

EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

A special meeting of the East Haven Legislative Town Council was held Thursday, April 26, 2012 at the East Haven Senior Center located at 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Chairman Rich Anania calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Anania asks all to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Item # 1

Roll Call: 14 present – 1 absent (Richardson).

A quorum is present.

Chairman Anania calls a Republican Caucus.

Republican caucus begins at 7:31 p.m.

Republican caucus ends at 7:34 p.m.

Chairman Anania thanks the Council, the department heads, the board of finance and anyone who has worked on this budget for all of their time and effort put into this budget. He announces that they will allow public comment tonight with each speaker limited to a minute and a half. Council members, if they have any comment on the budget they can make it during council comment time.

Item # 2

To consider and act upon an Ordinance adopting the Town and Board of Education Budget and fixing the tax rate in mills for the 2012-2013 fiscal year of the Town of East Haven.

Vice Chairman Robert Sand reads the following:

An Ordinance adopting the Town and Board of Education Budget and fixing the tax rate in mills for the 2012-2013 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, 30.95 for the 2012-2013 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	\$ 60,840,220.00
State and Federal Grants for Education	\$ 21,457,341.00
State Grants and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 1,743,978.00
Other State Grants	\$ 92,672.00
Income from Short Term Investments	\$ 28,500.00
Licenses, Permits, Fees, and Services	\$ 1,103,800.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,442,243.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$ 86,708,754.00

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

APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$ 2,477,718.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 7,657,299.00
Public Services	\$ 5,046,130.00
Public Safety	\$ 10,945,359.00
Health	\$ 242,657.00
Social Services	\$ 82,216.00
Housing Code	\$ 0.00
Counseling & Community Services	\$ 637,834.00
Housing Authority	\$ 13,612.00
Urban Renewal	\$ 47,640.00
School Building Committee	\$ 2,600.00
Library	\$ 733,040.00
Recreation	\$ 441,598.00
Recreation/Ice Rink	\$ 269,033.00
Senior Center	\$ 204,519.00
Debt Service	\$ 7,100,349.00

Community Services	\$ 76,150.00
Insurance	\$ 2,615,000.00
General Services	\$ 2,116,000.00
Fund Balance Contribution	\$ 1,200,000.00
<hr/> Total Board of Education Appropriation	<hr/> \$ 44,800,000.00
TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 86,708,754.00

Section 3. This ordinance shall be deemed to approve the budget proposed to the Council by the Mayor on March 29, 2012, 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 April 26, 2012 and shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Public Comment:

- Thomas Thompson- 21 Mill Hill circle, East Haven, Connecticut- Mr. Thompson asks if there is any mill rate calculation available to which Vice Chairman Sand indicates the mill rate is set at 30.95. Attorney Joseph Zullo adds that the calculation is included in the Mayor's Budget presentation. Mr. Thompson further states that this does not include the 17% rollback and therefore there is a 33% mill rate increase.
- Ken McKay- 59 Sidney Street, East Haven, Connecticut- Mr. McKay states that this is the first time in 13 years he is on the other side of the fence and thanks the Town Council, Board of Finance, Department heads, Director of Finance and the Mayor's Office administration for creating a frugal and realistic budget that the town can live with and there will not be a need for a lot of transfers at the end of the year.
- Ben Mazzucco- 866 Thompson Street, East Haven, Connecticut- Mr. Mazzucco states that this is a good budget and the Council has met with every Department head, had workshops and public hearings and they all did a great job. There was a mandated revaluation this year which the grand list went from 2.2 billion dollars to 1.9 billion dollars, 300 million dollars was lost. Everyone in the Town pays taxes, and he asks that the Council votes with their conscience not politically.

No additional public comment.

Council Comment:

- Councilman Fred Parlato addresses the Council and the Public and indicates this is the most difficult of his 15 or 16 budgets. He states that this is a realistic budget that the democrats, republicans and independents all have to live with. He further states that forgetting about the political parties, they all have to make East Haven an affordable Town to live in by working together, forgetting the political division and working with partisanship.
- Councilman Robert Parente thanks the Council, democrats and republicans, for the hours spent going through each line item one by one without wearing a democrat or republican hat. He further indicates that the Council proved to be transparent in answering any questions in the best interest of all taxpayers of East Haven.
- Councilman Joseph Santino states that this was a tough budget and although he did miss a lot of the workshops, he was in Paul Rizza's office numerous times and thanks him for answering any questions and letting them know what was going on.
- Councilman Paul Carbo adds that in working through the budget, they did some things for the Town that were proactive rather than reactive. They worked for the Police Department, the Board of Education, the Recreation Department and it was a not a political thing and they were all working together as one.
- Chairman Anania adds that many people will see a tax decrease on this budget, not everyone, but depending on the revaluation many people will. He thanks everyone for the hard work and states that it is a solid budget.

Roll Call vote: 13 yes- 1 no (Councilman Badamo) – none abstain. Motion carries.

Item # 3

Councilman Santino makes a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Parente seconds the motion.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council