

Court of Common Council



CITY OF HARTFORD

550 MAIN STREET

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

Shawn T. Wooden, Council President
Alexander Aponte, Majority Leader
Larry Deutsch, Minority Leader

John V. Bazzano, Town and City Clerk

Kyle K. Anderson, Councilman
Joel Cruz, Jr., Councilman
Raúl De Jesús, Jr., Councilman
Cynthia R. Jennings, Councilwoman
Kenneth H. Kennedy, Jr., Councilman
David MacDonald, Councilman

June 2, 2014

This is to certify that at a RECESSED meeting of the Court of Common Council, May 20, 2014, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

NON-FINANCIAL RESOLUTION COUNCIL #1

Whereas, The City of Hartford, facing our next fiscal year, once again faces the challenge of balancing the budget; and

Whereas, The persistence of this condition drains our resources, reduces services, hampers growth and threatens the vitality of our community,

Whereas, The Court of Common Council is focused on finding long term solutions and developing new methods and ideas to achieve needed revenue and cost savings, and

Whereas, In spite of these financial circumstances, the future of the City remains bright; with thousands of units of housing being built downtown, crime in our neighborhoods reaching new lows, and sure signs of business growth; and

Whereas, The success of the City rests in resolving the current budget crisis, while staying focused on the need of the community, and doing the work necessary to avoid future budget crises; and

Whereas, The Court of Common Council will take such actions that are deemed necessary to bring Hartford's financial house in order, and

Whereas, Structural reform of city government is required in order to resolve this on-going financial challenge, therefore, be it

Resolved, We, the members of the Court of Common Council, stand united and we will take the steps necessary to balance the budget and eliminate the mill rate increase recommended by the Mayor; and be it further

Resolved, That we will limit and reduce reliance upon one time solutions, and

Resolved, That we hereby amend the rules of the Hartford City Council and create a committee on Government Accountability, which shall take up all monthly and quarterly reports of the Mayor and all requests by the Council for action, and track implementation of all Council's legislative actions from the budget process; and no other general referrals from Council; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask the Mayor to comply with the budget provision of the Charter that requires the submission of a work plan from each department before the beginning of the fiscal year and as the charter provision requires the Mayor to approve such work plans before the start of the fiscal year, we hereby request said work plans and any subsequent revisions be submitted to Council for review by the Government Accountability Committee of the City Council; and be it further

Resolved, That in order to assist the Council in its future deliberations, we ask the administration to provide responses to each question asked during the budget process by May 31st, which shall be referred to the Government Accountability Committee; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask the Mayor to fully implement in Fiscal Year 2014-15 the recommendations of the Health & Pension Task force and the Tax Taskforce, and report quarterly on same to the Government Accountability Committee; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon the hard working employees of Hartford to continue their efforts despite the challenging financial conditions; and be it further


Resolved, That we begin now to resolve the structural deficit by creating the Hartford Committee on the Restructuring of City Government (HCROCG). The membership of said Committee shall include three members of City Council one appointed by the Council President, one appointed by Majority Leader, and one appointed by the Minority Leader; and three members of the city administration appointed by the Mayor. In addition, there shall be one representative of the Hartford Fire-Fighters union, one representative of the Hartford Police union, one representative of the remaining city unions and three individuals, who are knowledgeable and experienced in restructuring organizations to be more efficient and less costly, who shall be appointed by the Mayor. The residence requirement is hereby waived for appointment to this committee. All members shall be confirmed by City Council by July 1, 2014. The Mayor and Council President shall jointly select the chairperson. The Corporation Counsel and the Legislative and Legal Advisor to the City Council shall staff the committee along with any other staff as needed and assigned, and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee's mission is to: Consider, evaluate, and propose ideas for restructuring city government that will make our city more efficient and our budget more sustainable for at least the next five years without the need to increase taxes. They may evaluate the following ideas, but may also evaluate other ideas that Committee members, the Mayor, members of City Council and members of the public bring forward for discussion:

1. Evaluate the annual savings from the proposed "civilianization" of certain divisions in the Hartford Police Department, and explore the civilianization of additional divisions in the HPD, and a development of a City Towing service.
2. Explore the restructuring of the Fire Department to create an ambulance service within existing resources, so that we can bill insurance for the emergency medical assistance and transportation providing a long-term revenue stream to sustain the HFD.

3. Explore the creation of an Enterprise fund and shared service model between the Hartford Board of Education and the city (modeled after MHIS) for the management of our Parks and Recreation services. The Committee may analyze the projected fees that could be collected via a shared service entity for parks and fields, as well as the potential savings to both the Board of Education and the City. The Committee may investigate and consider the following when analyzing the potential functions of a shared service for Parks and Recreation:
 - a. Whether it would provide oversight and strategic direction for the maintenance and use of all of Hartford's parks, athletic fields and green spaces.
 - b. The development and operation of a centralized field reservation system that is fair and transparent for our school and community athletic teams and collects the appropriate fees for the use of our fields and green spaces.
 - c. Staffing and organization for such an entity.
 - d. The role of the Hartford Parks Trust Fund.
 - e. The development of additional partnerships with KNOX, Inc. that improve the funding and maintenance of our parks and green spaces.
 - f. The role of other parks-related Commissions in the parks system.
4. Continue to modernize the Town Clerk's Office with the goal of having City Hall operate paperless within 4 years. Also explore new ways of using technology to improve and increase communication with our residents and increase transparency.
5. Explore improvements in efficiency through implementation of **Lean Leadership (Toyota)** and/or **Six Sigma (Motorola & GE)** processes in all city departments.
6. Explore reducing costs by evaluating the need for each of the services by the city and determining if some services should be changed, eliminated or reduced.
7. Evaluate development of a system to track all City assets and reimbursement for damage to City assets.
8. Provide a report on the status of all restructuring ideas and efforts. This report will also include the positive and negative considerations of each idea or effort, and the overall ongoing potential annual savings or revenue of each idea or effort. This report will be provided as an interim update to the Mayor and City Council before October 30, 2014, and as a final report with final recommendations by December 30, 2014.

Attest:


John V. Bazzano,
City Clerk.