

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL & WPCA
REGULAR MEETING
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom
May 17, 2021**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) was held at the City Hall auditorium on Monday, May 17, 2021. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, City Engineer Paul Kundzins, City Clerk Carol Anderson, members of the Mayor’s Committee on Youth and City Councilors Frank Rubino and Paul Cavagnero. Public Works Director Raymond Drew, WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey and Councilors Anne Ruwet, Drake Waldron and Sharon Waagner joined by Zoom. Councilor David Oliver was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Presentation: Kindness Campaign

Michael Ahoua and Joe McCoy, members of the Mayor’s Committee on Youth, discussed the 2021 Kindness Campaign and presented the Council with yard signs that were designed by Torrington resident, Sharon Cataldo.

Roll Call Vote: Amendments to Code of Ordinances

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously, with five votes in favor and none opposed, to establish hearing procedures to contest violations imposed under the Code of Ordinances and approve amendments to Chapter 161, as described in the draft that was received for record by the Town Clerk on May 3, 2021.

Public Comment

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

Minutes Approved

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 3, 2021.

NAA Public Hearing Scheduled

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to review, discuss and solicit citizen input regarding proposals for participation in the 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

Contract Award: On-Call Inspection Services

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director & City Engineer to enter into service agreements for on-call inspection services, at the rate of \$30 per hour, with Walter Combes and Steven Roy of Torrington, for the scope of services described in Mr. Kundzins’ memo dated May 12, 2021, and authorize the Mayor to act on the behalf of the City regarding the execution of service agreements and other contract administration related items, such as renewals and approval of payment invoices.

Contract Award: Chip Sealing

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director & City Engineer and authorize the Mayor to act on the behalf of the City to waive the City’s bid process and accept the Town of Southbury’s Town Wide Chip Seal Bid 2020-010 contract, as awarded to Seymour Sealing Service, Inc. of Wallingford CT, for the performance of Chip Sealing for the duration of the contract, which currently expires on June 6, 2022, and all subsequent renewable terms.

WPCA Invoices Approved

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council, herein acting as the WPCA, voted unanimously to approve the following payments from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvements:

DATE	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
4/30/2021	Yield Industries.	\$2,100	Emergency sewer repair Alice Street
4/30/2021	Yield Industries	\$24,380	Emergency sewer replacement Clarence Street

Release of Liens

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waldron, 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 17, 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 May 17, 2021.

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, 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 May 17, 2021.

Business by Dept. Heads

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. City Clerk Carol Anderson reported that the City Clerk's office utilized a streamlined process to record tax liens more efficiently than in previous years and she noted that dog licensing for the year 2021/2022 would begin on June 1, 2021.

Business by Mayor & Members

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

Councilor Waagner asked whether the Council should schedule another public hearing for the month of June to solicit public feedback regarding a possible PLA for the THS Building Project. Mayor Carbone clarified the process, explaining that the Building Committee would need to make a recommendation to the City Council in order for them to schedule a public hearing. Councilor Cavagnero requested that the presentation by the Building Committee and the vote to schedule a public hearing take place at separate meetings, to allow Council members ample to time to consider the information presented.

Councilor Ruwet expressed concern about Verogy's solar farm on East Pearl Road. Mayor Carbone expressed her disappointment with the landscaping at the site and confirmed that Verogy reached out to the City's Economic Development Director to seek information regarding a tax abatement.

Councilor Cavagnero expressed his concerns regarding an article he read in the *Republican-American*, which indicated that the THS Building Committee was considering refurbishing the old gym, as opposed to building a new one, and he requested a detailed explanation from the Building Committee regarding that possible change of plans. Councilors Waagner and Ruwet expressed agreement that more information was needed. Additionally, Councilor Cavagnero requested that any discussions or presentation by the Building Committee take place after the budgets for the 2021/2022 fiscal year are adopted and the Mayor agreed to wait until June 21, 2021 to hear from the Building Committee.

Mayor Carbone outlined the upcoming meeting schedule through June 15, 2021, when the Board of Finance is expected to adopt the budget and set the mill rate.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK