

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
ONLINE (ZOOM)
October 19, 2020**

Vol. 26, Page 944

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority was held in the City Hall auditorium on Monday, October 19, 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, Acting WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey, IT Director Gerry Crowley and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Anne Ruwet, David Oliver and Sharon Waagner. City Comptroller Alice Proulx, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Brett Simmons, Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, Public Works Director Ray Drew, Red Canary Account Executive Sarah Baker and City Councilors Paul Cavagnero and Drake Waldron joined by ZOOM.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll-Call Vote: Alcohol at Franklin Plaza

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve amending §75-3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Torrington, as described in Atty. Muschell's memo dated September 25, 2020, to allow alcoholic beverages on a limited basis at Franklin Plaza.

Red Canary Cybersecurity Contract

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council considered the IT Director's request to enter into a service contract with Red Canary. Mr. Crowley described the need to strengthen the City's cyber defenses and Red Canary Account Executive Sarah Baker presented an overview of the services that the company provides. Councilor Ruwet questioned why Red Canary was that only company being considered for the contract and Mayor Carbone explained that Red Canary was already working with the City as part of the team that the City's insurance company assembled to respond to the ransomware attack that struck the City's computer systems in August, 2020. Mr. Crowley also noted that some other cyber security solutions were much more expensive. Councilor Cavagnero requested clarification regarding the relationship between Red Canary and Carbon Black and expressed his concerns about privacy. Ms. Baker clarified that Red Canary utilizes the Carbon Black software to detect and respond to emerging threats. She also noted that approximately 40% of the businesses which Red Canary serves are similar in size to Torrington and Mr. Crowley addressed the Councilor's concerns about privacy. Councilor Waagner expressed her support for the contract with Red Canary.

On an amended motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the IT Director's request to waive the City's bid process and enter into a multi-year contract with the managed detection and response provider, Red Canary of Denver, CO from October 30, 2020 through June 29, 2024 for the total amount of \$104,632 to improve the cyber security posture of the City of Torrington against existing and emerging malicious cyber actors. Councilor Rubino abstained.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the public hearing held October 5, 2020. Councilor Oliver abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 5, 2020. Councilor Oliver abstained.

Appointments

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of John Bate, Jr., Jane Bakker and Tomasz Kalinowski as regular members of the Inland Wetlands Commission for three-year terms expiring on September 5, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Atty. Sam Slaiby, Jane Vannini, Candace Barth, Donna Maraia and Michael Sartori as regular members of the Board of Ethics for three-year terms expiring on September 1, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Mark McEachern as a regular member of the Historic Property Commission for a three-year term expiring on July 15, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Zachary Lange as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission for a five-year term expiring on February 9, 2025.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's appointment of Patricia Arciniega as a regular member of the Cultural Affairs Committee to fill the remainder of a four-year term expiring on December 31, 2022.

Business by the Ordinance Subcommittee

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council considered business by the Ordinance subcommittee. Councilor Rubino provided an update on the subcommittee's discussion regarding a possible noise ordinance and requested that all City Council members email their suggestions to Corporation Counsel. Atty. Muschell informed the Council that establishing a noise ordinance would require approval from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and he welcomed feedback from the Council to assist him in preparing a draft.

Budget Transfers & Amendments

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 transfer requests and budget amendments described in the City Comptroller's memo dated October 6, 2020.

2019 & 2020 Bonded Projects

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the financial reports relating to the 2019 and 2020 Bonded Projects. Councilor Rubino requested an update and Mayor Carbone reported on the progress of the City's road repair projects. Councilor Waagner expressed her appreciation for the City Engineer's weekly updates.

Economic Development Presentation Tabled

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to table the presentation and any action regarding Blue Haus Group.

Parks & Recreation Spray Pad

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Superintendent and award Bid # SPB200-092820 – William L. Besse Municipal Spray Pad to Construction Services of New England, from West Simsbury, CT for the total amount of \$409,000 with funding from the Besse Trust and Recreation 200 Account. Parks & Recreation Supt. Brett Simmons described some of the advantages of replacing the wading pool at Elise Besse Park with a new splash pad, including more public use and opportunities for additional revenue through private events. Councilors Waagner and Ruwet commended Mr. Simmons and the Parks & Recreation Commission for their efforts. Mayor Carbone also commended Public Works Director Ray Drew for the dredging of Besse Park Pond.

WPCA Equipment Purchase

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Acting WPCA Administrator, Fleet Manager and Purchasing Agent to waive the City's bid process and award the purchase of one (1) John Deere backhoe 410L through Sourcewell (Formerly NJPA) Contract to W.I. Clark Company, Wallingford, CT for \$138,201.96 and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration. Councilor Ruwet asked why the recommendation was to waive the bid process. Mr. Tousey explained that there would be savings of \$80,000 through Sourcewell. He also noted that the City was familiar with the equipment, which is currently used by the Street Department.

WPCA Invoice Payments

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INVOICE</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
10/2/2020	8200527	Weston & Sampson Engineers	\$1,750

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waldron, 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 October 19, 2020.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated October 19, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, 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 October 19, 2020.

Building Department’s Reports

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department’s reports for August and September, 2020. Mayor Carbone expressed optimism regarding the uptick in permits and revenues that the Building Dept. experienced in September, 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. Parks & Recreation Supt. Brett Simmons provided an update on the annual Trunk-or-Treat event and reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission was working on plans for safely opening Christmas Village and holding the annual “Light Up Main” event. Assistant City Clerk Jonathan Draper reported that the City Clerk’s Office issued nearly 5,000 absentee ballots for the 2020 Presidential Election to date.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilor Ruwet expressed her concerns about Verogy’s proposal to construct a solar farm on East Pearl Road and thanked the Mayor and legislators who sent letters in opposition to the State.

Councilor Rubino urged everyone to get out and vote.

Councilor Waagner asked whether the ballots were removed from the ballot box every day and she commended the Mayor and public safety departments for their work on behalf of the City. Mr. Draper clarified that the ballot drop boxes are emptied multiple times per day, with the exception of weekends.

Councilor Cavagnero requested clarification regarding the duration of the contract with Red Canary and Mayor Carbone explained that there were financial savings from signing up for a four-year contract.

Councilor Waldron commended Mr. Drew on the success of the hazardous waste collection event which took place at the Torrington Middle School on October 10, 2020. He also requested clarification regarding the November City Council meeting schedule and the Mayor clarified that the first meeting of the month would take place on November 9th due to the election on November 3, 2020.

Mayor Carbone reported that Red Technologies was doing site remediation on Franklin Street and informed the Council that there was a meeting of public safety and facilities personnel, the Registrars of Voters staff and the Assistant City Clerk regarding public safety matters pertaining to polling places and the election. She also reported that the City was on target for completion of the Pennrose land lease.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK