

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, December 16, 2019. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Sharon Waagner, Frank Rubino, Anne Ruwet, Paul Cavagnero and David Oliver.

Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Elderly Services Director Joel Sekorski, City Treasurer Daniel Farley, City Engineer Paul Kundzins and Public Works Director Ray Drew were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approved

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held December 2, 2019.

Open to the Public

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

Raymond Bottass stated that the downtown looked beautiful and expressed his displeasure regarding Rep. Michelle Cook. He also stated his concerns about potholes near the Police Department and the public's lack of attendance at City Council meetings.

Barbara Gall expressed her concerns regarding 24 Bumper Estates in Harwinton and urged the Council not to allow construction of the development.

Mayoral Appointments Approved

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of James Pescatore as a regular member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a five-year term expiring on December 1, 2024.

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Judith Addazio as a regular member of the Coe Memorial Park Committee for the remainder of a five-year term expiring on December 31, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Mark McEachern, Kathleen Renzullo and Lori Chiron as regular members of the Coe Memorial Park Committee for five-year terms expiring on December 31, 2024.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of William Storti as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Commission for the remainder of a three-year term expiring on September 5, 2022.

Public Hearing Rescheduled

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to reschedule the Public Hearing to solicit citizen comments regarding the acceptance and acquisition of Sanitary Sewers on Tognalli Drive to January 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall auditorium.

Assisted Transportation Grant

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Services for the Elderly Commission and authorize the Mayor to be the applicant for the Assisted Transportation Program's DOT Sec. 5310 grant in accordance with the documents provided by Joel Sekorski, Director of Elderly Services, for the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van. Councilor Ruwet requested additional information and Mr. Sekorski explained the DOT Sec. 5310 grant and how it serves the Sullivan Senior Center. Councilor Ruwet remarked that it is a competitive grant and congratulated Mr. Sekorski on his successful application.

DPW Infrastructure Status Report

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to receive an informational update regarding the status of recently completed, ongoing, and near future Department of Public Works infrastructure projects. Mr. Drew and Mr. Kundzins presented the report and addressed the Council's concerns regarding specific projects. Councilors Ruwet and Waagner commended the Public Works Director and City Engineer and expressed their appreciation for the report.

Liens Released

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, 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 December 16, 2019.

Tax Refunds Approved

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 31 tax refunds indicated on the list dated December 16, 2019.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Mr. Sekorski thanked the Department of Public Works for their quick repair of a pothole at the Sullivan Senior Center. Atty. Muschell and City Clerk Carol Anderson wished the Council and those in attendance a Merry Christmas.

Business by the Mayor and Council Members

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and Council members. Councilors Ruwet, Rubino, Waagner and Waldron wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas. Councilor Ruwet expressed her gratitude to the City’s staff and volunteers for their work at Christmas Village. Councilor Waagner commended the library for its community offerings, including story telling programs at Valerie Manor. Mayor Carbone also wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas and commented on a newspaper article which discussed the projected decline in school enrollment through the year 2030. In addition, she presented an invitation to the Board to attend A 2019 Year in Review and Special Announcement Reception hosted by the Greater Torrington Building Healthier Communities Fund Advisory Board on December 18, 2019. Mayor Carbone provided updates on the Franklin Street reconstruction project and sidewalk construction plans for East Main Street and discussed funding opportunities for the City’s “opportunity zones.” The Mayor also remarked that the regional animal shelter facility was in urgent need of repairs and updated the Board on recent discussions with a group of residents from Homestead Road regarding a possible extension of the City’s sewer system.


Open to Public for Agenda Items Only

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Bottass expressed his concerns regarding the upcoming paving and sidewalk construction projects on East Main Street.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK