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TOWN CLERK

**EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019**

In accordance with Chapter III, Section 6 of the East Haven Town Charter, the East Haven Legislative Town Council held a Public Hearing meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 7:00PM at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512.

Chairman Ken McKay calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Item #1

Roll Call for Public Hearing #1- 13 present – 2 absent (Santino and Butler III).
A quorum is present.

Chairman Ken McKay asks all to stand for the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence for the individuals affected by the tornados.

Item #2

To conduct Public Hearing #1 to discuss an "Ordinance adopting the Town and Board of Education Budgets and fixing the tax rate in mills for the 2019-2020 fiscal year of the Town of East Haven." - Town Side of the Budget.

**AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE OF THE
East Haven Town Council**

An Ordinance adopting the Town and Board of Education Budgets and fixing the tax rate in mills for the 2019-2020 fiscal year 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, 32.42 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year;

AND WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the budget submitted by the Mayor and has held public hearings and budget workshops thereon and made various changes;

NOW THEREFORE, be it **ORDAINED**:

Section 1. Total estimated revenues for the fiscal year are as follows:

REVENUES

Current & Delinquent Town Taxes	\$ 65,765,925.00
State and Federal Grants for Education	\$ 19,582,656.00
State Grants and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 1,879,091.00
Other State Grants	\$ 94,950.00
Income from Short Term Investments	\$ 275,850.00
Licenses, Permits, Fees, and Services	\$ 1,641,303.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,780,046.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$ 92,019,821.00

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

APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$ 2,977,976.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 11,254,955.00
Public Services	\$ 5,634,097.00
Public Safety	\$ 13,864,820.00
Health	\$ 266,722.00
Social Services	\$ 130,142.00
Counseling & Community Services	\$ 757,633.00
Housing Authority	\$ 850.00
Urban Renewal	\$ 42,450.00
School Building Committee	\$ 2,600.00
Library	\$ 846,561.00
Recreation	\$ 518,196.00
Recreation/Ice Rink	\$ 293,749.00
Senior Center	\$ 228,621.00
Debt Service	\$ 2,706,478.00
Community Services	\$ 109,200.00
Insurance	\$ 2,388,000.00
General Services	\$ 2,002,500.00

Total Board of Education Appropriation	\$ 47,994,271.00
TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 92,019,821.00

Section 3. This ordinance shall be deemed to approve the budget proposed to the Council by the Mayor on March 28, 2019, except as modified by the Finance Director or the Town Council throughout the budget workshop process, and except as the same may be specially 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.

This Ordinance was approved by the Town Council on April 24, 2019 and shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Respectfully,
Submitted by:

Danelle Feeley, Council Clerk

Date

Stacy Gravino, Town Clerk

Date

Joseph Maturo, Jr., Mayor

Date

No public comment.

Item #3

Adjournment of Public Hearing #1.

Councilman Louis Pacelli makes a motion.

Councilman Nicholas Palladino seconds the motion.

Voice vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #4

Roll Call for Hearing Committee- 13 present – 2 absent (Santino and Butler III).

Item #5

Hearing Committee report to the full Town Council to recommend action on Public Hearing #1.

Councilman Louis Pacelli makes a motion.

Councilman Big Steve Tracey seconds the motion.

Motion and second are withdrawn.

- Town Attorney Joseph Zullo explains that now is the time where the Council should vote on each item that they wish to amend.
- Finance Director Paul Rizza discusses the changes that were discussed. The first was raises for non-union individuals. The first proposal totaled approximately \$31,000 and he brought a revised copy with the Council's recommendation after lengthy discussion. The total for the non-union raises is now \$22,834. The second revision was for charter revision, the Council decided to add \$25,000 for

attorney's fees to assist in the charter revision process. He thinks it would make most sense to add a separate line item within the Town Council's budget and label it Charter Revision. Any monies that are going to be spent during this process, such as for attorney's fees once they come up with someone would be signed off on by the Council Chairman. For the non-union raises the increases will be added among the various departments. The financial changes he makes will be reflected in the Ordinance and given to the Council before their budget adoption meeting next week. He is looking into areas within revenue to come up with the approximate \$47,000 for these increases.

- Councilwoman Loria Jaffe asks if the monies for the charter revision would be better within the legal department.
- Attorney Zullo sought confirmation from the Finance Director that this would be a separate line item in the Town Council's budget, and since it will be he thinks it is perfectly acceptable to do it that way. Keeping it outside of the legal budget will allow the Council to have full control over it, if/when they hire independent counsel they have the control to utilize the funds being allocated to this line item.
- Councilman Joseph Deko adds that they had also discussed upgrading their ipads/computers. Would this be the time to add that in?
- Attorney Zullo indicates now is the time to make all amendments to the budget.
- Mr. Rizza says they probably won't have to go out to bid for them; he would estimate it may run approximately \$350 per one so for 15 of them they would need approximately \$5,250. He adds that he can talk to the computer guy for the Town and see what kind of deal he can get on them.
- Councilman Joseph Deko indicates he would rather have a computer; he sends a lot of correspondence to constituents and has had to use his home computer. He doesn't have access to Microsoft word because it's a chromebook.
- Chairman Ken McKay adds the computer is easier to print off of also.
- Councilwoman Loria Jaffe suggests budgeting \$5,500 so they have a buffer for taxes.
- Attorney Zullo asks if this would be a revenue or expenditure change to account for this additional \$5,500.
- Mr. Rizza says it will likely be a combination of revenue and expenses for the approximately \$53,000 they are adding tonight.
- Councilman Richard Anania says they saved money on the non-union salaries.
- Councilman Joseph Deko asks if this can use the surplus from this year.
- Mr. Rizza says no, the money goes to the fund balance and we won't know this week where we are with the surplus.
- Attorney Zullo explains they will have to make a motion for each of the changes they are making with the direction to the Finance Director to adjust the revenues and expenditures as appropriate.

Councilman Nicholas Palladino makes a motion to approve the salaries for the 11 non-union employees giving a 2% increase with the exception of the Finance Director getting a 5% increase and giving direction to the Finance Director to adjust the revenues and expenditures as appropriate.

Councilman Joseph Deko seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: 12 in favor- 1 abstention (Parente) - none oppose. Motion carries.

Councilman Louis Pacelli makes a motion to appropriate \$25,000 for charter revision in the Town Council budget and direct the Finance Director to adjust the revenues and expenditures as appropriate.

Councilman Big Steve Tracey seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Councilman Joseph Deko makes a motion to appropriate \$5,500 in the Town Council budget for computers and direct the Finance Director to adjust the revenues and expenditures as appropriate.

Councilman Richard Anania seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Councilman Louis Pacelli makes a motion to recommend action on Public Hearing #1 consistent with the amendments made.

Councilman Big Steve Tracey seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #6

Adjournment of Hearing Committee.

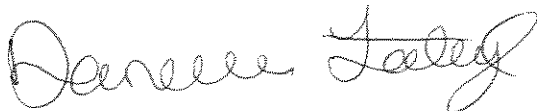
Councilman Nicholas Palladino makes a motion.

Councilman Joseph Deko seconds the motion.

Voice vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:27PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Danelle Feeley".

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council