

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, April 2, 2018. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Jaime LaMere and City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Anne Ruwet, Marie Soliani, and Frank Rubino. City Councilors Gregg Cogswell and Fred Simon were absent. Public Works Director Jerry Rollett, Water Pollution Control Administrator Ray Drew, Economic Development Director Erin Wilson, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Brett Simmons, Executive Director of Torrington Housing Authority Claudia Sweeney, Vice President of Municipal Partnerships for WasteZero, Inc. Kristen Brown, retired Worcester, MA Public Works Commissioner Bob Moylan, Jr., and Dr. Richard A. Fichman of the Fichman Eye Center were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 19, 2018.

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held March 22, 2018.

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held March 22, 2018.

Open to the Public

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

George Craig requested documentation indicating that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection would overrule the City if it did not approve Woodridge Lake Sewer District's (WLSD) application to construct/extend and connect a sewer transmission line to the City of Torrington's existing sanitary sewer system.

Barbara Gall asked if the details of the WLSD Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) will be open to the public. Mayor Carbone stated that the document would be open to the public before it is approved.

Ray Bottass expressed his opposition to the Board's decision to approve WLSD's application to construct/extend and connect a sewer transmission line to the City of Torrington's existing sanitary sewer system.

Matthew Winchcombe requested a summary of the situation surrounding Woodridge Lake Sewer District. Mayor Carbone provided a brief explanation and informed Mr. Winchcombe that additional information can be retrieved from the City Clerk's Office.

Mayoral Appointments

On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Robert DeMallie to the Conservation Commission as a regular member for a term to expire September 4, 2018.

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Dianne Cerruto to the Torrington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to serve out the remaining term of Charles Marciano ending August 31, 2018.

Fair Housing Resolution

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following Resolution # 143-183:

Whereas, all persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, the Town of Torrington is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED,

That the Town of Torrington hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the chief executive officer of the Town of Torrington or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Torrington and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Tax Abatement

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Fixed Tax Agreement with Fichman Eye Center located at 1144 East Main Street.

Councilwoman Soliani asked if the fixed tax agreement would be for a limited time period. The Mayor clarified that the agreement would be for two years.

Dr. Fichman thanked the Mayor's Office and Economic Development Director and stated that Torrington is one of the finest communities he has ever served.

DEEP SMART Program

Torrington Public Works Director Jerry Rollett stated some advantages of the DEEP SMART Program and introduced Kristen Brown, Vice President of Municipal Partnerships for WasteZero, Inc. to present on the Program. Ms. Brown explained that through unit-based pricing, SMART programs save money and reduce environmental impact by changing human behavior. She discussed several examples of communities in New England that have successfully implemented SMART programs and introduced Bob Moylan, Jr. to discuss his experiences implementing a pay-as-you-throw Program in Worcester, MA.

Mr. Rollett added that the City will be starting a Simple Recycling Program in which bags will be distributed to the residents of Torrington to collect soft goods for recycling including shoes, bedding, and small appliances.

Mayor Carbone stated her intention to establish an ad hoc committee to develop an implementation plan for the SMART Program and present the plan to the Board at its first meeting in May. Ms. Brown informed the Council that DEEP grant funding would be available to help with implementation. Councilwoman Soliani expressed her support for implementing the DEEP SMART program in Torrington.

Police Dept. Ammunition

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council discussed the Purchasing Agent's recommendation to authorize the Torrington Police Department to waive the City bid process and purchase their ammunition for an estimated budgeted amount of \$41,000.00 off the State Contract #14PSX0243, Ammunition, New and Reloads from Eagle Point Gun in Thorofare, New Jersey, pending Board of Public Safety approval on April 4th.

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to table the discussion until the next City Council meeting so that Chief Maniago could be present to answer questions regarding the proposed purchase.

2018 Fireworks Display

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, and authorize the Mayor to award the 2018 Fireworks Display to Zambelli Fireworks Mfg. of New Castle, PA for \$13,900.00 and to have the Mayor act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration.

Councilwoman Ruwet requested an update on the Parks Department's plans for generating donations to help offset the cost of the Fireworks display. Brett Simmons stated that the City is again trying to solicit donations and hopes to secure a major sponsor for 2018.

Councilwoman Soliani asked about the total cost for the Carnival and Fireworks display in previous years. Mr. Simmons stated that the cost varies from year to year and noted that moving the Fireworks display to Friday evening has helped save money by reducing overtime costs. He informed the Council that this year the Carnival and Fireworks display will be on the same day.

Councilman Rubino requested clarification regarding some of the details in the proposal from Zambelli Fireworks Mfg. Mr. Simmons explained which option the City would like to move forward with and why.

Extension of Electrical Services

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Purchasing Agent's recommendation and authorize the Mayor to extend the current bid contract for Electrical Services to the City of Torrington for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 to Connole's Electric, LLC of Torrington, CT at the current rates of \$52.00/hour for Journeymen and \$34.00/hour for Apprentices.

Extension of Downtown Garden Maintenance

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Purchasing Agent's recommendation and authorize the Mayor to award the contract extension for the maintenance and care of the downtown garden beds and planters to Still River Gardens, LLC of Litchfield, CT with a price increase from \$10,467.00 to \$13,500.00 for FY 2018/2019.

Councilwoman Soliani asked if the vendor ever previously requested a price increase for their services. Mayor Carbone responded that this was the first time.

Release Liens

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept Corporation Counsel's recommendation and authorize the Mayor, pursuant to CGS §12-179, to release the liens described in Atty. LaMere's Memo dated April 2, 2018.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 37 tax refunds indicated on the list dated April 2, 2018.

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council, acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 10 sewer usage fee refunds indicated on the list dated April 2, 2018.

Building

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

Small Cities

Councilwoman Soliani stated that the Small Cities subcommittee has nothing to report at this time.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. No business was reported.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Mayor Carbone announced that there will be funeral services for Councilman Cogswell's father on April 7th, updated the Council on her recent trip to Hartford, and announced several upcoming events at City Hall and around Torrington.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items Only

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

Glenn Royals expressed his concerns regarding the cost of implementing the proposed DEEP SMART Program. Mayor Carbone informed Mr. Royals that the Program would not cost the City anything.

Jeremy Kincaid suggested using cloth/reusable bags rather than plastic bags if the City proceeds with implementing the DEEP SMART Program and asked that the City require commercial buildings to recycle as well. Mr. Rollett informed Mr. Kincaid that commercial buildings are required by law to offer recycling to their residents and advised Mr. Kincaid to contact the DEEP.

Rachel D'Ambrosio expressed her concerns regarding the proposed DEEP SMART Program.

Executive Session

On a motion by Councilman Rubino, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss the potential acquisition of real property located at the former UConn campus, per CGS Section 1-200(6D). Corporation Counsel Jaime LaMere was also present.

Open Session

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to enter open session at 8:23 p.m.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilwoman Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk*

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK