

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, March 4, 2019.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Fred Simon, Gregg Cogswell, Anne Ruwet, Marie Soliani, and Paul Cavagnero.

Also present were Corporation Counsel Atty. Victor Muschell, Director of Personnel and labor Relations Atty. Mark Dumas, Elderly Services Director Joel Sekorski, Economic Development Director Erin Wilson, IT Director Gerry Crowley, Parks and Recreation Director Brett Simmons, Deputy Public Works Director Paul Kundzins, City Treasurer Dan Farley, Police Chief Bill Baldwin, Jr., Sgt. John Maiga, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, and McCall Center for Behavioral Health Prevention Facilitator Andrew Lyon.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 4, 2019. Councilwoman Soliani abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special and Telephonic Meeting held February 20, 2019. Councilman Cavagnero abstained.

MCoY Presentation

Members of the Mayor's Committee on Youth presented on the dangers of vaping and its increasing popularity among Torrington adolescents. They proposed that the City adopt an ordinance to increase the age requirement for purchasing vaping devices to 21. Mr. Lyon provided additional information on research that was conducted at the Middle School and High School.

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Ordinance Committee for further consideration.

Open to the Public

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public wished to speak.

Fuessenich Park Extension Draining Project

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the City Engineer and Deputy Public Works Director to award the contract for "Phase 2" of the Fuessenich Park Extension Drainage Project, as described in Mr. Kundzins memo dated February 21, 2019, to R.R. Hiltbrand Construction, LLC of Bristol, CT for \$112,148, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the award and execution of the contract agreement.

MOW Vehicle Purchase

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Elderly Services Director and Services for the Elderly Commission to waive the City's bid process and authorize the Mayor to purchase two (2) new temperature controlled Hot Shot Meals on Wheels 4X4 delivery vehicles from Delivery Concepts East of Hampstead, NC for a total cost of \$97,622 (including delivery and graphics for both vehicles).

Police Department Infrastructure Project

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Police Captain Wayne Newkirk, the IT Director, and the Purchasing Agent, and authorize the Mayor to award the purchase of the Network Infrastructure Project for the Torrington Police Department to JKS Systems of South Windsor, CT for \$26,788.97, pending approval by the Board of Public Safety on March 6, 2019. Councilors Cogswell and Cavagnero questioned why the bid submitted by the recommended vendor was significantly lower than any of the other bids that were submitted. Mr. Crowley credited the cost variance to differences in the sourcing of materials.

Donation of Property

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the donation of two open space parcels described by the Assessor as Map 219, Block 001, Lot 165 and Map 219, Block 001, Lot 85 from TDF Enterprises LLC to the City of Torrington Conservation Commission. Councilor Simon questioned what the land would be used for, and Mayor Carbone stated that the property would serve as open space.

Municipal Advisory Services

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to appoint Hilltop Securities Inc. as the City’s Municipal Advisor for debt issuance. The Mayor clarified that Hilltop Securities acquired the City’s Advisor of record, Independent Bond and Investment Consultants LLC (IBIC).

Bond Counsel Services

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to retain Atty. Sandra D. Dawson (formerly of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy LLC) as Bond Counsel, and authorize the City’s files and contract for Professional Services to be transferred to Pullman & Comley LLC, of Hartford, CT.

Collective Bargaining Agreement

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Attys. Muschell and Dumas, and approve the three (3) year Fire Local 1567, International Association of Fire Fighters, Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement, as described in Atty. Dumas’s letter dated March 6, 2019.

Fair Housing

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-19-1, publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

Addition of Section B

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to add section B to the agenda.

Section B

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to approve retaining Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank, Inc. (CBLBI) to manage the Torrington Retained Program Income Fund (EPA Revolving Loan Fund) and authorize the Mayor to finalize the Agreement. Ms. Wilson provided a brief background on the EPA Revolving Loan Fund and explained how it could be enhanced. The Board discussed Brownfield Remediation efforts in Torrington.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept Corporation Counsel’s recommendation and authorize the Mayor, pursuant to C.G.S. §12-179, to release the liens described in Atty. Muschell’s memo dated March 4, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 19 tax refunds indicated on the list dated February 19, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 22 tax refunds indicated on the list dated March 4, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 20 sewer usage fee refunds indicated on the list dated March 4, 2019.

Building

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Building Department’s report for January, 2019.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Mr. Farley stated that the bonding process, in regard to the November, 2018 referenda, has begun. Mr. Sekorski stated that he will be testifying in front of the Appropriations Committee at the Capital on behalf of the CT Home Care Program for Elders and announced that an entryway kiosk was installed at the Sullivan Senior Center. Deputy Chief Tripp and Atty. Dumas thanked the Council for approving the Fire Local 1567 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Ms. Wilson thanked the Council for the opportunity to work for the City of Torrington. City Clerk Carol Anderson announced that she was elected to serve as Vice President of the Litchfield County Town Clerks Association.

Comments for the Good of the Order

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider comments for the good of the order by the Mayor and Council Members. The Council thanked Ms. Wilson for her work on behalf of the City and congratulated Mrs. Anderson on her appointment. Mayor Carbone announced that the first Budget Subcommittee meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Office on Monday, March 11, 2019 and commended the Mayor's Committee on Youth for their work on the vaping presentation.

Open to the Public for Agenda Items Only

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public to discuss agenda items only. FF Jeremy Minard thanked the Council for their support of the Fire Department, and for approving the Fire Local 1567 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK