

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council & WPC Authority was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, May 20, 2019. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, and City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Gregg Cogswell, Fred Simon, and Frank Rubino. City Councilors Anne Ruwet and Marie Soliani were absent. Public Works Director Raymond Drew, Comptroller Alice Proulx, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper, Treasurer Daniel Farley, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, and Traffic Division Officer Steven Pisarski were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

Tabled: Ordinance Chapter 194

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to table the vote on the proposed changes to City Ordinance Chapter 194.

Mayor Carbone explained that downtown property owners want to develop their 2nd and 3rd floors for residential purposes, but are limited due to insufficient parking. Councilor Cogswell expressed his support for revising City Ordinance Chapter 194 to include the adoption of a residential and overnight parking permit program, but requested more time to consider additional changes that were presented at the Public Hearing. Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding the parking permit fees and Officer Pisarski explained that the fees would be used to maintain the parking lots.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held May 6, 2019.

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the special joint meeting with the Board of Public Safety held May 6, 2019.

Open to the Public

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

Ray Bottass expressed his concerns regarding Woodridge Lake Sewer District and stated his opposition to raising taxes.

City Budget: Discussion

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council discussed the proposed City budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Mayor Carbone summarized and explained the factors leading to the proposed budget increases for Real Estate, Land Fill (solid waste disposal), Bond Redemption, Pensions and Benefits, and the Planning & Zoning, IT, Animal Control, Engineering, Streets, and Parks Departments. Councilor Cavagnero requested clarification regarding Fire Department capital and solid waste disposal fees. Ms. Proulx and Mr. Drew provided additional information as requested. Councilor Cogswell expressed his concerns about the City's mill rate and economic growth. Councilor Cavagnero expressed his disappointment regarding the Board of Education.

City Budget: Advanced to Board of Finance

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to forward the current draft of the proposed City budget, as presented, at a total of \$55,226,380 for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, to the Board of Finance.

WPCA Invoices

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to approve the following payments from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement:

DATE	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
2/28/19	Wright-Pierce	\$3,828.17	CIP D-14 CMOM
4/17/19	Wright-Pierce	\$3,697.22	CIP D-14 CMOM

Public Hearing: Scheduled

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for June 3, 2019, immediately following the NAA Public Hearing scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM, to set the Sewer User Fee for the period from July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Plow Truck Refurbishment

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Fleet Manager and the Purchasing Agent to refurbish Plow Truck #37 and authorize the Mayor to award the contract for the refurbishment to A&E Auto Body Services, Inc. of Wolcott, CT, including the additional purchase of the dump body from Universal Body and Equipment of Oakville, CT for a total project cost of \$41,617 with funding through the Vehicle Replacement account; pending approval from the Board of Finance on May 21, 2019.

PD Budget Amendment

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2018/2019 budget amendments to fund required Police training, as described in Chief Baldwin's Request for Transfer dated February 28, 2019; pending authorization from the Board of Finance on May 21, 2019.

HVAC Services

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Purchasing Agent's recommendation and authorize the City to extend the HVAC Service contract with Air Temp Mechanical Services, Inc. of Southington, CT for FY 2019/2020, as described in Pennie Zucco's memo dated May 16, 2019.

Small Cities Invoice

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to approve the following payment from Fund #250 – Program Income:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REQ. #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
5/15/19	Hearst Media Services CT	\$478.08	TO-HRRL-124	Register Citizen

Financial Audit Services

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and authorize the Mayor to award the contract for Financial Audit Services to Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C., of West Hartford, CT for the next three (3) fiscal years for the contracted amounts of \$64,000, \$65,000, and \$66,000 respectively, pending approval from the Board of Finance on May 21, 2019.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, 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 May 20, 2019.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the 18 tax refunds indicated on the list dated May 20, 2019.

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the seven sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated May 20, 2019.

Add to Agenda

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to add the following item to the agenda:

Copier Lease

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to consolidate the City's outstanding copier leases into a single lease, as described in Gerry Crowley's Memo dated May 20, 2019.

Building

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department's report for April, 2019.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Treasurer Farley updated the Council on the recent bond sale.

Comments for the Good of the Order

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to discuss comments for the good of the order by the Mayor and Council members. Councilor Cavagnero requested information from Mr. Drew regarding how a new affordable housing development in Goshen might impact Torrington's sewer system. Councilor Cogswell expressed his satisfaction with the recent bond sale and reported that the CT House of Representatives passed a bill that would prohibit the sale of tobacco and vaping products to anyone under the age of 21. Councilor Simon expressed his gratitude to Blight Enforcement Officer Ashley Clement for resolving a complaint that he received from a concerned citizen. Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding the recent bond sale and Mayor Carbone provided additional information. Mayor Carbone also stated that despite receiving a positive S&P report rating, the City's bond rating did not increase because of the high mill rate and economic condition. Mr. Drew added that the first round of road work will begin on East Main Street and Highland Avenue in June, and Mayor Carbone updated the Council on progress being made with the Franklin Street project.

Open to Public for Agenda Items Only

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

Ray Bottass expressed additional concerns regarding a new housing development in Goshen. Mayor Carbone informed Mr. Bottass that comments shall be in regard to agenda items only.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

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

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK