania seconded the motion.
Voice vote – all in favor. None opposed.
Hearing adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca
Temporary Council Clerk

The East Haven Town Council held a Special Meeting Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT in order to transact the following:

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – 14 Present 1 Absent (Parlato)

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for the safety of our police and firemen.

Vice Chairman DePalma read the ordinance in its entirety and as amended.

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE

At a Special Meeting of The East Haven Town Council, held on April 24, 2008, the following ordinance as introduced at public hearings on April 17 and 21, 2008, was enacted, which ordinance was approved by the Mayor on April 25, 2008.

ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE TOWN AND BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BUDGET AND FIXING THE TAX RATE IN MILLS FOR THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAVEN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAVEN:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and the Town Charter of the Town of East Haven, this Council is empowered to adopt a budget and set the tax rate in mills for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the budget submitted by the Mayor and has held public hearings thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. Anticipated revenues for the 2008-2009 fiscal year are as follows:

REVENUES

Current & Delinquent Town Taxes	\$51,515,504
State and Federal Grants for Education	\$21,590,458
State Grants and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 1,871,555
Other State Grants	\$ 92,624
Income from Short Term Investments	\$
675,000	
Licenses, Permits, Fees and Services	\$ 1,813,960
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,631,500
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$
<u>81,190,601</u>	

Section 2. Total appropriations for the fiscal year are as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$ 2,252,708
Employee Benefits	\$ 5,785,600
Public Services	\$
5,530,672	
Public Safety	\$ 9,501,046
Health	\$ 216,846
Social Services	\$
78,093	
Housing Code	\$ 1,900
Counseling & Community Services	\$ 557,450
Housing Authority	\$ 84,565
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Insurance	\$ 1,634,080
General Services	\$ 2,180,000
 Total Municipal Appropriations	 \$37,437,989
 Total of Board of Education	 \$43,752,612

TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS

\$81,190,601

Section 3. This ordinance shall be deemed to approve the budget proposed to the Council by the Mayor on March 27, 2008, except as the same may be specifically amended by this ordinance. The Director of Finance is directed to adjust all figures and summaries in the budget services reports to reflect the amendments, if any, to the Mayor's proposed budget which are set forth in this ordinance as finally approved.

Said amendments are as follows:

To Amend the Following Appropriation Line Items:

- A. To increase Account #01-332-0660 Building Maintenance by \$20,000.00.
- B. To increase Account #01-334-0110 Regular Salaries by \$47,657.00.
- C. To increase Account #01-661-0118 Seasonal Wages by \$ 10,000.00
- D. To reduce Account #01-334-0115 Part-time wages by \$27,237.00.
- E. To reduce Account #01-662-0201 Electricity by \$10,000.00.
- F. To reduce Account #01-880-0816 Old Cemetery by \$ 6,000.00.

To Amend the Following Revenue Line Items:

- A. To increase Revenue Item #2404 Suspense Collections by \$34,420.00

Section 4. The tax rate in mills to be levied on the taxable property in the Town of East Haven is hereby fixed at the rate of 22.85 mills.

Section 5. All bills for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes for the fiscal year which total \$200 or less shall be due and payable in full on July 1, 2008. Bills for such taxes which total more than \$200 shall be due and payable in two installments, one-half on July 1, 2008, and one-half on January 1, 2009.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter of the Town of East Haven.

No public comment.

Clerk read a statement into the record from Mr. Carl Perez praising the Administration for a budget with no tax increase and thanked the Council for their work on this budget. He then disparaged the previous administration for wasteful spending. The message was given to the previous administration during the election “the party is over.” This budget and the budgets to come will show that this Administration is working for the people.

Councilman Camera moved to adopt the budget as amended.
Councilman Badamo seconded the motion.

Chairman Thompson thanked everyone involved in the budget process.

Roll call vote

Councilman McKay thanked all the departments, Board of Finance and the Council for their work during the budget process. But with no mill increase, no audit he is concerned over the funding of the Board of Education and believes there is a lack of funds for the police and fire departments. Therefore, he is voting “No”.

Councilman Anania believes this is a deficit budget; cutting services in both the Building Department and the Zoning Department; while creating a \$65,000 position. Also the Board of Education can not advance its programs. Voting “No”.

Councilwoman Massaro agreed with Councilman McKay and believes that this budget lacks fiscal responsibility. Voting “No”.

Roll call – 10 In favor. 3 Opposed (McKay, Anania and Massaro). 1 Abstention (DePalma)

Motion Carried.

Councilman Cofrancesco moved to adjourn.
Vice Chairman DePalma seconded the motion.
Voice Vote – all in favor. None opposed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca
Temporary Council Clerk