

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM  
ONLINE (ZOOM)  
September 21, 2020**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority was held in the City Hall auditorium on Monday, September 21, 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 Frank Rubino and Sharon Waagner. City Councilors Paul Cavagnero and Drake Waldron joined by ZOOM and Councilwoman Anne Ruwet joined by telephone. Councilman David Oliver was absent. Public Works Director Ray Drew, Fleet Manager Emil Castro and Acting WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey also participated by ZOOM.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll-Call Vote: Ordinance Chapter 197**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously by roll call vote to adopt Ordinance Chapter 197, hereby establishing a veteran's advisory committee, in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes §27-135.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 8, 2020.

**Putter Lane Sanitary Sewer Extension**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to schedule a virtual public hearing on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to solicit citizen input regarding the proposed Putter Lane sanitary sewer extension.

**Hydraulic Spreaders for Public Works Department**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Fleet Manager and Purchasing Agent to award the purchase of two (2) Stainless Steel spreaders to H.P. Fairfield, LLC of Hopkinton, NH for \$15,574.84 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.

**WPCA Invoice Payment**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to approve the following payment from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
9/21/2020	Saltmarsh Industries, Inc.	\$143,880.36	Project Schedule B Homestead pay App #2

**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 and 7-148aa, to release the liens described in Atty. Muschell's memo dated September 21, 2020.

**Tax Collector Refunds**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated September 21, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, 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 21, 2020.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, 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 received over 2,000 applications for absentee ballots since Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

He informed the Council that the City's Selectmen Tim Waldron, Alexa Keener and Atty. Jim Steck volunteered to help to stuff envelopes and he invited the Council members to do the same. Mr. Draper also announced that the City was awarded \$15,993 for Election related expenses from the Center for Tech and Civic Life.

**Business by Mayor & Members**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the City Council.

Councilor Ruwet left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Councilor Cavagnero expressed his concerns about civil disobedience and rioting and suggested enhancing the Torrington Public Schools curriculum to include more civics course requirements. Mayor Carbone expressed agreement and reiterated her interest in arranging a City-wide Summit with the Board of Education. Councilor Waagner also agreed with Councilor Cavagnero's remarks and expressed her support for a City-wide Summit. Councilor Waldron noted that Torrington High School has a Civics course requirement for students and Councilor Cavagnero clarified that he hopes to expand the current curriculum. Councilor Waldron also informed the Council the he would be self-quarantining for fourteen days in response to a positive case of COVID-19 at THS. Mayor Carbone commented that the Torrington Elementary School also had a positive case of COVID-19 and both schools would be closed temporarily. She assured the Council and the public that the school district prepared for school closures and had a plan in place to respond to both situations. Mayor Carbone also reported that Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz encouraged schools to organize mock elections in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election and she updated the Council on a request to paint a "Black Lives Matter" mural on one of the City's municipal parking lots.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK