

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**  
**City Hall Auditorium**  
**February 18, 2020**

**Vol. 26, Page 875**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Sharon Waagner, Anne Ruwet and David Oliver. Councilors Frank Rubino and Paul Cavagnero were absent.

Also present were Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, Public Works Director Ray Drew.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Minutes Approved**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 3, 2020. Councilors Ruwet and Oliver abstained.

**Open to the Public**

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

Rachel D'Ambrosio asked that the WPCA and City Council extend support to the taxpayers and lifelong residents of Homestead Road and Kimball Lane, through the use of benefit assessment.

Chief David Maccalous of the Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department requested additional funding for the two volunteer departments during the upcoming budget cycle.

Glenn Royals spoke in favor of additional funding for the two volunteer departments during the upcoming budget cycle.

Nicholas Tella offered statistics on the Board of Education's expenditures, revenues, staffing and enrollment comparing them to years past, and to statistics at the state level. He said he'd rather see funding go to the volunteer fire departments than to the Board of Education, and he urged the city to stay strong regarding the Board of Education budget.

Eric Adams expressed his opposition to the installation of sewers on Homestead Road and Kimball Lane because he has already paid for upgrades to his septic system.

Raymond Bottass said he felt bad for the residents of Homestead Lane and Kimball Lane, that he hopes the street paving will be done soon, that the Celebrate Suffrage 100 press release looked pretty good, and that the overdose statistics are high for the City of Torrington.

Kaitlin Adams said the imposition of unneeded sewers on her property is unfair and unjust.

John Rusckowski noted that the deferred benefit assessment cannot apply to land zoned for businesses, industry or commercial development.

Tom Kandefer questioned the connection fee waiver for Homestead Rd. and Kimball Ln., as sewer use fees and connection fees are a source of revenue, and it should be fair to the whole town. He encouraged the WPCA to review that benefit assessment calculation very closely.

Glenn Royals asked for a cost comparison between volunteer firefighters and paid firefighters. He wondered how many paid firefighters started out and trained as a volunteer.

**M.I.R.A. Statement of Interest**

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council and WPCA considered a "Non-Binding Informational Statement of Interest" between the City of Torrington and Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA).

Mr. Thomas Kirk presented information on MIRA's infrastructure redevelopment and its long-term impact on the Connecticut Solid Waste System (CSWS). He said the current MIRA facility is suffering poor availability and

### **M.I.R.A. Statement of Interest continued**

capacity utilization due to deferred maintenance and insufficient capital renewal and replacement. The facility needs a \$330,000,000 capital investment to bring it back to 85% capacity utilization and 90% availability. Mr. Kirk said MIRA is committed to continuing uninterrupted service through the expiration of the current agreement expiring in 2027 and asked if the WPCA would complete a survey or “Non-Binding Statement of Interest.”

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the City Council voted unanimously to accept a conceptual agreement at \$95/ton, rejecting the conceptual rate of \$145/ton.

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the City Council voted unanimously to accept a conceptual 30-year waste commitment with no opt-out provisions.

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the City Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to execute a “Non-Binding Informational Statement of Interest” between the City of Torrington and MIRA.

### **Peck Road Reconstruction Project**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to award and administer the Peck Road Reconstruction Contract to B & W Paving & Landscaping of Waterford, CT for the amount of \*\$498,539.70, with quantity fluctuation and contingencies of up to \$49,850, funded by LoCIP and the WPCA.

### **Purchase Total Station Survey Equipment**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to award and execute the purchase of a Robotic Total Station & Survey Grade GPS Receive System from Waypoint Technology Group LLC of Albany, NY for the amount of \$48,063.33, funded by the city’s Pavement Management Program Bond Fund.

### **Diesel Fuel, #2 Fuel Oil, Gasoline Contract**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Purchasing Agent to enter into the following 3 contracts, if the prices are no greater than 10% over the bid price as presented on February 18, 2020.

- a. Diesel Fuel from Dime Oil Company of Waterbury, CT.  $\$1.8495 + .0031 \text{ tax} = \$1.8526$  per gallon or an estimated annual cost of \$104,857.16
- b. Gasoline from East River Energy of Guilford, CT.  $\$1.6483 + .1482 \text{ fees} = \$1.7966$  per gallon or an estimated annual cost of \$213,789.65
- c. #2 Fuel Oil from Dime Oil Company of Waterbury, CT  $\$2.0399 + .0051 \text{ taxes} = \$2.0450$  per gallon or an estimated annual cost of \$36,196.50

### **Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to approve the following payments:

DATE	CONTRACTOR	INVOICE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
12/16/19	Wright-Pierce	204500	\$6,943.67	CIP D-9 Harris Drive PS Design
2/8/20	Wright-Pierce	204793	\$11,566.02	CIP D-9 Harris Drive PS Design

### **Homestead Road and Kimball Lane Sanitary Sewers**

The City Council, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, discussed the petition request from the residents of Homestead Road and Kimball Lane to rebid the Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project, and to consider the provisions for calculating the Benefit Assessment as outlined in Letter dated January 9, 2020. Mayor Carbone added that this neighborhood has a desperate need for infrastructure that provides safe, healthy homes.

### **Homestead Road and Kimball Lane Sanitary Sewers contineued**

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the City Council, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to authorize the re-bidding of the "Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project" as currently designed.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the City Council, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to adopt the following guidelines for establishing the Benefit Assessment upon project completion.

- a. Benefit Assessment be based on a total of 34 lots (21 currently Developed, 1 currently undeveloped, 12 potential lots)
- b. Repayment Installment plan of maximum of 20 years at 2% interest
- c. The Capacity Reserve Fee (i.e. Connection Fee) be waived for the 21 currently developed lots

### **Release of Liens**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, 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 February 18, 2020. Mayor Carbone explained that one was for a sewer use lien and the other was a blight lien. She said the Blight Task Force has been doing a good job, and that compliance, not profit, is always the goal.

### **Schedule Public Hearing, Comm. Devel. Block Grant**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, March 16th, 2020 at 6:30 pm to discuss the Fiscal Year 2020 -2021 Community Development Block Grant program and to solicit citizen input.

### **Waive Bid Process for Parking Meters**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to waive the City's bid process and approve the purchase of parking meters from sole-source vendor 'Take A Powder, Inc. DBA Meter Products, Co., Inc.' in the sum of \$14,535, as presented in quote #129. This was previously approved by the Board of Public Safety on February 5, 2020 and discussed by the Board of Finance on February 18, 2020. (no approval necessary)

### **Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. No business was presented.

### **Business by the Mayor and Council Members**

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

Councilor Waagner commended Chief Maccalous for his efforts on behalf of Drakeville VFD, and commended the Mayor for her efforts on behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee.

Councilor Ruwet offered her support of an increase to the Drakeville VFD stipend, saying they are an added value to the community, saving the city recruitment costs. She complimented the Homestead Road and Kimball Lane community for their efforts at compromise.

Councilor Oliver agreed with Councilor Ruwet saying it's wonderful when a community comes together for the common good, and that he supports the increase for Drakeville VFD as well.

Mayor Carbone also agreed that Chief Maccalous did a great job. She said she heard that the next Bond Commission has an agenda item for Brownfields funding. Mayor Carbone said she intends to apply for cleanup monies regarding some of the mill sites we have. She announced that additional assessment funds have been approved for Franklin St.

**Open to Public for Agenda Items Only**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public for agenda items only.

Stephen Altschuler said he and his wife have pledged \$1150 to the Drakeville VFD.

Nicholas Tella questioned the expense of \$14,000 in parking meters which might eventually be replaced. He offered traffic and parking budget statistics, which the Mayor clarified.

Rachel D'Ambrosio thanked the Mayor and City Council for their concern, support, and the decision made tonight.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK