

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, July 2, 2018.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Marie Soliani, Frank Rubino, Anne Ruwet, Gregg Cogswell, and Fred Simon. Councilor Paul Cavagnero arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Also present were Public Works Director Jerry Rollett, Engineering Services Superintendent Mark Zordan, Personnel Director Atty. Mark Dumas, Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer Rista Malanca, and I.T. Director Gerry Crowley.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 18, 2018.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held jointly with the Board of Education on June 18, 2018. Councilor Ruwet abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special and Telephonic Meeting held June 25, 2018. Councilor Ruwet abstained.

Good Deed Award

To honor some of the good work done by volunteers in our community, Mayor Carbone presented a gold level status award to Jim Febbroriello and the Heritage Land Preservation Trust for their creation of a neighborhood park on their Coe Brass Pond property. Ms. Malanca explained that the Conservation Commission created this award to recognize good stewardship to the earth, and stated that the Heritage Land Preservation Trust does a great job working with the city, preserving open space, and opening up trails and parks.

Open to the Public

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

Michael Banziruk noted that the pavement management program includes a valuation of our city streets, similar to the valuation of our sewer enterprise system, and urged Council members to pay attention to pages four and seven. He requested that the agenda item "Open to the Public on Agenda Items Only" be returned to the agenda, and wondered if non-residents receive the same bills for sewer fees that residents receive. He said he is looking forward to working on ordinance changes.

Michael Farrell urged the Council to give more recognition to Torrington's national designation as the 2018 Best Communities for Music Education, having received this award 18 times since 2000, making Torrington the most recognized community in Connecticut for music education. He recommended formal recognition such as a proclamation from the Mayor, notification on the city website, and signage throughout town. Mr. Farrell commended the Mayor's Executive Secretary Maurette Wall, City Building Inspector Ed Scarpati and Torrington Area Health District's Deputy Health Director Tom Stansfield for their quick and efficient response to a recent incident involving Styrofoam debris polluting the environment at the Main Street McDonald's restaurant.

Appointments

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Jeanne McGarrity as a Regular Member of the Services for the Elderly Commission, to fill the remainder of a three year term to expire July 6, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of John Riggs as a Regular Member of the Services for the Elderly Commission for a three year term to expire July 6, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Dennis M. Pezze and Michael Gardinello as Alternate Members of the Services for the Elderly Commission.

Presentation: 2018 Pavement Management Program

Mr. Rollett reviewed the program's key points and primary purpose. He said the funding varies every year, depending on state grants and what the city can afford in its general fund and indicated that the report

includes some of that funding history. Mr. Rollett pointed out that for FY 2019, 1.7 million dollars is budgeted for roadwork, with \$950,000 coming out of our general fund and the rest from grants such as “Town Aid” and “LOCIP”.

Mr. Rollett explained how the roads are rated with the pavement condition index and stated that Torrington’s roads average a “fair” rating. He discussed poor sidewalk conditions in Torrington and stated that they are the liability of the municipality.

Councilor Rubino asked how much of the work will be completed by the City and Mr. Rollett stated that the City will be primarily responsible for preparing the roads for contractors to carry out the projects.

Councilor Cogswell expressed his concerns regarding the City’s coordination with the utility companies and Councilor Soliani questioned whether enough of the work will be done downtown. Mr. Rollett stated that the work will be done throughout the entire City based on need and ensured the Council that the City regularly works with the utility companies.

Councilor Simon questioned what materials will be used to repair the City’s damaged sidewalks. Mr. Rollett stated that the plan for sidewalk remediation is still a work in progress and noted that concrete sidewalks with granite curbing is ideal, but asphalt is the cheapest option. Councilor Cavagnero expressed his disagreement with bonding any funding at all.

Purchases & Payments

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to approve the IT Department’s request to purchase two Panasonic Toughpad CF-33 tablet computers from Telrepco of Wallingford, CT for \$10,030 off of the State of CT DAS contract # 15PSX0221 for the replacement Police patrol vehicles purchased this year.

Councilors Rubino and Cavagnero questioned the cost of the units and why they are not included in the vehicle purchase price. Mr. Crowley stated that the units are rugged, shock and water resistant, and made to withstand hot and cold temperatures. He added that the proposal also includes mounting equipment and keyboards, and stated that they are not included when the vehicles are purchased because purchasing them as separate units is cheaper. Councilor Rubino questioned if the contract includes a five-year warranty and Mr. Crowley confirmed that it does.

Release 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. LaMere’s Memo dated July 2, 2018.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 20 tax refunds indicated on the list dated July 2, 2018.

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the three sewer usage fee refunds indicated on the list dated July 2, 2018.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Council Simon, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and Council Members. Atty. Dumas reported that the City has received several applications for the Police Chief position.

Comments for the Good of the Order

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to consider comments for the good of the order by the Mayor and Council Members.

Councilor Rubino expressed his optimism over multiple graduations being held at the Warner Theatre this spring. Mayor Carbone announced that the City is being awarded two million dollars for sidewalk work to be done along East Main Street and commended Ms. Malanca for securing the grant. She stated that the City also received a \$400,000 grant for the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program and announced that the Police Department has been awarded a comprehensive \$20,000 grant from the Department of Transportation for a DUI Enforcement Program. Mayor Carbone announced that the Fireworks display is scheduled to be held on Friday, July 6th, with the rain date on July 7th, and stated that the City Hall and Armory building have been opened as cooling centers. She congratulated Officers Foley, Hoyer, Connolly, and Otis for completing the police patrol biking training course and announced that the City will be running another Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class.

Add to the Agenda

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to add the following to the agenda:

Open to the Public for Agenda Items Only

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

Tom Kandefer expressed his concerns regarding the pavement management program and stated that twenty percent of the roads in Torrington are maintained by the state.

Ray Bottass recommended dealing with the City's roads and sidewalk maintenance by breaking Torrington into divisions and assigning different contractors to each division. He expressed his discontent with the sober homes in Torrington.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

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

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK