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EAST HAVEN, CONN

Stacy Gravino, CTC
TOWN CLERK

Town Council
Minutes

The East Haven Town Council held its Regularly Scheduled Meeting Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the East Haven Community, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call- 13 Present 2 Absent (Ranfone and Ruggiero)

Staff Present-Stacy Gravino, Town Clerk, Jim Keeley, Finance Director, Michelle Benivegna, Assistant Director of Administration and Management, and RJ Caponera Board of Education Finance Director.

Chairman Deko requested the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for long-time employee Paul Rizza, Finance Director who passed away this week.

Item #1

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to approve and amend the minutes to include the names of the retirees.

Councilman Santino second the motion.

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

Motion carried.

Approved

Item #2

Correspondence

The Clerk read a letter from Mayor Carfora addressing the council as follows:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Joseph A. Carfora

Mayor

250 Main Street East Haven, CT 06512

www.townofeasthavenct.org (203) 468-3204 Fax (203) 468-3372 mayor@townofeasthavenct.org

August 3, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for taking the time this evening to allow Mr. Sean Scanlon to speak at this evening's Town Council meeting. There is no question that Tweed's expansion status needed clarification and additional direction, since some are simply spreading false and misleading information. Tweed New Haven Airport expansion into East Haven is not something that has been decided, and the only way that it can happen is if our community decides that it should, and only after it passes through the appropriate town approval processes.

With that being said, I want to clearly state my position- again; one that has been consistent from the very beginning of this most recent, but decades long issue. When I entered office, we were almost immediately presented with a federal court ruling that indicated that Tweed can lengthen its runway beyond 5,600 feet, and do so regardless of the 2009 Connecticut law preventing it. I immediately said that I did not view this ruling as a positive one for East Haven.

On numerous occasions - Tweed informational hearings, public forums, press releases, and in sometimes contentious meetings with Mr. Scanlon, I have said that the expansion of this airport will not be placed on the backs of East Haven taxpayers, but that too often, historically, the benefits of an enhanced Tweed are discussed in regional benefit terms and not with a sensitivity to the direct impact that it will have on East Haven and its neighborhoods. I have asked for a true partnership on the Tweed Authority, so that East Haven's voice will be heard, and valued. The current voting make-up of the Authority does not allow that—our five votes provide us no leverage against the eight that New Haven currently holds. As such, I have demanded that the make-up of the Tweed Authority be changed; and that requires legislative action. As we now stand, our leadership, both locally and in Hartford. is at an information gathering stage, which puts East Haven at the beginning of this assessment. I, along with others, have requested, and in some instances demanded, specific information about the impact that Tweed expansion will have on East Haven—not in a general sense, but specific and exact information in the areas of tax benefits, environmental concerns/impacts, health concerns, noise concerns, traffic concerns, flight patterns, and ticket fares. I have directly addressed what I believe to be an unfair allocation of PILOT funds from the State of Connecticut between the City of New Haven and the Town of East Haven. The bottom line is that any Tweed expansion assessment or evaluation cannot be made until the proper information is received and vetted.

Let's also be clear that no mayor has the authority to bind East Haven without proper authorization. Any decision regarding Tweed, and a possible East Haven expansion requires input from a broad assemblage of stakeholders--residents, business leaders, our Chamber of Commerce, our relevant boards and commissions, and ultimately this legislative body. To finish, and most conclusively, neither New Haven's, nor the State of Connecticut's respective timelines define our process, nor does anything that they do bind us.

But, please let's be factual in the evaluation of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Carfora
Mayor

Item #3

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building:

Board of Education

Chairwoman DeLucia stated that the district is waiting to hear from the State Department of Education before releasing anything relative to mask wearing and social distancing for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Back to School Picnic will be happening this year.

The dress code policy was revised.

The Professional Development and Evaluation Plan for Flexibilities for EHPS was approved.

A K-2 Science curriculum was approved as well as the iReady Curricular Math and ELA

Assessment Tool for grades 4-12.

Staffing:

Julie Oca was hired as the Coordinator of SEL and Family Engagement.
A District Bilingual Family and Parent Educator Position was approved.
Anthony Verderam was named Athletic Director of the Year.

The Library Committee

The Library reopened to the public on June 8th, the return of patrons coming into the building has been slow. The library stopped closing the building between 1 & 2 for cleaning.
The staff is concerned about patrons wearing masks in the building
In person programs are starting back up. The children's librarian has been asked about having in-person playgroups by the Family Resource Center. As of now the library is not allowing this request.
Circulation was up over the last year.
Internet and Wi-Fi sessions have also increased.
The American Rescue Plan Act Grant application has been approved and the grant funds are being spent.

Building

Capital Improvements; roof repair, work on bricks in the 1928 building and issues of how well the HVAC units will work and if that will solve the problems with the bricks.
George Ellis is working on the AC units to fix some problems
They will push the elevator project until the next Capital Improvement Budget for FY 22-23.
The installation of the telephone system is nearly complete. There was an issue with a bad line, it was fixed temporarily and a quote to have it repaired permanently is being sought.
The State Bonding Commission will be looking at the library's grant application if approval for the repair work can be started.

The School Building Committee

Had a meeting on July 20th where they elected the officers for 2021.
Recapped the High School football field- the project came in under budget
The track has some small issues and the AD is in contact with the insurance company and the issues are being handled.
The August meeting will be cancelled.

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha A. Parlato

b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

Public Safety

Fire Department:
The July 26th meeting was cancelled

Police Department:
The July 27th meeting was cancelled

Health and Welfare

American Disabilities Act Commission:
No meeting was scheduled

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha A. Parlato

Public Safety July 6, 2021

Fire Department:

Personnel:

Three retirements were approved by the Commission. The following members retirements were approved:

Firefighter Dan Dudek B.
Firefighter Marty Lendroth
Battalion Chief Andrew Carlson

Police Department:

Personnel:

One retirement was approved by the Commission. The following member's request was approved:

Officer Jonathan Andino
Request a certified Police Officer – Grade C Lateral Transfer List from the Civil Service Commission

Policy:

Discussion and approval of new policies 217.1 (Behavioral Health Assessment) and 218.1 (Controlled Substance Screening)

Health and Welfare

American Disabilities Act Commission-

No meeting was scheduled

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha A. Parlato

c. Finance

Councilman Balter stated that there were some small transfers, along with a transfer from the town assessor. The rest of the transfers are on this agenda and the minutes were part of the backup information.

d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation

Vice Chairman Pacelli stated he spoke to Charlie Coyle superintendent of public works who informed him that currently they are keeping up with the cleaning of the town and the cutting of the fields, the beach is open fully, the summer concert series is off and running, the farmers market is open, and paving will begin at the end of August beginning of September. Public service is preparing for winter as well.

e. Urban Renewal/Housing

Chairman Deko introduced Sean Scanlon of the Tweed New Haven Airport to impart some information to the council and public and if you have any questions please contact Mr. Scanlon through his email.

Mr. Scanlon, Executive Director of the Tweed Airport Authority, stated that in September 2019 the Authority started the "master plan update." Airports in the U.S. must update every 10 to 15 years and Tweed has not done an update in quite some time. That process took about 18 months to complete. The first concern was what should the length of the runway be, where should the terminal be located; should it stay where it is located currently or moved, and what should be

done about the cross runway, which has been closed for 5 years. It is closed because it needs millions of dollars of work and the Authority does not have the funds to complete that work.

Inaudible due to background noise.

After many public meetings, one that was held at the Senior Center and then the pandemic occurred and meetings were held remotely. At the end of those meetings the consultant firm that the Authority hired recommended three things; lengthen the runway by 1,035 feet, move the terminal from the New Haven side to the East Haven side, and close the crossway runway at the far end of the airport. At the end of that process the longtime partner who manages the airport came to us and stated that after 22 years we know this airport and the community. They proposed financing the lengthening of the airport and rebuilding a new terminal in East Haven. This proposal would change the finances of the airport; they would be taking on the financial burden and would now want to receive the revenue. After the master plan process it was important for Mr. Scanlon to talk to the residents and there needed to be a serious community benefit package. As a result, we could not propose a plan without a community benefit package and we settled on a \$5M package. After many meetings and disagreements, Mayor Carfora stood strong and stated that there will not be any work done without the residents of East Haven benefiting. The Airport has done some of the benefits; substantial noise mitigation of 180 homes, a noise study was completed, and traffic study if the terminal was moved to East Haven. East Haven having a seat at the table with regard to voting, Mayor Carfora has repeatedly called for parody when voting. Also, the Mayor believes any work being done should be completed by local tradesmen. We agree that East Haven and Union workers should be doing the work at the airport until it is completed. The Mayor was also interested in an airport development zone in order to create jobs and business in the zone. He also was adamant with regard to being compensated by the state from the loss of tax revenue as East Haven has always been underfunded and that program would assist East Haven if the terminal were to move. Those are the things we announced on May 6, 2021. As he has stated repeatedly, this is not a done deal there are many, many more miles to go before we get there. First we have 5 steps to complete before we even get started; extend the lease with the City of New Haven, a governing structure, an environmental assessment, permission from DEEP and the FAA to do the improvements, and the appropriate approvals from East Haven. Again, this is not a done deal. There are many steps to complete this plan.

Chairman Deko thanked Mr. Scanlon, for his presence, he had to cancel an important event to address the council and we appreciate your efforts. He further stated that the public and the council will have plenty of opportunities to speak on the issue and thanked Mr. Scanlon.

f. **Blight**

Councilman Vollono indicated that there is a house on Strong Street that is very overgrown and we submitted the complaint to be acted on.

Chairman Deko indicated that requests for stipends from community groups have been received. Once they have all been received, Councilmembers Hennessey, Pacelli, Maltese, and the Chairman will review and address their needs.

Item #4

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon a resolution to provide a tax refund of \$2,253.14 for excess payment.

Lauren Farrell
26 Kirkham Avenue
East Haven, CT 06512

Account #/List: 2019-01-00035857

Reason: Excess Payment
Total: \$2,253.14

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.
Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Motion Carried.

Approved

Item #5

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon setting a public hearing date of September 7, 2021, for an ordinance entitled an “Ordinance transferring from various budget accounts to Other Contractual \$105,000.00—as follows:

To:	01-113-0694	Other Contractual	\$105,000.00
From:	01-885-0689	Contingency Account	\$105,000.00

This Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.
Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Motion Carried.

Approved

Public hearing set for 9/7/2021

Item #6

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon setting a public hearing date of September 7, 2021, for an ordinance entitled an “Ordinance transferring from various budget accounts to Public Works—as follows:

To:	01-224-0190	Overtime	\$40,000.00
	01-224-0120	Snow and Ice	<u>\$36,111.00</u>
Total			\$76,111.00
From:	01-224-0110	Regular Salaries	\$49,000.00
	01-224-0530	Gas	\$ 7,000.00
	01-229-0110	Regular Salaries	\$ 6,000.00
	01-229-0203	Natural Gas	\$10,000.00
	01-229-0290	Sewer Use	<u>\$ 4,111.00</u>
Total			\$76,111.00

This Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilwoman Parlato second the motion.
Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Motion Carried.

Approved

Public hearing set for 9/7/2021

Item #7

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon a proposed change of title for the Board of Education Capital Project account 90-4-102 EHHS Turf Field and Track to EHHS Track and Field Improvements-reallocation amount of \$38,748.00.
Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Mr. Caponera, BOE, who stated that the \$1M in that fund was for track and field last year and there is \$38,748.00 remaining in that account. When the storm blew through last year it destroyed the bleachers and we would like to use those funds to replace the bleachers. Since it is part of the track and field funds, replacing the bleachers goes beyond those funds, and redirected into the proper account.

Chairman Deko recognized Councilman Balter who asked if those funds would be enough to cover the cost of the bleachers.

Mr. Caponera stated prior to the meeting we requested bids to see if we had sufficient funds and we did. The cost of the bleacher is \$36,000.

Vice Chairman Pacelli asked if there will be any additional security along the fence near the fields and if the gate will be locked.

Mr. Caponera stated that we are trying extremely hard to keep it locked because everything we have done they either cut the locks and destroy the lock boxes at a cost of \$400 each. Currently, he is working with the Fire Department to solve the issue.

Councilman Balter asked if there is any kind of trail camera in use.

Mr. Caponera stated they are currently reviewing the legal use of cameras at the gate.

Vice Chairman Pacelli asked if there are security cameras there already, if not, there should be cameras.

Mr. Caponera stated the security cameras don't reach that area.

Chairman Deko indicated that they will be installing cameras.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Motion Carried.

Approved

Item #8.1

Councilman Santino moved to add item 8.1 to the agenda.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Approved Item Added.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the approval of an agreement between Square credit card service for use in the Office of the Town Clerk at no cost or contract with the Town of East Haven.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Stacy Gravino, Town Clerk, and explained that the use of debit cards will be utilized in the Town Clerk's office with no contract or charge to the town. The cost will lie with those utilizing the debit system. It is a way to pay for marriage licenses, notarizing, dog licenses, etc. and the rate is 2.6% plus \$0.10.

Councilman Santino reiterated that this was to pay for marriage licenses, notarizing, dog licenses, etc. and the rate is 2.6% plus \$0.10.

Chairman Deko stated this is the same system used at the transfer station.

Ms. Gravino indicated that he is correct.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried.

Approved

Item #8.2

Councilman Santino moved to add item 8.2 to the agenda.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Approved Item Added.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon an agreement with an e-recording company for the purpose of recording land records online through the town's current indexing system at no cost to the Town of East Haven.

Councilman Santino second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Stacy Gravino, Town Clerk, who explained that this allows land records to be recorded or copies to be obtained via online at no cost to the town; the cost lies with the user. It creates a safer environment when fewer people are accessing the office.

Councilman Santino asked if this would place a burden on the staff with title searchers.

Ms. Gravino stated that the searchers will still come in.

Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried.

Approved

Councilman Balter stated that "Wreaths Across America" came to town and in November they will be placing wreaths on veterans graves, this is truly a moving ceremony. Thank you to the Lions Club who organized this.

Chairman Deko had a follow-up to the canine memorial; the proof has been approved by the Chief and is now in production.

Gabriella Campos Madison, 44 Stewart Street, New Haven.

Chairman indicated that he will allow you to address the council but you are not a resident.

Ms. Campos-Madison relayed her concerns and opposition with the expansion of the airport.

Jean Chieppo, 173 Henry Street, relayed her concerns and opposition with the expansion of the airport.

Leanne Audette, 166 Beach Avenue, relayed her concerns and opposition with the expansion of the airport.

Anne Kessler, 91 Beachside Avenue, relayed her concerns and opposition with the expansion of the airport.

Lorena Venegas, 73 George Street, relayed her concerns and opposition with the expansion of the airport.

Councilman Santino moved to adjourn.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

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

Respectfully,

Roberta A. DeLuca
Council Clerk