

RECEIVED FOR FILING
East Haven
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes

The East Haven Town Council held a Special Meeting Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. held via Zoom Videoconference and Conference Call in order to transact the following:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence for all those affected by Covid-19, first responders, healthcare workers, and educators.

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

Staff present: James Keeley, Finance Director, Owen Little, Animal Control Officer, and Chuck Licata, Blight Officer.

Item #1

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to approve minutes from the September 2021 and the November 2021 meeting.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Councilwoman Parlato indicated she was noted as absent from the November meeting and wanted to amend the minutes.

The Clerk duly noted the amendment.

Councilman Pompano second the motion.

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

Approved

Item #2

Correspondence

Clerk read a letter into the record from resident Donna Richo, 67 Charnes Drive.

Item #3

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building
Councilwoman Cesare attended the BOE meeting. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the BOE discussed the serious issues taking place at the high school with discipline. They are considering hiring 3 security guards, metal detectors, and gates; this will create a budgeting issue.

Councilman Balter also attended the BOE meeting and the subcommittee indicated that they would be willing to utilize the \$5M from the medical benefit overages. In addition, he has concerns how metal detectors will negatively impact the students.

- b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- c. Finance
Councilman Balter stated the Board of Finance set their 2022 schedule and set up the subcommittees.
- d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation
Vice Chairman Pacelli indicated that the trucks are winter ready and the town is set with sand and salt.
- e. Urban Renewal/Housing
- f. Blight
Councilman Vollono indicated he received a blight complaint and passed it on to the Blight Officer for action

Item #4

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon setting a public hearing date for an “Ordinance for the Creation of an Affordable Housing Plan Advisory Committee” to oversee preparation of the 2022 Town of East Haven Affordable Housing Plan.

Councilman Balter second the motion.

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

Public Hearing set for January 4, 2022.

Item #5

To consider, act upon, and to establish formally a union position which was funded in the 21/22 FY budget to be identified as Information Technology (“IT) Administrator, which will become part of the Supervisor’s Union bargaining unit for the Town of East Haven.

Chairman Deko entertained a motion to remove this item from the agenda.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to remove Item #5.

Councilwoman Martin second the motion.

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

Item removed from agenda.

Item #6

Councilman Santino moved to consider and act upon waiving the Town Charter’s competitive bidding requirements for the repair and restoration of the Animal Shelter’s siding, which will utilize donated funds, and the cost of which is expected to exceed \$7,457.00.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Owen Little, Animal Control Officer and further stated that he and Councilmembers Santino and Balter visited the Animal Shelter and commended the work Owen does at the shelter. The shelter has peeling paint and the siding needs to be addressed.

Owen explained that the town put a bid request out and only received one bid for \$82,000; which was not accepted. After a trip to the Meriden Shelter, they gave him the name of a contractor who gave a quote of \$17,500. The funds for the repairs are from donations and fundraisers held by the shelter and those funds are held by the town in a separate account noted as the kennel club to be utilized for any improvement at the shelter. Owen indicated that they have been utilizing those funds for a mini-split heating system and hot water on demand system as well; there’s \$32,000 left to repair the siding.

Councilman Santino indicated that the union won’t grieve the work and the contractor can do the work as soon as possible.

Jim Keeley, Finance Director indicated that the bid was done August 17, 2021 and the town only received one bid for \$82,000. It was hard getting bidder. Waiving the bidding process, Owen can still get additional bids.

Councilman Balter stated he has a lot of respect for the work Owen does and his fiscal responsibility. It is admirable that he reports all donated funds to the town and as it's not the town's money.

Michael Luzzi, Town Attorney, indicated that due to the financial nature we need town council approval.

Councilwoman Parlato asked if the bid waiver is just for this new contractor or any contractor he chooses.

Jim Keeley stated that she was correct.

Donna Richo, 67 Charnes Drive stated great job, keep up the good work.

Approved

Item #7

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to possibly convene and to discuss in executive session per C.G.S. § 1-200(6) the status of pending litigation of One Barberry Real Estate Holding, LLC, et al. v. Joseph Maturo, et al. (Case No. 3:17-cv-00985-KAD) to include the entire council, Town Attorney Luzzi, Attorneys Wanat and Milano and staff.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

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

Council Entered Into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

Item #8

To possibly convene and to discuss in executive session per C.G.S. § 1-200(6) the status of pending litigation of Estate of Elena Laspino et. al. v. Town of East Haven, et. al., pending New Haven Superior Court (NNH CV21 6118629 S)

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to reconvene the special meeting and adjourn.

Councilwoman Glassman second the motion.

Council Came Out of Executive Session/Adjournment at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca
Town Council Clerk