

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA  
REGULAR MEETING  
City Hall Auditorium  
April 5, 2021**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) was held at the City Hall auditorium on Monday, April 5, 2021. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell and City Councilors Sharon Waagner, Frank Rubino and Anne Ruwet. Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, Public Works Director Raymond Drew, Water Pollution Control Administrator Ed Tousey, Fire Chief Peter Towey, Police Captain Bart Barown, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, Parks & Recreation Superintendent Brett Simmons and Councilors Drake Waldron, David Oliver and Paul Cavagnero joined by Zoom.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Public Comment**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

Raymond Bottass expressed concerns regarding fraudulent elections, distance learning, the new housing development coming to Franklin Street and the Parks & Recreation Department charging for use of the City's baseball fields. He also offered to volunteer wherever help was needed.

Carol Bottass also expressed her concerns about the impact of distance learning on the kids. Mayor Carbone suggested she reach out to the Board of Education for more information.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the public hearing held March 15, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 15, 2021.

**Fair Housing Resolution**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following Resolution #143-216, publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice:

***Whereas**, all persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and*

***Whereas**, federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and*

***Whereas**, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and*

***Whereas**, the City of Torrington is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.*

***IT WAS RESOLVED** that the City of Torrington hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and*

***IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the chief executive officer of the City of Torrington or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the City of Torrington and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.*

**Bishop Donnelly Sports Complex**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Catholic Cemeteries Assn. of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc., for use of the Bishop Donnelly Sports Complex as a City park and athletic field for a three-year period commencing January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023.

Councilor Ruwet expressed concern about the close proximity of the sports complex to Verogy's new solar farm and Councilor Cavagnero questioned why the duration of the agreement was shorter than usual. Atty. Muschell reported that the duration of the agreement was the decision of the Catholic Cemeteries Assn. of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc. Councilor Cavagnero also asked whether Verogy followed through on their promises to provide natural tree coverage around the perimeter of the solar farm and Mayor Carbone confirmed that they did.

**Police Department Ballistic Gear**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Chief of Police and authorize the City to award the contract for fourteen (14) tactical ballistic entry vests for the Torrington Police Department's Special Response Team to Tactical Police Gear of Cheshire, CT for the total cost of \$36,400, pending approval from the Board of Public Safety.

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Chief of Police and authorize the City to award the contract for twenty-eight (28) ballistic rifle plates for the ballistic vests for the Torrington Police Department's Special Response Team to Tactical Police Gear of Cheshire, CT for the total cost of \$10,920, pending approval from the Board of Public Safety.

**Fire Department Promotional Testing**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent, Fire Chief and selection committee to authorize the City to commence the Fire Lieutenant promotional process and award the contract for promotional testing services to Research Management Associates, Inc. (RMA) of Tinley Park, IL for the total cost of \$8,500, to be funded from the 2021 fiscal year budget (Account #5284 Service Agreements), and have the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration, pending approval from the Board of Public Safety.

**Portable Toilet Rental 2021-2022 Season**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Superintendent and Purchasing Agent to award the contract for the rental of portable toilets for the 2021-2022 season to United Site Services Northeast of Westborough, MA for \$140.10 per regular unit per month and \$165.00 per handicap unit per month and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration.

**Design, Planting & Maintenance of Downtown Garden Beds, Planters & Trees**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Superintendent and the review committee to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract negotiations and award a one (1) year contract to Still River Gardens, LLC of Litchfield, CT for the services and fees described in their proposal dated March 25, 2021 for the design, planting and maintenance of the downtown garden beds, planters and trees, with the option to renew up to five (5) years, and have the Mayor act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract.

**On-call Economic Development Media Services**

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Economic Development Director and authorize the City to award the contract for on-call Economic Development Media Services to West Field Production Co. of Averill Park, New York for the total cost of \$14,650, to be paid for with Building Healthier Communities grant funds, with the possibility of including additional options as needed, per the fee proposal.

**SustainableCT ad hoc Sustainability Team**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to establish a SustainableCT ad hoc Sustainability Team and approve the appointment of Jeremy Leifert, Rista Malanca, Richard Lopez and Tamara Williams.

Councilor Ruwet requested clarification regarding the role of the Sustainability Team and Councilor Cavagnero questioned whether there would be any anticipated costs to the City. Mayor Carbone explained the purpose of the Sustainability Team and noted that the only cost would be staff hours for Mr. Leifert and Ms. Malanca.

**Hauling and Disposal Services for Dewatered Municipal Sewage Sludge**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council, herein acting as the WPCA, voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the WPCA Administrator and enter into contract negotiations with Naugatuck Environmental Technologies, LLC (Veolia) for Sludge hauling and disposal of Torrington WPCA’s Dewatered Municipal sludge.

**WPCA Invoice**

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INVOICE</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
3/10/2021	0000212351	Wright-Pierce	\$990.92

**Release of Liens**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, 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 April 5, 2021.

**Tax Collector Refunds**

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 April 5, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, 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 April 5, 2021.

**Business by the Ordinance Subcommittee**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Ordinance Subcommittee. Councilor Rubino reported that the subcommittee’s ongoing discussion and consideration of possible ordinance revisions was tabled and there was no new business to report.

**Business by Dept. Heads**

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

**Business by Mayor & Members**

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

Councilor Cavagnero reported that he retired from ESPN.

Councilor Rubino congratulated Councilor Cavagnero and requested that the clock in the auditorium be fixed or replaced.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

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

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK