

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, September 18, 2017. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Jaime LaMere, City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Anne Ruwet, Gregg Cogswell and Drake Waldron. City Councilors Daniel Farley and Luisa Noujaim were absent. Public Works Director Jerry Rollett, WPC Administrator Ray Drew, Superintendent of Streets Bill Mayers and Director of Economic Development Erin Wilson were present, along with Brian Corvo of CT Energy & Technologies, LLC.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Ordinance Chapter 161, Changes

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve changes to City Ordinance Chapter 161, Property Maintenance, to include, but not limited to, the creation of a Blight Enforcement Officer, an expanded scope and definition of Blight and an updated and expanded blight enforcement process, as presented.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Public Hearings and Regular Meeting held September 5, 2017.

Open to Public

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

Steven Roy of Homestead Road asked the Council to consider the installation of a sewer line on Homestead Rd. as current septic systems are from the 1950s and 1960s. He said 16 out of 18 residents have signed a petition saying they would like the City to install this sewer line.

Mr. Drew explained the process, which starts with an 8-24 review by Planning and Zoning. He said if the Council approves the project after preliminary designs are made and costs are determined, it can be added to the capital improvement plan as a potential project in an upcoming year.

Sam Slaiby of Benham St. thanked the Mayor for attending the 100th Anniversary of St. Maron's parish and asked procedural questions regarding sewer lines. Mayor Carbone explained that the Ordinance Committee is currently reviewing Chapter 170, Sewers. She said that while no non-jurisdictional sewer connection application has been received from Woodridge Lake, the application requires a statutorily mandated public hearing before a decision is made, within 60 days from receipt of the application. Mayor Carbone noted that she intends to hold as many public hearings or public informational meetings as possible during that time.

Resolution: Potential Energy Projects

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-17-18, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding and a partnership with CT Energy & Technology, LLC to explore potential energy projects within the City, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the City of Torrington may enter into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding and partnership with CT Energy & Technology, LLC to explore potential energy projects within the City and that Elinor Carbone as Mayor of the City of Torrington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the City of Torrington relative to the Memorandum of Understanding and partnership.

Mrs. Wilson said that CT Energy & Technology is requesting a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to explore opportunities for potential energy projects. She noted that all projects would be brought through the normal approval process.

Mr. Corvo said that CT Energy & Technology is the energy development wing of O & G Industries, Inc. He explained that his company will spend time and effort identifying and evaluating projects' viability and that the

cooperation and support of the city is a critical element. He said the non-binding MOU will promote transparency and visibility.

Mayor Carbone explained that the City will share information about electrical use and facilities to strengthen CT Energy's grant applications and decisions as to whether or not they want to develop these projects.

Mr. Corvo said the MOU was presented in draft form and that the language could be adjusted.

Ms. Wilson added that this MOU would not bind Torrington to any type of agreement that is specifically with CT Energy & Technology or preclude any other developer from asking the same thing.

Resolution: Opioid Litigation

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-17-17 authorizing the Mayor to enter litigation on behalf of the City against Purdue Pharma as an additional plaintiff, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the City of Torrington may enter into litigation against Purdu Pharma as an additional plaintiff and that Elinor Carbone as Mayor of the City of Torrington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the City of Torrington relative to the litigation and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Atty. LaMere said the agreement is with a New York law firm who brought the suit, and that it would cost the City nothing unless the City backed out of the agreement. Mayor Carbone added that if the City prevails in this litigation, funds will be set aside for prevention and education.

Window Film: City Hall

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and Purchasing Agent, and authorize the Mayor to award, execute and administer a contract for All Season Window Film in City Hall with Pro-Film of Torrington, CT, for \$17,860, funded from the City's Renewable Energy Rewards.

Loader Rental for Street Dept.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of both the Superintendent of Streets & Parks and the Purchasing Agent and authorize the Mayor to award, execute and administer a contract extension for Loader Rental for the Street Dept. with Tyler Equipment Corporation with the same terms and conditions as currently in effect.

Release Liens

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, 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 September 18, 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 108 tax refunds indicated on the list dated Sept. 18, 2017.

Tax Collector Sewer Usage Fee Refunds

Herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the five sewer usage fee refunds indicated on the list dated Sept. 18, 2017.

Building Dept. Report

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department Report for August, 2017.

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Councilor Cavagnero thanked the Ordinance Committee Chairman and City Staff members for the work they are doing on Ordinance Chapter 170, Sewers.

Mayor Carbone thanked City Staff for their charitable efforts for hurricane relief and thanked ZEO Rista Milanca and all the city volunteers for their work on *Clean Up the World Day*. She announced the upcoming House Tour event, the Bike Walk event and the recent celebration of the 100th anniversary of St. Maron's church. Mayor Carbone noted that AARP recently highlighted Torrington as a walkable, livable community for Seniors, due to the artist relocation project. She acknowledged the opening of Lord's Home Again Furnishings. Mayor Carbone said she is continuing to wait for the Governor's next action regarding the budget.

Open to Public: Agenda Items Only

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, 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 Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC
CITY CLERK

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