

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, August 19, 2019. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Paul Cavagnero, Gregg Cogswell, Marie Soliani, Fred Simon, and Anne Ruwet. Public Works Director Raymond Drew, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, WPCA Senior Plant Operator Edward Tousey, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, City Treasurer Daniel Farley, Superintendent of Streets and Parks Bill Mayers, and Bumper Brook Estates Atty. William Tracy were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

Roll-Call Vote: Sewer Extension

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted, with five votes in favor and one opposed, to approve an extension of the City's sanitary sewer system from manhole #CE02-109 at the intersection of Perkins Street and Andrews Street to the Harwinton town line at 24 Bumper Road. Councilors Cogswell, Simon, Ruwet, Soliani, and Rubino voted in favor. Councilor Cavagnero opposed.

Prior to the taking of the vote, Councilor Rubino posed questions to Mr. Drew regarding the distance from the intersection of Perkins Street and Andrews Street to Torrington's water treatment facility, the age of the pipeline, and the reserve capacity of Torrington's system. Mr. Drew stated that the pipe was 15 years old with an approximate distance of one mile from the treatment facility to the proposed connection site. He expressed no concerns regarding the capacity of Torrington's system to treat the additional estimated 6,600 gallons of wastewater per day from Harwinton.

Councilor Cavagnero questioned what type of development would be constructed at 24 Bumper Road. Atty. Tracy clarified that the property, owned by Bumper Brook Estates, would include a 36-unit apartment complex for adults age 55 and older. Councilor Cavagnero informed the Council that he would vote against the proposed sewer extension out of concerns about the City's process and policies regarding IMAs, and the lack of benefits and increased risks that the connection could bring to the City of Torrington.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held August 5, 2019. Councilor Cogswell abstained.

Open to Public

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public wished to speak.

Police Vehicles

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board and the Fleet Manager to waive the City's bid process and award the purchase of three Ford Police Interceptors to MHQ Municipal Vehicles of Middletown, CT for \$144,607.50 through State Contract #12PSX0194, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration; pending Board of Finance approval on August 20, 2019. Councilor Simon questioned whether the vehicles were fully equipped for police service and Mr. Castro confirmed that they were.

ABI Field Groomer

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board and the Fleet Manager to waive the City's bid process and award the purchase of one (1) ABI Field Force Groomer with attachments, per Quote #Q0324921, to ABI Attachments, Inc. of Mishawaka, IN for \$20,192.19, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration.

Patterson Park & Franklin Street Improvements

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director and City Engineer to award the contract for the Patterson Park and Franklin Street Improvements project to RJB Contracting, Inc. of Torrington, CT for the amount of \$1,994,473, with an allowance of up to \$199,447.30 for contingencies, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the award and execution of the contract agreement. Councilor Cavagnero questioned the allowance for contingencies and Mr. Kundzins explained that the allowance of 10% was standard. Councilor Soliani expressed her support for selecting a local business.

Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Drew briefly explained the purpose of the status report that was provided to the Council and stated that he plans to provide reports for recently completed, upcoming, and ongoing projects on a regular basis, in order to keep the Council up-to-date. Councilor Ruwet thanked Mr. Drew for the report. Councilor Cogswell also thanked Mr. Kundzins for his weekly road construction updates.

Certified Local Government Application

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Director and approve the Mayor’s request to the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism for the City of Torrington to be considered a Certified Local Government. Ms. Malanca explained the Certified Local Government program and stated that it would allow the City to apply for additional grants. Councilor Cavagnero questioned why the City had not previously applied for the program. Mayor Carbone explained that it was a little known program and credited Arts & Culture Commission member Ed Cannata for bringing the program to the City’s attention.

Historic Property Commission Appointments

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to appoint Mark Trivella and Michael Boe as regular members of the Historic Property Commission, to fill the remainder of two (2) three-year terms to expire July 15, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to appoint Ed Cannata and Travis Lipinski as regular members of the Historic Property Commission, to fill the remainder of two (2) three-year terms to expire July 15, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to appoint Mark McEachern as a regular member of the Historic Property Commission, to fill the remainder of a three-year term to expire July 15, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to appoint William Haygood and Margaret Dwan as alternate members of the Historic Property Commission.

Addition of Section B

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to add Section B to the agenda.

Section B - Franklin Street Environmental Services

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Director and award the contract for environmental services to be performed at 100 Franklin Street, as described in the Economic Development Director’s memo dated August 19, 2019, to GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. for the hourly rate of \$210/hour.

Councilor Rubino questioned why there was such a variance in specifications for soil borings and ground water monitoring wells between the companies that submitted proposals for the project, and requested additional clarification regarding the recommendation to award the contract to the second-lowest bidder, GZA. Ms. Malanca explained that companies submitted proposals based on what they believed would be needed to complete the environmental services at 100 Franklin Street. She stated that although HRP Associates, Inc. submitted the lowest bid, there were concerns that the proposal did not include sufficient testing. She noted that GZA submitted a more comprehensive proposal and Mayor Carbone added that given the tight timeline for the project, it was critical to select a company that anticipated sufficient testing and services to meet the project needs.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, 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 August 19, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 15 tax refunds indicated on the list dated August 19, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the one sewer usage refund indicated on the list dated August 19, 2019.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. City Treasurer Dan Farley briefly discussed the Second Quarter 2019 investment portfolio/executive summary for the City of Torrington pension plans and reported that there was a 3.5% increase in investments.

Business by the Mayor and Council Members

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and Council members.

Councilor Cavagnero questioned why the vote to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Pennrose, LLC regarding the proposed development of the Riverfront Recapture Area on Franklin Street was removed from the agenda. Mayor Carbone explained that due to the timing of vacations by one of the Principals at Pennrose and Atty. Muschell, the agenda item needed to be moved to a later date.

Councilors Ruwet and Soliani stated that they would be unable to attend a meeting of the Board of Education on September 10, 2019, to which the City Council was invited. Councilor Soliani also thanked Ms. Malanca for her presentation regarding Pennrose at the Torrington Development Corporation's meeting on August 13, 2019.

Open to Public for Agenda Items Only

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


Ray Bottass expressed his dissatisfaction with some of the Council members.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK