

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA  
REGULAR MEETING  
ONLINE (ZOOM)  
February 16, 2021**

**Vol. 26, Page 972**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, Board members and the public attended the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. The meeting was attended by Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Public Works Director Raymond Drew, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, Board of Education Business Manager Ed Arum, Torrington Public Schools Superintendent Susan Lubomski and City Councilors Frank Rubino, David Oliver, Sharon Waagner, Paul Cavagnero, Drake Waldron and Anne Ruwet.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the public hearing held February 1, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 1, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meeting held February 9, 2021.

**Appointments**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Mary Zbell 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 approve the Mayor's reappointments of David Moraghan and Marc Trivella as regular members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for five-year terms expiring on December 2, 2025.

**Diesel Fuel, Fuel Oil, Gasoline**

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Purchasing Agent to enter into the following contracts for Diesel Fuel, #2 Fuel Oil and Gasoline if the price is no greater than 10% over the bid price on February 16, 2021:

- Diesel Fuel: 57,100 (+/-5%) gallons of Diesel Fuel for the FY 2021/2022 from East River Energy of Guilford, CT for the bid price of \$1.9293 per gallon (\$110,163.03 estimated annual cost).
- #2 Fuel Oil: 17,700 (+/-5%) gallons of #2 Heating Fuel for the FY 2021-2022 from Dime Oil Company of Waterbury, CT for the bid price of \$2.2175 per gallon (\$39,249.75 estimated annual cost).
- Gasoline: 119,000 (+/-5%) gallons of Gasoline for the FY 2021/2022 from Dime Oil Company of Waterbury, CT for the bid price of \$1.9407 per gallon (\$230,943.30 estimated annual cost).

Councilor Cavagnero expressed concern that the contracts were not being awarded to a local company. The Purchasing Agent explained that only two bids were submitted, both from companies outside of Torrington, and she agreed to contact Patterson Oil Company to find out why they did not submit a bid.

**Owner's Representative Services Agreement**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City and enter into an Owner's Representative Services Agreement with Construction Solutions Group, LLC of East Hartford, CT for the construction of the new Middle/High School and Central Office Administration to be located at 50 Major Besse Drive. Councilor Rubino abstained.

Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding the project management fee and asked if the procurement of furniture would incur an additional cost. Mr. Arum clarified that the procurement of furniture was included in the RFQ. Councilor Ruwet asked how many contractors bid on the project and whether CSG was the lowest bidder. Mr. Arum reported that five bids were submitted and that CSG was not the lowest bidder. He informed the Council that the building committee agreed to award the contract to CSG with eleven votes in favor and one opposed.

**Public Hearing Scheduled**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a virtual public hearing to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021 for the purpose of authorizing the City of Torrington to enter into a Tax Exemption Agreement, per C.G.S. § 7-498, for certain real property and improvements located at 100 Franklin Street, Torrington, CT.

**WPCA Installment Plan Request**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to approve the request of Mr. Normand J. Laliberte to enter into a 5-year Installment Plan payable monthly at 2% for the payment of the Capacity Reserve Fee due to the WPCA in the amount of \$17,220 for the Bad Dog Brewery.

Councilor Cavagnero requested clarification regarding Mr. Laliberte's request and the Public Works Director explained that the capacity reserve fee for the property increased due to the anticipated increase in waste that the brewery is expected to discharge into the City's sanitary sewer system.

**WPCA Invoice**

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to approve the following payment from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement:

**Date:** 2/11/2021 | **Invoice #** 0000211274 | **Contractor:** Wright-Pierce | **Amount:** \$876.70

**Release of Liens**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, 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 February 16, 2021.

**Tax Collector Refunds**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, 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 February 16, 2021.

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 Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated February 16, 2021.

**Business by Ordinance Subcommittee**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Ordinance Subcommittee. Councilor Rubino stated that there was no business to report.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, 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 Cavagnero requested information about the manufacturer that was moving into the former Stone Container building and Mayor Carbone reported that the property was purchased by a Chinese manufacturer of biodegradable takeout food containers. He also asked if a tax abatement was granted for the property and Mayor Carbone reported that the property owner did not request one.

Councilor Ruwet commended the Mayor on her testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 873 and provided positive feedback regarding her experience with the State's ZOOM public hearing format.

Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding ownership of the Armory and Mayor Carbone explained that the property was owned by the State of CT, managed by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and maintained by the City of Torrington.

Councilor Waagner expressed her support for incorporating a live public comment period at future meetings and requested an update on the budget process. Mayor Carbone reported that she was in the process of finalizing the budget calendar and requested volunteers to serve on the budget subcommittee. Councilors Waagner and Rubino agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

Mayor Carbone discussed Senate Bill No. 873 and explained how the new legislation could benefit the City. She also discussed the uncertainty of revenue from the State for the FY 2021/2022 budgets and updated the Council on the Bad Dog Brewery and other business developments in Torrington.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

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

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK