A REGULAR MEETING of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) of the City of Torrington was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, May 6, 2024. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Michael Magistrali, and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Stephan Ivain, Molly Spino, Anne Ruwet, Paul Cavagnero, and David Oliver. Also present in person were Public Works Director Ray Drew, Facilities Manager Jamie Sykora, Superintendent of Public Works Tim Cote, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Stephen McDonald, Comptroller John Monks, Human Resources Director Denise Kurpiewski, Assessor Thomas DiStasio, WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey, and Treasurer Dan Farley. No one joined via Zoom.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call Vote: Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program #SC2014301
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Spino, the Council voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the closeout of FY 2020 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program #SC2014301, Homeless Diversion Grant. Councilor Ruwet thanked Jess for her presentation, she was able to learn more about the homeless situation and the use of funds for this purpose, it’s of great value to the community. Mayor Carbone said that the grant programs are great for the city residents and added that they don’t come without a lot of work, which Mr. Dan Farley and Maurette Wall put in quarterly.

Public Comment
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ivain, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public, in accordance with Section 4(e) of the City Council & WPCA Meeting Rules of Procedure. No one from the public wished to speak.

Approve Minutes
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Ivain, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2024.

On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Ivain, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2024.

On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Ivain, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Special Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2024.

Executive Session
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 6:52 p.m. pursuant to C.G.S. §1- 200-1(D) to discuss the contract negotiations, inviting Assessor Thomas DiStasio, Public Works Director Ray Drew, and Corporation Counsel Michael Magistrali.

Open Session
On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Spino, the Council voted unanimously to go into open session at 6:52 p.m. Councilor Oliver was absent from the vote.

Sewer User Fee Public Hearing
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Spino, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for May 20, 2024, at 6:30 PM to set the Sewer User Fee for the period from July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.

For Residential Users: An amount not less than $392.00 and not more than $454.00 per dwelling unit
For All Other Users: An amount not less than $392.00 and not more than $454.00 per 65,000 gallons of volume of flow

Schedule Public Hearing - NAA
On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. to solicit citizen input regarding proposals for participation in the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

Schedule a Public Hearing - Chapter 170 – Sewers
*Note: This agenda item will be addressed in the future. No motions were made at this time.
Schedule a Public Hearing - Small Cities Closeout
On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, June 17, 2024, to solicit citizen input regarding the closeout of Small Cities Grant SC1814301.

Northwestern CT Transit District
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to authorize payment of $3,000.00 from contingency funds to pay Northwestern CT Transit District Invoice No. MGP24-05 for MGP Match for Special Trips FY24.

WPCA Payment Authorization
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Ivain, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority voted unanimously to approve a payment of $4,998.36 from Fund #490 Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement to Wright-Pierce Engineering for Invoice #233897 for prep work for bid final design for Brightwood Avenue.

Extension Plumbing
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Ivain, the Council voted unanimously to extend the current bid contract for general plumbing and related repairs for FY 24/25 at the same prices and terms as the current contract to West State Mechanical of Torrington, CT, as further explained in the Purchasing Agent’s letter dated May 1, 2024.

Extension Portable Toilets
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to extend the current bid contract for portable toilet rentals for FY 24/25 at the same price and terms as the current contract to A1 Portable Toilet, LLC of Thomaston, CT, as further explained in the Purchasing Agent’s letter dated May 1, 2024. Councilor Ivain asked if this contract is shared with Park and Rec, Mr. Drew said that the contract is used for the parks, along with other events that happen throughout the City. Councilor Ivain asked why there was such a price increase from the previous vendor, Mr. Drew explained that the previous vendor didn’t bid on a new contract, and this is the current pricing for portable toilet rentals.

Extension HVAC
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to extend the current bid contract for maintenance and repair of HVAC equipment for FY 24/25 at the same prices and terms as the current contract to Air Temp Mechanical Services, Inc. of Berlin, CT, as further explained in the Purchasing Agent’s letter dated May 1, 2024.

Extension Electrical
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Spino, the Council voted unanimously to extend the current bid contract for miscellaneous electrical services and repairs for FY 24/25 at the same prices and terms as the current contract to First Line Services, LLC of Cromwell, CT, as further explained in the Purchasing Agent’s letter dated May 1, 2024.

Extension Snow Plowing Senior Center
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to extend the current bid contract for snowplowing services for the Sullivan Senior Center Facility for FY 24/25 at the same prices and terms as the current contract to Roberts Property Management, LLC of Litchfield, CT, as further explained in the Purchasing Agent’s letter dated May 1, 2024.

Fuessenich Park Scoreboard
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City to award, execute, and administer a contract agreement for the replacement of the Fuessenich Park Scoreboard to Nevco Sports, LLC of Greenville, IL in the amount of $30,027.39. This project will be funded through the Program Expenditures and Park Improvement Major accounts, as further explained in the Purchasing Agent’s letter dated May 6, 2024. Councilor Ivain asked how old the current scoreboard was, and Mr. Cote said at least 20 years old. Councilor Ivain asked what the life expectancy was of the current scoreboard, Councilor Olive told him that it was way past the time for it to be replaced.

Councilor Ruwet left at 7:33 p.m.
Building Department Report
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Spino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Building Department Report for the month of March 2024.

Lien Releases
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Spino, the Council voted unanimously to release the liens listed in the Corporation Counsel’s memo of May 6, 2024.

Tax Collector Refunds
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Spino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the tax refunds indicated on the list dated May 6, 2024.

Sewer Usage Refunds
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Spino, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated May 6, 2024.

Business by Dept. Heads
On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Public Works Director Ray Drew told the Council that the Riverview Parking Lot project will start on May 13, 2024, and be completed by August 2024. The Riverview Parking Lot was formally the Library Parking Lot. Assessor Thomas DiStasio told the Council that the reevaluation is underway, and everything is going smoothly.

Business by Mayor & Members
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and City Council members. Councilor Oliver said that the Personnel Committee had a meeting earlier. He said that this was the first initial meeting to go over some policies to look at. He explained that it was a good launch point, and they would have much to discuss. Councilor Ivain asked if there would be a Joint Council, Finance, and Board of Ed meeting. Mayor Carbone provided the Council with the handouts the Board of Finance and the Board of Ed received at their joint meeting. She said that if the Council agrees, she will tell the BOE to move forward with doing an audit, and then have a joint meeting with all the boards. She said right now, even with the documents being self-explanatory, it would not lead to a productive meeting until that is done. She said there are no governance documents and would like a self-insurance committee. Councilor Cavagnero stated that he would like to see Joint meetings scheduled with the BOE and Finance to have everyone on the same page with short-term and long-term goals. Councilor Ivain would like to see a Joint Subcommittee with the Council and BOE to go over insurance issues, Mayor Carbone said that they attempted that in 2019, the governance documents would be the next step.

Public Comment (in-person only)
On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ivain, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public to comment on agenda items only. No one from the public wished to speak.

Adjournment
On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:

CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK