

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
March 6, 2023

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) of the City of Torrington was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, March 6, 2023. Present at the City Hall auditorium were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Councilors Anne Ruwet, Armand Maniccia, and Paul Cavagnero. Also present at City Hall were Treasurer Dan Farley, WPCA Administrator Edward Tousey, and Assistant Supervisor of Streets Timothy Cote. Joining via Zoom was Councilor Drake Waldron. Councilors Keri Hoehne and David Oliver were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment: (in-person only)

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public, in accordance with Section 4(e) of the City Council & WPCA Meeting Rules of Procedure. No one from the public wished to speak.

Approve Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes regarding Trees from February 21, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes regarding Vehicles & Traffic from February 21, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023.

National Opioid Litigation Settlement

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to execute the documents for the National Opioid Litigation Settlement allowing the City of Torrington to exercise its options to opt-in. Councilor Maniccia asked for an explanation, and Mayor Carbone explained that this program is similar to Johnson & Johnson in which the City is already participating. She went on to say that at this point there are no specific amounts that the City would be receiving, it is entirely based on how many Municipalities choose to opt-in.

Fair Housing

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Fair Housing Resolution #143-239 and Fair Housing Policy Statement dated March 6, 2023. *See addendum 1*

Fertilizing Athletic Field In City Parks

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council, on the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent of Streets & Parks and the Purchasing Agent, voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City and award, execute and administer a contract to supply and fertilize the Athletic Fields located in the City Parks to TruGreen Corporation of Rocky Hill, CT in the amount of \$49,635.43, to be paid from Parks Maintenance Account, as further explained in the Purchasing Agent's letter dated March 1, 2023.

Tax Abatement Request: 85 Pulaski St

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the request of OV 147 Market LLC for a tax abatement for certain real property located at 85 Pulaski Street, in accordance with the City of Torrington's Tax Incentive Policy as described in Economic Development Director's memo dated February 28, 2023. Braham Berg Principal of OV 147 Market LLC spoke about the conversion of the Church. He went on to say that they are currently approved for 20 apartments in the space, he said it will be a mixture of 2-bedroom, and 1-bedroom apartments, including studios. Mayor Carbone explained to the Council that currently the property is assessed at \$350,000, but once the renovations are done the property will be worth over \$695,000. She went on to say that the Tax Abatement will be restored over 7 years.

Small Cities: Project #143-SC1801-19-Rehab

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council, on the recommendation of the Small Cities Subcommittee, voted unanimously to authorize project approval to **Villwell Builders, LLC** of Waterbury, CT, in the amount of \$7,750 for the installation of a handicap ramp, relocation of the washer and dryer, and the replacement of a door leading to the laundry room at 300 Clearview Ave. Councilor Waldron said that the total amount of the project is \$7,750 and that the property owner still has \$58,000 in equity, so he recommends accepting the project.

WPCA Payment Authorizations

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to approve a request of the WPCA Administrator to purchase controls for both the Evergreen Pump station and Cliffside Pump station out of Fund 490 from Norcom Ct Northeastern Communications, INC. of Naugatuck Ct utilizing the State Procurement Contract #19PSX088 as described in the WPCA Administrator's Memo dated March 6, 2023.

Building Department Report

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department Report from January 2023.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated March 6, 2023.

Sewer Usage Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated March 6, 2023.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Dan Farley gave the Council an update on the Bond sales. He said the closing for the sales is next Wednesday.

Business by Mayor & Members

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and City Council members.

Councilor Ruwet provided Council with an update on the Ordinance Committee meeting, and that the next Ordinance Meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Add to Agenda

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to add the Scheduling a Public Hearing for Snow Removal Ordinance to the agenda.

Schedule a Public Hearing – Chapter 180 Streets and Sidewalks: Removal of Snow and Ice:

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council on the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee, voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for a revised section of Chapter 180 Streets and Sidewalks: Removal of Snow and Ice on March 20, 2023.

Councilor Cavagnero asked how Public Comments in Special Meetings worked, Mayor Carbone told him that Public Comments are not required in any meeting.

Mayor Carbone took a moment to Thank the Ordinance Committee for all their hard work over the past year.

Public Comment (in-person only)

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public to comment on agenda items only. No one from the public wished to speak.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK

Addendum #1:

City Of Torrington



ELINOR CARBONE
Mayor

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FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION CITY OF TORRINGTON

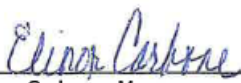
Resolution #143-239

- Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and
- Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- Whereas, The City of Torrington is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, That the City of Torrington hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Torrington or her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the City of Torrington and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Adopted by the City of Torrington on March 6, 2023


Elinor Carbone, Mayor

Town Seal

