

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING 6:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
February 7, 2022

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) of the City of Torrington was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, February 7, 2022. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, and City Councilors Keri Hoehne, Armand Maniccia, Anne Ruwet and Paul Cavagnero. Also present at City Hall were Police Chief William Baldwin, Public Works Director Ray Drew, and Animal Control Supervisor Caitlin Nield. Councilors Drake Waldron and David Oliver joined via ZOOM. Facilities Director Jamie Sykora and WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey also joined via ZOOM.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

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

Stephen Ivain voiced his questions and concerns regarding the Regional Animal Control Facility.

Kevin Hayes questioned the ability to make public comments at the Board of Trustees meeting.

Approve Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted to accept the meeting minutes from January 18, 2022. Abstaining from the vote was Councilor Waldron and Councilor Ruwet.

On-Call Emergency Sewer System and Storm Water System Repair Services

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously as the Water Pollution Control Authority, to accept the recommendation of the WPCA Administrator, to authorize the Mayor to negotiate contracts with Hemlock Construction, Yield Industries Inc, David Curtis LLC, and Green & Sons LLC for the purpose of On-Call Emergency Sewer System and Storm Water System Repair Services. All companies meet qualifications with RFQ ID SPS041-0612021.

Emergency Repair on Donahue Street

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously as the Water Pollution Control Authority to approve a payment from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement to Yield Industries LLC, of Torrington, CT for \$4,967.50.

Northwest Hills Regional Animal Control Facility

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and Purchasing Agent to award the contract for the Northwest Hills Regional Animal Control Facility #ACF-319-051421 to Brunoli Construction, Inc of Farmington, CT for \$2,707,000 and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the city regarding the award and execution of the contract agreement.

Ray Drew, Public Works Director, went over specifics of the costs and grants that are associated with the Animal Control Facility. The current location is specific to the bond, which was voted on in the referendum. He stated that if they were to change the location that the bonded money could no longer be used. He stated that the City had gone out to rebid this project in May of 2021 and the lowest bid was \$2,707,000. He went on to say that they are looking into extending the Sue Grossman Trail from the Toro ballfields to Bogue Rd.

Chief Baldwin stated that the Animal Control Facility is over 80 years old. He said that they are partnered with Litchfield and Goshen and believes that they are reimbursed by town size. He stated that the facility has failed State inspections for the last few years, the only reason it hasn't been shut down is because the City is working towards building a new facility.

Caitlin Nield, Animal Control Supervisor, reiterated what Chief Baldwin had said previously. She mentioned that there are issues with the concrete, the ceilings, and the sewer in the current facility, and that it would only be a matter of time before the state would shut it down.

Mayor Carbone clarified that the Animal Control Facility is owned by Torrington, but Litchfield contributes 17% and Goshen contributes 7% towards the annual operating costs of the facility. There are very specific requirements for building this facility from the state.

Councilor Hoehne asked where the additional \$750,000 funds are coming from. She also asked what the worst-case scenario would be if the Facility were to get shut down by the State.

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Councilor Maniccia asked if there was any reimbursement on the bonded funds from the State.
Councilor Ruwet stated that she thinks it is a good location.
Councilor Cavagnero questioned the cost of what the City is paying for the new facility and what Litchfield and Goshen are contributing towards the new Regional Animal Control Facility.

Building Departments Reports

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Departments Reports from Year End 2021.

Sewer Use Lien Release

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to release the sewer use liens in Corporation Counsel's memo of February 7, 2022, regarding the Release of Liens.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated February 7, 2022.

Sewer Usage Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated February 7, 2022.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Chief Baldwin thanked the Council for the approval of the Regional Animal Control Facility.

Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell announced that the City just purchased three pieces of property on the Winsted Road from the Leone Family for \$32,000. This property is located right next to the Sue Grossman Trail. He also mentioned that the City will be accepting bids this week for 126 High Street, which the City acquired through foreclosure.

Business by Mayor & Members

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of City Council.

Councilor Cavagnero asked for an update on pulling building permits.

Councilor Ruwet asked about the field use fees for Torrington facilities.

Councilor Waldron asked about the Machuga property for recreation facility development.

Mayor Carbone stated that at the Council meeting on the 22nd she will have a plan for the American Rescue Plan Funding funds. She mentioned that on February 16th there is a Joint meeting with Planning and Zoning, the Board of Public Safety and City Council regarding the Cannabis Legislation. She said that budgets will also be submitted by February 15th, in accordance with the Charter.

Public Comment

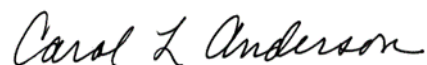
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one was present who wished to speak.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk*

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK