

MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
LOCATION: REMOTE (ZOOM)
March 16, 2021

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, Board members, City staff and the public attended the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Comptroller Alice Proulx and Board of Finance Members Christopher Beyus, Laurene Pesce, Christopher Anderson, *Lance Boynton and James Wright. Board of Finance member Mark Bushka was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held February 16, 2021.

BOE FINANCIAL REPORTS

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Board of Education's financial reports.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. No business was reported.

**Mr. Boynton joined the meeting at 5:03 p.m.*

BUSINESS BY MAYOR & MEMBERS

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Finance.

Mr. Wright requested clarification regarding what the American Rescue Plan funds could be used for and Mayor Carbone reported that the U.S. Treasury would provide guidance on the matter. She also noted that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities held a conference and provided some guidance regarding the potential uses of the funds. She discouraged the idea of including the funds in the City's operating budgets and noted that it may be possible to utilize some of the money for capital projects.

Mr. Anderson requested an update on budget and revenue projections and Mayor Carbone stated that she would prepare a report for the Board.

Mrs. Pesce expressed concerns about the anticipated field use fees that the Parks & Recreation Department intends to implement. Mayor Carbone explained that it was not the desire of the Parks & Recreation Commission or the Superintendent to charge for use of the fields, but it was a decision that Torrington and other municipalities, including Waterbury, had to make in order to address revenue shortages. She also noted that many of the teams that use the City's fields consist of athletes that reside outside of Torrington. Mr. Wright asked if there would be a charge for use of the basketball courts or gymnasiums and Mayor Carbone reported the City was trying to work with the Board of Education to get rid of the fees that it charges the City for use by the City's recreational programs. The Mayor discussed overtime and maintenance costs for sporting events that take place on weekends or outside of normal business hours and explained that other no cost options would still exist, including the use of fields that are not maintained by the City.

Mr. Beyus expressed his interest in finding out how the City and Board of Education can spend the American Rescue Plan funds. Mayor Carbone discussed some of the restrictions on other funds including ECS grant funds and CARES Act funds and suggested started discussions about revenues early on in the budget process.

Mayor Carbone discussed the 2.2% growth in the Grand List, which she reported was worth approximately \$2 million in additional revenue. Mr. Boynton questioned when the City would start feeling the financial impact of the school construction project and Mayor Carbone reported that the project would start with a modest impact on the 2022 budget. Mayor Carbone also reported that the City Council approved the Pennrsoe project at 100 Franklin Street and she informed the Board that multiple new businesses were opening.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:

Carol L. Anderson
 CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
 CITY CLERK