

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, August 21, 2017. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Jaime LaMere, City Councilors Paul Cavagnero , Gregg Cogswell, Daniel Farley and Drake Waldron. City Councilors Anne Ruwet and Luisa Noujaim were absent. Also present were Fleet Manager Emil Castro, Public Works Director Jerry Rollett, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, WPC Administrator Ray Drew, and Superintendent of Streets Bill Mayers.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 7, 2017.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held jointly with the Board of Finance and Board of Education on August 7, 2017.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

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

Michael Banziruk thanked the Council for scheduling a public hearing on City Ordinance Chapter 170, Sewers. He urged the Council to form an ad hoc committee to dig deeper into the matter.

**PRESENTATION: Street Dept. Report**

Mr. Robin Haley of Matrix Consulting Group presented an executive summary of his firm's draft form of their operations analysis of the Street, Parks, and Equipment Maintenance Departments. He described the Scope of Work, Project Methodology, and their findings in Planning and Management, Staffing and Operations and Organizational Structure.

**TABLED: Ordinance Committee**

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to table consideration of any business from the Ordinance Committee, as none was presented.

**DISCUSSION: City Ordinances Chapter 170 Sewers**

Mr. Drew gave a history of Chapter 170 and its revisions over the years. He said he is prepared to answer questions about non-jurisdictional connections from outside Torrington. Mr. Drew noted that Connecticut does not currently have a guidance document for the development of inter-municipal agreements.

Councilor Cavagnero urged the Council to revisit the ordinance with the intention of setting a sewer-user fee for non-residents, to include all the costs and risks involved in tying in to our system. Mr. Drew listed the current replacement values of the infrastructure and cautioned against ordinance changes for non-jurisdictional connections as opposed to individual inter-municipal agreements.

**SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING: Water Pollution Control Facility Project**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a joint meeting City Council/WPCA Public Hearing to be held on September 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to solicit citizen input regarding the Water Pollution Control Facility Project.

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing pursuant to Section 7-247a of the Connecticut General Statutes to be held on September 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to solicit citizen input regarding the Water Pollution Control Facility Project.

**SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING: City Ordinances Chapter 161 Property Maintenance**

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing on Tuesday September 5, 2017, immediately following the previous Public Hearing, to solicit citizen input regarding changes to City Ordinance Chapter 161 Property Maintenance. Councilor Cogswell noted that the Ordinance Committee approved the proposed updates. Mayor Carbone explained that the Police Department, Building Department and Fire Marshal's Office have worked to provide an anti-blight ordinance that has more teeth and a smoother enforcement process.

**RELEASE LIENS**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, 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 8/21/17.

**TAX COLLECTOR TAX 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 2 tax refunds noted on the list dated August 14, 2017.

**TAX COLLECTOR SEWER USAGE FEE REFUNDS**

Herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage fee refund indicated on the list dated August 21, 2017.

**BUILDING DEPT. REPORT**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Farley, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Dept. Report for July 2017.

**BUSINESS BY DEPT. HEADS**

On a motion by Councilor Farley, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to consider business presented by Department Heads. No business was presented.

**BUSINESS: MAYOR & MEMBERS**

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

Councilor Cogswell asked for the status of the Budget.

Councilor Farley commended the 2017 Main Street Marketplace.

Mayor Carbone reported that there is a State proposal to reduce revenue to Torrington by more than 22 million dollars. She said she continues to enforce a strict hiring freeze, which causes a reduction in hours of service for the Recreation Department. Mayor Carbone expressed her concern about the impact on our fund balance. Regarding the former UConn property, Mayor Carbone noted that work continues and a public hearing will be scheduled to allow citizens the opportunity offer their input.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC: Agenda Items Only**

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

Street Department Employee Steven Roy asked if the Department is overstaffed, why work is given to high-priced contractors, when current employees aren't utilized. He said his opinion of the Street Dept. Report is that the numbers may be inaccurate.

Street Department Employee Billy Latulipe noted that the report contains items of merit, but was disappointed that employees were only given an online survey, not a personal interview. He agreed that qualified employees are underutilized, noted that acquiring equipment and materials would make the department more efficient, and said that the department needs to review the whole report as a group.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC  
CITY CLERK

Carol L. Anderson, MMC, MCTC  
Asst. City Clerk