

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM  
ONLINE (ZOOM)  
December 7, 2020**

**Vol. 26, Page 954**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority was held in the City Hall auditorium on Monday, December 7, 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 and City Councilor Frank Rubino, Anne Ruwet and Sharon Waagner. Fire Chief Peter Towy, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Acting WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey, Torrington Area Youth Service Bureau Executive Director Cathy Ohm and City Councilors David Oliver, Paul Cavagnero and Drake Waldron joined by ZOOM.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 16, 2020.

**Appointments**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to table the appointment of Rista Malanca to the Northwest CT Transit District's Board of Directors.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Timothy Waldron, Alexa Keener and Atty. James Steck as blight hearing officers for two-year terms expiring on December 31, 2022.

**Torrington Youth Service Bureau**

Mayor Carbone introduced Cathy Ohm to talk about the Torrington Area Youth Service Bureau and present her request for funding. Ms. Ohm describe some of the programs that the TYSB provides and requested that funding be restored to the FY 2018/2019 funding level. Mayor Carbone provided some background information, explaining that the budget cut to the TYSB occurred in the FY 2019/2020 budget cycle when oversight of the TYSB shifted to the YMCA. She noted that the TYSB was level-funded for FY 2020/2021 and the Mayor further clarified that the TYSB was seeking municipal funding in order to continue receiving funds from the State of Connecticut Department of Children & Families (DCF). Ms. Ohm explained that the surrounding towns of Burlington and Harwinton contributed \$1,800 and the City of Torrington would need to allocate an additional \$16,515 in order for the TYSB to continue receiving State funding.

The Council discussed the potential reallocation of funds and Councilors Ruwet and Cavagnero requested additional information. Councilor Ruwet asked if the DCF grant was a multi-year grant and Ms. Ohm noted that the grant gets awarded annually as long as the requirement for municipal funding is met. Councilor Waagner expressed her support for restoring funding to the TYSB and Councilor Ruwet asked if the restoration of funds would require Board of Finance approval. Mayor Carbone confirmed that Board of Finance approval would be needed to reallocate the funds from the Contingency line item. Councilor Ruwet made a motion to approve the reallocation of \$16,515 from the Contingency fund to the TYSB line item for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and Councilor Waagner seconded the motion. Councilor Cavagnero requested clarification regarding the relationship between the TYSB and the YMCA and asked how long the TYSB had been in operation. Ms. Ohm explained that the TYSB, which has been in operation for 37 years, was the social services arm of the YMCA and receives fiscal oversight from the YMCA. Councilor Cavagnero expressed his support

**Funding Allocation Approved:** On an amended motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the reallocation of \$16,515 from the Contingency fund to the TYSB line item for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, pending authorization from the Board of Finance.

**Fireground Mobile Repeater System Implementation Contract**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Fire Chief’s request to waive the City’s bid process and utilize the State of Connecticut contracts with Motorola (Master Contract #A-99-001) and NorcomCT (Contract #19PSX0088) to complete the initial implementation phase of the Fireground Mobile Repeater System project for the total cost of \$45,000.01 to be paid for with funding from the Fire Department Capital Reserve account.

Chief Towe explained the urgent need to improve the TFD’s communications systems and stated that he intends to continue seeking alternative funding sources to help the City transition its emergency radio system to the Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network. Mayor Carbone also informed the Council that the contracts for the initial implementation phase of the Fireground Mobile Repeater System project were already approved by the Board of Public Safety.

**Police Department Ammunition Contract**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Police Department’s request to waive the City’s bid process and utilize the State of Connecticut contract with Eagle Point Gun of Thorofare, NJ (Contract #19PSX0220) for ammunition for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024 for the estimated total cost of \$24,500.

**WPCA Truck Refurbishing Contract**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council herein acting as the WPCA, voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the WPCA Acting Administrator, Purchasing Agent and Fleet Manager to reward the lowest responsive bid from Ron’s Automotive Center Inc., 22 Thomaston Road, Litchfield, Connecticut 06759 for \$12,890 to refurbish the utility body of a 2011 Ford F-350 for the Water Pollution Control Department and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration.

**WPCA Invoices**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council herein acting as the WPCA, voted unanimously to approve the following payments from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INVOICE</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
11/16/2020	0000209053	Wright Pierce	\$5,192.76
12/07/2020	Application A #1	Saltmarsh Ind.	\$52,137.43
12/07/2020	Application B #5	Saltmarsh Ind.	\$30,666.00

**Business by the Ordinance Subcommittee**

Councilor Rubino reported that the Ordinance subcommittee met and agreed to continue its discussion and consideration of a possible noise ordinance.

**Release of Liens**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, 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 December 7, 2020.

**Tax Collector Refunds**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated December 7, 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 December 7, 2020.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Chief Towey and Chief Baldwin thanked the Council for supporting their respective departments and Chief Baldwin also thanked Glenn Royals, the north end community and Mike Zaharek for their support and donations with respect to the annual tree lighting ceremony which took place in front of the Police Department.

**Business by Mayor & Members**

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

Councilor Waagner requested regular updates on any progress being made with Blue Haus Group and asked for a report on the Building Healthier Communities grant. Mayor Carbone stated that the Economic Development Director Rista Malanca would report on the Building Healthier Communities grant at the next City Council meeting.

Councilor Rubino thanked Atty. Muschell for assisting the Ordinance subcommittee in the development of a noise ordinance.

Councilor Ruwet expressed her satisfaction with the Christmas holiday events that took place Downtown and she commended the Mayor and Ms. Malanca for their work with respect to Franklin Plaza.

Mayor Carbone thanked the volunteers on the Christmas Committee for getting Torrington's Downtown ready for the holidays, commented on the success of the decorative vintage storefronts, called for recommendations for appointments to the Board of Ethics, reported that the homeless shelter was fully operational and commended the United Way and Owen Quinn for their efforts to get the shelter up-and-running.

**Executive Session**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to enter Executive Session, pursuant to C.G.S. §§1-200(6)(B) and 1-200(9)(C), to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to potential litigation at 7:21 p.m. Atty. Muschell was also invited into the Executive Session.

**Open Session**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 8:35 p.m.

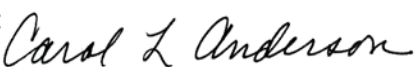
**Outside Temporary Counsel**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve retaining Attorney Kevin Nelligan to represent the City relative to blighted properties.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK