

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, April 4, 2022. 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. Councilor David Oliver was absent. Also present at City Hall were Public Works Director Ray Drew, Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, Superintendent of Streets and Parks Bill Mayer, Interim Fire Chief David Tripp, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Brett Simmons, and Facilities Manager Jamie Sykora.

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

Presentation: Teen Center Roof Donation

Mayor Carbone shared that JP Carroll Roofing will be donating a roof to the Torrington Teen Center. Public Works Director Ray Drew introduced David Melaragno and Jack Carroll to the City Council. David shared that he grew up in Torrington and that he wanted to give back to the City. He also said that the teens are the future of Torrington and that he wanted to set them up for a future of success by providing a safe space for them to go after school. Jack Carroll of JP Carroll Roofing said that this was the first time that the company has ever done this for a community. He also mentioned that all the materials for the project were donated by GAF Corporation.

ARPA Strategic Plan Discussion

Economic Development Director Rista Malanca presented a proposal for use of the Fiscal Recovery Funds. She reminded everyone that Torrington will be receiving \$10,074,000. The Final Rule for the use of the funds went into effect on April 1, 2022. This rule clarifies questions within the interim rule and provides additional information for guidance on the use of the funds. She noted that the biggest change in the Final Rule versus the Interim Rule was the loss of revenue, a city or town can elect to take a standard allowance of up to \$10 million or complete a full revenue calculation. The ARPA Committee is recommending that the city take the \$10 million for the benefits of streamlined reporting. Ms. Malanca went over different recommendations based on the survey results to the City Council.

Mayor Carbone stated that this spending plan is to give high-level guidance on where to focus the funds. Every expense associated with these funds would come back to Council for approval on a case-by-case basis. She reiterated that the ARPA Funds must be appropriated by December 31, 2024, and be spent by December 31, 2026.

Councilor Hoehne asked about the Façade funds, Ms. Malanca explained that they received a grant for Building Healthier Communities, and within that grant, there was \$150,000 for Façade improvements. Councilor Hoehne also asked why the Franklin Street project which was originally \$125,000 had gone up. Ms. Malanca further explained that she had since gotten a formal proposal from the company which covered all the costs and that the city knew about the \$50,000 worth of topsoil needed to complete the project.

Councilor Ruwet wondered what happened to the stipend for City Employees that was asked in the survey, Ms. Malanca explained that 55% of the respondents said no and that it is not a recommendation for the ARPA funds.

Councilor Cavagnero asked multiple questions regarding the spending plan and the ARPA funds budget, which had updated numbers. All his questions were answered by Rista Malanca Economic Development Director, Jaime Sykora Facilities Director, and Mayor Carbone.

Public Comment

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

Kevin Hayes shared his opinion on the ongoing sidewalk projects and the ARPA fund usage.

Ian MacDonald spoke about the soccer fields and their lack of preparation before games.

Laurene Pesce asked for further explanation about the funds that were already allocated to the Board of Education from the ARPA Funds.

Approve Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 21, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting held on March 31, 2022. Councilor Cavagnero abstained.

Schedule Public Hearing

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, on the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing on May 2, 2022, to consider changes to the City's Code of Ordinances regarding Smoking.

ARPA Standard Allowance

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to elect the "Standard Allowance" of lost revenues, \$10 million, of American Rescue Plan funding as allowed in the Treasury's Final Rule, which allows for streamlined reporting.

ARPA Strategic Spending Plan

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Strategic Spending Plan framework as presented on April 4, 2022, and authorize the Mayor to administer the spending plan after Council approval of each final fund designation on a case by case basis.

ARPA Funds for Coe Park

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to reimburse the Coe Memorial Trust \$36,000 for expenses associated with opening the Civic Center for Charlotte Hungerford Hospital's temporary medical clinic at Coe Park Civic Center, which increased access to medical care, testing, and vaccinations in downtown Torrington.

ARPA Fund for Franklin Street

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to approve \$226,500 to finalize Brownfield remediation at 100 Franklin Street, of which \$176,500 is to GZA GEO Environmental Services, Inc. of Glastonbury to be used for the work described on the proposal dated February 16, 2022, and \$50,000 is to be used to purchase 667 yards of topsoil for an environmental control cap, per DEEP permit #12444.

Vehicle Replacement Budget

On the recommendation of the Vehicle Replacement Committee, on a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed Vehicle Replacement Budget for FY 2022/2023.

Sewer Use Lien Release

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to release the sewer use liens in Corporation Counsel's memo of April 4, 2022, regarding the Release of Liens.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, 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 April 4, 2022.

Add to Agenda

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to add an item to the agenda regarding the use of contingency funds for permitting software training.

In-Person Training for Permitting Software

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the use of \$8,240 in Contingency Funds for in-person training for city personnel on permitting software from Central Square, pending Board of Finance approval on April 19, 2022.

Sewer Usage Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated April 4, 2022.

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilor Hoehne asked about the Parks & Recreation Department and the Youth Leagues' future plans. Ray Drew, Public Works Director, and Bill Mayer, Superintendent of Streets and Parks, addressed her concerns and spoke about their solutions.

Public Comment

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

Laurene Pesce wanted to know how difficult the Central Square application will be for the public to use.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK