

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING 6:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
March 21, 2022**

Approved by City Council & WPCA
April 4, 2022
Vote: Unanimous

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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, March 21, 2022. Attendance was by Zoom and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Councilors Armand Maniccia, Anne Ruwet, Keri Hoehne, Paul Cavagnero, and Drake Waldron. Also present at City Hall were Public Works Director Ray Drew, Recycling Coordinator Linda Orr, Board of Education Building Chair Mario Longobucco, and Board of Education Building Chair Ed Arum. Councilor David Oliver joined via Zoom.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

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

Ed Arum, Torrington Resident, Building Committee Cochair, is in favor of a skate park, just a different location for it.

Fiona Cappabianca expressed her concerns regarding the location of the skate park and was confused about the article that was run in the Register Citizen regarding the skate park and the facts that were shared.

Susan Depretis, Torrington Resident, shared that she is in favor of relocating the skate park and leaving the volleyball courts alone.

Jessica Richardson, Torrington Resident, is in favor of leaving the volleyball court alone and relocating the skate park.

Mario Longobucco, Torrington Resident, Building Committee Cochair, is frustrated with the back and forth between the Building Committee and Park and Rec., he would like to see Council have an opinion on the location of the skate park and share that with the Park and Recreation Commission.

Rick DallaValle, Torrington Resident, is in favor of the skate park location. He also shared that he thinks the Board of Education should supply the kids with a volleyball court if they don't want to lose it. He stated that he is concerned for the safety of the skaters at the park as well as the students at the high school.

Casey McKenna, Torrington Resident, Park & Recreation Commission, and Building Committee clarified facts surrounding the skate park. He shared that he had spoken with 10-12 kids in the skate park, and they said that they would like more supervision.

Marlene Carrier, Torrington Resident, is in favor of keeping the skate park as kids need a place to belong to the community.

Tom Kandafer, Torrington Resident, spoke about the MIRA contract and is in favor of staying with MIRA for another year.

Approve Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted to accept the meeting minutes from March 7, 2022. Councilor Hoehne abstained from the vote.

Discussion on City Parks

Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell gave some background on the Trust that was established in the early 1920s. The City Charter states that the control of the Elise Besse Park is ultimately under the control of the Park and Recreation Commission. Councilor Cavagnero stated that he isn't looking to start a turf war with Council, Park and Rec., or any other Boards. He said that he is in favor of the skate park, however, with the new school being built, he wants it to be a showpiece for the town. He mentioned that the 180-million-dollar school will be the centerpiece to attract newcomers to Torrington. Councilor Hoehne mentioned that she had issues locating minutes for Park and Rec. and that the agenda for every meeting was the same, with no detail as to what was being discussed. She also shared her concerns about the skate park location and the fact that the City would be losing the volleyball court. Councilor Waldron stated that he was one of the original Council members who were against the skate park location when it was being built. He said that he had watched it go downhill over 16 years, without proper supervision. Councilor Ruwet stated that she trusts the Park and Recreation Commission members and their judgment and will support their decision. Councilor Oliver shared that he doesn't disagree with anything anyone has said so far. He thinks that the City should listen to the citizens in the community and find a new location for the skate park. He doesn't want to see the City lose the volleyball court or the skate park and thinks that it's important for kids to be outside. Councilor

Maniccia said that it would be a good idea to have a more expansive skate park. Mayor Carbone stated that the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for April 6th and that they will be discussing the skate park at that time.

MIRA Contract

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and exercise our Opt-Out option as detailed in Section 3.2e of our current agreement with MIRA and authorize the Mayor to negotiate a successor contract with USA Hauling and Recycling for both Collection Services and MSW/Recyclable processing services for the period FY 2023 – FY 2027. Public Works Director Ray Drew went over the current contract with MIRA, and the charges that would occur if the City stayed with MIRA. USA Hauling offered the City two different options for a contract for Collection Services and MSW/Recyclable processing, which he went over in detail for the Council. He went on to say that if they opted out of the MIRA contract and went with USA Hauling the City would save roughly \$154,000 on average.

Pality Contract

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Pality for data collection and town analytics to be used for marketing, business attraction, etc. Funding will be coming from the Building Healthier Communities Grant Fund set aside for market data collection. Councilor Cavagnero asked if the results will be public information, the Mayor stated that it would be. She went on to explain that Pality uses graphs and dashboards to compare towns and communities of similar size.

Land Use Board and Commission Appointments

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Donovan Reilly as a regular member on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Diane Carroll as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

On a motion by Councilor Hoehne, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's appointment of Ken Edwards as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Steven Ivain as a new member of the Conservation Commission.

Winsted Road Force Main Payment Authorization

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously as the Water Pollution Control Authority to approve payment from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement to Wright-Pierce Engineers, of Boston, MA for \$17,578.96, for Project Initiation, Subsurface Data Collection, and Geotechnical Evaluation.

Fair Housing

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to accept Fair Housing Resolution #143-227 and Fair Housing Policy Statement dated March 21, 2022. See addendum.

Review ARPA Survey Results

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to move this item to the April 4th agenda for City Council.

Building Department Report

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department Report from February 2022.

Sewer Use Lien Release

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to release the sewer use liens in Corporation Counsel's memo of March 21, 2022.

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Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated March 21, 2022.

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Recycling Coordinator Linda Orr mentioned that she had been in contact with different vendors to see about various recycling programs for the City.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilor Ruwet spoke about the Governor's visit to Torrington and how grateful she is for the Torrington Small Business Community.

Mayor Carbone gave an update on FEMA reviewing the Capital Projects. The final review of the Audit is in the process right now. She went on to talk about the grant projects that have been funded by the State, she mentioned that Torrington is favored with grant applications because of the City's success rate. She spoke about the Blight Fund and the fact that they are in the process of selling a foreclosed house. She mentioned providing an update of the court proceedings for the Yankee Pedlar at the next meeting.

Public Comment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, 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 Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Carol L Anderson

Addendum:

City Of Torrington



ELINOR CARBONE
Mayor

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FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION CITY OF TORRINGTON

Resolution #143-227

- Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and
- Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- Whereas, The City of Torrington is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, That the City of Torrington hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Torrington or her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the City of Torrington and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Adopted by the City of Torrington on March 21, 2022

Elinor Carbone, Mayor

Town Seal

