

A **REGULAR MEETING** was held by the Ordinance subcommittee of the City Council & WPC Authority on Monday, August 20, 2018 at the City Hall Auditorium.

Present were Chairman Gregg Cogswell, Councilman Paul Cavagnero, and Councilwoman Anne Ruwet. Director of Personnel and Labor Relations, Atty. Mark Dumas was also present.

Chairman Cogswell called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilman Cavagnero, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 2, 2018.

Public Comment

Michael Banziruk expressed his concerns regarding the Torrington Code of Ordinances Chapter 170 – Sewers. He requested for the WPCA to have separate meetings for the sole purpose of discussing the Sewers ordinance and stated that there needs to be a separate section added to the ordinance pertaining strictly to non-resident users. He also suggested incorporating the Massachusetts IMA “Best Practices” document into the ordinance.

Discussion: Ordinance Chapter 170 – Sewers

Councilman Cavagnero stated that he hopes to establish the framework for an ordinance to set sewer use fees for non-residents. He expressed his concerns regarding non-resident users taking up the system’s reserve capacity and stated that formulas should be established to assess the value of their use of each system component, and to include risk factors. Councilwoman Ruwet suggested having WPC Administrator Ray Drew review and recommend changes to the ordinance.

Atty. Dumas informed the committee that the Torrington WPCA is not permitted by state and federal law to charge a different rate for residents from another town. He cited C.G.S §7-255 and stated that if the WPCA wanted to charge users a different rate based on their jurisdiction, the state statute would have to change. He also discussed the advantages and drawbacks of a Regional WPCA. Councilwoman Ruwet asked Atty. Dumas if he believes anything should be revised in Chapter 170 of the City’s Code of Ordinances and he stated that the ordinance is sufficient as is.

Councilman Cavagnero requested to have the Massachusetts IMA “Best Practices” document incorporated into the ordinance and Atty. Dumas stated that the document would not be binding, nor practical, as the WPCA could choose to disregard it. Chairman Cogswell requested that Atty. Dumas meet with Ray Drew in advance of the next Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss how best to incorporate pieces of the document into the City’s Sewers Ordinance.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilman Cavagnero, seconded by Councilwoman Ruwet, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK