

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
May 3, 2021**

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) was held at the City Hall auditorium on Monday, May 3, 2021. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Treasurer Daniel Farley and City Councilors David Oliver, Sharon Waagner, Frank Rubino and Anne Ruwet. Elderly Services Director Joel Sekorski and Councilors Drake Waldron and Paul Cavagnero joined by Zoom.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

Minutes

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

Contract Award: Wheelchair Accessible Van

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Services for the Elderly Commission and authorize the Mayor to approve the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van for the Assisted Medical Transportation Program from Matthews Buses Commercial of Orlando, FL for the expected maximum cost of \$66,446 with 80% funding through the Department of Transportation's Section 5310 grant program, as described in the Elderly Services Director's memo dated April 27, 2021.

Contract Award: Senior Center Surveillance System

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Elderly Services Director, IT Director and Purchasing Agent to award the contract for the installation of a surveillance camera system at the Sullivan Senior Center to Setronics of Billerica, MA for the total amount of \$11,769, with funding through donations to the Sullivan Senior Center, and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the award and execution of the contract agreement.

Contract Award: Small Cities Administrator

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the selection committee's recommendation and authorize the Mayor to award the contract for the Small Cities Community Development Program Administrator to A & E Services Group, LLC of Wolcott, CT. Councilor Waldron requested clarification regarding the change in administration and Mayor Carbone informed him that the previous Small Cities consultant, Lisa Low, retired with approximately \$200,000 of the 2018 grant remaining to be loaned out to Torrington residents. She also informed the Council that A & E Services Group, LLC and its Principal, Peter Testa, was the only company to submit a bid for the contract. City Treasurer Dan Farley provided additional information about Mr. Testa's background and explained that his fees were lower than Lisa Low's. Mayor Carbone also expressed her gratitude to Mr. Farley for working toward his grant administrator certification.

Release of Liens

Atty. Muschell informed the Council that one of the liens included in his memo was a blight lien and he requested that the correct statutory references be included in the motion to release the liens, including both C.G.S §§ 12-179 and 7-148aa.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, 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 and 7-148aa, to release the liens described in Atty. Muschell's memo dated May 3, 2021.

Tax Collector Refunds

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, 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 May 3, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Oliver, 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 May 3, 2021.

Business by the Ordinance Subcommittee: Public Hearing Scheduled

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Ordinance Subcommittee. Councilor Rubino made a motion to schedule a public hearing on May 17, 2021 for the purpose of soliciting citizen input regarding the incorporation of new hearing procedures for ordinance violations, procedures for contesting violations imposed under the Code of Ordinances and possible changes to Chapter 161 of the Code of Ordinances. Councilor Ruwet seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously to schedule the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on May 17, 2021.

Building Dept. Reports

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department's reports for the months of February and March, 2021.

Business by Dept. Heads

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

Treasurer's Office: Mr. Farley reported that he was able to work out a deal with Torrington Savings Bank (TSB) to move a large portion of the City's revenue account and accumulate interest at the rate of 0.35%, which is 80% more than the City earns through Bank of America. He also described some other advantages, including lower fees for transferring funds. In addition, Mr. Farley announced that the Department of Housing approved the City's application for a \$170,000 grant to implement a homeless diversion program, which will be administered by Supportive Housing Works. Councilor Waagner expressed her support for utilizing TSB and addressing homelessness in Torrington.

Senior Center: Mr. Sekorski provided an update on upcoming events and invited the Council members to visit the Senior Center.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilor Waagner wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilor Rubino thanked Atty. Muschell, Chief Baldwin, and Sgt. Baldis for their support with the proposed ordinance revisions that the Ordinance Subcommittee recommended to the City Council.

Councilor Ruwet requested that an item be added to the May 17th City Council agenda for the purpose of reducing the time limit for public comments. She also requested an update on Verogy's application for a tax abatement. Mayor Carbone reported that she expects Verogy's request to be presented to the Council on May 17th.

Mayor Carbone issued declarations for 20 years of service and acknowledged the accomplishments of two Sullivan Senior Center - Elderly Nutrition Program employees, Charles Macdonald and Florence Winegar. Mr. Sekorski expressed his appreciation and noted that one of the Meals on Wheels drivers, Dan Coleman, also had almost 29 years of service.

Additionally, Mayor Carbone reported that the Chief Building Official Brett Zuraitis retired and she was working with Interim Building Official Kevin Gillette on a transition plan for the Building Department. Mayor Carbone also updated the Council on the City's plan to transition the existing metered parking system to ParkMobile, an electronic and contactless payment program.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK