

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, May 6, 2019.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Gregg Cogswell, Anne Ruwet, Marie Soliani, Paul Cavagnero, and Fred Simon. Corporation Counsel Atty. Victor Muschell was also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Tabled

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to table the vote to amend the Code of Ordinances by adding an ordinance regarding the sale of tobacco and vaping products, to June 17, 2019. He explained that the State legislature would likely have a decision regarding a similar bill by then, and the Council could build off of the State's legislation at that time.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the public hearing held April 15, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held April 15, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the special and telephonic meeting held May 1, 2019. Councilor Cavagnero abstained.

Open to the Public

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

Fiona Cappabianca spoke on behalf of the Board of Education in support of the proposed vaping ordinance. Councilor Cavagnero questioned the impact of vaping on Torrington Public Schools, and requested clarification regarding the repercussions for students who are caught vaping in school. Ms. Cappabianca stated that there has been a rise in medical emergencies caused by vaping, and expulsions have increased tremendously. She added that expulsions are costly to the City, as the state requires the school district to provide six hours of academic support per day to expelled students.

Sharon Waagner also expressed her support for the proposed vaping ordinance and a student from Litchfield High School informed the Council that the problem with under age vaping is not only caused by 18-year-old distributors in the schools, but also peers who work at various retailers and sell to their underage friends.

Ray Bottass expressed his support for the vaping ordinance, stated his concerns regarding pedestrian safety at the crosswalk by the Cumberland Farms at the intersection of South Main Street and East Albert Street, and requested clarification regarding upcoming road and sidewalk repairs. Mayor Carbone clarified construction plans for some of the upcoming projects, including Highland Avenue.

Tax Collector's Lease Agreement

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to approve the First Amendment to the Tax Collector's Lease Agreement.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept Corporation Counsel's recommendation and authorize the Mayor, pursuant to C.G.S. §12-179, to release the liens described in Atty. Muschell's memo dated May 6, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 14 tax refunds indicated on the list dated May 6, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the five sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated May 6, 2019.

Technical Advisory Services

Mayor Carbone informed the Council that the City would be retaining the Technical Advisory Services of Juliet Burdelski, as they relate to the City's RFQ for developer interest for the 2-acre city owned property on Franklin Street, and the possibility for additional development at 100 Franklin Drive. Councilor Cavagnero requested information regarding Ms. Burdelski's expertise and the anticipated cost of her services. Mayor Carbone stated that Ms. Burdelski's expertise is in Brownfields and noted that sufficient funds have been budgeted in the Economic Development Department for Ms. Burdelski to provide her services up to five hours per week, at the rate of \$100/hour. Mayor Carbone added that the services would be on an as needed basis, and Councilor Cavagnero requested that an evaluation of services take place if Ms. Burdelski's role becomes more permanent beyond June 30, 2019. Councilor Cogswell expressed his support for retaining Technical Advisory Services in regard to the Franklin Street project.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. City Clerk Carol Anderson reported that the City Clerk's office received nearly 1,800 tax liens from the Tax Collector's office, announced that the office will be mailing out dog licensing postcards at the end of the month, and presented a Municipal Guide to Elections booklet which she created for municipal candidates interested in running for office.

Comments for the Good of the Order

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to consider comments for the Good of the Order by the Mayor and Council members.

Councilor Cavagnero expressed his concerns regarding parents' decisions not to vaccinate their children and requested that a meeting be arranged with the Board of Education to discuss the matter. Councilor Soliani expressed her support for mandatory vaccinations of children enrolled in Torrington Public Schools. Councilor Cogswell thanked Ms. Cappabianca and the members of the public who spoke in regard to the proposed vaping ordinance. Councilor Ruwet expressed her support for the project at Franklin Street and requested an update on the Yankee Peddler and the IMA with Woodridge Lake Sewer District. Mayor Carbone discussed the results of the April, 2019 S&P Bond rating report.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items Only

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public to discuss agenda items only. No one from the public wished to speak.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK