

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, May 16, 2022. Present at the City Hall auditorium were Mayor Carbone, Police Chief William Baldwin, Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey, Building Committee Chair Edward Arum, City Councilors Keri Hoehne, Armand Maniccia, and Paul Cavagnero. Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Attorney Jaime LaMere, Public Works Director Ray Drew, and Councilors Drake Waldron and David Oliver joined via Zoom. Councilor Anne Ruwet was absent.

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

**Public Comment**

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

Ray Bottass shared his thoughts regarding the road conditions in town.

Stephen Ivain shared his concerns regarding the Drug Recognition Expert that the Police Department must hire.

**Approve Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Public Hearing meeting minutes from May 2, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes from May 2, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Hoehne, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted to accept the Joint meeting minutes with the Board of Public Safety from May 9, 2022. Councilor Cavagnero abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia the Council voted to accept the Special Budget meeting minutes from May 9, 2022. Councilor Cavagnero abstained.

**Drug Recognition Expert**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Personnel Director to enter into an MOU between the City and Police Union Local 442, regarding the use of Drug Recognition Experts as per CGS PA 21-1 Section 119. Chief Baldwin explained that the Drug Recognition Expert Program that the State has enacted is to get Officers trained to recognize people driving under the influence of narcotics and or alcohol. Right now, all the Officers are going through advanced field sobriety test training. DREs can test individuals for being under the influence of other drugs, including alcohol. The goal for Torrington is to have three to five certified DREs. Any fatal or serious motor vehicle accident is required to have a DRE report to the scene. Torrington currently has one DRE, if they are not available the City can reach out to other local agencies to assist in the investigation. Councilor Maniccia asked what the goal was for the Police Department with the DRE, Chief Baldwin said that he would like the DRE assigned to the accident investigation team. Councilor Hoehne asked how many serious or fatal accidents Torrington had last year, Chief Baldwin didn't have an exact number but said about five or six, but year over year they are increasing. Councilor Cavagnero asked if the DRE is in response to the State legalizing recreational marijuana, Chief Baldwin said that the DRE does have the ability to test for other narcotics and not just blood alcohol content. Chief Baldwin went on to explain that the DRE test takes 2-6 hours to administer. Councilor Oliver asked if we are seeing an uptick in arrests due to under the influence of marijuana, Chief Baldwin said at this point not yet. Councilor Hoehne asked Atty. LaMere if she was part of the contract negotiations and if it was like what other towns are doing with their DREs. Attorney LaMere said that this type of contract is normal.

**NAA Public Hearing**

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. to review, discuss and solicit citizen input regarding proposals for participation in the 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

**Sewer User Fee**

On a motion by Councilor Hoehne, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a subsequent Public Hearing, herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority on June 6, 2022, to set the Sewer User Fee for the period from July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. Councilor Cavagnero wanted to know how they were defining all other users on the fee schedule, WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey explained that these are commercial accounts.

**Food Truck Ordinance**

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee, and schedule a subsequent Public Hearing on June 6, 2022.

**Out of State Motor Vehicle Ordinance**

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee, and schedule a subsequent Public Hearing on June 6, 2022.

**Resolution #143-229**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted 3 to 2, with Councilor Hoehne and Councilor Cavagnero opposed, in favor of adopting Resolution #143-229 for a \$500,000 Urban Action Bond, for 100 Franklin St, Torrington Riverfront (Pennrose). Councilor Cavagnero expressed his opposition to this taxpayer-funded grant for a for-profit business. Councilor Hoehne agreed with what Councilor Cavagnero said, and also asked if the City had put any additional requirements on Pennrose that they needed to apply for this grant. Economic Director Rista Malanca stated that the city did not and that the main reason for the grant was cost escalation due to COVID. Ms. Malanca went on to explain that this puts a lien on the Pennrose property for 35 years, which ensures that they continue to provide the high-quality building that had been promised. See addendum 1.

**Resolution #143-230**

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-230 for a \$1,000,000 Brownfield Remediation grant for 245 E. Elm St, Vinny's Restaurant. Mayor Carbone explained that this is the first time in all the Brownfield Grants where the state is looking for matching funds or security interest. Once the remediation is complete the security funds will be released back to the company. Economic Director Rista Malanca explained further that the state is looking for this because they want to make sure that after the remediation is done that the property doesn't just sit there, they want to ensure that it gets developed. Ms. Malanca said that the owner's plans for Vinny's are to open a banquet facility. See addendum 2.

**Independent Code Review**

On an amended motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Torrington High School Building Committee, to approve the services of Versteeg Associates of Torrington, CT to be the consultant for Torrington's Independent Code Review for the Middle/High School/Central Administration Construction Project, for a lump sum of \$46,500, contingent on Board of Education approval.

**Traver Invoice Payment Authorizations**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to approve the following payments to Traver IDC, Inc. of Waterbury CT from Fund #491 WPCA Infrastructure Upgrade. Councilor Cavagnero asked why they were broken into separate payments and wanted to know if this project was complete. WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey explained that this project is completed and that the invoices came in separately for the work done.

DATE	INVOICE	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
5/3/2022	S31544	Traver IDC.	\$5,969.12	VFD work on the Sludge Mixing blower #1
5/3/2022	S31551	Traver IDC.	\$8,451.00	VFD work on the Sludge Mixing blower #1
5/3/2022	S31552	Traver IDC.	\$7,938.00	VFD work on the Sludge Mixing blower #2
5/3/2022	S31550	Traver IDC.	\$5,934.56	VFD work on the Sludge Mixing blower #2

**Payment Authorizations**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to approve the following payments from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement.

DATE	INVOICE	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
5/11/2022	#1267	Yield Industries	\$7,490.00	New Manhole Donahue Place
5/11/2022	#20373	Wright Pierce Engineering	\$2,731.07	Toro Rd Siphon Abandonment

**ARPA - funded Community Grants Advisory Committee**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to approve the ARPA-funded Community Grants Advisory Committee's recommendations for the grant application scoring matrix.

**Sewer Use Lien Release**

On a motion by Councilor Hoehne, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to release the sewer use liens in Corporation Counsel's memo of May 16, 2022.

**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 May 16, 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 May 16, 2022.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by department heads.

Police Chief Baldwin shared that this week is Police Memorial Week and that they will remember officers that died in the line of duty at a Memorial Service on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Post Academy. He went on to say that there has been a lot of vandalism of vehicles in the City and said that if you see something suspicious, report it.

**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 the City Council.

Mayor Carbone asked for everyone to observe a moment of silence for the passing of former Mayor Delia Donne.

**Public Comment**

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

Ray Bottass expressed his thanks to Torrington Police and Fire Departments for all that they do for the City.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

  
CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK

Addendum 1:

Resolution #143-229

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
(AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)  
**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

I, Carol Anderson, City Clerk certify that below is a true and correct copy of a  
(Name of Official) (Title of Official)  
resolution duly adopted by City of Torrington  
(Name of the Applicant)  
at a meeting of its City Council  
(Governing Body)  
duly convened on May 16, 2022 and which has not been rescinded or  
modified in  
(Meeting Date)  
any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.

May 17, 2022  
(Date)

Carol L. Anderson, City Clerk  
(Signature and Title of Official)

SEAL

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 4-66 ( c ) Urban Action Bonds  
(State Statutory Reference)  
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  
(Applicant)  
\$ 500,000 in order to undertake the Torrington Riverfront  
(Name and Phase of Project)  
and to execute an Assistance Agreement.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE  
City Council  
(Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by 4-66 ( c ) Urban Action Bonds  
(State Statutory Reference)
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by City of Torrington  
(Applicant)  
in an amount not to exceed \$ 500,000 is hereby approved and that

Revised 07/29/09

Elinor Carbone, Mayor

(Title and Name of Authorized Official)

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

(Name of Applicant)

Addendum 2:

Resolution # 143-230

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
(AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)  
**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

I, Carol Anderson, City Clerk certify that below is a true and correct copy of a  
(Name of Official) (Title of Official)

resolution duly adopted by City of Torrington  
(Name of the Applicant)

at a meeting of its City Council  
(Governing Body)

duly convened on May 16, 2022 and which has not been rescinded or modified in  
(Meeting Date)

any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.

May 17, 2022  
(Date)

Carol L Anderson, City Clerk  
(Signature and Title of Official)

SEAL

WHEREAS, pursuant to 32-763

(State Statutory Reference)

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  
(Applicant)

\$ 1,000,000 in order to undertake the Vinny's Restaurant  
(Name and Phase of Project)  
and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE

City Council  
(Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by  
32-763  
(State Statutory Reference)

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by  
City of Torrington  
(Applicant)  
in an amount not to exceed \$ 1,000,000 is hereby approved and that

Revised 07/29/09

Mayor, Elinor Carbone

(Title and Name of Authorized Official)

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  
City of Torrington

(Name of Applicant)