

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, August 5, 2019. Mayor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Atty. Victor Muschell, and City Councilors Anne Ruwet, Frank Rubino, Paul Cavagnero, Fred Simon, and Marie Soliani were present. Councilor Gregg Cogswell was absent.

Also present were Public Works Director Raymond Drew, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, Torrington Housing Authority Executive Director Claudia Sweeney, WPCA Senior Plant Operator Edward Tousey, Tax Collector Launa Goslee, TaxServ and TTC Representative Roger Blain, Torrington Public Schools Director of Facilities David Bascetta, and Superintendent Susan Lubomski.

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

Certificate of Appreciation

Mayor Carbone presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Fletcher Waldron for his work on the City's Beautification Committee.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 15, 2019.

Open to Public

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

Michael Banzurik expressed concerns regarding the draft IMA with the Woodridge Lake Sewer District.

Barbara Gall expressed concerns regarding IMAs and requested that a moratorium be put in place until the City establishes a formal policy regarding the construction of IMAs.

Glenn Royals expressed concerns regarding the draft IMA with the Woodridge Lake Sewer District.

Janet Stroud expressed concerns regarding her tax assessment and tax bill.

Tom Kandefer expressed concerns regarding the amount of liability insurance included in the proposed lease extension agreement with the Litchfield County BMX Group, Inc. for use of Alvord Park.

Ray Bottass expressed concerns regarding IMAs and the reengineered intersection of Highland Avenue and Riverside Avenue.

Rachel D'ambrosio thanked the Public Works Director for the sewer extension to Homestead Road and expressed her opposition to the draft IMA with the Woodridge Lake Sewer District.

Mayoral Appointments

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's appointment of David Knotowicz as the Resident Commissioner of the Torrington Housing Authority, to fill the remainder of a five year term to expire September 1, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's appointment of Thomas Telman as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, to fill the remainder of a five year term to expire December 1, 2022.

TMS Roof Replacement Project

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-193:

IT WAS RESOLVED that at a referendum held November 6, 2018, voters of the City of Torrington approved the appropriation of \$1,400,000 for roof and window replacements at the Torrington Middle School, whereas \$700,000 of the appropriation would be used for the replacement of a roof and \$700,000 for the replacement of windows, and authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrington, with the Mayor as it's representative, hereby authorizes the Torrington Board of Education or Superintendent to file grant applications with the State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services, for the Torrington Middle School partial roof replacement project.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Torrington Middle School partial roof replacement project building committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the proposed roof replacement at Torrington Middle School, naming David Bascetta, Director of Facilities, as the Building Committee.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrington, with the Mayor as its representative, hereby authorizes, at least, the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Torrington Middle School partial roof replacement project at Torrington Middle School, 200 Middle School Drive, Torrington, CT 06790.

Addition of Section B

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to add Section B to the agenda.

Section B

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-194:

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 32-763 (for Municipal Brownfield Grant Program) and under PA 15-193, Sec. 3&4 (State-owned and Formerly State-owned Brownfield Properties Program), the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Torrington make an application to the State for \$300,000 in order to undertake Phase 2 of the remediation project at the former stone container facility at 200 Litchfield Street and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Board of Councilmen of the City of Torrington that it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S. Sec. 32-763 (for Municipal Brownfield Grant Program) and under PA 15-193, Sec. 3&4 (State-owned and Formerly State-owned Brownfield Properties Program).

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the City of Torrington in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 is hereby approved and that Mayor Elinor C. Carbone is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the City of Torrington.

Councilor Cavagnero questioned whether \$300,000 would cover the complete cost of phase two of the project. Mayor Carbone clarified that \$100,000 would be expended to complete asbestos remediation inside the building and the remaining \$200,000 would cover the cost of the assessment work on the grounds around the building at 200 Litchfield Street.

WPCA Invoice

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

DATE	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
7/11/19	Weston & Sampson Eng.	\$12,000	Homestead Road Sewer Design

Public Hearing Scheduled

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 2019, to solicit citizen input regarding a sewer extension request by the Harwinton WPCA.

Councilor Cavagnero questioned how the public would be made aware of the public hearing. Mayor Carbone explained that the information would be posted on the City’s website and that there would be a newspaper publication.

FY 2020 Public Works Projects

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Soliani, the Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Director to waive the City’s bid process and accept the State and Regional Bids for Public Works projects and materials for the fiscal year 2020, as detailed in the memorandum dated July 15, 2019. Councilor Rubino abstained.

Vehicle Immobilization Program

Tax Collector Launa Goslee and TaxServ Representative Roger Blain presented information regarding a vehicle immobilization program to collect delinquent car taxes. The Council expressed their concerns regarding the program. Councilor Cavagnero suggested advancing the discussion to the Ordinance subcommittee for further consideration. Ms. Goslee explained that state law grants the Tax Collector the authority to implement a vehicle immobilization program, and stated that an ordinance would not be necessary.

BMX Lease Extension

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and authorize the Mayor to sign an extension of the lease agreement with the Litchfield County BMX Group, Inc. for use of Alvord Park through May 31, 2024, under the same terms and conditions outlined in the current lease, at the rate of \$1.00 per year.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, 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 August 5, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the seven tax refunds indicated on the list dated August 5, 2019.

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Asst. City Clerk Jonathan Draper informed the Council and the public about the City Council Meeting Guide that was developed by City Clerk Carol Anderson to serve as a resource for the public to learn about what's going on in the City, voice their concerns, and see their elected officials in action.

Business by the Mayor and Council Members

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

Councilor Cavagnero expressed his concerns regarding mismanagement of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District and suggested establishing an ad hoc citizens' oversight committee to monitor the pending sewer extension project.

Item Added to the Agenda: Citizens' Oversight Committee

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted to add an item to the agenda, for the purpose of creating a citizens' oversight committee related to the Woodridge Lake Sewer District sewer extension project. Councilors Cavagnero, Simon, and Soliani voted in favor. Councilors Ruwet and Rubino opposed.

Motion to Establish a Citizens' Oversight Committee

Councilor Cavagnero made a motion to establish an ad hoc citizens' oversight committee to monitor the progress of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District sewer extension project, to be chaired by Glenn Royals, with a membership consisting of no more than five, and no less than three Torrington community members.

The Council discussed the role and authority of the proposed citizens' oversight committee. Councilor Cavagnero described his vision for the committee and Councilor Ruwet expressed her concerns regarding a lack of specificity as to the function that the committee would serve.

Vote Tabled

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted to table any action regarding the establishment of a citizens' oversight committee for the Woodridge Lake Sewer District sewer extension project, with four votes in favor and one (Councilor Cavagnero) opposed.

Councilor Cavagnero also requested an update regarding recent violent and unexplained deaths in Torrington. Mayor Carbone stated that she would ask Chief Baldwin to give a report at an upcoming meeting.

Councilor Simon expressed his concerns regarding the reengineered intersection of Highland Avenue and Riverside Avenue. Mr. Kundzins explained why the intersection was designed the way that it was.

Councilor Ruwet congratulated P.A.L. for hosting a successful "Twisted Lobster Fest" and commended Fletcher Waldron and Patricia Fairchild for their service to the City on the Beautification Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission, respectively.

Councilor Rubino commended the City Engineer on the redesign of West Hill Road and requested an update from the Public Works Director regarding the Water Pollution Control facility upgrade project. Mr. Drew reported that the project was on schedule. Councilor Rubino also requested an update on the animal shelter facility upgrade project, and Mayor Carbone reported that she would be meeting with the First Selectmen of Goshen and Litchfield on August 8, 2019 to discuss the next steps.

Mayor Carbone updated the Council on recent developments regarding new businesses and a surge of interest in developing the downtown area. She also commended to Police Department for their community policing.

Open to Public for Agenda Items Only

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

Edwin Socha expressed support for implementing a vehicle immobilization program and suggested also going after individuals who register their vehicles in other states.

Glenn Royals questioned whether Torrington companies would be excluded from the selection process for public works projects in fiscal year 2020 as a result of the Council's decision to waive the City's bid process, in favor of preapproved State and Regional bids. Councilor Rubino clarified that any Torrington-based company could be considered if they qualify through the State Department of Administrative Services.

Mr. Royals also expressed his concerns regarding the intersection of Highland Avenue and Riverside Avenue.

Barbara Gall expressed her support in favor of establishing a citizens' oversight committee for the pending Woodridge Lake Sewer District sewer extension project and stated her disappointment that the Council did not move to establish a moratorium against IMAs.

Executive Session #1

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 8:40 p.m., pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-200(6)(E), 1-210(b)(1), and 1-210(b)(24), to discuss draft terms of agreement with Pennrose, LLC for the development of the Franklin Street project. They were joined by Atty. Muschell and Mr. Drew.

Open Session

On a motion by Councilor Soliani, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 9:30 p.m.

Executive Session #2

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 9:31 p.m., pursuant to C.G.S. §§1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(1), to discuss draft terms for an intermunicipal agreement with the Harwinton WPCA. They were joined by Atty. Muschell and Mr. Drew.

Open Session

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 9:49 p.m.

Executive Session #3

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 9:50 p.m., pursuant to C.G.S. §§1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(1), to discuss draft terms for an intermunicipal agreement with the Litchfield WPCA. They were joined by Atty. Muschell and Mr. Drew.

Open Session

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 9:51 p.m.

Executive Session #4

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 9:51 p.m., pursuant to C.G.S. §§1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(1), to discuss draft terms for an intermunicipal agreement with the Woodridge Lake Sewer District. They were joined by Atty. Muschell and Mr. Drew.

Open Session

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 10:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

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

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK