

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, April 16, 2018. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Jaime LaMere and City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Gregg Cogswell, Anne Ruwet, Fred Simon, Marie Soliani, and Frank Rubino. Police Chief Michael Maniago, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Brett Simmons were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:37 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 April 2, 2018. Councilmen Cogswell and Simon abstained.

Open to the Public

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

Sharon Waagner stated her concerns regarding the proposed SMART pay-as-you-throw program and asked the Council to consider a new ordinance that would help to prevent illegal dumping of trash.

George Craig expressed his thoughts on the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) regarding Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLSD) and read excerpts from a statement by the engineering firm, Wright-Pierce.

State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Daniel Eddinger updated the City Council on the progress being made to designate Torrington as a Purple Heart City and announced that the City will be holding a meet-and-greet event for Purple Heart recipients, families, and friends on April 26th.

Ray Bottass expressed his opposition to the City Council's decision to move forward with the IMA regarding WLSD and stated that the City has too many potholes and not enough sidewalks on East Main Street.

Police Dept. Ammunition

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Purchasing Agent's recommendation and 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.

Councilwoman Soliani questioned the estimated budgeted amount for the proposed purchase. Chief Maniago explained that the actual cost could be less than the amount being budgeted for, but not any higher.

Councilman Simon asked about the bid process. Chief Maniago stated that the Police Department tries to buy off the State contract whenever possible and noted that the prices will stay locked in until January 2019.

Fleet Tracking GPS Units

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Fleet Manager, Superintendent of Parks and Streets, Public Works Director, and Purchasing Agent, and authorize the additional expenditure of \$2,158.92 through the NASPO Contract #17PSX0129 for the lease of approximately nine additional Fleet Tracking GPS Units to Vehicle Tracking Solutions of Commack, NY, pending Board of Finance approval on April 17th.

AutoCAD Subscription Licenses

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the City Engineer and authorize the purchase of two (2) three-year single-user subscription licenses of AutoCAD Civil 3D 2018 software from DLT Solutions, LLC of Herndon, VA as one up-front lump sum payment of \$8,887.26 due by April 20, 2018, with funding transferred from the Contingency line item (0010.0047.5651.0000) to Service Agreements (0010.0027.5284.0000), pending Board of Finance approval on April 17th.

Councilwoman Soliani questioned the Contingency line item which the funds would be transferred from. Mayor Carbone explained that funds remaining in the Contingency line item at the end of the fiscal year get transferred to the General fund. Mr. Kundzins explained how the software would be budgeted going forward.

Councilman Cavagnero asked about the features of the AutoCAD 3D software and questioned if it is being used for the Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLSD) proposal. Mr. Kundzins described the software's purpose and functions and explained that the WLSD design was done by consultants.

Municipal Advisory Services

On a motion by Councilwoman Ruwet, seconded by Councilman Simon, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Comptroller to issue payment of \$1,500.00 from the Contingency line item (0010.0047.5651.0000) to IBIC, LLC of Madison, CT for municipal advisory services related to the 2017 Moody's rating surveillance process, pending Board of Finance approval on April 17th.

Portable Toilets Rental

On an amended motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Supervisor and the Purchasing Agent, and authorize the Mayor to award the rental of Portable Toilets for the 2018/2019 season to Suburban Sanitation Services of Canton, CT and to have the Mayor act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration.

Councilman Cogswell questioned a discrepancy in the information provided to the Council for the proposed rental agreement. Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco explained that the recommendation should have been to award the contract to Suburban Sanitation Services because A Royal Flush, Inc. should have been disqualified.

System & Software Upgrades

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the IT Department and authorize the system and software upgrades described in IT Director Gerry Crowley's three (3) letters dated April 12, 2018 for the amounts of: \$11,200.00, \$20,838.00, and \$5,998.40, pending Board of Finance approval on April 17th.

Small Cities

On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Small Cities subcommittee.

Councilwoman Soliani presented the subcommittee's recommendation for the City Council to accept a subordination agreement request based upon revised loan information for 521 New Litchfield Street. On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted to accept the subcommittee's recommendation with five votes in favor and one opposed (Councilman Simon).

Councilwoman Soliani stated that the Small Cities subcommittee decided to table the vote on the recommended Community Development Stipend Program awards until its next meeting.

Release Liens

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Rubino, 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 16, 2018.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the nine tax refunds indicated on the list dated April 16, 2018.

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, 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 four sewer usage fee refunds indicated on the list dated April 16, 2018.

Building

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

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilman Cavagnero requested an update on the IMA concerning Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLSO). Mayor Carbone informed Councilman Cavagnero that the appeal period for the Council's decision to move forward with the IMA has expired and the City is now ready to begin negotiations.

Councilman Cavagnero requested to add the consideration of a scope of services for an independent analysis and valuation of the City's sanitary sewer system, tabled from February 5th, back to the Council's agenda. Mayor Carbone confirmed that it would be added to the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

Councilman Cavagnero expressed his interest in establishing an ordinance to determine the price that non-Torrington residents would be charged to use the City's sewer system and questioned whether an IMA is a contract. Atty. LaMere stated that an IMA is a contract and cautioned against an ordinance change, as not to pigeon-hole the City in different circumstances that could arise in the future.

Councilwoman Ruwet requested clarification regarding the Council's meeting schedule with other City Boards and stated that she would like an open dialogue with the Board of Education. Mayor Carbone updated the Council on their upcoming budget meetings with other boards and meetings that have taken place between City and Board of Education Finance Departments regarding the consolidation of services.

Councilwoman Soliani stated that she has been receiving phone calls regarding the DEEP SMART program and requested more frequent recycle pickup services to accommodate the additional need that would likely result from the SMART program.

Councilman Rubino requested an update on the Public Safety and Street Department budgets. Mayor Carbone informed Councilman Rubino that the budgets are still a work in progress and offered to send him the budget calendar.

Mayor Carbone announced that there will be multiple opportunities for the public to attend informational sessions regarding the SMART program, including Monday, April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium and a presentation to the Land Use Boards on April 19th. Mayor Carbone also announced that there will be an Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 21st beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Coe Memorial Park and a free dental clinic on April 20th and 21st at Torrington High School.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items Only

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


Ray Bottass stated that he and his wife are good people.

Carol Bottass expressed her disagreement with the City Council’s decision to move forward with the IMA regarding WLSO.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilman Simon, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK