

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
ONLINE (ZOOM)
November 16, 2020**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority was held in the City Hall auditorium on Monday, November 16, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, members of the public were able to attend the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Board members and City staff also had the option to join the meeting remotely.

The meeting was attended in-person by Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Comptroller Alice Proulx and City Councilor Frank Rubino. Torrington Public Schools Superintendent Susan Lubomski and Facilities Director John Barlow and City Councilors Anne Ruwet, Sharon Waagner, David Oliver and Drake Waldron joined by ZOOM. Councilor Paul Cavagnero was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 9, 2020. Councilor Oliver abstained.

Appointments

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Michael Thomas, Mary Janco and Dennis Bailey as regular members of the Veteran's Advisory Committee for two-year terms expiring on October 1, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Roger Geiger, Robert Koplak and Donald MacLeod as regular members of the Veteran's Advisory Committee for three-year terms expiring on October 1, 2023.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's appointment of Richard Dalla Valle and Linas K. Venclauskas as regular members of the Veteran's Advisory Committee for four-year terms expiring on October 1, 2024.

Budget Amendments & Transfers

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the transfers and budget amendment requests described in the City Comptroller's memo dated November 10, 2020; pending authorization from the Board of Finance.

TMS Window Replacement Project

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following Resolution #143-207:

IT WAS RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrington with the Mayor as it's representative, hereby authorizes the Torrington Board of Education or Superintendent to file a grant application with the State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services, for the Torrington Middle School Window Replacement Project.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Torrington Middle School Window Replacement Project building committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the proposed window replacement at Torrington Middle School, naming John Barlow, Director of Facilities, as the Building Committee.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrington, with the Mayor as its representative, hereby authorizes at least, the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Torrington Middle School Window Replacement Project at Torrington Middle School, 200 Middle School Drive, Torrington, CT 06790.

Councilor Ruwet questioned why a building committee was necessary and Facilities Director John Barlow explained that it was a requirement for the grant application.

Blight Lien - 117 Water Street

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the request by J-R Laliberte to remove the remaining \$40,000 of the blight lien for the property at 117 Water Street. Councilor Waldron requested additional information regarding Mr. Laliberte's request and the Mayor clarified that the goal of blight enforcement was to gain compliance, not revenue. The Mayor commended Mr. Laliberte on his extensive renovation of the property.

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, 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 November 16, 2020.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated November 16, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council herein acting as the WPCA, voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated November 16, 2020.

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Business by Mayor & Members

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the City Council.

Councilor Waagner wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving. She also requested information regarding the types of programs that could receive funding through the Building Healthier Communities grant. Mayor Carbone explained that a budget was submitted with the City's grant application and she addressed Councilor Waagner's concerns about Operation Overflow, explaining that a site was selected and grant funding was identified through the Draper Foundation Fund.

Councilor Ruwet expressed her concerns regarding an alert message that was sent from the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Peter Towey regarding COVID-19 and Mayor Carbone explained that the message was sent at the request of the State. Councilor Ruwet also commended Alice Proulx for her years of service as the City's Comptroller.

Mayor Carbone provided an update on the City's Christmas festivities, including the Light Up Main event and Christmas Village. She also stated that she would follow up with updates regarding Operation Overflow.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK