

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, June 18, 2018.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Marie Soliani, Frank Rubino, Paul Cavagnero, Gregg Cogswell, and Fred Simon. Councilwoman Anne Ruwet arrived at 7:13 p.m.

Also present were Public Works Director Jerry Rollett, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, City Comptroller Alice Proulx, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Personnel Director Atty. Mark Dumas, and City Treasurer Dan Farley.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Simon, the Council acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held June 4, 2018.

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 4, 2018.

Open to the Public

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

Appointment

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Mark Dumas, Esq. as Personnel Director for the City of Torrington, as authorized by the Torrington Code of Ordinances §C22-2, for a term to expire January 5, 2021.

Atty. Dumas introduced himself to the Board and briefly described his educational and professional background, working with labor unions and with management.

Public Works Vehicle Purchase: Approved

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Fleet Manager, Public Works Director, and Purchasing Agent, and authorized the City of Torrington to purchase a 2018 Chevy Equinox for the Public Works Director from Northwest Hills Automotive, LLC of Torrington, CT for the quoted price of \$22,998.80 out of the Vehicle Replacement account.

Councilman Cogswell questioned why the recommendation was not to purchase the Ford EcoSport vehicle, which was quoted at a lower price than the recommended Chevy Equinox. Mr. Castro explained that the Ford EcoSport was too small of a vehicle to fulfill the needs of the Public Works Director.

HVAC Services Contract: Tabled

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council discussed the Purchasing Agent's recommendation to authorize the Mayor to award the contract for HVAC equipment maintenance and repair services for FY 2018/2019 to Air Temp Mechanical Services, Inc. of Southington, CT.

Councilman Simon questioned the hourly rate quoted for apprentices and Councilwoman Soliani suggested that further consideration be granted to West State Mechanical of Torrington, CT.

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to table the vote to a later date.

Coe Park Budget Approved

On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2018/2019 Coe Memorial Park budgets.

Budget Transfer Approved: \$10,030.00

On a motion by Councilman Simon, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to approve the City Comptroller's request to complete the budget transfer indicated in her letter dated June 13, 2018 for a total of \$10,030.00, pending Board of Finance authorization on June 19th.

Public Works State and Regional Bids

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to waive the City bid process and accept the State and Regional Bids for Public Works projects and materials for fiscal year 2019 based on the State and Regional Contracts listed in the Public Works Director's memo dated June 5, 2018.

Councilman Cavagnero questioned why the City bid process should be waived. Mr. Rollett explained that it would allow the City to take advantage of much larger State and Regional bid processes.

Microphones: Approved

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the City Comptroller's request to expend \$4,518.00 from Contingency for the purchase and installation of new microphones in the City Hall Council Chambers, pending Board of Finance authorization on June 19th.

Councilman Cogswell questioned the need for new microphones. City Clerk Carol Anderson explained that several of the existing microphones were no longer in working condition or were of poor sound quality and needed to be replaced. She noted the importance of having clear audio recordings in order to comply with Freedom of Information requirements.

Release Liens

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Simon, 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 June 18, 2018.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 33 tax refunds indicated on the list dated June 18, 2018.

On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Council acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the three sewer usage fee refunds indicated on the list dated June 18, 2018.

Building

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilman Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department's report for May, 2018.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

City Clerk Carol Anderson reported that the Clerk's Office issued 907 dog licenses since the beginning of June.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilman Cavagnero asked if there would be a meeting with the Board of Education to discuss long-term plans for improving the Torrington Public Schools District. Mayor Carbone stated that strategic planning is a duty of the Board of Education, per C.G.S. §10-222. She added that the City Council would need to be invited by the Board of Education to take part in those planning efforts.

Councilman Cavagnero stated that Torrington Public Schools has experienced a painful history of failure and suggested fighting policies at the state level. Mayor Carbone reiterated that his concerns are Board of Education initiatives and are outside of the City Council's authority.

Councilman Cavagnero asked when the next Ordinance Committee meeting would be scheduled. Councilman Cogswell stated that he plans to set one up for the week of June 25 – June 29.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items Only

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

Sharon Waagner suggested an open dialogue to advance the education system forward and encouraged promoting Torrington Public Schools in new and creative ways.

John Kissko reported that at the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, June 27th, the Board will discuss its goals to build cooperation and accountability with state legislatures and to bring more positive publicity to the school district. He stated that implementing the strategic plan will be a focus of the School Improvement Committee on an ongoing basis.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilman Simon, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK