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**East Haven**

DATE **5/12/2020** TIME **9:10AM**

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

EAST HAVEN, CONN

*Stacy Gravino, CTC*

TOWN CLERK

## **East Haven Town Council Minutes**

East Haven Town Council held its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, May 5, 2020, which commence at 7:40 p.m. or immediately following certain public hearings via Zoom in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

### **Item #1**

Roll Call-13 Present. 2 Absent (Maltese and Pompano)

Chairman Deko called for a moment of silence for all those affected Covid-19.

Staff Present: Town Clerk Stacy Gravino, Interim Finance Director James Keeley, and Town Attorney Michael Luzzi.

Town Attorney Michael Luzzi reviewed the Executive Order and the protocol for these meetings via a Zoom meeting.

### **Item #2**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to approve Minutes of the April 22, 2020, Special Meeting. Councilman Santino second the motion.

Roll Call-12 In favor. None opposed. 1 Abstention (Parlato).

**Approved**

### **Item #3**

Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building
- b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- c. Finance
- d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation
- e. Urban Renewal/Housing

**No Action Necessary**

### **Item #4**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance Amending East Haven Code of Ordinance Section 16.5-14 (Use of Town Landfill; Fees) its subsection (d)(1) – (4) to now be coded as 16.5-14(d)(1) – (6)."

Councilman Santino second the motion  
No questions from the Council

Chairman Deko recognized Donna Richo, 67 Charnes Drive stated she is opposed to the change in fees.  
Inaudible

Roll Call Vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

**Approved**

#### **Item #4.1**

To consider and act upon adding to the agenda the Tax Suspense List Fiscal Year 2019-2020: Refer to the Town Council Total Amount being put into the Suspense Tax Book is \$287,801.73. The following lists are the accounts going into suspense:

2013-Personal Property \$ 244.53

2016-Personal Property \$ 52,920.25

2017-Personal Property \$ 47,064.87

2016-Motor Vehicles \$ 320.55

2017-Motor Vehicles \$136,375.49

2017-Supplemental Motor Vehicles \$ 43,592.03

2017-Deceased-Motor Vehicle/Supplemental \$ 2,863.68

2018-Deceased-Motor Vehicle/Supplemental \$ 5,420.33

Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion.  
Vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

**Approved to Add to Agenda**

Chairman Deko recognized Interim Finance Director James Keeley who stated that the Tax Collector can better explain. It's basically, every year there are those accounts that are no longer collectable rather than carrying through the budget year after year they are suspended but still collectable.

Chairman Deko recognized Tax Collector Lucille Huelin she stated that Mr. Keeley is correct these are accounts that businesses have closed, automobile taxes for vehicles that were sold or deceased owners, or just have moved out of town. We continue to try to locate taxpayers in order to collect; we have collected since 2004-2017, \$100,000 from the suspense list.

Chairman Deko recognized Donna Richo, 67 Charnes Drive asked the total amount of the suspense list.

Lucille Huelin indicated \$287,801.73.

Councilwoman Hennessey asked if the list is available to view, there might be a possibility that we might know someone on the list.

Lucille Huelin stated yes that she will make the list available.

Councilwoman Parlato asked if this is done every year?

Lucille Heulin indicated that it is done every year.

Roll Call Vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

**Approved**

**Item #4.2**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon adding to the agenda A Tax Refund recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$2467.66 to United Bank for an overpayment of taxes.

Councilwoman Parlato second the motion.

Roll Call Vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

**Approved to Add to Agenda**

Chairman Deko recognized Tax Collector Lucille Huelin who explained that this is an overpayment by United Bank for overpayment of taxes through their mortgage. This occurs usually when a property is sold and the new owner is responsible for the taxes and the previous owner is then reimbursed.

No public comment.

Roll Call Vote. None opposed. No abstentions.

**Approved**

**Item #4.3**

To consider and act upon a adding to the agenda a “Resolution, pursuant to Chapter 111, Section 8, of the East Haven Town Charter, adopting the recommendation of the Mayor to appoint the firm of “PKF O’Connor Davies” to audit the books and accounts of the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.”

Councilman Santino second the motion.

**Approved to Add to Agenda**

Chairman Deko explained that this is a yearly function and recognized Interim Finance Director James Keeley.

Mr. Keeley stated at the end of every fiscal the town sends the audit to the state. For the past 12 years we have used this company, we have never had problems and we have looked at other avenues to get new auditors at this time it would be difficult. They know and understand the town’s finance systems. The cost of the audit is \$89,950, which the town splits with the Board of Education and he does not see any problem continuing that process with the Board of Education.

Chairman Deko stated with the audit so close it would not be prudent to seek out new auditors.

Mr. Keeley stated that changing auditors at this time would be difficult as the town would not have enough time to do a formal interview this year. In the future we would be able to seek a different firm not while we are in the budget process.

Councilwoman Lesco stated that the town should look to research auditors.

Councilman Balter stated that the Board of Education splits the cost with the town?

Mr. Keeley stated that we have never had an issue splitting the cost and we are one municipality we can only have one audit with one auditor.

Councilwoman Cesare stated that she agrees with Councilwoman Lesco.

Chairman Deko stated that after this year we will revisit the issue.

Councilwoman Parlato asked (Inaudible) to go out to bid?

Inaudible

No public comment.

Roll Call Vote-All in Favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

**Approved**

#### **Item #4.4**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to add to the agenda setting a public hearing date to amend an ordinance. "To consider and act upon setting a public hearing for June 2, 2020, to review and amend violation types and penalties as outlined in Chapter 11, Article II (Stopping, Standing, and Parking), Section 11-16 and Section 11-17."

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Chairman Deko had a discussion with Police Chief Lennon with regard to the parking situation in his district, we will set a public hearing to discuss and possibly amend.

No public comment.

Roll Call Vote-All in Favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

**Approved Public Hearing set for June 2, 2020.**

#### **Item #5**

To consider and act upon any other matter that may come before the Council.

Chairman Deko received Public Concerns and recognized the following residents.

Amy Derbacher, 57 Foote Road, thanked the council for all they have done during this pandemic.

Lorrena Venegas, 73 George Street has great concern that only 50% of the residents have the internet and cannot access public meetings through Zoom. She would like a public meeting accessible to all.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to adjourn.

Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion.

Voice Vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca  
Town Council Clerk