

A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** of the City Council and the Board of Finance was held at the City Hall auditorium on Thursday, June 3, 2021. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Frank Rubino, David Oliver and Sharon Waagner, and Board of Finance members Chris Beyus, Laurene Pesce and Jim Wright. Fire Chief Peter Towey, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., City Clerk Carol Anderson, City Treasurer Daniel Farley, Board of Education Chairwoman Fiona Cappabianca, Board of Education Business Manager Ed Arum and Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous were also present. Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Comptroller Alice Proulx, Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper, Councilor Anne Ruwet and Board of Finance members Lance Boynton and Christopher Anderson participated by Zoom. Councilor Drake Waldron and Board of Finance member Mark Bushka were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Carbone provided an update and review of the budget process. She explained that the City Council would need to tentatively approve several Departments' budgets before taking action on the overall City budget.

Tentative Approval: Assessor's Budget

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Assessor's budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$423,605.

Tentative Approval: Boards & Agencies Budget

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Boards & Agencies budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$311,067. Mayor Carbone explained that the amended total reflected a \$5,000 reduction in the appropriation for the Torrington Public Library.

Tentative Approval: City Real Estate Budget

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the City Real Estate budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$1,898,385.

Tentative Approval: City & Town Clerk's Budget

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the City & Town Clerk's budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$663,842.

Tentative Approval: Information Technology Budget

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Information Technology budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$1,062,170.

Tentative Approval: Emergency Management Budget

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Emergency Management budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$35,800.

Tentative Approval: Public Safety Budgets

Councilor Rubino requested that the Council tentatively approve all remaining public safety budgets with one vote. On a motion by Councilor Wagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the public safety budgets, as presented, for the following amounts:

- 0010-0022 – General Fund, Fire: \$5,971,507
- 0010-0022-0019 – General Fund, Volunteers: \$65,000
- 0010-0023-0020 – General Fund, Police: \$9,663,761
- 0010-0023-0019 – General Fund, Animal Control: \$345,439
- 0010-0023-0024 – General Fund, Traffic: \$408,000

Tentative Approval: Public Works Director's Budget

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Public Works Director's budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$177,855.

Tentative Approval: City Hall Budget

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the City Hall budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$210,424.

Tentative Approval: Engineering Budget

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Engineering budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$724,544.

Tentative Approval: Landfill Budget

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Landfill budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$1,569,800.

Tentative Approval: Sanitary Sewers & Street Lights Budget

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Sanitary Sewers & Street Lights budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$179,000.

Tentative Approval: Public Works Budget

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Public Works budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$6,012,012.

Tentative Approval: Health Budget

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Health budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$3,013,101.

Tentative Approval: Recreation Budget

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the Recreation budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$485,652.

Tentative Approval: City Wide Budget

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to tentatively approve the City Wide budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$459,030.

Approval of Total City Budget

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to approve the total City budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as presented, for the total amount of \$60,836,431.

Comments from the Board of Finance

Mr. Beyus expressed concerns about the proposed increase over the current fiscal year budget and noted that additional cuts may be needed. Mrs. Pesce expressed her thoughts on the importance of keeping key positions that were incorporated into the budget, including Deputy Police Chief, Recycling Coordinator and Facilities Manager. She also emphasized the importance of reconstructing a new animal shelter and Mr. Beyus reiterated his support for maintaining proper funding for the public safety budgets. Councilor Waagner agreed with Mr. Beyus and Mrs. Pesce. Mayor Carbone reported that revenue totals from the State were still uncertain, but she noted that additional cuts would likely be needed in order to arrive at zero increase to the mill rate.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK