

MINUTES**CITY COUNCIL & WPCA****REGULAR MEETING****City Hall Auditorium / Zoom****August 15, 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 Monday, August 15, 2022. Present at the City Hall auditorium were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, and City Councilors Armand Maniccia, Paul Cavagnero, and Anne Ruwet. City Councilors Drake Waldron and David Oliver joined via Zoom. Also present at City Hall were, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, Police Captain Bart Barown, Torrington Housing Authority Director Claudia Sweeney, and WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey. City Councilor Keri Hoehne was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. beginning with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: (in-person only)

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public, in accordance with Section 4(e) of the City Council & WPCA Meeting Rules of Procedure.

Ray Bottass shared his thoughts on the recent car show, and how Eversource re-plants trees.

Steven Ivain thanked Atty. Muschell for his research into the displays around the City that contain profanity. He also said that the car show was very fun.

Kevin Hayes said that the City had a fabulous idea of putting the bulky waste flyers into the Tax Bills.

Approve Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Regular meeting minutes from August 1, 2022.

Expense Reimbursement Policy

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero the Council voted unanimously to discuss the adoption of an Expense Reimbursement Policy for Police Department Extra Duty assignments, pending Board of Finance approval. Mayor Carbone explained that these revenues would be from special events that the Police Officers would work extra duty for. She went on to say that these funds in the past had been tracked through the general fund, this policy would separate the funds to track the revenues and surpluses. These funds would go back to work for the taxpayers, any surpluses would be split between the vehicle replacement account and the traffic capital reserve account for infrastructure improvements and repairs. Councilor Ruwet asked what the revenue was for this past year, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale explained that there was over \$600,000 in revenues, \$232,000 in admin fees, and \$406,000 in vehicle replacement costs. Councilor Cavagnero asked if the Board of Public Safety had any input on this policy, Mayor Carbone let him know that they did not. Councilor Cavagnero stated that he would like the Board of Finance's input before voting on this new policy. Councilor Maniccia asked if the Extra Duty funds were in a separate account now, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale let him know that they have been to better track expenses and reimbursements from extra duty.

Purchase Two Drones

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to discuss the acquisition of two Unmanned Aerial Drones for the Torrington Police Department on the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and to award the bid to Cloud City Drones of Warwick, RI for \$18,079.74, which was previously approved by the Board of Public Safety on August 3, 2022. Councilor Maniccia asked what the purpose of the drones was for the Police Department, Captain Barown explained that it was to document crime scenes, map car accidents, tactical applications, and help locate missing persons. Councilor Ruwet wanted to know how the use of drones would be regulated on private property, Captain Barown assured her that all the pilots will be licensed and trained. He also mentioned that Lieutenant Johnson will be monitoring the use of drones. Councilor Cavagnero also asked why this company, and what protocols are in place to ensure the drones aren't being abused. Captain Barown explained that other Police departments have used this company and that Lieutenant Johnson had researched different companies before making the recommendation. He went on to explain that there will be policies and controls in place for Police Department drones. Councilor Maniccia asked if they currently needed a search warrant to use a drone at a house party, Captain Barown explained that he is not sure about the guidelines for use, however, a party wouldn't be something that they would use a drone for, a missing person yes. Councilor Oliver shared that he has the same privacy concerns and that he would prefer to see the standard or policy before voting on this. On a sub-motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted 3/2 with Councilor Ruwet and Councilor Maniccia opposed, to approve the acquisition of two Unmanned Aerial Drones for the Torrington Police Department on the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and to award the bid to Cloud City Drones of Warwick, RI for \$18,079.74, having been previously approved by the Board of Public Safety, pending a receipt of the policies, procedures, and protocols regarding drones.

Services for the Elderly Commission

A. On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Commissioner Dennis Pezze (U) from Alternate to voting commissioner with a term ending July 6, 2025, to replace Commissioner Raymond Aeschilman who has completed his second term.

B. On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment to their second three-year term ending July 6, 2025, for Commissioners Jean McGarrity (D) and Art Mattiello (R).

C. On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously on the recommendation of the Elderly Services Commission to accept the Mayor's appointment of Janet Recidivi (D) to Alternate Commissioner. Councilor Ruwet asked why the parties are listed after each person, Mayor Carbone let her know that any appointments made to a board or commission must have a minority party representation.

Western CT Regional Tourism District Board of Director

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to reappoint Rachel Kelly to the Western CT Regional Tourism District Board of Directors, with a term set to expire on August 31, 2025.

SustainableCT Committee

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to appoint Logan Smith (U) as a member of the SustainableCT ad hoc Sustainability Team.

Inland Wetlands Commission

On a motion by Council Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to reappoint Christine Altman (D) and Tomasz Kalinowski (L) as regular members of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term set to expire September 4, 2025.

Conservation Commission

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to reappoint Christine Altman (D) and Dan McGuinness (D) as regular members of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term set to expire September 2, 2025.

Torrington Housing Authority

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Samuel Marino as Resident Commissioner of the Torrington Housing Authority for a five-year term from August 31, 2022, to August 31, 2027.

FY 21-22 Budget Transfer and Amendment Requests

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the following budget transfer and amendment requests for FY 21-22 as further described in the City Comptroller's letter dated August 15, 2022, pending the Board of Finance approval.

FY 22-23 Budget Transfer and Amendment Requests

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the following budget transfer and amendment requests for FY 22-23 as further described in the City Comptroller's letter dated August 15, 2022, pending the Board of Finance approval. Councilor Cavagnero asked why these transfers are showing up now, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale explained that these requests are for the FY 21-22 to close the year and that the Audit recommended doing transfers at the beginning of the fiscal year going forward.

FY 22-23 Budget Amendments

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the following budget amendments for FY 22-23 as further described in the City Comptroller's letter dated August 15, 2022, pending Board of Finance approval. Mayor Carbone explained that these are the additional \$262,157 in budget cuts needed for the FY 22-23 budget.

WPCA FY 21-22 Budget Transfer Requests

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to authorize the following budget transfer requests for FY 21-22 as further described in the City Comptroller's letter dated August 15, 2022.

WPCA FY 22-23 Budget Transfer Requests

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to authorize the following budget transfer requests for FY 22-23 as further described in the City Comptroller's letter dated August 15, 2022.

Pine Street Reconstruction Project 2022.7 Bid No. PSR 027-080322

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City to award and execute the contract agreement and all construction change orders to J. Iapaluccio, Inc. of Brookfield, CT for \$371,150 with expenditures of up to \$37,150 to be funded from the City of Torrington Pavement Management Program Bond Fund, further explained in the City Engineer's memo dated August 15, 2022. Councilor Cavagnero inquired about the extended patch job that was done on some of the streets in the city, for example in front of the Berkshire, his thought is that the city does fewer streets and does them correctly. City Engineer Paul Kundzins explained that these were temporary fixes and that the street is set to be rebuilt with a new sewer line for next summer.

Payment Authorizations

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to approve the following payments from Fund #490 Sanitary Capital Improvement.

DATE	INVOICE	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
8/22/2022	#0000222199	Wright-Pierce Engineers	\$8,428.86	Pre-Design Study/Report Toro Siphon
8/22/2022	#0000221971	Wright-Pierce Engineers	\$3,287.04	Pre-Design Study/Report Winsted Rd Pre-Design Study/Report Winsted Rd

Sewer Use Lien Release

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to release the sewer use liens in Corporation Counsel's memo of August 15, 2022.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated August 15, 2022.

Business by Department Heads

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by department heads.

Atty. Victor Muschell wanted to recognize his intern Tomasz Kalinowski, for all his hard work and help. He mentioned how he is a quick study. He went on to wish him the best of luck with his continued studies this coming year.

Mayor Carbone also recognized Tomasz Kalinowski for his public service to the City. She mentioned how he developed the Torrington Trails Network Committee as a 13-year-old.

Business by Mayor and Members

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Mayor and Members.

Councilor Cavagnero wanted to reiterate that he would like to see the Drones Policy as soon as possible.

Councilor Ruwet gave an update on the latest Ordinance Subcommittee meeting. She went on to say that FISH is celebrating its 50 years and that they will have a celebration. She also said that the car show was excellent.

Mayor Carbone said that with the car show this past weekend there was a miscommunication regarding having City Hall open for residents to use the restroom. City Hall had been opened and then locked again, so she had reopened City Hall for restroom use.

Public Comment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public for comment on agenda items only.

Ray Bottass spoke about his feelings on Drones.

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Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK