

CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**REGULAR MEETING****LOCATION: ONLINE/REMOTE****May 18, 2020**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held on Monday, May 18, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, this meeting was held remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Participants included Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Sharon Waagner, Paul Cavagnero and Frank Rubino. Councilwoman Anne Ruwet joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and Councilman David Oliver was absent.

Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, Acting WPCA Administrator Edward Tousey, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous, Public Works Director Raymond Drew, City Clerk Carol Anderson and City Treasurer Daniel Farley also joined the meeting remotely.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes Approved

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 4, 2020.

WPCA Sewer Use Fee

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Board of Councilmen, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted with three votes in favor (Councilors Waldron, Waagner and Rubino) and one opposed (Councilor Cavagnero) to accept the recommendation of the Acting WPCA Administrator and Public Works Director to continue the sewer use fee established on June 3, 2019 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. The Sewer Use Fee established on June 3, 2019 is as follows:

- For Residential Users: \$274.00 per dwelling unit.
- For All Other Users: \$274.00 per 65,000 gallons of volume of flow.

Councilor Waagner asked whether the City's municipal agreements with Harwinton and Litchfield were renewed and Councilor Cavagnero expressed his opposition to setting the rate for non-residents at the same level as Torrington residents. Mr. Drew informed Councilor Waagner that draft agreements were sent to the municipalities but were not finalized.

WPCA Budget

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Board of Councilmen, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously with four votes in favor, to approve the WPCA Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding the projected deficit for the proposed FY 20-21 WPCA budget and Mr. Drew explained that the deficit would be offset by a surplus in the FY 19-20 budget.

WPCA Capital Improvement Program

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Board of Councilmen, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously with four votes in favor, to approve the WPCA Five-Year Capital Improvement Budget/Program for the year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025.

WPCA Miscellaneous Fee Schedule

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Board of Councilmen, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously with four votes in favor, to approve the WPCA Miscellaneous Fee Schedule for the year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

PD Surveillance Camera System Upgrade

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Safer Places consultant Steve Bukoski, Chief William Baldwin, Captain Bart Barown and the Purchasing Agent to award the contract for the Surveillance Camera System upgrade at the Police Department headquarters in the amount of \$94,544.38 to Mammoth Security, Inc., of New Britain, CT and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration; pending approval from the Board of Finance.

Councilor Ruwet joined the meeting.

Small Cities

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council considered business by the Small Cities subcommittee.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Small Cities Project #T018-027 for roof and gutter replacements at 94 Pineridge Road for a maximum amount of \$10,500.

CDBG Cooperation Agreement

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the cooperation agreement between the City of Torrington and Supportive Housing Works regarding the implementation of the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as approved by the Department of Housing.

CDBG Four-Factor Analysis & Language Access Plan

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the four-factor analysis and language access plan for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as it pertains to the Small Cities CDBG program.

Economic Development Planning Services

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Director and the Purchasing Agent to award the contract for on-call Economic Development Planning Consultant services to assist with the creation and implementation of the City's Economic Gardening Strategy for the next three (3) years to Good Earth Advisors, LLC of Avon, CT at a standard hourly rate of \$95 and an hourly rate not to exceed \$250 for attendance at regularly Scheduled EDC Meetings. Mayor Carbone informed the Council that the position would be funded out of the Building Healthier Communities grant and Ms. Malanca explained the important role that the position would have in helping the City's businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

THS Building Project: Agenda Items Tabled

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to table agenda items 11, 12 and 13 pertaining to the proposed THS Building project.

Mayor Carbone explained that the agenda items would need to be tabled in order for the Board of Finance and City Council to meet and schedule a referendum and receive information on the financial impact that the project would have on the City. She proposed that the two boards meet on Thursday, May 21, 2020 to listen to the Board of Education's presentation and take into consideration any legal advice and/or financial analysis provided by Bond Counsel Sandra Dawson and Financial Advisor Bill Lindsay, respectively.

Councilor Waagner questioned whether the City Council could establish an exploratory committee to consider the effects of COVID-19 and the future of education in Torrington. Mayor Carbone conveyed the Board of Education's urgency to submit their application by June 30, 2020 and Councilor Ruwet expressed concern that establishing such a committee might create more division between the City and the Board of Education. Councilor Cavagnero expressed his opposition to the THS Building project and urged the TPS administrators to develop a progressive forward-thinking curriculum first.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, 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 May 18, 2020.

Tax Collector Refunds

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 three tax refunds indicated on the list dated May 18, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the three sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated May 18, 2020.

Building Dept. Report

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Building Department's report for March, 2020.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

City Clerk Carol Anderson reported that the City Clerk's office was equipped with two new technology upgrades including electronic recording of tax and sewer liens and online dog licensing.

Acting WPCA Administrator Edward Tousey thanked the Council for approving the WPCA budget and sewer use fees.

Economic Development Director Rista Malanca provided an update on the City's recovery plan to help businesses reopen.

City Treasurer Daniel Farley commended the Comptroller Alice Proulx for her work on the budgets and the City's application for reimbursement from FEMA.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilor Waldron requested clarification regarding the upcoming meeting schedule and Mayor Carbone stated that she intends to have the joint meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020.

Councilor Waagner commended the Mayor and City officials for their coordination and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.


Councilor Ruwet expressed her frustration regarding the Governor's decision to delay the opening of hair and nail salons two days before their scheduled reopening.

Mayor Carbone urged the Council members to attend the joint meeting with the Board of Finance on May 21, 2020.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK