

**NOTICE AND AGENDA  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

**JUNE 23, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Special Electronic Meeting Pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7B<sup>i</sup>**

**THIS MEETING WILL BE A 100% ELECTRONIC MEETING**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT MEMORIAL TOWN HALL WILL BE  
CLOSED PURSUANT TO THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS 7B and 7D**

**All public comments for this meeting agenda should be sent to:  
[LCpublicinput@hamden.com](mailto:LCpublicinput@hamden.com) by 6:30 on June 23, 2020**

**Comments will be read aloud during the meetings Public Input Session**

- 1. CALL OF THE MEETING AND TAKING OF THE ROLL**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- 3. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**
- 4. VOTE ON THE LEGISLATIVE OVERRIDE OF MAYORAL VETO PURSUANT  
TO SECTION 10-4.A(2)(a) OF THE CHARTER AND PAR. 9 OF THE  
RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO A MODIFIED CALENDAR FOR THE FY 2020-  
2021 GENERAL AND CAPITAL FUND BUDGETS AUTHORIZED BY  
EXECUTIVE ORDERS 2020-7C AND 7I**
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/93609945573>**

**Password: Dragons**

**You can also dial in using your phone:**

**iPhone one-tap:**

**US: +13017158592,,96032210583# or + 13126266799,,96032210583#**

## **Telephone**

**Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):**

US: +1 301 715 8592 or + 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 Or +1 253 215 8782  
or + 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128

**Webinar ID: 920 3221 0583**

**International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/92032210583>**

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<sup>i</sup> Under Executive Order 7B Electronic Meetings are subject to the following: (a) The public shall have the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time, by telephone, video, or other technology; (b) Any such meeting or proceeding shall be recorded or transcribed, and such recording or transcript shall be posted on the Town's website within seven (7) days of the meeting or proceeding, and made available within a reasonable time in the Town Clerk's office; (c) The required notice and agenda for each meeting or proceeding is posted on the agency's website and shall include information about how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can access it; (d) Any materials relevant to matters on the agenda, including but not limited to materials related to specific applications, if applicable, shall be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty four (24) hours prior and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting, and any exhibits to be submitted by members of the public shall, to the extent feasible, also be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting; and, (e) All speakers taking part in any such meeting or proceeding shall clearly state their name and title, if applicable, before speaking on each occasion that they speak.



**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518**  
**OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**(203) 287-2577**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
Michael McGarry

**COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**  
Dominique Baez  
Austin Cesare  
Jody Clouse  
Berita Rowes-Lewis  
Brad Macdonald  
Elizabeth S. Wetmore

June 8, 2020

**DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Michael McGarry  
*First District*

Harry Gagliardi, Jr.  
*Second District*

Athena Gary  
*Third District*

Valerie Horsley  
*Fourth District*

Justin Farmer  
*Fifth District*

Kathleen Schomaker  
*Sixth District*

Michael R. Colaiacovo, Jr.  
*Seventh District*

Kristin Dolan  
*Eighth District*

Marjorie Bonadies  
*Ninth District*

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATOR &  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**  
Kimberly A. Renta

Curt B. Leng  
Mayor  
Hamden, CT

Re: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Council Approved Budget

Dear Mayor Leng,

Please be advised that the Legislative Council, at its meeting held on June 4, 2020, extending into June 5, 2020 approved the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, designated as the "Council Approved Budget" in the amount of \$248,928,679 by a roll call vote of 8 yes, 3 no, 2 absent and 2 no votes.

Please note that this meeting went into the next day and the vote was taken after midnight on June 5, 2020.

Very truly yours,

  
Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council

cc: Curtis Eatman, Finance Director  
Kathleen Flynn, Tax Collector  
Vera Morrison, Town Clerk



**VETO**

Serious reductions to essential Town services our residents count on, along with a large tax increase will harm Hamden, short-term and long-term, requires me to veto the Council approved budget. Additional justification is included in the correspondence attached.



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Curt Balzano Leng  
*Mayor*

Hamden Government Center  
2750 Dixwell Avenue  
Hamden, Connecticut 06518  
Tel: (203) 287-7100  
Fax: (203) 287-7101

June 19, 2020

Legislative Council  
Hamden Government Center  
Hamden, CT 06518

**Re: Justification for Veto of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Council Approved Budget & Request for Collaborative Action to Restore Essential Services and Reduce Expenses**

Honorable Members:

After significant consideration, I am exercising a veto of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Council Approved Budget.

This decision was not an easy one to arrive at, as I know you have all dedicated many long hours of hard work and thoughtful deliberation. I respect and acknowledge the intention of your efforts. However, after reflecting extensively upon the consequences of decisions made, the severe reduction in so many services that bring value to our community and for which our residents count on, while at the same time hitting residents with a very large increase in property taxes is wrong and we need to do better. A strategy that reduces services, while charging you more for less, is not a recipe that leads to a stronger, safer Hamden our neighbors are counting on us to provide for them. For these reasons, I am compelled to follow my conscience and the commitment I made with our residents to protect their essential services, and exercise my veto authority.

As I know we all agree, our budget should reflect our values – Hamden’s shared values. Unfortunately, I do not believe Hamden residents would agree that our values are fully reflected at this moment. My action is not intended to be adversarial. I know that we can build a consensus budget, containing “the best of both worlds” and resulting in the best outcome for our neighbors.

If this Veto is sustained, I will work with you and submit a budget amendment within the coming weeks, which would deliver many of the cost reductions and changes the Council deliberated and voted to support. We can achieve much of the good work contained within the Council budget, without taking away so much our residents count on, with the additional time this opportunity allows.

Specifically, the following are the main reasons that force me to take this veto action:

- 1) A veto reduces the new tax mill rate from 51.98 to 51.86, less relief than I wanted to offer our

residents, but the maximum reduction we can achieve within the confines of law. We should be able to reduce the rate another .5 mill lower than the reduction listed above and I will continue exploring every opportunity to provide this relief for our residents. Either way, we are in a time of incredible challenge for so many and every dollar matters, so even a slightly reduced mill rate is better than the alternative;

2) Providing safety and security in our neighborhoods, working to prevent crime, taking action to prevent youth violence, community policing efforts are core essential services residents count on and which deliver incredible value to our community.

The Council approved budget contained deep Public Safety service reductions, which would result in the elimination of Neighborhood Walking Beats, as well as an enormous reduction in effective Bicycle Patrols. These efforts have helped Hamden prevent crime and protect the safety of our residents, while allowing continuation of essential relationship building between our officers and our residents this cultivates. The cuts would also shrink the Hamden Police Department to staffing levels from the 1970's, when Hamden had 12,000 fewer residents, while also increasing contractual overtime costs we seek to reduce.

Lastly, the staffing reductions would severely limit all traffic enforcement efforts, which are a high priority of residents seeking to see safer roads, especially in residential neighborhoods.

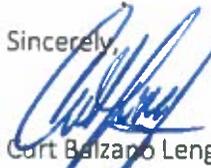
Cost reductions can still be achieved, strategically, while ensuring continuation of truly essential services listed above;

3) The funding cut to the Board of Education was deep and risks the elimination or severe reduction of programs deeply valued by Hamden families and most elected officials. BOE Equity Committee efforts, including curriculum redevelopment we have promised our families, and more is deserved and necessary. Restoring funding can ensure that these efforts move forward and achieve the positive changes and equity that reflects our values and will unquestionably strengthen our community. Major reductions to arts and music enrichment, which benefits our students in so many ways, is also of great concern. Cost reductions are needed, but can be achieved without losing that which makes our schools strong, and continuing to improve, and which has direct correlation with Hamden property values;

4) Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up, a program residents count on and which saves many families significant money, was eliminated. This would be restored if the veto is sustained. Elimination of this service, in a year where we are asking our residents to pay more is wrong. I am also concerned bulk trash will still be put out or otherwise dumped in Town, creating increased blight, which will make the Town look terrible and come with major cost to clean-up anyway, which are presently not funded for.

For these reasons, I take this action. I look forward to having the Administration and the Legislative Council work together to blend the best parts of the Mayor's and the Council's budgets, in order to deliver the best budget we can for our residents.

Sincerely,



Curt Balzano Leng  
Mayor