

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Gregg Cogswell, Marie Soliani, Fred Simon, and Anne Ruwet. Councilor Paul Cavagnero was absent. Public Works Director Raymond Drew, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, and Economic Development Director Rista Malanca were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the public hearing held August 19, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held August 19, 2019.

Open to Public

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

Rufus de Rham, Executive Director of the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council, discussed the importance of the Arts to the region and expressed his support for Five Points Center for Visual Arts' use of the former UConn campus.

Power Boothe expressed his support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus and discussed the economic and cultural importance of the Arts.

Julie Fabiaschi expressed her support for Five Points and the Arts in Torrington.

Tom Kandefer expressed his support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus, but presented concerns regarding the portion of the proposed lease agreement titled, "Removal at End of Term."

Barbara Gall expressed her support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus, presented concerns regarding the City's IMAs with Harwinton and Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLS), and requested that the Council rescind its vote from August 19, 2019 to approve the sewer extension to the Harwinton town line at 24 Bumper Road until the Ordinance Committee establishes guidelines for the construction of IMAs.

Rachel D'Ambrosio expressed her concerns regarding IMAs and requested that the City establish guidelines for constructing them.

Vittorio Cristiano expressed his concerns regarding the reconstructed intersection of Highland Avenue and Riverside Avenue.

Debra Brown, Esq. expressed her support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus.

Edwin Socha expressed his support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus.

Pamela Stockamore expressed her support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus.

Suzy Reed spoke on behalf of Bill Haygood and expressed their support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus.

Pamela Bramble expressed her support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus.

Maria Coutant, Executive Director of the McCall Center for Behavioral Health, expressed her support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus.

Ray Bottass expressed his support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus and the Naugatuck River Greenway project. He also expressed his concerns regarding the reconstructed intersection of Highland Avenue and Riverside Avenue, as well as his frustration over the pending IMAs with Harwinton and WLS.

Nicholas Tella expressed his concerns regarding oversight of the Torrington Housing Authority.

Mayoral Appointment

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's appointment of Rachel Kelly as a member of the Western Regional Tourism District's Board of Directors to represent the City of Torrington for a three-year term to expire September 1, 2022.

Public Hearing Scheduled

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 16th, 2019 for the purposes of considering an ordinance to abandon the remaining portion of Casson Avenue.

Acquisition of the Former UConn Campus

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to approve the agreement between the City and Five Points Center for Visual Arts for the purchase of the former UConn campus, and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute the documents necessary to complete the transaction. Councilors Soliani and Ruwet expressed their support for Five Points' use of the former UConn campus.

Easement for the NRG

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed easement for the Naugatuck River Greenway at the property currently owned by Village South Condominium Association, Inc. on Palmer Bridge Street, pending a favorable Section 8-24 review from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilor Rubino requested regular updates on the Naugatuck River Greenway project and requested clarification regarding the location of the greenway and the easement area. Economic Development Director Rista Malanca described the site plans for the greenway and clarified the location of the easement area.

Street Dept. Vehicle Replacement

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Fleet Manager to award Bid #SHT827, for one (1) Half Ton 4x4 Super Cab, to Shaker Family Ford of Watertown, CT, for a total price of \$28,859, with funding through the vehicle replacement account, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration. Councilor Soliani asked how old the vehicle was that was being replaced and Fleet Manager Emil Castro informed her that the vehicle was twelve years old.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, 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 September 3, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 24 tax refunds indicated on the list dated September 3, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the four sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated September 3, 2019.

Building Dept. Report

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department's report for July, 2019

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Public Works Director Ray Drew provided an update regarding the reconstruction of the intersection at Highland Avenue and Riverside Avenue, and informed the Council that the City plans to pull the curb line back approximately four feet. Ms. Malanca updated the Council on the Franklin Street project.

Business by the Mayor and Council Members

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and Council members. Councilors Simon and Soliani expressed their support and congratulations to Five Points. Councilor Simon also thanked Mr. Drew for his update regarding the intersection of Highland Avenue and Riverside Avenue. Councilor Ruwet thanked Mr. Tella for presenting his concerns regarding the Torrington Housing Authority.

Open to Public for Agenda Items Only

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public to discuss agenda items only. No one from the public wished to comment on any of the agenda items.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carol L. Anderson

CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK

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