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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**

**March 7, 2016**

A **PUBLIC HEARING** was held by the City Council & WPC Authority in the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, March 7, 2015.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Jaime LaMere, City Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Anne Ruwet, Gregg Cogswell, Luisa Noujaim and Drake Waldron. City Councilor Daniel Farley was absent. Small Cities Administrator Peter Testa was also present.

Mayor Carbone called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk Joseph Quartiero read the legal notice.

Mr. Testa explained how the program works and updated the Council on the status of the Small Cities loan program.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

Mayor Carbone closed the public hearing at 6:41 p.m.

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**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**

**March 7, 2016**

Mayor Carbone called the **REGULAR MEETING** to order at 6:37 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 16, 2016.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

Bridget Beauchaine urged the Council to rescind the November 16, 2015 vote approving the Streetlight Master Plan, saying there are many ways the City can save money and remain safe. It’s important to look at safety, she said.

Peter Aduba thanked the Mayor and Council for listening to the people regarding Main Street Marketplace and the Streetlight Master Plan and urged them to rescind the Streetlight Master Plan vote.

**RESOLUTION: SMALL CITIES GRANT APPLICATION**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

*WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93 – 3 83, as amended; and,*

*WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,*

*WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Torrington make application to the State for $400,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:*

1. *That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,*
2. *That the filing of an application by the City of Torrington in an amount not to exceed $400,000 is hereby approved, and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, to carry out approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the City of Torrington.*

**RESCIND VOTE: Streetlight Master Plan**

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to rescind the unanimous vote from the regular meeting held November 16, 2015 approving the Streetlight Master Plan dated October 1, 2014, updated on October 28, 2015. Councilor Ruwet expressed her appreciation for the public’s input.

Councilor Ruwet noted that the Governor’s budget has hurt the City substantially and asked the public to return with their participation and creative ideas for the City budget.

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**

**March 7, 2016**

**MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Mayor’s appointment of Melanie McMillan as an Alternate on the **Planning & Zoning Commission** for a five-year term to expire December 1, 2020.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to accept the following Mayoral appointments to the **Economic Development Commission**: Fred Lopez, to fill the remainder of a 5-year term that expires February 9, 2018, Lance Boynton, to fill the remainder of a 5-year term that expires February 9, 2019 and Christopher Beyus, reappointed for a 5-year term that expires February 9, 2021.

**NAUGATUCK RIVER GREENWAY**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to support the 2015 Recreation Trails Grant Application for the Naugatuck River Greenway.

**FAIR HOUSING**

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to readopt the following Fair Housing Resolution:

***Whereas,*** *All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and*

***Whereas,*** *Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and*

***Whereas****, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and*

***Whereas,*** *The City of Torrington is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.*

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED,*** *That the City of Torrington hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,*** *That the chief executive officer of the City of Torrington or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the City of Torrington and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.*

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor ­­­­Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to readopt the Fair Housing Policy:

*It is the policy of the City of Torrington to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities.*

*Programs funded and administered by this City of Torrington must comply with the provisions of Section 46a-64c of the C.G.S., and with related state and federal laws and regulations that prohibit discriminatory housing practices.*

*The City of Torrington or any of sub-recipient of the City of Torrington will carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority or minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, age or because the individual has children in all programs and housing development activities funded or administered by the City of Torrington.*

*The municipality’s Office of the Mayor is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this policy.  The Fair Housing Coordinator may be reached at (860) 489-2228 or* [*timothy\_waldron@torringtonct.org*](mailto:timothy_waldron@torringtonct.org)*.*

*Complaints pertaining to discrimination in any program funded or administered by this City of Torrington, may be filed with the Office of the Mayor.  The municipality’s Grievance Procedure will be utilized in these cases.*

*Complaints also may be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunity, Special Enforcement Unit, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT  06106, Telephone (860) 541-3403.*

*A copy of this policy statement will be given annually to all City of Torrington employees and they are expected to fully comply with it.  In addition, a copy will be posted throughout the City of Torrington.*

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**

**March 7, 2016**

**TAX REFUNDS**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the refunds indicated on the list dated 2/26/2016. **Addendum 1**

**WPCA - SEWER TAX REFUNDS**

Acting herein as the Water Pollution Control Authority, on a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Tax Collector and authorize the sewer usage refunds indicated on the list dated 2/26/2016. **Addendum 2**

**CONTINGENCY FUNDS: Board Of Education IT Audit**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Comptroller to expend $2,800 from contingency line item 0010.0047.5651.0000 for unanticipated costs relating to the Board of Education Information Technology Audit.

Mayor Carbone explained the process, saying the audit results were shared with the Board of Education’s attorney and it is still under deliberation. She noted that the City is not a party to that contract, with no authority to act on any recovery. She said the goals shared with the Board of Education include recovery of funds over-expended, a full explanation of expenditures that were not itemized or detailed, and the overarching concern about the inherit conflict of interest represented by Richard Luna serving as an IT Director and Protected Harbor serving as a vendor, being an entity owned by Richard Luna.

Councilor Cavagnero said that questions have to be raised, examined and resolved.

Councilor Ruwet suggested the audit results be shared with the State Department of Education.

Councilor Cogswell requested Corporation Council define what roles and responsibilities the Council has in regard to the Board of Education with a summary of City Charter and State Statute provisions.

Mayor Carbone explained that the Board of Education is a State board that does not fall under City Council purview and any allocation for funding comes from the Board of Finance, in a lump sum. She said the audit was undertaken to find critical information that the Board of Finance will need to understand how the Board of Education is managing their fiscal affairs, and assured the Council that the audit is being shared with the State Department of Education.

Councilor Cavagnero recommended the Charter be revised to provide for Council review of the Board of Education annual goals and annual budget.

**PURCHASING**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract for the following if the price is no greater than 10% over the bid price on March 8, 2016.

* 1. **Diesel Fuel** with Mutual Oil Co., Inc. of Brockton, MA for $1.49 per gallon, $139,464 estimated annual cost.
  2. **#2 Fuel Oil** with Santa Buckley Energy, Inc. of Bridgeport, CT for $1.5775 per gallon, $50,164.50 estimated annual cost.
  3. **Gasoline** with Petroleum Traders Corp. of Ft. Wayne, IN for $1.5237 per gallon, $159,988.50 estimated annual cost.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Purchasing Agent and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to award the **Carriage House Renovations at Coe Memorial Park** in the amount of $33,500.00 to Valley Restoration, LLC, of Torrington, CT with the following additions if found to be necessary:

* Trim Replacement - $4.50 LF
* Clap Board Replacement - $5.00 LF
* Fascia - $3.00 LF
* Rafter Tails $30.00 each

**SMALL CITIES PAYMENTS**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to approve the following payments:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Vendor | Requisition # | Date | Amount | Description | Fund |
| City of Torrington | 15-SC-05 | 2/3/2016 | $ 150.00 | Title Searches, #143-399, #143-406 | 272 |
| Tim Waldron | HRLR-244 | 2/3/3016 | $ 922.95 | Reimbursement, NCDA Conference | 250 |
| City of Torrington | 15-SC-06 | 2/19/2016 | $ 75.00 | Title Search, #143-409 | 272 |
| Republican American | HRLR-245 | 2/19/2016 | $ 90.48 | Request for Proposal Ad | 250 |

**OPEN TO PUBLIC – Agenda Items Only**

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Noujaim, the Council voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public on agenda items only.

Bridget Beauchaine, Peter Aduba, and Kay MacIntire thanked the Council and Mayor.

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**

**March 7, 2016**

**BUSINESS: Department Heads**

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

Councilor Cavagnero requested a full report about the Fire Truck problem, and requested a representative of the Board of Public Safety and the Fire Chief attend the next City Council meeting.

Councilor Cogswell cautioned his fellow Council members about characterization of other Boards and requested an update on the car tax change and the impact of SB-1 on the City. Mayor Carbone said she requested our representatives attend a City Council and Board of Finance meeting to updates the Boards, as the City is looking at a loss in revenue of between $700,000 and $1,000,000 as a result of this legislation.

Councilor Ruwet announced the upcoming CT Business Day and thanked the Mayor for adding a second agenda item that opens the meeting to the public.

Councilor Noujaim announced two upcoming events and reported that the St. Jude Telethon was a moving and beautiful event, especially after the passing of founder Timothy Driscoll.

Mayor Carbone announced that the 2016 Lord Mayor for St. Patrick’s Day will be Carol Deane from NWCT Transit District. She said budget reviews are well underway and said she attended the CT Conference of Municipalities conference in Hartford. Mayor Carbone added that it is important to have a presence in Hartford to show opposition to unfunded mandates. She said the communications team will be meeting with downtown merchants to discuss the April Main Street Sidewalk reconstruction project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilor Cavagnero, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST: JOSEPH L. QUARTIERO, CMC

CITY CLERK

Carol L. Anderson CMC

Asst. City Clerk

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**

**March 7, 2016**

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPC AUTHORITY**

**March 7, 2016**