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**East Haven**

DATE **03/01/2023** TIME 11:41 AM

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

EAST HAVEN, CONN

*Lisa Batten*

TOWN CLERK

## **East Haven Town Council Minutes**

The East Haven Town Council held its Regularly Scheduled Meeting Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following certain public hearings at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT and via Zoom video conference and conference call in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 8:17p.m.

Roll call-15 Present

Staff Present: Michael Luzzi Town Attorney, Jennifer Coppola Assistant Town Attorney, David Ryan Labor Attorney, Michelle Benivegna Director of Administration, James Keeley Finance Director, and Matthew Marcarelli Fire Chief.

### **Item #1**

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman moved to approve the minutes

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

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

**Approved**

### **Item #2**

Correspondence

### **Item #3**

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building  
The BOE is exploring new programs, and the Library has a new director.
- b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- c. Finance
- d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation
- e. Urban Renewal/Housing
- f. Blight

### **Item #4**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion to consider and act upon an ordinance entitled an "Ordinance Transferring \$300,000 from Self Insurance Reserve and Contingency to Legal and Lawyer Fees Account for \$300,000"— as follows:

To: Legal and Lawyer Fees Account #01-113-0668 \$300,000  
From: Self Insurance Reserve #01-881-0950 \$150,000  
Contingency #01-885-0689 \$150,000

Councilwoman Martin second the motion.  
Roll Call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
**Approved**

#### **Item #5**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion to consider and act upon a transfer referred by the Board of Finance to the Town Council for \$47,000 to Vehicle Repairs from Volunteer Tax Abatement for \$47,000.

To: Vehicle Repairs #01-334-0662 \$ 47,000  
From: Volunteer Tax Abatement #01-334-0840 \$ 47,000

Chairman Deko recognized Fire Chief Marcarelli that this is a request for apparatus repair. This year the department has been plagued by repairs with additional repairs to be completed. These repairs are not discretionary but mandatory and very expensive due to the computerized system. We are anticipating additional repairs due to changes in the statute.

Chairman Deko asked how much was left out of the \$130,000 funding.  
Chief Marcarelli indicated a couple of thousand remain in the account.  
Vice Chairman Pacelli asked if he will have enough funds to make it until the end of the fiscal year.  
Chief indicated he will.

Councilman Vollono second the motion on the floor.  
Roll Call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
**Approved**

#### **Item #6**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon a transfer referred by the Board of Finance to the Town Council for \$47,000 to Overtime Wages from Regular Salaries for \$47,000.

To: Over-time Wages #01-226-0190 \$ 47,000  
From: Regular Salaries #01-224-0110 \$ 47,000

Chairman Deko recognized Finance Director Jim Keeley who indicated that the personnel service report always indicates zero with no overtime in that department from accounts 224-226, which was an oversight during budget requests.

Chairman Deko recognized Charlie Coyle who indicated that this was for the landfill overtime since last year we were open for 10 months.

Councilwoman Parlato stated since this account was zeroed out have they been paid out.  
Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.  
Roll Call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
**Approved**

**Item #7**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion to consider and act upon setting a public hearing date of March 7, 2023, for a transfer referred by the Board of Finance to the Town Council as follows:

To:	IT Regular Salaries	#01-339-0110	\$ 75,238
From:	Other Contractual	#01-339-0697	\$ 75,238

Councilman Bimonte second the motion.  
Roll Call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
**Approved**  
**Public Hearing set for 3/7/2023**

**Item #8**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion to consider and act upon setting a public hearing date of March 7, 2023 on an ordinance entitled “Ordinance to Authorize the Engagement of Permit Link and To Adopt Amended Zoning Application Fee Schedule and Fire Plan Review and Inspection Fee Schedule.”

Councilman Kikosicki second the motion.  
Roll Call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
**Approved**  
**Public Hearing set for 3/7/2023**

**Item #9**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion to consider and act upon a resolution for the Town of East Haven to Authorize its Mayor to enter into an agreement with South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for the continuing operation of the Haz Waste Central facility. Such agreement will permit the Authority to act as the Town's agent to maintain the facility, to contract with a vendor for the transportation and disposal of the hazardous wastes, to receive financial support from grant sources, to enter into agreements with other municipalities and to operate the facility.

Councilwoman Parlato second the motion.  
Roll Call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
**Approved**

**Item #10**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion to consider and act upon a resolution approving and authorizing Joseph Carfora, as Mayor of The Town of East Haven and East Haven Fire Chief Matthew Marcarelli to complete and execute all necessary documents/agreements related to matter further outlined below with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Public Act #607, 179 the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection is authorized to extend financial assistance for Public Safety projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of East Haven make an application to the State for \$600,000 in order to undertake a feasibility study of a Public Safety Complex and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved by the East Haven Town Council

1. That is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Public Act #607, 179.
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of East Haven in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 is hereby approved and that the Mayor Joseph Carfora and Fire Chief Matthew Marcarelli is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, to provide such additional information to execute other documents as may be required: to execute and Assistance Agreement with the state of Connecticut for State Financial Assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any .amendments , revisions, and revisions thereto; and to act as the authorized representative of Town of East Haven.

Town Attorney Michael Luzzi stated that the town is woefully behind in our public safety facilities this grant is to engage an architect to project our needs and a potential location and does not need repayment.

Chief Marcarelli stated that the state bonding commission has already given the town \$6,000 for a feasibility study to determine our needs for the next 20 years for a very specific system to include the police and fire departments. The 600k will be for a suitable site for both departments.

Councilman Thompson asked if the intent is to build one firehouse and police station depending on the location and would this building replace headquarters.

Chief Marcarelli said the beach and headquarter firehouses have very different needs and each should remain.

Councilman Thompson asked if there had been any other grants.

Chief Marcarelli indicated not since 2009, and the town did not apply.

Councilwoman Glassman supports the need to upgrade the infrastructure and for a feasibility study. How long will it take to complete?

Attorney Luzzi indicated approximately a year.

Councilwoman Martin asked if the town has looked into a STEAP Grant which is the Small Town Economic Assistance Program funds economic development, community conservation and quality of life projects for localities that are ineligible to receive Urban Action bonds. Two or more qualifying municipalities may submit a single application for an eligible capital project.

Councilman Kikosicki indicated that needs and wants change over time once identified with regard to Tweed.

Town Attorney Luzzi indicated that the Mayor has been speaking aggressively in Hartford and he feels a tremendous amount of help at that level.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to approve.  
Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.  
Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions  
Approved

#### **Item #11**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following to consider and act upon an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Revise the Fee for the First \$1,000 Worth of Construction Value from \$25.00 to \$35.00.”

RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED, that: Following a public hearing, an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Revise the Fee for the First \$1,000 Worth of Construction Value from \$25.00 to \$35.00” is hereby adopted. The Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.  
Roll Call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
**Approved**

#### **Item #12**

Discussion of potential donation of real property of Meoli Limited Partnership at 105 North Atwater Street, and of Luco F. Meoli Family Trust at 131 Meadow Street. [Please note there will only be a brief presentation by counsel explaining the donation proposal and no official action of the Council will be taken at this time.]

Chairman Deko recognized Assistant Town Attorney Jennifer Coppola who explained there is no action necessary. The town approached the land trust to take this property that is valued at \$41,200 and \$20,983 is owed in taxes the other parcel owes \$14,825 in taxes the owners will donate the property to the town in lieu of taxes for conservation purposes, it is mostly wetlands.

Councilwoman Parlato asked if this land would be conveyed to the land trust.  
Attorney Coppola indicated yes.  
**Informational No Action Necessary**

#### **Item #13**

To consider and take possible action on, including revision (as needed) and adoption of the East Haven 2022-2027 Housing Plan.

RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED, that: Following a public hearing, the East Haven 2022-2027 Housing Plan is hereby adopted [with the following revisions (if any) ....].

**No Action Public Hearing Remains Open**

**Item #14**

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion to add to the agenda; to enter into an executive session and to add a resolution to approve the East Haven Town Hall Employees' Union Contract; AFSCME Local 1303-159.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

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

**Approved**

**Item #15**

Vice Chairman move to consider and act upon a motion upon 2/3 vote to convene in executive session per CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-200 (6) (E) AND § 1-210 (B) (9) – Consideration of and discussions of records, reports, and statements for strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining for a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Haven and the East Haven Town Hall Employees' Union, AFSCME Local 1303-159.

To include Michelle Benivegna, Director of Administration and Management, and the Town Attorney, Michael Luzzi, James Keeley, Finance Director, Danelle Feeley, Benefits Coordinator, and Assistant Town Attorney, David Ryan.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

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

**Approved**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to reconvene the regular meeting at 9:20.

Councilman Kikosicki second the motion.

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

**Item #16**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon a resolution that the report of the mayor regarding the settlement of the East Haven Town Hall Employees' Union-AFSCME Local 1303-159, Contract for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 be and is hereby accepted; and to the extent that funds in addition to those already appropriate in the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget may be necessary to fund the Town's obligations under said contract, the request for such additional funds be and hereby approved.

Councilwoman Martin second the motion.

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

**Approved**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.  
Councilwoman Martin second the motion.  
Voice vote-all in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca  
Town Council Clerk