

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM / ZOOM
September 21, 2021**

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale, City Treasurer Dan Farley and Board of Finance Members James Wright, Christopher Beyus, Christopher Anderson and Laurene Pesce. Board members Mark Bushka and Lance Boynton were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

MINUTES APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held August 17, 2021. Mrs. Pesce abstained.

PRESENTATION: PROPOSED FUNDING OBJECTIVES, AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS

Mayor Carbone said she plans to have a transparent, public process regarding the spending plan for the ARPA funds the city will receive and gave an overview of spending objectives for these funds. She said the US Treasury's guidance document listed five funding objectives, namely to support the public health response, to replace public sector revenue loss, to address negative economic impacts, to provide premium pay for essential workers and to address water and sewer or broadband infrastructure. Mayor Carbone noted that Torrington has no public sector revenue loss and is not making a recommendation for premium pay for essential workers. She listed examples of services that would support the public health response such as services to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 including vaccination, medical expenses, testing, contact tracing, quarantine costs, and capacity enhancements along with behavioral healthcare services and others. She explained that 6% of the city allocation, or \$569,281, will go towards equity-focused services in the qualified census tract and that 53% or approximately 5.3 million will go towards infrastructure improvements that directly respond to the health emergency. Mayor Carbone added that 37% or approximately 3.6 million will be used in response to the negative economic impact to the community, and 4% or \$400,000 will be needed for grant administration such as reports, filing and staffing. The next steps will include the scheduling of a special meeting to receive public input on the proposed spending plan, the creation of grant parameters for businesses and non-profits, and the identification of administrative partners.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Mr. Farley reported that we received an extension for the use of the Small Cities grant, so the funds will be available for another year.

BUSINESS BY MAYOR & MEMBERS


On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Finance.

Mrs. Pesce requested a presentation on census tracts and requested more frequent OPEB meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK