

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING 6:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
February 22, 2022

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 Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, City Councilors Keri Hoehne, Armand Maniccia, Anne Ruwet, and Drake Waldron. Also present at City Hall were Facilities Director Jamie Sykora, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, and Economic Development Director Rista Malanca. Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Public Works Director Ray Drew, and Personnel Director Jaime LaMere, Esq. joined via Zoom.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

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

Robert Killackey voiced his concerns regarding the location of the skate park in relation to the new school.

Councilor Paul Cavagnero arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Approve Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes from February 7, 2022.

Review ARPA Strategic Funding

Mayor Carbone discussed the ARPA Strategic Funding Plan that the ARPA Committee has been working on. The guidance was released in May 2021 on how the funds were to be used. She mentioned that \$1.8 million was already earmarked for the Board of Education (\$569,281) and for the Façade Improvement Program, among other items. The committee looked at the unmet needs in the community to come up with a plan on how to spend the ARPA funds. They are going to be sending out a survey to residents regarding how the funds could be spent and see how the community feels. Councilor Cavagnero spoke about expanding the recreation area for the Torrington Community, and possibly building a separate area for tennis courts. Mayor Carbone said that within the next few weeks the committee would be looking at specific ways to get the money out to the community. She mentioned that they could use some of the funds to investigate the feasibility of adding a recreation area for the City. Economic Development Director Rista Malanca shared that the committee prioritized the projects for the most important ones to get done with the ARPA funds. Mayor Carbone said that the first report for what the City has expended so far from the ARPA Funds is due to the U.S. Treasury April 30, 2022.

Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

On an amended motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to approve and accept the one-year extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the City of Torrington and the United Public Service Employees Union Local 424-Unit 78, City Supervisory Employees for the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, as described in Attorney LaMere's letter dated February 18, 2022. Councilor Hoehne asked if it is normal to do extensions for a year like this, the Mayor stated that it is not normal and that the Union reached out to the City to see if they wanted to extend the current contract for another year.

Project #143-SC1801-14-Roof

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to rescind the January 13, 2022, vote authorizing payment of \$15,510 to A&E Services Group of Cheshire, CT, and on the recommendation on Small Cities Committee, to authorize project approval to Lecla Home Improvement & Roofing Inc. for \$15,510, for the installation of a new roof at 89 Blake St. Councilor Waldron explained that the recission is to change the wording. He stated that Treasurer Dan Farley explained in the Small Cities Subcommittee meeting that A&E Services Group wasn't the company doing the work and receiving the payment. At this point the Committee and Council are authorizing the company, Lecla Home Improvement & Roofing Inc., to do the work.

Project #143-SC1801-10-Roof

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously on the recommendation of the Small Cities Committee, to authorize the project to A-Preferred Roofing & Construction, for \$9,600, for the installation of a new roof at 230 Aetna Ave. Councilor Waldron explained that the taxpayer has no liens on the property and has plenty of equity in the home for this project, so the Committee recommends approval.

Bid for Gas, Diesel & #2 Fuel

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract for Diesel Fuel, #2 Fuel Oil, and Gasoline, if the price is no greater than 10% over the bid price as presented on February 22, 2022:

- Diesel Fuel: 54,200 (+/-5%) gallons of Diesel Fuel for the FY 2022/2023 from East River Energy of Guilford, CT for the bid price of \$2.7429 per gallon (\$148,665.18 estimated annual cost).
- #2 Fuel Oil: 17,700 (+/-5%) gallons of #2 Heating Fuel for the FY 2022-2023 from Dime Oil Company of Waterbury, CT for the bid price of \$3.0618 per gallon (\$54,193.86 estimated annual cost).
- Gasoline: 119,000 (+/-5%) gallons of Gasoline for the FY 2022/2023 from East River Energy of Guilford, CT for the bid price of \$2.7891 per gallon (\$331,902.90 estimated annual cost).

Demolition of House at 590 Newfield Spring Road

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Facilities Manager and Purchasing Agent and award the contract for the Demolition of the house located at 590 Newfield Spring Road, Torrington CT to Cherry Hill, Inc., of North Branford, CT for \$16,900.00 and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the city regarding the execution of the contract agreement. Councilor Maniccia asked if the price included the removal of materials. Facilities Director Jamie Sykora stated that the only thing that would be left on the property would be a retaining wall in the backyard.

Christmas Village Lots Environmental Services

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to award the Christmas Village Lots Environmental Services to GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., of Glastonbury, CT for \$21,100 with the option to include an Additional Phase III Environmental Site Assessment for approximately \$7,300 and Ground Penetrating Radar for approximately \$1,000 as needed to complete the Remedial Action Plan. Funding will be from the Sue Grossman Project – OPM Smart Growth Grant.

Building Departments Reports

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Departments Reports from January 2022.

Sewer Use Lien Release

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to release the sewer use liens in Corporation Counsel's memo of February 22, 2022, regarding the Release of Liens.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated February 22, 2022.

Sewer Usage Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated February 22, 2022.

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Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. There was no business to be discussed.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilor Cavagnero asked about next steps with the Cannabis Initiative. Mayor Carbone stated that with the feedback she has received, the City would be having another joint meeting with Planning and Zoning, Board of Public Safety, and Council to further discuss the matter.

Councilor Ruwet asked Corporation Counsel Vic Muschell, about reviewing the upcoming ordinance changes. Vic stated that there are three different ordinances with proposed modifications. He said that they could have a meeting of the Ordinance Subcommittee to discuss the proposed changes.

Councilor Maniccia asked for a monthly update from the ARPA committee.

Councilor Hoehne was curious about other communities that have already legalized marijuana to see what the impacts have been to the real estate market and if there has been an increase in needed addiction services. Councilor Hoehne also asked for more details about the skate park. Mayor Carbone stated that the park is located on Besse Trust Property, and that it has been very hard to find another property to move the skate park to. Moving the skate park closer to Winthrop Street would make it easier for the Police to patrol the area.

Councilor Waldron asked about different properties around the City to put in a recreational facility.

Public Comment

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

Robert Killackey voiced his concerns about moving the skate park closer to the playground where there are younger children.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK