

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, October 2, 2017. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Jaime LaMere, City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Anne Ruwet, Gregg Cogswell, Daniel Farley, Luisa Noujaim and Drake Waldron. WPC Administrator Ray Drew, Superintendent of Streets Bill Mayers and Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco were present, along with Don Williams, Director of the Connecticut Education Association and Board of Education Budget Committee Chairman Kenneth Traub.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 18, 2017. Councilors Farley and Noujaim abstained.

**Open to Public**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. There was no one present who wished to speak.

**Mayoral Appts.**

Conservation Commission

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's reappointment of James Fedorich and John Czapor to the Conservation Commission for 3-year terms to expire September 5, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Tomasz Kalinowski to the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term to expire September 5, 2020.

Inland Wetlands Commission

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's reappointment of John Bate, Jr., Jonathan B. Andrews, and Jane Bakker to the Inland Wetlands Commission for 3-year terms to expire September 5, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Tomasz Kalinowski to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a 3-year term to expire September 5, 2020.

**Homestead Road Sewers**

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority on a motion by Councilor Farley, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Section 8-24 review the "Homestead Road Proposed Sewer Extension".

**Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement**

Acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve a payment of \$76,874.47 from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement to Millennium Builders to for the Sewer Replacement project on Clinton and Munson Ave.

**Add Section B to Agenda**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to add Section B to the agenda. Mr. Don Williams, Director of the Connecticut Education Association, spoke against the Governor's proposed executive order, which includes \$570,000,000 in budget cuts that would disrupt public education in Connecticut. He asked that Torrington join them as a plaintiff at no cost, to get an opinion on blocking these cuts. Mayor Carbone noted that there is no way for Torrington to sustain a \$20,000,000 funding cut, and no way for Torrington residents to afford a tax increase to cover that cut. Mr. Traub pointed out that even closing both the High School and Middle School would not compensate for this level of cuts.

**Section B: Resolution #143-17-19**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-17-19, agreeing to be a party in CEA litigation, as follows:

*The Town of Torrington, through its Board of Councilmen, hereby approves the following motion:*

*That, the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) will represent the Town of Torrington in a legal action seeking a temporary and permanent injunction or other legal decision against Daniel P. Malloy, in his capacity as Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Chief Executive Officer of the State of CT;*

*That, the subject matter of said litigation is the Education Cost Sharing Grants (ECS) as set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 10-262h and 10-262i. Specifically, that, in derogation of these statutes, Governor Malloy has exceeded his authority in ordering reductions in ECS funding to the Town of Torrington and other similarly situated towns and municipalities pursuant to executive order,*

*That, the aforesaid representation will be without any cost whatsoever to the Town of Torrington.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Torrington, acting through its duly elected Board of Councilmen, does hereby agree to be a party in the litigation described above, and does grant permission for the CEA to represent the Town of Torrington as a party in the foregoing litigation.*

**Elected Officials Salary Increase**

On a motion by Councilor Noujaim, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council considered a salary increase for the position of City Clerk per Article XIX of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut. The Council voted unanimously in opposition. Councilor Waldron abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council considered a salary increase for the position of City Treasurer per Article XIX of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut. The Council voted unanimously in opposition. Councilor Farley abstained.

**Tree Work**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Purchasing Agent's recommendation and authorize the Mayor to award, execute and administer the Tree Trimming & Removal project to Asplundh Tree Experts Co. of Willow Grove, PA. Mr. Mayers explained that this contract is unit-priced, rather than hourly.

**Release Liens**

On a motion by Councilor Farley, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept Corporation Counsel's recommendation and authorize the Mayor, pursuant to CGS §12-179, to release the liens described in Atty. LaMere's Memo dated October 2, 2017.

**Tax Collector Tax Refunds**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated October 2, 2017.

**Tax Collector Sewer Usage Fee Refunds**

Herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Farley, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage fee refunds indicated on the list dated October 2, 2017.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to open the floor to business by Department Heads. No business was presented.

**Business: Mayor & Members**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to open the floor to business by the Mayor and City Council members.

**Business: Mayor & Members**

Councilor Cavagnero gave an update on the Ordinance Committee's work on the revision of Chapter 170.

Councilor Ruwet announced an upcoming fundraiser for F.I.S.H. this week.

Councilor Farley asked State Representative Cook to do the right thing for the City of Torrington by supporting

opposition to the budget cuts.

Mayor Carbone described the threat to our bond rating and the current financial crises due to the lack of State funds.

**Open to Public: Agenda Items Only**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public to discuss agenda items only. There was no one present who wished to speak.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC  
CITY CLERK

Carol L. Anderson, MMC, MCTC  
Asst. City Clerk