

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, September 16, 2019. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Gregg Cogswell, Paul Cavagnero, and Anne Ruwet. Councilors Marie Soliani and Fred Simon were absent. Public Works Director Ray Drew, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, Superintendent of Streets Bill Mayers, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, City Treasurer Dan Farley, and City Comptroller Alice Proulx were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Casson Avenue Abandonment

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council discussed abandoning the remaining City-owned portion of Casson Avenue. Councilor Cogswell requested comments from City Staff regarding the proposed abandonment. Mr. Drew stated that the City had not surveyed the area for parking conditions and informed the Council that abandoning the street would result in annual maintenance and rehabilitation cost savings. Councilor Ruwet expressed her support for the proposed abandonment. Councilor Cavagnero expressed his desire to table the vote and Councilor Cogswell requested additional information regarding the impact that abandoning Casson Ave. would have on parking.

Vote Tabled: On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted, with two votes in favor and one opposed, to table to the vote to approve the proposed ordinance to abandon the remaining portion of Casson Ave. Councilor Ruwet opposed and Councilor Rubino abstained.

Ken Faroni of O&G Industries stated that he included a map of the O&G property and Casson Ave. at the time he submitted the request to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held September 3, 2019.

Open to Public

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

Stephen Altshculer, Steven Roy, and Robert Cusati expressed their concerns regarding the anticipated cost of the sewer extension to Homestead Road and Kimball Lane. Mr. Cusati also expressed his frustration regarding the way that the residents of Homestead Road and Kimball Lane were notified about the meeting. Lastly, he requested that the City absorb 50% of the total cost of the project.

Michael Banziruk expressed his concerns regarding the manner by which residents were notified of the vote regarding sewer installations on Homestead Road and Kimball Lane and requested that the vote be tabled.

Rachel D'Ambrosio expressed her concerns regarding the public health risks from failing septic systems and poor water quality on Homestead Road. She urged the Council to help mitigate the cost of the project to be incurred by property owners.

Patricia Ryan expressed her frustrations regarding the anticipated cost of the sewer extension to Homestead Road and Kimball Lane and the insufficient notice that residents were given about the meeting.

Joseph Ramirez expressed his concerns regarding the public health risks from failing septic systems and poor water quality on Homestead Road and requested help from the City to mitigate some of the anticipated costs of the sewer extension.

Karen Fiedorowicz questioned why City water and City sewers would not be installed concurrently on Homestead Road and requested that the projects be completed at the same time to save money on road repair costs.

Anne Roy expressed her concerns regarding the anticipated cost of the sewer extension to Homestead Road and Kimball Lane. She requested that the Council table the vote and look into funding assistance opportunities from the City or the State to help mitigate some of the costs to property owners.

John Williams also expressed his concerns regarding the anticipated cost of the sewer extension to Homestead Road and Kimball Lane.

Deauthorization and Closeout of Bond Projects

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-195, designating the closeout of certain bond projects and reducing the authorized and unissued amounts for such projects

WHEREAS, the projects and purposes set forth on Schedule A below (the "Projects") are hereby determined to be complete, or are no longer intended to be completed, and are, therefore, to be closed out; and

WHEREAS, such closeouts affect the appropriations and authorized/unissued bond amounts of the Projects; and

WHEREAS, Schedule A below sets forth the amounts of reductions of appropriations and bond authorizations (see column labeled “Reduction”) for the Projects; and

WHEREAS, after such reductions are made, the revised appropriation and authorized/unissued bond amount for each Project will be zero dollars (\$0.00).

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
That the Projects set forth on Schedule A below are hereby determined to be complete, or are no longer intended to be completed because of changes in circumstances, and that the appropriations and bond authorizations for the Projects are hereby reduced in the amounts set forth on Schedule A, and that the revised appropriation and authorized/unissued bond amount for each Project is hereby determined to be zero dollars (\$0.00).*

SCHEDULE A

<u>Project</u>	<u>Reduction</u>	<u>Revised Appropriation and Authorized/Unissued Bond Amount</u>
Infrastructure Improvements	\$145,334	\$0
Torrington Elementary School	\$595,941	\$0
City Hall/City Barn	<u>\$1,293,597</u>	\$0
Total	<u>\$2,034,872</u>	

Newfield Road Rehabilitation Contract

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 the Pavement Rehabilitation of Newfield Road project to Asphalt Repair Solutions, Inc. of Oxford, CT for the total amount of \$749,861.99, with funding through the CT DOT (10%), the Federal Highway Administration (80%), and the City of Torrington (10%), and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the award and execution of the contract agreement.

Hornfischer & Benporte Terrace Reconstruction Contract

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 to award the contract for the Hornfischer and Benporte Terrace Reconstruction project to B&W Paving & Landscaping, LLC of Waterford, CT for \$524,385 and up to \$26,219.25 (5%) for contingencies, with funding through the City of Torrington Capital Projects, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the award and execution of the contract agreement. Councilor Cavagnero requested clarification regarding the scope of the project. Mr. Kundzins explained that the project would involve a full reconstruction of both Hornfischer Terrace and Ben-Port Terrace, including the installation of new catch basins.

Street Department Snow Plow

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Fleet Manager and the Purchasing Agent to award the purchase of one (1) hydraulic reversible tip edge snow plow to H.P. Fairfield of Columbia, CT for \$6,249 with funding from 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 Ruwet reported that the purchase was recommended by the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board.

Asphalt Hot Box

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Streets, the Fleet Manager, and the Purchasing Agent to award the purchase of one (1) air jacketed slip-in asphalt hot box to H.P. Fairfield of Columbia, CT for \$14,734 with funding from the vehicle replacement account, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration.

Coe Memorial Budget

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed Coe Memorial budget for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

2019/2020 Budget Modifications

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2019/2020 budget modifications described in the City Comptroller’s memo dated September 10, 2019, pending authorization from the Board of Finance on September 17, 2019.

Section B

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to add Section B to the agenda.

Section B

A) On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the payment of the sum of \$3,483.34 from contingency funds to pay taxes and interest due on the 10/1/2017 (second installment) and 10/1/2018 Grand List in accordance with the terms of the City’s acquisition of 55 Franklin Street (former O’Connor’s parking lot).

B) On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the payment of the sum of \$5,295.89 from contingency funds to pay back taxes and interest due on Kelley Property (Railroad Avenue & 160 Church Street) in accordance with the terms of the City’s acquisition of said property.

C) On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council discussed the recommendation to award the contract for sanitary sewer improvements to Morais Concrete Services, Inc. Mr. Drew provided a brief background on the Homestead Road and Kimball Lane sewer extension project and addressed the public’s concerns that were presented during the public comment portion of the meeting. He reported that the WPCA reexamined the possibility of extending the City’s sanitary sewer system to Homestead Road and Kimball Lane in 2017 when the City received a petition from the residents of Homestead Road. He explained the bid process and clarified that the cost of the project would be \$756,000. He discussed road restoration plans and stated that the Torrington Water Company would not be prepared to extend water services to the area until spring. Mr. Drew also clarified that the cost of constructing new sewer systems has historically been distributed directly to the property owners that benefit from them and noted that there are different methods for assessing benefit. Mayor Carbone explained some of the different options for paying off the cost of the project, including the possibility of annual installments for up to 30 years.

Councilor Ruwet expressed her support for coordinating efforts with the Torrington Water Company to install water and sewer services concurrently. Mr. Drew stated that the homeowners could choose to wait until water services are installed to connect their sewer system and Mayor Carbone expressed her concerns about cost escalation if they decide to wait. Councilor Cogswell questioned whether there might be grant or loan programs available through the State to help reduce some of the costs to homeowners and expressed his interest in tabling the vote to afford all impacted residents an opportunity to voice their concerns. Mr. Drew indicated that the State does not offer grants for the construction of new sewers and informed the Council of the potential consequences of tabling the vote, including losing two weeks of construction time. He also advised that there will need to be another public hearing and vote regarding the benefits assessment for impacted properties. Councilor Cavagnero also expressed his support for tabling the vote and questioned how the waste management and water quality problems on Homestead Road became so severe. Mr. Drew reported that most of the homes on Homestead Road were built in the 1950s. Councilor Ruwet questioned how the project would be financed and Mr. Drew explained that payment installment plans would be placed on the land records for each property. Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding some of the project specifications and Mr. Drew provided additional details and explanations, as requested.

Vote Tabled: On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council herein acting as the WPCA, voted unanimously to table the vote to award the contract agreement for the Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project to Morais Concrete Services, Inc. to the next regular meeting of the City Council and WPCA on October 7, 2019.

Budget Transfers & Amendments

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the transfer and budget amendment requests described in the City Comptroller’s memo dated September 10, 2019, pending authorization from the Board of Finance on September 17, 2019.

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 September 16, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the ten tax refunds indicated on the list dated September 16, 2019.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. City Clerk Carol Anderson informed the Council that she sent them an annual report for the City Clerk's office and requested their feedback.

Business by the Mayor and Council Members

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and Council members. No business was reported.

Open to 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.

Joseph Ramirez expressed his frustration and questioned why the property owners would be responsible for the cost of installing sewers on Homestead Road and Kimball Lane.

Robert Cusati expressed his frustration about the uncertain cost of the sewer extension project on Homestead Road and Kimball Lane.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK