

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
January 3, 2022**

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) of the City of Torrington was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Anne Ruwet and Paul Cavagnero. Also present was Treasurer Dan Farley, City Planner Martin Connor, Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, Public Works Director Ray Drew, Recycling Coordinator Linda Orr, and Board of Education Building Chair Mario Longobucco. Councilors Armand Maniccia and David Oliver, Comptroller Robin Stanziale, and Interim Fire Chief David Tripp joined via ZOOM.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Carbone took a moment to acknowledge City Planner Martin Connor who is retiring after 22 years.

Public Comment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

Sharon Waagner spoke about the new bulk waste permit. Sharon also said she was excited about the Railroad Square Project but had some reservations on the wording in the resolution.

Tomasz Kalinowski wrote a letter to Council, read into the record by City Clerk Carol Anderson, regarding the Railroad Square Project and the potential for the downtown greenway to cross directly over his driveway.

Inland Wetlands Appt

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's appointment of Alexis Apruzzese as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Commission to fill the remainder of a three-year term to expire September 4, 2023.

Lot Line Revision for THS

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to accept Corporation Counsel's recommendation to transfer two portions of city property between Besse Park and the Torrington High/Middle School property, for zoning setback purposes, as described in Atty. Muschell's memo dated January 3, 2022, regarding a Land Swap.

Councilor Hoehne joined via ZOOM at 6:50 p.m.

Tax Abatement

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to authorize a tax abatement for 104 Main Street, as described in Economic Development Director Malanca's letter dated December 27, 2021. Ms. Malanca stated that The Torrington Downtown Development Corporation is looking to use these funds as working capital to finish the commercial space. Councilor Maniccia wanted to know what year the Tax Abatement is starting.

Resolution #143-225

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-225 as amended, authorizing the Mayor to apply for DECD funding through the Communities Challenge Grant, approve the Railroad Square project described in Economic Development Director Malanca's memo dated December 30, 2021, and approve partnership with three private entities for the project.

Ms. Malanca explained that the grant application would be a Grant Match with Partners, Franklin Products, Naugatuck Railroad, and the Torrington Historical Preservation Trust, to complete the Railroad

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Square Project. The Railroad Square Project is for the improvement or addition to the railroad, greenway trail, Christmas Village, and Skee's Diner. This would be improving the areas around Mason Street, Church Street, John Street, and Water Street by adding additional parking, new sidewalks, updating the current railroad platform, adding a greenway multi-use trail, and updating Christmas Village. She said that \$1.4 million of this project would be coming from existing bonded projects that the City already has. The grant application would be for \$5.6 million, of which, \$56,000 which would be the City's responsibility.

Mayor Carbone reviewed the need for extra parking in the downtown area and expanding the current parking areas. She stated that the Torrington Historical Preservation Society, who owns Skee's Diner, was meeting this Thursday January 6th to review and decide if they would like to be a part of the Grant application. Mayor Carbone stated that they have been looking at costs for the improvements that the City and its partners would be making if the City receives the Grant.

***RESOLVED:** That the Mayor, Elinor Carbone, is authorized to submit an application to the State of Connecticut CT Communities Challenge Grant Program for the Project known as the Revitalization of Railroad Square from Prospect Street to Church Street.*

***IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Mayor, Elinor Carbone, is authorized to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the Board of Councilmen for the City of Torrington any and all documents for the fulfillment of the grant, and is authorized to affix the Corporate Seal.*

***IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Mayor, Elinor Carbone, is authorized to partner with Franklin Products, Naugatuck Railroad, and Torrington Historical Preservation Trust, as required or necessary for the completion of the grant.*

Budget Modifications

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 21/22 Budget Modifications described in the Comptroller's memo dated January 3, 2022, pending authorization from the Board of Finance on January 18, 2022.

ARPA Funds

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to approve Interim Fire Chief Tripp's request to expend \$5800.50 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the printing and mailing of mass notification information by CCM Printing Services. Interim Fire Chief Tripp did a presentation on how to sign up for the new alert system for the City.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the nine tax refunds indicated on the list dated January 3, 2022.

Sewer Use Lien Release

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to release the sewer use liens in Corporation Counsel's memo of January 3, 2022, regarding the Release of Liens.

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Ray Drew, Public Works Director, spoke about the new Bulky Waste Permit. The department is looking to identify individuals who pull permits consistently. Ray reviewed the amount of bulky waste that the City collects annually and how much the City pays for the disposal.

Linda Orr, Recycling Coordinator, was there with Ray to explain her new ideas for Recycling in the City.

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Rista Malanca, Economic Development Director, shared that the Cultural District application has been submitted and that they are in the final steps.

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 members of City Council. There was no business by the Mayor or members of City Council that wished to be discussed.

Public Comment

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one was present who wished to speak.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk*

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK