

**MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF FINANCE
MAY 6, 2014**

A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** was held by the City Council & WPC Authority and the Board of Finance in the Auditorium on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Raymond Rigat, City Councilors Anne Ruwet, Christopher Anderson, and Paul Cavagnero and members of the Board of Finance Bill Lamoin, Laurene Pesce, Mark Bushka, Tom Scoville, Frank Rubino and Joshua Ferreria. City Councilors Gregg Cogswell, Paul Samele and Drake Waldron were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY BUDGET FY14-15

Mayor Carbone presented the City Budget to the Boards, saying the initial departmental budget request totaled \$53,091,963 representing a \$3,870,863 or 7.86% increase over last year's budget.

The major cost drivers are health, liability and worker's compensation insurance, contractual wage increases, pension contributions, and utilities, she said, and represent a non-negotiable \$2,038,734 increase over last year. Mayor Carbone said the increase includes sidewalk repairs and improvements, mandated state fees, labor negotiation fees, police radios and communications, animal control facility, IT equipment and software, equipment maintenance fuel, capital costs for roof replacements, traffic signals and parking lots, road and park improvements, and vehicle replacement while allowing for reductions in debt service and the Fire Dept. capital account.

After cuts, the budget now stands at \$52,511,118 or a 6.68% change from last year's budget.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Scoville, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC
CITY CLERK

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol L. Anderson CCTC
Asst. City Clerk

**PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF FINANCE
MAY 6, 2014**

A **PUBLIC HEARING** was held by the City Council & WPC Authority in the Auditorium on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 to solicit citizen input on the City Budget.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Raymond Rigat, City Councilors Anne Ruwet, Christopher Anderson, and Paul Cavagnero and members of the Board of Finance Bill Lamoin, Laurene Pesce, Mark Bushka, Tom Scoville, Frank Rubino and Joshua Ferreria. City Councilors Gregg Cogswell, Paul Samele and Drake Waldron were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the public hearing to order at 6:57 p.m.

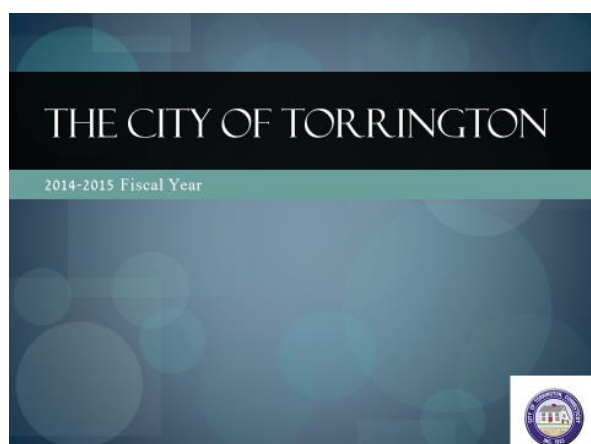
The Assistant City Clerk read the legal notice.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

Mayor Carbone closed the public hearing to order at 6:59 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC
CITY CLERK

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol L. Anderson CCTC
Asst. City Clerk



Major Cost Drivers

- Each Number Represents the Increase Over Last Year's Budget
 - Insurance (Health, Liability, Workers' Comp): \$213,161
 - Contractual Wage Increases: \$427,802
 - Pension Contributions: \$1,216,603
 - Utilities (Hydrant Rentals, Refuse Removal, TAHD) \$181,168
- These costs represent a non-negotiable \$2,038,734 increase over fiscal year 2013/2014.



Additional Operating Costs

- Current Proposed Budget Request Includes:
 - Sidewalk Repairs (Revenue Offset) \$50,000
 - State Fees (Revenue Offset) \$184,000
 - Labor Negotiation Fees (4 contracts expire 6/14) \$24,000
 - Police Radios and Communications \$40,300
 - Animal Control (24.4% Revenue Offset) \$14,350
 - Debt Service Reduction of \$376,903
 - IT Equipment and Software \$151,171
 - Equipment Maintenance \$26,688

Capital Cost Increases

- Roof Replacement Plan \$25,000
- Fire Department Capital Reduction \$104,382
- Traffic Signals and Parking Lots \$11,000
- Sidewalk Improvements (Grant Match) \$76,000
- Road Improvements \$652,422
- Park Improvements \$34,000
- Vehicle Replacement \$211,690
- Total Capital Cost Increases \$905,730

Fund Balance

- Our Fund balance is essentially the City's savings account
- This budget will continue the practice of no longer depending on the fund balance
- The City will not budget any portion of our fund balance to our general fund.



Fiscal Year	BOE	% Increase	City	% Increase	Total	Total Incr
2013/2014	\$69,228,775	4.10%		-1.36%	\$118,449,875	1.81%
			\$49,221,100			
2012/2013	\$66,444,310	3.01%		1.287%	\$116,343,570	2.26%
			\$49,899,060			
2011/2012	\$64,502,431	0.0%		-7.6% (-2% net grants)	\$113,769,346	-92%
			\$49,266,915			
2010/2011	\$64,502,430	2.6%		2.5%	\$117,835,158	2.56%
			\$53,332,728			
2009/2010	\$62,864,721	0.5%		-0.4%	\$114,895,660	0.05%
			\$52,030,939			
2008/2009	\$62,575,305	5.2%		2.8%	\$114,834,106	4.13%
			\$52,258,801			
2007/2008		5.5%		4.1%	\$110,275,717	4.81%
	\$59,454,140		\$50,821,577			

Mill Rate History

Grand List	Mill Rate	Budget Year
10/1/2012	34.46	2013/2014
10/1/2011	33.47	2012/2013
10/1/2010	32.50	2011/2012
10/1/2009	32.50	2010/2011
10/1/2008	35.32	2009/2010
10/1/2007	35.33	2008/2009
10/1/2006	33.83	2007/2008
10/1/2005	33.96	2006/2007

Mayor /Boards Work with Department Heads

Meetings and discussions resulted in reductions of \$353,685 at the Mayor Level and additional reductions of \$333,160 at Board of Safety and Council Levels from original requests.

Where it stands
\$52,511,118



Currently Proposed Budget

- \$52,511,118
- 6.68 %change over 2013/2014
- Total reductions of \$686,845 over original requests



Summary

- City has passed austere budgets for the past several years
- We are now facing difficult decisions, but these decisions will ultimately help restore the fiscal health of the city.
- Restoring the required contribution to the pension fund, and increasing funding for roadwork is paramount.
- Contractual obligations, insurance increases, and state mandates beyond the authority of the city to control