

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and Board of Finance Members James Wright, Christopher Anderson, Laurene Pesce, and Christopher Beyus. Also present were City Treasurer Dan Farley and City Comptroller Alice Proulx. Board of Finance Members Lance Boynton and Mark Bushka were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held August 20, 2019. Mrs. Pesce and Mr. Beyus abstained.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public wished to speak.

2019/2020 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the FY 2019/2020 budget modifications described in the City Comptroller’s memo dated September 10, 2019. Mr. Beyus asked if any City employees were laid off as part of the additional budget reductions. Mayor Carbone reported that there were no layoffs as a result of the reductions.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the transfer and budget amendment requests described in the City Comptroller’s memo dated September 10, 2019.

SECTION B

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to add Section B to the agenda.

Section B

A) On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board discussed the use of contingency funds to pay taxes and interest due on the 10/1/2017 (second installment) and 10/1/2018 Grand Lists in accordance with the terms of the City’s acquisition of 55 Franklin Street (former O’Connor’s parking lot). Mrs. Pesce expressed her interest in using contingency funds from the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget instead of the current 2019/20202 budget. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Beyus also expressed their support for using the contingency funds from the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget to pay off the taxes and interest due on both 55 Franklin Street and the Kelley property.

Mrs. Pesce amended her motion to specify that the interest would be paid through contingency funds from the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget. The Board voted unanimously to authorize the payment of the sum of \$3,483.34 from contingency funds in the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget to pay taxes and interest due on the 10/1/2017 (second installment) and 10/1/2018 Grand List in accordance with the terms of the city’s acquisition of 55 Franklin Street (former O’Connor’s parking lot).

B) On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the payment of the sum of \$5,295.89 from contingency funds in the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget to pay back taxes and interest due on the Kelley Property (Railroad Avenue & 160 Church Street) in accordance with the terms of the City’s acquisition of said property. Mr. Beyus asked what the City’s plans were for the property. Mayor Carbone discussed possible uses for the property, including increased parking and trailhead opportunities for the Sue Grossman and Naugatuck River Greenway trail networks.

BOE FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Board of Education’s financial report for August, 2019. Mr. Beyus requested a report showing expenditures by the Board of Education between the end of the 2018/2019 school year and August 31, 2019.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Finance.

Mr. Anderson expressed his interest in having another joint meeting with the Board of Education. Mayor Carbone stated her intention to hold monthly meetings of the OPEB Board, which includes two members of the Board of Education, to start reviewing the internal service fund, in accordance with the OPEB Board’s vote on June 18, 2019

to establish itself as a Self-Insurance Review Committee. She also stated that she would try to schedule a joint meeting in October to address Mr. Beyus's concerns regarding the 2018/2019 year-end expenditures.

Mr. Beyus requested updates on the audit for the year ended June 30, 2019 and the City's ongoing revaluation. Ms. Proulx reported that the audit began in June, 2019 and is still in progress. Mayor Carbone reported that the Assessor's Office has been working with the evaluation company and she expressed optimism about a potential uptick in the Grand List.

Mr. Wright expressed his appreciation and satisfaction regarding the long-term planning meeting for Torrington High School which took place on September 10, 2019.

Mrs. Pesce expressed her concerns regarding bonding delays at the State level and how that might impact road repairs in Torrington. Mayor Carbone reported that the City had not been impaired by the delays, but emphasized the importance of the funding from the State.

Mr. Wright requested an update on Five Points' acquisition of the former UConn campus. Mayor Carbone reported that the City is going through with the purchase of the property and stated that the court agreed to place the purchase funds that Five Points will pay for the property into a scholarship fund to benefit Torrington area students. She clarified that Five Points will take the developed property and the small portion across the street which includes the septic fields. She added that the City will acquire the excess acreage through installment purchases utilizing revenue from the cell tower that stands on the excess acreage. Mrs. Pesce asked if the Litchfield County Extension Center would remain on the property and Mayor Carbone informed her that it would.

Mayor Carbone provided an update on negotiations with Pennrose, LLC for the development of the 2-acre site on Franklin Street. She reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the site and the developer is putting the final touches on their application for funding.

Mrs. Pesce asked what the timeline was for the completion of the Franklin Street reconstruction project. Mayor Carbone stated that the plaza and Patterson Park portions of the project are scheduled to be completed before winter and the rest of the project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2020.

Mr. Beyus requested an update on the repavement of East Main Street and Mayor Carbone reported that the section of East Main Street from Walnut Street to Fern Drive was scheduled to be paved during the summer but State budget constraints pushed the project to the spring of 2020.

Mrs. Pesce expressed her excitement about Vinny's Restaurant moving to its new location on East Elm Street and Mayor Carbone discussed the importance of addressing blight and developing the "opportunity zone" from Rt. 8 to Main Street.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK