



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MAY 7, 2009

THE STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL CONDUCTED A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, 2725 MAIN STREET, STRATFORD, CT PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY POSTED.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:10 p.m.

PRESIDING: Council Chairman Michael Henrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Michael Julian, Mr. Alvin O'Neal, Mr. Gavin Forrester, Ms. Emma Brooks, Mr. John Dempsey, Ms. Amy Wanamaker, Mr. William Stroomer, Mr. Thomas Moore, Mr. Joseph Kubic, Mr. Michael Henrick

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town Attorney Richard Buturla, Mayor James Miron, Finance Director John Norko, CAO Suzanne McCauley

II. PROPOSED AGREEMENTS

A. Council 15 – AFSCME – AFL-CIO, POLICE LOCAL 407 (Public and Executive Sessions)

B. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS – AFL-CIO, LOCAL 998 (Public and Executive Sessions)

C. STRATFORD PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 134, AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO-CLC (Public and Executive Sessions)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. KUBIC TO PLACE THE FOREGOING THREE ITEMS (A. B. AND C.) ON THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REFERRALS: The Ordinance Committee conducted a special meeting on May 7, 2009 with the following ordinances referred to Council:

A. AMENDMENT TO SENIOR CITIZEN TAX RELIEF ORDINANCE (#09-17)

Sponsored by: Hon. Gavin B. Forrester, III, Third District Council Member

First reading: March 30, 2009

Public hearing: May 7, 2009

RESOLVED: that the second reading of the above entitled Ordinance be dispensed with as copies thereof have been received by all Council members and the foregoing be and is hereby approved, effective thirty days from passage. *(appended as pages 7-8)*

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF STRATFORD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2009, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ~~\$177,488,543~~ \$176,829,578 IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH (#09-14)

Sponsored by: Hon. Gavin B. Forrester, III, Third District Council Member

First reading: April 13, 2009

Public hearing: May 5+6, 2009

RESOLVED: that the second reading of the above entitled Ordinance be dispensed with as copies thereof have been received by all Council members and the foregoing be and is hereby approved, effective thirty days from passage. *(appended as page 5)*

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE FOR FINAL PASSAGE. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO AMEND THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS: *(Printed on Hard copy of minutes on file in the office of the Town Clerk)*. MR. O'NEAL OFFERED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO INCREASE LINE ITEM 01109-6419 – SOUTH END COMMUNITY CENTER BY \$10,000. MESSRS. FORRESTER AND JULIAN ACCEPT MR. O'NEAL'S FRIENDLY AMENDMENT. THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMENDMENTS WERE APPROVED WITH 8 IN FAVOR AND 2, MS. BROOKS AND MS. WANAMAKER, OPPOSED. THE TOWN COUNCIL WITHDRAWS THE MOTION AND THE VOTE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO REMOVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM FROM THE TABLE. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 9 IN FAVOR AND 1, MR. KUBIC, OPPOSED.

II. C. STRATFORD PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 134, AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO-CLC (Public and Executive Sessions)

PUBLIC WORKS.....LOCAL 134....AFL-CIO-CLC — continued

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOREGOING CONTRACT AS IT IS A MATTER OF UNION NEGOTIATIONS WITH EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INCLUDE: MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, THE TOWN ATTORNEY, THE MAYOR, THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE CAO, THE FINANCE DIRECTOR. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 9 IN FAVOR AND 1, MR. KUBIC, OPPOSED.

Stratford Town Council meeting recessed: 6:10 p.m.

Stratford Town Council meeting reconvened: 7:10 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM — STRATFORD PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 134, AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO-CLC

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. STROOMER TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 134, AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO-CLC CONTRACT. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 7 IN FAVOR AND 3, MESSRS. KUBIC, JULIAN AND MS. WANAMAKER, OPPOSED.

REFERRALS — continued

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF STRATFORD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2009, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ~~\$177,488,543~~ \$176,829,578 IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH (#09-14) — continued (appended as page 5)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO RECONSIDER THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE (#09-14). THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE FOR FINAL PASSAGE. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO AMEND THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS: **(AMENDMENTS, AS READ INTO THE RECORD BY MR. FORRESTER, ARE PRINTED ON HARD COPY OF MINUTES ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.)** THE MOTION PASSED WITH 8 IN FAVOR AND 2 OPPOSED VIA ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: MR. JULIAN — YES, MR. O'NEAL — YES, MR. FORRESTER — YES, MS. BROOKS — NO, MR. DEMPSEY — YES, MS. WANAMAKER — NO, MR. STROOMER — YES, MR. MOORE — YES, MR. KUBIC — YES, MR. HENRICK — YES.

REFERRALS — continued

C. AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX RATE OF ~~30.51~~ 30.36* MILLS ON THE DOLLAR ON THE GRAND LIST OF TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT, ON THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2008. (#09-15)

Sponsored by: Hon. Gavin B. Forrester, III, Third District Council Member

First reading: April 13, 2009

Public hearing: May 5+6, 2009

RESOLVED: that the second reading of the above entitled Ordinance be dispensed with as copies thereof have been received by all Council members and the foregoing be and is hereby approved, effective thirty days from passage. *(appended as page 6)*

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FORRESTER SECONDED BY MR. JULIAN TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE FOR FINAL PASSAGE. MR. FORRESTER OFFERED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE MILL RATE TO 30.36. MR. JULIAN ACCEPTS MR. FORRESTER'S FRIENDLY AMENDMENT. THE MOTION PASSED, AS AMENDED, VIA ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: MR. JULIAN — YES, MR. O'NEAL — YES, MR. FORRESTER — YES, MS. BROOKS — NO, MR. DEMPSEY — YES, MS. WANAMAKER — NO, MR. STROOMER — YES, MR. MOORE — YES, MR. KUBIC — YES, MR. HENRICK — YES.

IV. ADJOURNMENT — Hearing no further discussion in connection with the above agenda items or further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. ON A MOTION MADE BY MR. O'NEAL, SECONDED BY MR. FORRESTER, IT WAS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45 P.M.

ATTESTED BY: Carol Cabral
Carol Cabral, Council Clerk

* AS AMENDED

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF STRATFORD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2009, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ~~\$177,488,543~~ \$176,829,578* IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH (#09-14)

Sponsored by: Hon. Gavin B. Forrester, III, Third District Council Member

WHEREAS, the Mayor has prepared and submitted to the Town Council the annual operating budget for the Town of Stratford for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010, in accordance with the Stratford Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has given consideration thereto and has conducted public hearings in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, the estimated amount of current expenses, permanent improvements, and other lawful charges of the Town of Stratford for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010, is ~~\$177,488,543~~ \$176,829,578*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD:

That the budget attached hereto and made a part hereof be and is hereby adopted as the operating budget for the Town of Stratford for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010; and

That the sum of ~~\$177,488,543~~ \$176,829,578* is hereby appropriated for the current expenses, permanent improvements, and other lawful charges for each department and each division thereof of the Town of Stratford for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010, all in accordance with the provisions of the budget attached hereto and made a part hereof.

* AS AMENDED

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX RATE OF ~~30.51~~ 30.36* MILLS ON THE DOLLAR ON THE GRAND LIST OF TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT, ON THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2008. (#09-15)

Sponsored by: Hon. Gavin B. Forrester, III, Third District Council Member

WHEREAS, the Mayor has prepared and submitted to the Town Council the annual operating budget for the Town of Stratford for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010, according to law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has given consideration thereto and has conducted public hearings in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, the estimated revenues of the Town of Stratford other than by taxation for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010, are \$38,919,816; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has adopted an operating budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a tax levy at the rate of ~~30.51~~ 30.36* mills on the dollar on the Grand List of taxable property in the Town of Stratford on October 1, 2008, is necessary to meet the appropriations, less the estimated amount of revenue from other sources as permitted by law to be raised;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD:

That a tax rate of ~~30.51~~ 30.36* mills on the dollar on the Grand List be and is hereby levied against all taxable property in the Town of Stratford on the Grand List of October 1, 2008;

That said tax shall be due and payable in two equal installments, one half thereof on July 1, 2009, and the second half thereof on January 1, 2010, provided, however, that any tax, the aggregate amount of which shall not exceed \$100.00 shall be due and payable in one payment on July 1, 2009.

* AS AMENDED

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND §191-5.3.A(1) OF
THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD
RE: SENIOR CITIZEN AND DISABLED PERSONS TAX RELIEF**

SPONSORED BY: Hon. Gavin B. Forrester, III, Third District Council Member

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL that the code of the Town of Stratford be, and hereby is, amended by deleting §191-5.3.A(1) of the Town Code and replacing it with the following:

§191-5.3 Tax Relief

A. Any person eligible for tax relief under this article shall be entitled to choose one of the following types of tax relief to the exclusion of all other types of tax relief available under this article:

(1) Tax Credit

- (a) For applicants who elect to apply for tax credit under this article, said credit shall be on a graduated basis as follows:

Income Over	To	Tax Credit		
		Married	Unmarried	
Step 1	\$0	\$15,200	\$500	\$400
Step 2	\$15,200	\$20,500	\$450	\$360
Step 3	\$20,500	\$25,600	\$400	\$320
Step 4	\$25,600	\$30,500	\$350	\$280
Step 5	\$30,500	\$37,300	\$300	\$240
Step 6	\$37,300	\$42,300	\$250	\$160

- (b) This schedule shall apply to the taxes for all fiscal years beginning July 1, 2009. Thereafter, the amounts of qualifying income as provided in this article shall be adjusted annually in a uniform manner to reflect the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security income with each such adjustment of qualified income determined to the nearest one hundred dollars.
- (c) The maximum allowable income shall be at least equal to the maximum allowable income as set by the State of Connecticut for elderly tax relief, however under no circumstances shall the Town income limit be reduced below the state maximum.

**Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Tax Relief
Amended Ordinance**

The purpose of this amendment is to allow for an annual increase in the income limits. The tax credit program Steps 1 through 5 have in the past mirrored the tax relief program offered by the State of Connecticut. The revisions made for the 2007 Grand List did not include language needed to mirror the State program.

The second change to the ordinance is to allow for an annual increase of step 6 as well as increase the benefit for married for \$200 to \$250.

The estimated additional cost is approximately \$40,000. An increase to the 2010 budget is not needed since the amount provided in the current year budget would be adequate for next fiscal year including these changes.