

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, June 3, 2019. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Atty. Victor Muschell, and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Paul Cavagnero, Gregg Cogswell, Marie Soliani, and Anne Ruwet. City Councilor Fred Simon was absent. Public Works Director Raymond Drew, City Comptroller Alice Proulx, Treasurer Daniel Farley, Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, and Executive Secretary Maurette Wall were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.

Roll-Call Vote: NAA

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously, with five votes in favor and none opposed, to accept the proposals for participation in the 2019 Neighborhood Assistance Act. Mayor Carbone explained the purpose of the Neighborhood Assistance Act and addressed concerns presented by the public at the Public Hearing. Councilor Ruwet expressed her support for the organizations participating in 2019.

Roll-Call Vote: Sewer User Fee

On an amended motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously, with five votes in favor and none opposed, to accept the recommendation of the WPCA Administrator and set the sewer use fee for the year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 as follows:

- a) For Torrington Residential Users: \$274 per dwelling unit.
- b) For All Other Torrington Users: \$274 per 65,000 gallons of volume of flow.

Atty. Muschell addressed Mr. Banziruk's concerns regarding legal requirements for noticing public hearings and meetings, and informed the Council that the Public Hearing to set the sewer user fee was noticed properly. Councilor Ruwet requested information regarding the fee increase and Mr. Drew explained the factors driving the increase. Councilor Cavagnero requested that the word "Torrington" be inserted into the motion to specify that the fee is for Torrington (residential and other) users only.

WPCA Budget

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to approve the WPCA Budget at a total of \$5,490,286 for the year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Mr. Drew explained some of the proposed increases from the current fiscal year budget and the factors driving those increases. Councilor Cavagnero questioned why there was no requirement to hold a Public Hearing for the WPCA budget and Mayor Carbone explained that the WPCA is supported by the sewer user fee, not taxes. Councilor Cavagnero requested that there be a public hearing for the WPCA budget next year.

WPCA Capital Improvement

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to approve the WPCA Five-Year Capital Improvement Budget for the year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Drew described some of the capital projects scheduled for FY 2019-2020.

WPCA Miscellaneous Fee Schedule

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to approve the WPCA Miscellaneous Fee Schedule for the year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Roll-Call Vote: Ordinance Chapter 194

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously, with five votes in favor and none opposed, to approve amending Chapter 194 of the Code of Ordinances to include a downtown residential and overnight parking permit program.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held May 20, 2019. Councilors Soliani and Ruwet abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 20, 2019. Councilors Soliani and Ruwet abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held May 21, 2019. Councilor Soliani abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Finance held May 21, 2019. Councilor Soliani abstained.

Open to the Public

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public wished to speak.

City Budget

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve and advance the proposed City budget at a total of \$55,600,375 for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 to the Board of Finance. Mayor Carbone explained the changes that were made from the draft budget that the Council previously approved on May 20, 2019. Councilors Ruwet and Cavagnero expressed their concerns about sending the proposed budget, as presented, to the Board of Finance.

Pennrose, LLC

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Mayor and approve the appointment of Pennrose, LLC as the preferred developer for the Franklin Street project and authorize the Mayor to negotiate the terms of the agreement. Ms. Malanca explained why Pennrose was selected and Mayor Carbone explained that the contract would have to be approved by the Council at a later date. Mr. Drew also provided an update on the Franklin Street project.

Miscellaneous Electrical Services and Repairs

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and authorize the Mayor to award the contract for Electrical Services to Mercury Electric, LLC dba The Mercury Group, Stratford, CT for the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 with the hourly rates of \$50/hour for Journeymen and \$45/hour for Apprentice.

Small Cities Invoices

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to approve the following payments from Fund 0273 – Project Expenditures:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>INVOICE/RFQ #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
5/10/19	Leake Builders	TO-HR18-100	\$13,919	Project #TO18-009
5/16/19	Leake Builders	TO-HR18-101	\$17,842	Project #TO18-002
5/16/19	Lisa Low & Assoc.	838	\$10,500	Admin. Costs

Mr. Farley expressed his concerns regarding the lengthy process for issuing payments to Small Cities project contractors and explained the reasons for streamlining the process going forward by eliminating City Council's approval of payments.

Presentation by the Harwinton WPCA

Chairman Dennis E. Baerny of the Harwinton WPCA requested the Council's consideration of a Sewer Extension Request from the Harwinton Town Line on Twenty-Four Bumper Road to the City of Torrington manhole #CE02-109 at the intersection of Perkins Street and Andrews Street. Atty. William J. Tracy explained the request and informed the Council that the connection would support a new elderly housing development on the Harwinton-Torrington town line. Councilor Cavagnero requested additional information from Torrington City staff before referring the matter to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Section 8-24 review. Mr. Drew explained that the role of the Planning and Zoning Commission would only be to make a recommendation as to whether the project complies with the City's plan for conservation and development. He further clarified that only the Torrington WPCA has the authority to schedule a public hearing and vote to approve or reject the sewer extension request.

Harwinton WPCA Sewer Extension Request

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted, with four votes in favor and one opposed, to refer the Harwinton WPCA Sewer Extension request to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Section 8-24 review.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, 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 June 3, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the five tax refunds indicated on the list dated June 3, 2019.

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the four sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated June 3, 2019.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. In response to a request by Councilor Cavagnero at a previous meeting, Mr. Drew reported that the parcel of land on which a new affordable housing development in Goshen would lie is part of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District and would count against WLSD's total build-out.

Comments for the Good of the Order

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to discuss comments for the good of the order by the Mayor and Council members. Councilor Cogswell expressed his disappointment with the portion of the state legislation restricting the sale of tobacco and vaping products to persons age 21 and over which raises the annual licensing fee for retailers to \$200. Councilor Soliani requested to receive regular updates and reports from the City's Department Heads.

Open to Public for Agenda Items Only

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public to discuss agenda items only.

Barbara Gall requested that the City impose a moratorium on future use of the City's sewer system by all outside entities.

Michael Banziruk expressed his concerns regarding the request by the Harwinton WPCA to connect to the City's sewer system.


Ray Bottass expressed his agreement with the comments from the two previous speakers.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK