

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
AND BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
December 5, 2022**

Approved by City Council & WPCA
December 19, 2022
Vote: Unanimous

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A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and the Board of Finance of the City of Torrington was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, December 5, 2022. Present at the City Hall auditorium were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Councilors Drake Waldron, and Anne Ruwet, and Board of Finance members Chris Beyus, James Wright, Laurene Pesce, Deborah Iannacito, and Christopher Anderson. Also present at City Hall were Public Works Director Ray Drew, Acting Fire Chief Dave Tripp, Tax Collector Launa Goslee, Deputy Public Works Director – City Engineer Paul Kundzins, Treasurer Dan Farley, Facilities Director Jamie Sykora, and Building Committee Co-Chair Ed Arum. Councilors David Oliver and Paul Cavagnero joined via Zoom. Also joining via Zoom were Comptroller Robin Stanziale, and Director of Information Technology Gerry Crowley. Councilors Keri Hoehne, Armand Maniccia, and Board of Finance Member Mark Buska were absent.

Mayor Carbone opened the evening ceremony at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing-In-Ceremony for the Registrar of Voters

Heather Abraham Assistant City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Debra Whitten, the Democratic Registrar of Voters.

Donna Isely Justice of the Peace administered the Oath of Office to Fred Jury, the Republican Registrar of Voters.

Mayor Carbone concluded the ceremony at 6:35 p.m.

Mayor Carbone called the Special Joint Meeting of the City Council & WPCA and the Board of Finance to order at 6:36 p.m.

Presentation by the City Tax Collector

City Tax Collector Launa Goslee gave a presentation to the Boards regarding the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022. Ms. Goslee highlighted the improvements that the Tax Office has made since the pandemic began, for instance, upgrading to internet-based phones. These phones, she explained, allow the office to be fully remote if necessary because they can receive calls, faxes, and payments anywhere. She went on to say that overall, with accepting internet payments, for which taxpayers paid over \$11.8 million, collections for the FY 21/22 were 100.41% of budgeted amounts. Ms. Goslee said that the office is continually updating the website for taxpayers' convenience and that they have increased contact with the assessor's office related to helping taxpayers with any issues they might be having. She mentioned that due to the increase in customer service areas, taxpayer complaints are down from the past several years.

Councilor Ruwet stated that she is in favor of privatizing tax collecting and that the website is very user-friendly.

Mayor Carbone told the City Council and the Board of Finance that the contract for the Torrington Tax Collector is up in May and that they will be considering extending it for another 4 years.

Conclusion

This meeting was concluded at 6:54 p.m. and Mayor Carbone moved the Boards into the next joint meeting.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK