

A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** of the City Council and Board of Finance was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, May 21, 2018.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone, City Councilors Marie Soliani, Frank Rubino, Paul Cavagnero, and Gregg Cogswell, and Board of Finance members Christopher Anderson, Laurene Pesce, Mark Bushka, Josh Ferreira, Lance Boynton, and Jenna Reichen. Councilman Fred Simon and Councilwoman Anne Ruwet were absent.

Also present were City Treasurer Dan Farley, Comptroller Alice Proulx, Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Brett Simmons, Acting Deputy Police Chief Wayne Newkirk, Fire Chief Peter Towey, and Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION AND REVIEW**

Mayor Carbone presented the level four amendments to the FY 2018/2019 City budget and stated that the current proposed budget reflects a 3.52% increase over the previous year's budget. She discussed several leading factors causing the budget increase, including a need to restore funds to Capital accounts, and asked the Boards to consider bonding as a possible option to support critical Capital improvement projects.

Councilman Rubino asked whether the City received revenue projections for FY 2018/2019 and Mayor Carbone stated that they were provided exclusive of tax revenue.

Councilman Rubino asked the Board of Finance for its thoughts on the impact of the current FY 2018/2019 proposed City budget in regard to revenue versus expenses. Mr. Ferreira stated that based on current projections, he would anticipate an increase of 4 mills, but clarified that the budget is still a work in progress.

Councilman Cavagnero expressed his concerns regarding Torrington's public education system and stated that the current education system is a major deterrent that steers families away from moving to Torrington. He stated that he is not comfortable moving a budget forward that does not advance the public education system forward. Mr. Boynton stated that he shares some of the same concerns as Councilman Cavagnero.

On a motion by Councilman Cogswell, seconded by Councilman Rubino, the Council voted to approve the City budget at \$53,670,965.00 with three votes in favor and one opposed (Councilman Cavagnero).

Councilman Cogswell stated that the focus of the City Council needs to be on economic growth. He clarified that his vote is to move the process forward but he does not want the mill rate to increase. Councilman Rubino and Councilwoman Soliani agreed.

Mrs. Pesce requested a description of how a 0% budget increase would impact the City and stated that a higher mill rate would be detrimental to attracting businesses to Torrington.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilwoman Soliani, seconded by Councilman Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk*

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK