

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
ONLINE (ZOOM)
September 8, 2020**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority was held in the City Hall auditorium on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. In response to the Governor’s Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, members of the public were able to attend the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Board members and City staff also had the option to join the meeting remotely.

The meeting was attended in-person by Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Anne Ruwet, Frank Rubino, Sharon Waagner and David Oliver. Acting Water Pollution Control Administrator Ed Tousey and City Councilor Paul Cavagnero joined by ZOOM.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 17, 2020.

Business by the Ordinance Subcommittee

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the ordinance subcommittee. Councilor Rubino updated the Council on matters discussed at the ordinance subcommittee meeting which took place earlier in the evening and he reported that the subcommittee unanimously agreed on the recommendation to schedule a public hearing to solicit citizen input regarding an ordinance to establish a veteran’s advisory committee.

Councilor Waagner requested clarification regarding the purpose and reason for establishing a new committee. Mayor Carbone explained that the City is required under C.G.S. § 27-135 to establish a local veteran’s advisory committee or designate a city or town employee to serve as a veteran’s service contact person.

9/21/2020 Public Hearing Scheduled

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a virtual public hearing to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2020 for the purposes of soliciting citizen input regarding the creation of a veteran’s advisory committee.

Mayoral Appointments

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor’s reappointment of Robert Milano to the Torrington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a 5-year term expiring September 1, 2025.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Alexa Keener as a blight hearing officer to fill the remainder of a two-year term expiring on December 31, 2020.

Outside Temporary Counsel

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the hiring of outside temporary counsel to handle assessment appeals resulting from the City’s 10-year revaluation in accordance with Attorney Muschell’s memo dated September 3, 2020. Councilor Waagner commended Atty. Muschell for maintaining a responsible budget.

WPCA Invoice

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to approve the following payments from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement:

DATE	INVOICE	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
9/8/2020		Saltmarsh Industries, Inc.	\$79,861.75	Project Schedule B Homestead pay App #1
7/8/2020	208077	Wright-Pierce	\$13,029.22	CIP D-3A Toro Siphon
8/12/2020	208563	Wright-Pierce	\$2,140.81	CIP D-3A Toro Siphon

Building Dept. Report

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department’s report for the month of July, 2020.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, 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 September 8, 2020.

Atty. Muschell stated that the vote should also include reference to C.G.S. §7-148aa which provides the power to release blight liens. On an amended motion by Councilor Waldron, 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 and 7-148aa, to release the liens described in Atty. Muschell's memo dated September 8, 2020.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated September 8, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council herein acting as the WPCA, voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated September 8, 2020.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Assistant City Clerk Jonathan Draper reported that the City Clerk's Office was preparing to issue an unprecedented amount of absentee ballots for the election on November 3, 2020. Councilor Ruwet expressed her concerns about the security of absentee voting and Mr. Draper discussed the examination and verification of voters' signatures.

Business by Mayor & Members

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the City Council. Councilor Waagner provided an update on the progress being made at the new Five Points campus.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

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

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK