

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA  
REGULAR MEETING  
ONLINE (ZOOM)  
February 1, 2021**

**Vol. 26, Page 966**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) was held on Monday, February 1, 2021. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, Board members and the public were able to attend the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. The meeting was attended by Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Treasurer Daniel Farley, Comptroller Alice Proulx, City Planner Martin Connor, Assistant City Planner Jeremy Leifert, IT Director Gerry Crowley, Fire Chief Peter Towey, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Fleet Manager Emil Castro, Public Works Director Raymond Drew, Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, Torrington Area Health District Director of Health Robert Rubbo, Blue Haus Group founder Tim Moore and City Councilors Frank Rubino, Sharon Waagner, Paul Cavagnero, Drake Waldron and Anne Ruwet. Councilor David Oliver was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

**Noise Ordinance**

Atty. Muschell informed the Council that adoption of the proposed noise ordinance would be contingent upon approval by the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

**Roll- Call Vote:** On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously, with five votes in favor, to amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Torrington to include Chapter 145, hereby establishing policies and procedures regarding the identification and enforcement of unreasonably loud, unnecessary or disturbing noises; contingent upon CT DEEP approval.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 19, 2021.

**Appointments**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Janet Iffland as a regular member of the Arts & Culture Commission for a four-year term expiring on December 31, 2024.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Jacque Williams as an ex-officio member of the Arts & Culture Commission for a two-year term expiring on December 31, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to reappoint Joseph Petricone, Jr. as a regular member of the Torrington Area Health District Board of Health for a three-year term expiring on January 9, 2024.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to reappoint Alex Sobchuk as an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a three-year term expiring on December 6, 2022.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's reappointment of James Bobinski as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five-year term expiring on December 1, 2025.

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor's reappointment of Starley Arias as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five-year term expiring on December 1, 2025.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Marc Trivella as a regular member of the Coe Memorial Park Committee for a five-year term expiring on January 1, 2026.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to table the reappointment of Mary Zbell as a regular member of the Coe Memorial Park Committee.

**Blue Haus Group Presentation**

Economic Development Director Rista Malanca introduced Tim Moore from Blue Haus Group to present some of his preliminary findings and recommendations to promote economic development and active public engagement downtown. Mr. Moore explained that he connected with local stakeholders, including Torrington Downtown Partners founder Steven Timken, and identified several critical sites for the City's downtown revitalization efforts. Mr. Moore presented his recommendations for underutilized outdoor spaces, spaces suitable for public art and vacant indoor spaces that could be marketed for

temporary use. He discussed strategies for making the downtown area more walkable and stated that more public outreach would be necessary to determine the best use of available spaces. Mayor Carbone, Councilor Ruwet, Councilor Waagner and Councilor Cavagnero thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation and expressed their appreciation for his work thus far. Councilor Cavagnero also requested additional information about the Blue Haus Group and Mr. Moore explained how his professional and educational background and interests led him to form the Blue Haus Group in 2015. Additionally, Councilor Cavagnero questioned whether it would be possible to close off a portion of Main Street to vehicle traffic and Mayor Carbone explained that it would be unlikely due the State having control over the road. Mr. Moore also cautioned against the dangers of turning roadways into pedestrian thoroughways prematurely. He suggested an alternative solution to promote pedestrian traffic downtown and Ms. Malanca cautioned that the Fire Station was located on Water Street and would need roadway access to be able to respond to emergencies.

#### **Online Permitting Software**

Ms. Malanca, City Planner Martin Connor, Assistant City Planner Jeremy Leifert, Public Works Director Raymond Drew and Chief Towey presented a proposal to upgrade the City's computer software to streamline the online permitting process. Councilor Rubino asked whether Civic Plus was considered and Mr. Drew clarified that Civic Plus did not respond to the City's request for proposals.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to negotiate on behalf of the City regarding the acquisition and implementation of online permitting software and asset inventory software as proposed by Central Square Technologies of Lake Mary, FL.

#### **TAHD Coronavirus Relief Funds**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to appropriate a sum equal to 10% of the Municipal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) received from the State of Connecticut to be paid to the Torrington Area Health District in accordance with the terms of eligible uses of the funding as defined in the letter from the CT OPM dated December 16, 2020. Mayor Carbone and Chief Towey expressed their appreciation for the TAHD's support throughout the COVID-19 public health crisis. Mr. Rubbo reported that vaccinations were administered to approximately 2,250 people so far and he thanked the Mayor and Council for appropriating some of the Municipal Coronavirus Relief Funds to the TAHD to help offset some of their costs.

#### **Fire Demo Apparatus**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board (VRAB) and approve the purchase of the 2019 E-One HP78 Demonstration Quint Apparatus, with required modifications and equipment, from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles in Attleboro Falls, MA for the total cost of \$868,824.47, to be funded through the vehicle replacement account; pending authorization by the Board of Public Safety and the Board of Finance. Councilor Ruwet expressed her support and noted that the apparatus was previously vetted and endorsed by the VRAB.

#### **Public Hearing Scheduled**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a virtual public hearing to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 for the purpose of soliciting citizen input regarding the tax abatement for Pennrose, LLC, in accordance with the MOU that was approved by the City Council on October 21, 2019.

#### **Municipal Advisor Services**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to appoint Munistat Services, Inc. as the City's Municipal Advisor for debt issuance. Councilor Cavagnero asked whether the pricing and coverage would remain the same and Mayor Carbone confirmed that the price and scope of services would not change.

#### **Tax Collector Refunds**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated February 1, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, 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 February 1, 2021.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, 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 Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the City Council. Councilor Ruwet acknowledged the passing of Fletcher Waldron and his contributions to the City of Torrington and Councilor Waldron expressed his condolences to Councilor Ruwet for the passing of her brother-in-law. Mayor Carbone also expressed her condolences to Councilor Ruwet and Councilor Waldron.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

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

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK