

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY
March 2, 2015**

A **REGULAR MEETING** was held by the City Council & WPC Authority in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, March 2, 2015.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Raymond Rigat, City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Anne Ruwet, Paul Samele, Drake Waldron and Gregg Cogswell. City Councilor Christopher Anderson was absent. Also present were Personnel Director Thomas Gritt, Atty. Victor Muschell, Elderly Services Director Joel Sekorski, and members of the Board of Education Fiona Cappabianca, Ellen Hoehne and Chairman Kenneth Traub.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

MINUTES

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 17, 2015. Councilor Samele abstained.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Samele, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 19, 2015.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

AGREEMENT – FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1567

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Samele, the Council voted unanimously to accept an Agreement with Firefighters Local 1567 dated February 3, 2015, as described in Atty. Muschell's letter dated February 24, 2015.* Atty. Muschell said he recommends approval of the changes to the Firemen's Pension Plan and considers it a win for the City. He credited the Union for their cooperation. Mayor Carbone said she is tremendously grateful to the Firefighters for coming to the table and negotiating in good faith.***Addendum 1**

TORRINGTON EDUCATION ASSN.

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Samele, the Council voted unanimously to accept an agreement between the Torrington Board of Education and the Torrington Education Association for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Councilor Waldron abstained.

Chairman Traub said the TEA was enthusiastic, conscientious of Torrington taxpayers, and moved to an HSA health insurance account. Chairman Traub noted that sick day accumulation is reduced to one year, the gross wage increase is 2% per year, and net wage increase with step increases is 3.6% the first year, 3.48% next year and 3.22% the following year. He said that more than 50% of the teachers are in the top step.

Chairman Traub explained the net effect of wage increases combined with insurance savings and their effect on the Mill Rate. He said the 3.62% salary increase in the first year of the contract is \$990,000, with projected insurance savings of \$517,622, equaling a net to the City \$472,946 or an approximate .2 mill increase in the first year. The second year of the contract calls for a 3.36% wage increase of \$951,969 projected insurance savings of \$722,812, and a net to the City of \$229,157 or a mill increase of .1. He said the third year of the contract calls for a 3.09% salary increase of \$906,319, insurance savings of \$957,392, creating a savings of \$51,000 or a reduction in the mill rate of .02.

Mayor Carbone expressed her appreciation for the Board's efforts with these negotiations.

Chairman Traub repeated the net plus step increases for Councilor Cavagnero, saying they are 3.62% in year one, 3.36% in year two and 3.09% in year three.

Councilor Cavagnero asked if it would be fair to say that other bargaining units have the right to the same wage increase. Mayor Carbone said that everything is negotiable and there is a certain level of expectation when contracts are considered.

Chairman Traub said the cost upgrade for a member of the TEA to stay on the current health insurance plan will be \$6,200 for an individual, \$13,300 for an employee plus one, and \$16,500 for a family. Their current insurance plan costs \$22,500.

Mayor Carbone reminded the Council of their three choices: They can accept the work that the BOE and TEA have done in bringing forward a contract, reject the contract in which case it would have to go to arbitration, or take no action and let the 30 days elapse causing it to go into effect automatically.

Councilor Cogswell said that sending this contract to arbitration would be a bad choice.

SENIOR CENTER - MEDICAL TRANS. VEHICLE

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from the Service for the Elderly Commission, waive the bid process and purchase a Medical Transportation vehicle from the sole vendor, Mathews Bus, as described in Mr. Sekorski's letter dated February 24, 2015.* **Addendum 2**

SENIOR CENTER – MEALS ON WHEELS VEHICLE

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from the Service for the Elderly Commission, waive the bid process and purchase a Meals-on-Wheels vehicle from the sole vendor, Delivery Concepts East, as described in Mr. Sekorski's letter dated February 25, 2015.* **Addendum 3**

RESOLUTION: SENIOR CENTER VEHICLES

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Mayor to negotiate, sign and execute agreements/contracts along with all necessary agreement/contractual documents certifications and forms on behalf of the City of Torrington with the Department of transportation of the State of Connecticut:

***RESOLVED:** the Hon. Elinor Carbone, Mayor, is authorized to negotiate, sign and execute agreements/contracts along with all necessary agreements/contractual documents, certifications and forms on behalf of the City of Torrington with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut.*

100 FRANKLIN DRIVE ASSESSMENT PROJECT

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Samele, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to execute and deliver on behalf of the City an assistance agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. Mayor Carbone explained that this is the \$100,000 grant for assessment work to determine the level of contamination on the Nidec property.

ADD TO AGENDA

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to add Section B to the agenda.

RESOLUTION: NEWFIELD RD. PAVEMENT PRESERVATION

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution in support of the STP Urban Transportation Project entitled Newfield Road Pavement Preservation and hereby commit to funding the municipal share. Mayor Carbone explained the public comment period is concluding and the City will be going out to bid on this project:

Pavement preservation of approximately 10,400 feet of Newfield Road from the intersection of Guerdat Road to a point approximately 800 feet south of the Sawmill Road intersection. (STATE PROJECT NO. 143-187)

***WHEREAS,** the City of Torrington has published a news release, mailed a copy of the news release to required officials and agencies, and mailed a notification letter to abutting property and business owners and tenants, announcing a proposed transportation project known as Newfield Road pavement preservation; and*

***WHEREAS,** a public comment period was given from February 12, 2015 to February 27, 2015 which allowed interested parties to voice their concerns; and*

***WHEREAS,** the preliminary engineering phase will be funded exclusively by the City of Torrington and the construction phase will be funded utilizing 80% Federal funds and 20% municipal funds; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Northwest Hills Council of Governors has selected this project as a regional priority and to utilize federal funds for construction activities; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Mayor, Elinor C. Carbone has considered the concerns of the residents from the public comment period and finds that the proposed Newfield Road pavement preservation is in the best interest of the City of Torrington, and will promote the health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide for convenience and safety of the traveling public.*

RESOLUTION: NEWFIELD RD. PAVEMENT PRES. Continued

WHEREAS, the City of Torrington, based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby fully supports the proposed project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Torrington hereby supports the STP Urban Transportation Project titled Newfield Road pavement preservation and hereby commits to funding the municipal share.

BUSINESS: DEPT. HEADS

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Samele, the Council voted unanimously to consider business presented by Department Heads. No business was presented.

BUSINESS: MAYOR & MEMBERS

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

Councilor Cavagnero urged the City Clerk's office to present agenda packets that are final, complete and correct. Mayor Carbone said she thinks this is the exception and she believes the Council packets go out very complete and timely. She said she thinks all best efforts are made to make sure that Council packets are complete and this is the exception, not the rule. Councilor Cavagnero said the TEA contract, with missing pages, is the biggest single line item in the city. He said that is just not acceptable.

Councilor Cogswell agreed that he does not like something put in front of him at the last minute but the TEA contract was in front of Council in its entirety on February 9th.

Councilor Ruwet thanked Mr. Sekorski for cooking at the Dr. Suess breakfast on Saturday, which was a fundraiser for the fireworks. She thanked the entire Senior Center staff, the Mayor's Committee on Youth and the Mayoral Aide.

Mayor Carbone expressed her appreciation to the Senior Center staff, the Board of Education, and the Firefighters unions for their efforts on behalf of the City.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC
CITY CLERK

Carol L. Anderson CMC
Asst. City Clerk

Addendum 1

Victor M. Muschell, LLC

Attorney at Law

104 CHURCH STREET
TORRINGTON, CT 06790

860.482.6501
FAX 860.482.6503

Victor M. Muschell

vmuschell@snet.net

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Elinor Carbone
Torrington City Council
City of Torrington
140 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790

Dear Mayor and City Council:

As you may know Tom Gritt and I have been negotiating with Firefighters Local 1567, IAFF over changes to their pension plan. We have reached a Tentative Agreement which we believe will benefit the City for some time to come. A copy is attached.

It should not go unnoticed that the Union was forthcoming, cooperative, and understanding of the City's need to dampen the cost of this traditional pension plan. That positive attitude resulted in an agreement which we wholeheartedly recommend to the Mayor and Council.

The most important of the recommended changes are as follows:

1. Employee Pension Contribution: Employees now contribute 8% of pay to the pension fund for only 25 years even though the pension benefit is calculated on 27 years of service. This agreement requires a 4% annual contribution for the 26th and 27th year.
2. Overtime: Currently pension benefits are calculated on gross pay including overtime. In the future the amount of overtime will be capped by using a formula shown on the attached agreement. Generally, though, the effect is to cap the amount at about \$12,000 currently with provision for a gradual escalation if wages increase over the years.
3. Eligibility for Pension Upon Early Termination of Employment: Once vested (10 Years) an employee may leave employment and thereafter be eligible for a pension at age 55. This agreement changes that eligibility to age 58
4. Medical Insurance: Currently the amount a retiree pays for medical insurance is frozen at the cost he/she was paying in the year of retirement (currently 9%). The

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RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TORRINGTON TOWN CLERK

Addendum 1

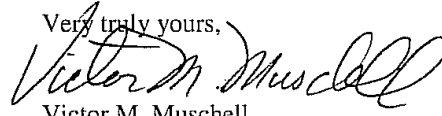
The Honorable Elinor Carbone
Torrington City Council
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February 24, 2015

new agreement allows that amount to float, again based on a formula shown on the attached. Generally, instead of being frozen the retiree will pay an amount calculated by applying the percentage applicable during the year of retirement to half of any medical insurance cost increase.

5. Medical insurance for new employees: Currently retirees are provided medical insurance. Under this agreement medical insurance will be provided only for a maximum of 10 years or age 65 whichever comes first.
6. Multiplier for half year of service after 25 years: Change from 1% for 6 months of service to 1.25% to be consistent with the 2.5% per year multiplier used in determining the pension benefit.
7. Defined Contribution Plan: Employees hired after May 2009 have a Defined Contribution Plan (Similar to a 401K Plan) and do not participate in the Defined Benefit Plan (Pension). Currently the City contributes 6% and the employee does the same. The new agreement provides for an increase of the City's contribution to 7% effective upon signing and 8% effective in 2020.
8. Duration: This agreement will expire June 30, 2023.

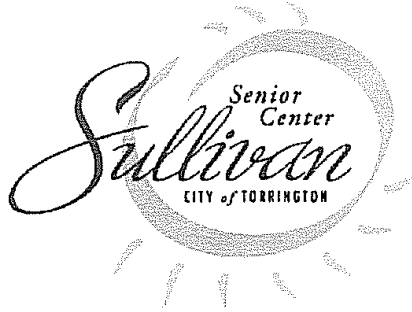
This agreement has been ratified by the Union and is now before you as required by law. The Council as the legislative body has thirty days (30) during which to reject this tentative agreement. If not rejected it will become binding automatically.

I will be happy to entertain any questions.

Very truly yours,

Victor M. Muschell

VMM/bcs
cc: Town Clerk
Thomas Gritt

Addendum 2



Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Carol Anderson
Assistant City Clerk
RE: City Council Agenda


Dear Carol:

Please include the following request on the Monday, March 2, 2015 agenda.

1. Recommendation from the Services for the Elderly Commission 1/23/15 to waive the bid process and purchase a Medical Transportation vehicle from sole vendor, Mathews Bus. Quote and Specs attached
 2. Vehicle Cost not to exceed – \$49,497.00
5310 Grant Awarded June 26, 2014 2014 80% \$39,597.60
City Match, Elderly Services approved 20% \$ 9,899.40
- Match will be provide by Park Avenue Thrift Shop

Assisted Medical Transportation Program provides seniors door to door transportation to doctors' appointments, lifesaving treatments and medical related needs. I plan to be in attendance to answer any questions.

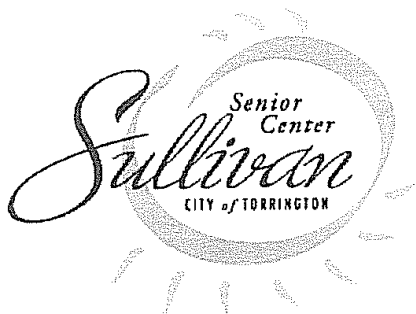
With appreciation,



Joel Sekorski, Director Service for the Elderly
88 East Albert Street
Torrington, CT 06791

88 East Albert Street, Torrington, CT 06790 · Phone (860) 489-2211 · Fax (860) 489-2529

Addendum 3



Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Carol Anderson
Assistant City Clerk
RE: City Council Agenda

Dear Carol:


Please include the following request on the Monday, March 2, 2015 agenda.

1. Recommendation from the Services for the Elderly Commission 1/23/15 to waive the bid process and purchase a Meals on Wheels Vehicle from sole vendor, Delivery Concepts East
2. Vehicle Cost should not exceed – \$40,000 Awarded 11/4/14
\$40,000 grant was received from Seherr-Thoss Foundation 11/24/14, un used funding remaining will be returned to Seherr-Thoss
 - Program Match would be any total that exceeds \$40,000

The Meals on Wheels Vehicle ordered will be 2015 Chevy Colorado equipped with temperature controlled hot and cold boxes for proper food handling. The Pre Quote was used for the grant process because the Chevy Colorado that is preferable for it size and fuel economy was not in production in 2014. Delivery Concepts east is a preferred vendor with a long standing partnership with The City of Torrington and is the only producer of this type of Vehicle on the East Coast.

I will be at the Council Meeting to answer any questions in needed.

With appreciation,



Joel Sekorski, Director Service for the Elderly
88 East Albert Street
Torrington, CT 06791