

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA  
REGULAR MEETING  
ONLINE (ZOOM)  
July 20, 2020**

**Vol. 26, Page 923**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority was held on Monday, July 20, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, this meeting was held remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Participants included Mayor Elinor Carbone and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Sharon Waagner, Anne Ruwet, David Oliver and Frank Rubino. The meeting was also joined by City Clerk Carol Anderson, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Public Works Director Ray Drew, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, City Comptroller Alice Proulx, TPD Lt. Brett Johnson, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Brett Simmons, Fleet Manager Emil Castro and United States Solar Corporation Manager Peter Schmitt.

Councilor Paul Cavagnero was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote: US Solar Lease & Solar Easement**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously, with five votes in favor, to authorize the Mayor to enter into a lease option, lease and solar easement with the US Solar Corporation for the landfill property.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the public hearings held July 6, 2020. Councilor Oliver abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 6, 2020. Councilor Oliver abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meeting held July 16, 2020.

**Appointments**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Tim Waldron to the Torrington Area Health District for a three-year term expiring January 9, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's appointment of Gordon W. Lyde and Rachel MaGruder to fill existing vacancies on the Cultural Affairs Committee for four-year terms expiring December 31, 2022.

**WPCA Invoice**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council herein acting as the WPCA voted unanimously to approve the payment of \$3,500 from Fund #490 - Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement - to Weston & Sampson for engineering services pertaining to Homestead Road (Invoice #7200017).

**2020/2021 Public Works Bid Process**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Public Works Director's request to waive the City's bid process and accept the State, Regional and National bids for Public Works projects and materials for fiscal year 2021 based on the contracts included in Mr. Drew's memo dated July 15, 2020. Councilor Rubino abstained.

**Status Report: Infrastructure Improvements**

Public Works Director Ray Drew presented an update on the City's Public Works infrastructure projects and invited the Council members to share their questions and comments regarding the report. Councilors Rubino and Waagner expressed their appreciation for the report.

**Budget Transfers & Amendments**

*Closeout Small Inactive Funds:* On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the transfers described in the City Comptroller's memo dated June 30, 2020 to close out small inactive funds, pending authorization from the Board of Finance.

*FY 2019/2020 Transfers & Amendments:* On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 transfers and budget amendments described in the City Comptroller's memo dated June 30, 2020, pending authorization from the Board of Finance.

*FY 2020/2021 Transfers & Amendments:* On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 transfers and budget amendments described in the City Comptroller's memo dated July 16, 2020, pending authorization from the Board of Finance.

**2020/2021 Vehicle Replacement Plan**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council discussed the 2020/2021 Vehicle Replacement Plan. Councilor Ruwet expressed her support for the plan and the vehicle replacement policies and processes. Mayor Carbone informed the Council that the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board (VRAB) recommended moving the replacement of a Planning and Zoning vehicle for \$28,000 to the following fiscal year.

On an amended motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the 2020/2021 Vehicle Replacement Plan at a total of \$361,000 to reflect the reduction of \$28,000 for the Planning & Zoning vehicle. Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding the unpaid balance for the vehicle replacement account and Mayor Carbone stated that the VRAB recommended a contribution of \$400,000 toward the account. Comptroller Alice Proulx provided additional clarification regarding funding for the vehicle replacement account and the Mayor expressed her gratitude to the VRAB.

**Contract Award: Crime Van**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve Chief Baldwin's request to purchase a new Crime Van for the Torrington Police Department from MHQ for the total amount of \$283,029.50 and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration; pending approval by the Board of Finance. Councilors Ruwet and Waagner expressed their support for the purchase.

**Release of Liens**

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waldron, 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 July 20, 2020.

**Building Dept. Report**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department's monthly report for June, 2020.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. No business was reported.


**Business by Mayor & Members**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and member of the City Council. Councilor Ruwet suggested that the City apply for a technology grant to support City staff working remotely. She also expressed her satisfaction with the rally in support of local police departments, which took place at Coe Park on July 18, 2020. Mayor Carbone provided an update on the Continuity of Operations Plan and informed the Council that the meetings would continue to function by ZOOM for the foreseeable future.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK