

**ALL COMMON COUNCIL ACTIONS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACTS OR TO ACCEPT BIDS AND OTHER PROPOSALS REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OF CITY FUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

Mayor Rilling called the January 12, 2016 meeting of the Norwalk Common Council to order at 7:33 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. King, City Clerk read the notice stating that the meeting was being videotaped and audio recorded for the public broadcast, and that assisted listening devices were available.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Ms. King called the Roll. The following Common Council members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard Bonenfant	Mr. Michael Corsello
	Mr. Bruce Kimmel	Mr. Nick Sacchinelli
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. Steven Serasis
District B:	Ms. Phaedrel Bowman	Mr. Travis Simms
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Michelle Maggio
District D:	Ms. Shannon O'Toole Giandurco	Mr. Michael DePalma
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Mr. John Igneri

There were fourteen (14) present and one (1) absent (Mr. Douglas Hempstead).

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting(s): December 22, 2015

**\*\* MR. SIMMS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. James Carter, representing the Norwalk River Valley Trail spoke in support of acceptance of the grant and said that it has been a positive experience. He said that the Friends of the Norwalk River Valley Trail assumed the responsibility of raising funds which relieved the town of that obligation.

## **IV. MAYOR**

### **A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

##### **Joseph A. Perella, Harbor Management**

- \*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH A. PERELLA TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Mr. Kydes said that he has known Mr. Perella for over 20 years.

- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### **Robert C. Wagman, Conservation Commission (alternate)**

- \*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT C. WAGMAN AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Igneri said that Mr. Wagman is concerned about the state of our rivers. In addition, he has been a resident of Norwalk for over 80 years.

- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **REAPPOINTMENTS:**

##### **William T. Gardella, Harbor Management**

- \*\* MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM T. GARDELLA TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that Mr. Gardella has a vested interest in the Norwalk Harbor. Mr. Bonenfant added that he cares about our Harbor.

- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### **Dennis J. Santella, Harbor Management**

**\*\* MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DENNIS J. SANTELLA TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Ms. Maggio said that she has known Mr. Santella for over 40 years and that he has a vested interest in the Harbor.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Ed Holowinko, Conservation Commission**

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ED HOLOWINKO TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Kydes said that Mr. Holowinko's attendance on the Conservation Commission is 100%.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MAYOR'S REMARKS:**

Ms. King administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Wagman, Mr. Holowinko and Mr. Perella.

Mayor Rilling wished all a peaceful, calm and loving world in 2016.

The Mayor's Ball will take place on January 29<sup>th</sup> and tickets are going fast. This will be the last time the Ball will be held at Continental Manor because the owners are going to re-purpose the property.

**V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kimmel said that there are two State projects going on – the East Norwalk bridge and the WALK bridge and they are causing a certain amount of anxiety. He said that Mr. Igneri came up with the idea of creating an *ad hoc* committee comprised of folks from East Norwalk and South Norwalk and have the State come in to talk about the projects.

Mr. Kimmel said that the Public Works Committee will hold a public information session on January 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the bridge issues.

**RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TWO RESIGNATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Simms rescued himself and left the Common Council Chambers.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Mr. Kimmel announced the resignation of Dale Ford and William Fitzgerald from the Ethics Board.

Mr. Kimmel announced the resignation of Louis M. Seeley from the Ethics Board.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Antoinette R. Williams, Ethics Board

**\*\* MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE (ALTERNATE) APPOINTMENT ANTOINETTE R. WILLIAMS TO THE ETHICS BOARD**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Haroldo V. Williams, Ethics Board

**\*\* MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF HAROLDO V. WILLIAMS TO THE ETHICS BOARD**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms returned to the Common Council Chambers.

Mayor Rilling announced the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King celebrations that will be taking place throughout the City.

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**\*\* MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**7C1**

**7C2**

**7C3**

**7C4**

**VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

- 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO SEPTEMBER 2, 2011 AGREEMENT FOR ON-CALL TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH RBA GROUP OF CONNECTICUT, LLC TO PREPARE A TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMING AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY FOR INTERSECTIONS AT (1) FAIRFIELD AVENUE, FLAX HILL ROAD, WASHINGTON STREET AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE AND (2) CONNECTICUT AVENUE AND WEST AVENUE FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,000. (SCOPE OF SERVICES DATE DECEMBER 3, 2015 ATTACHED). ACCOUNT NO. 09 03 4120 5777 C0232**
- 2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF WILTON PLEDGING NORWALK'S SUPPORT FOR ITS SHARE OF THE 20% MATCHING CONTRIBUTION DUE UNDER THE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO WILTON FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PORTION OF THE NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL THAT TRANSVERSES THE TOWN OF WILTON AND CITY OF NORWALK. (COPIES OF THE GRANT DOCUMENTS BETWEEN WILTON AND DEEP AND THE AGREEMENT INCLUDED IN PACKET)**
- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF WILTON AND THE FRIENDS OF THE NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL, INC. (NRVT) WHEREBY NRVT PLEDGES TO PROVIDE THE 20% MATCHING CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO WILTON FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PORTION OF THE NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL TO BE MADE ON BEHALF OF BOTH WILTON AND NORWALK. (COPY OF THE AGREEMENT INCLUDED IN PACKET)**
- 4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO CROWLEY FORD, LLC, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE 2016 FORD EXPLORER FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$26,053.60 (STATE CONTRACT #1 OPSX0239) ACCOUNT NO. 09 16 4031 5777 C0313**

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH K & J LANDSCAPING, LLC PER RFP# 3630 FOR TREE REMOVAL/TRIMMING SERVICES (FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 PER YEAR).  
ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 29 5298**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARD AND COMMISSIONS**

### **A. CORPORATION COUNSEL**

## **VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

### **A. HEALTH, PUBLIC WELFARE AND SAFETY**

**\*\* MS. BOWMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**1. APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN CWH RESEARCH INC. DATED OCTOBER 23, 2015 TO INDUSTRIAL /ORGANIZATIONAL SOLUTIONS INC., PURSUANT TO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT.**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT EVIDENCING THE CITY'S CONSENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT.**

Ms. Bowman explained that several months ago CWH Research Inc., was chosen to administer the Fire Department test. This item changes the name of the company on the contract.

Chief Reilly explained that the family who owned the company retired and turned the company over. The only reason this item did not go through committee is due to a timing issue.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **B. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**1. APPROVE OPM RESPONSIBLE GROWTH AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) GRANT PROGRAM CERTIFIED RESOLUTION.**

Mr. Kydes explained that this program will be used to revitalize homes in Norwalk, which would allow low income families to purchase these homes.

Ms. Susan Sweitzer explained that this program combines two initiatives; providing affordable home ownership and ensures preservation of workforce houses in South Norwalk. She said that they have successfully acquired two homes in South Norwalk and they will be available for resale.

In response to Mr. Bonenfant's question, Ms. Sweitzer said that this is funded through the North Walk Housing Corporation. She said that they will put in place deed restrictions on the homes which will allow the owner to have a tenant. There will be a restriction on the income of the tenant.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL CHARTER REVISION RESOLUTION**

Mr. Kimmel expressed his thanks to Diane Beltz Jacobson in the Law Department, Stuart Wells, Registrar of Voters, Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel, Irene Dixon, Assistant City Clerk and Council Members John Kydes and Shannon O'Toole Giandurco.

**\*\* MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT:***

- A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7-188 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK INITIATES THE PROCESS OF AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORWALK AND, FOR THAT PURPOSE HEREBY, APPOINTS A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION. (THIS ACTION MUST BE ADOPTED BY A 2/3 VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.)**
- B. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7-190 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, THE COMMON COUNCIL HEREBY APPOINTS THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AS MEMBERS OF SUCH CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION:**

- 1. WILLIAM FITZGERALD (D) - CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION**
  - 2. STEVEN KEOGH (D)**
  - 3. YVONNE RODRIGUEZ (D)**
  - 4. MICHAEL WITHERSPOON (D)**
  - 5. MARY ROMAN (R)**
  - 6. GLENN IANNACCONE (R)**
  - 7. JERRY PETRINI (R)**
- C. THE COMMON COUNCIL HEREBY RECOMMENDS THAT THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION CONSIDER AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORWALK AS FOLLOWS:**
- 8. AMEND CHARTER SECTION 1-166 TO PROVIDE THAT THE TOWN AND CITY ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR SHALL OCCUR EVERY FOUR YEARS RATHER THAN BIENNIALLY;**
  - 9. IF THE MAYORAL TERM IS INCREASED TO FOUR YEARS, THEN AMEND CHARTER SECTION 1-166 SO THERE IS A TWO TERM LIMIT FOR THE MAYOR;**
  - 10. INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE TERMS OF COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS, THE TOWN CLERK, AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS TO FOUR YEARS;**
  - 11. INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING CHARTER SECTION 1-167 TO CORRESPONDINGLY ADJUST THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, WHICH CURRENTLY ARE ON THE BALLOT "AT EACH GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION**
  - 12. AMEND CHARTER SECTION 1-166 TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCES TO SELECTMAN, CITY TREASURER AND SHERIFF;**
  - 13. AMEND CHARTER SECTIONS 1-215 AND 1-224 TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCES TO THE SALARIES OF CITY OFFICIALS; OR, INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THOSE SECTIONS SO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION SETS THE SALARIES OF CITY OFFICIALS.**
- D. THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT ITS DRAFT REPORT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL ON OR BEFORE MARCH 22, 2016.**

Mr. Kimmel said that he feels that the seven members of the Commission are a diverse group and he is confident that they will do a good job. He spoke to the resolution and said that it is good to provide the Commission with as much flexibility as possible.

By removing three offices, the Board of Education will be moved to the top of the ballot. He said that he can't answer what the Selectman, City Treasurer and Sheriff do. March 22<sup>nd</sup> was chosen to allow the Commission 10 weeks to submit their draft.

Ms. Bowman said that she was in support of this Resolution and very interested in the Commission looking at other issues.

Mr. Corsello said that he wants to be sure the Commission has enough time and made the following amendment:

**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

**D. THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT ITS DRAFT REPORT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL ON OR BEFORE APRIL 5, 2016.**

Mr. Serasis asked what would be the appropriate forum if a Common Council member wants to add another part to the items. Mayor Rilling said that they would have to add it now. He added that a Common Council member could go to a public hearing and make a recommendation or make a recommendation tonight.

Mr. Kimmel said that when the Charter Commission holds a public hearing a Common Council member can present their opinion to the Commission. Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Coppola to research Mr. Serasis' question.

Mayor Rilling said that when the final draft is received, a public hearing will be held and Common Council members will vote on each individual item.

Mayor Rilling expressed his deep appreciation to Mr. Kimmel.

**\*\* AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BONENFANT; MR. CORSELLO; MR. KIMMEL; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. MELENDEZ; MR SERASIS; MS. BOWMAN; MR. SIMMS; MR. KYDES; MS. MAGGIO; MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO; MR. DEPALMA; MR. LIVINGSTON; MR. IGNERI)**

**IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE**

There were none this evening.

**X. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

There were none this evening.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna King, City Clerk