

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll.

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard Bonenfant	Mr. Michael Corsello
	Mr. Bruce Kimmel	Mr. Nick Sacchinelli
	Mr. Douglas Hempstead	
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 15 (fifteen) Common Council members present.

Mayor Harry Rilling, Ms. Irene Dixon, Assistant City Clerk and Mr. Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel were also present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

May 10, 2016 – Regular Meeting:

**** MR. SIMMS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. O'TOOLE
GIANDURCO)**

May 2, 2016 – Special Meeting:

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The following correction was made:

Page 1 – should be noted that it was a Special Meeting

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.

Mr. Michael Mushak, Elmwood Avenue spoke in favor of the agreement with Geese Relief LLC for Canada Geese control. He said that geese are one of the biggest polluters of the Sound and are a health hazard. He also spoke in support of the Charter Revision Commission report and said that they worked hard, did a good job and should have the support of the Common Council.

Mr. Edward Musante, Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of the Charter Revision Commission report. He said that it was a well thought out plan and their effort was well done. He said that he was very pleased that the Mayor made this a big piece of his term this year. Mr. Musante said that his Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of a four-year term for Mayor. He noted that bond agencies like a four-year term.

Ms. Terri Polley, Chair, Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of the Charter Revision Commission report. She said that it helps with bond rating and urged support of the Charter Revision Commission report.

MAYOR

Mayor Rilling congratulated Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco on the birth of her first child. He said that last week he heard that GE will transfer 500 employees their Norwalk office.

Crius Energy will move their headquarters from Stamford to Norwalk, bringing 225 new jobs to Norwalk. The Rowayton Memorial Parade will be held on Sunday, May 29th and the citywide Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 30th. He noted that

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Norwalk has wonderful, talented bands. This is an opportunity to salute our Veterans and bring children to the parade and explain to them what the day is about.

On Saturday, June 4, the Mayor's Energy and Environment Task Force will host a Norwalk Solar Challenge Workshop in the Community Room. The first 200 residents to attend will get five free LED Light bulbs.

Mayor Rilling thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their hard work and dedication. He presented certificates to the William Fitzgerald, Chair, Jerry Petrini, Mary Roman and Stephen Keogh. Three members were not present this evening, Mr. Glenn Iannaccone, Ms. Yvonne Rodriguez and Mr. Michael Witherspoon. Mayor Rilling expressed his gratitude.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or appointments announced this evening.

RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS:

REAPPOINTMENTS:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Mr. Kimmel thanked the entire Common Council, the Law Department and Ms. Dixon. He explained that in January, the Common Council decided to focus on issues inherited from the past Common Council. He said that they are not insensitive to other issues and will begin to consider another Charter Revision this summer. He said that the Charter Revision Commission worked in a bi-partisan manner. The plan is to put up the four questions on the November ballot.

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADOPT THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

Mr. Kimmel asked if there were any recommendations. Mr. Hempstead asked to send back the terms of the Common Council members for more research. Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that both the Mayor and Common Council members should have four year terms.

Mr. Fitzgerald referred to their report and added that Mr. Wells said that in the off years the voter turnout would not be a fair representation of the residents. Mr. Keogh said that the pattern of a four-year term for Mayor and two-year term for Common Council members is replicated at the state and federal level. If the City moves to a four-year term for Common Council members it would have implications regarding other races.

Mr. Keogh said that there are provisions to remove the Mayor under some circumstances, but there is no provision concerning Common Council members who are not performing their duties in a satisfactory manner. He said that they could come up with a complicated system, but felt that complication is the enemy of voter turnout.

Mr. Bonenfant thanked the members of the Charter Revision Commission and said that he is not in favor of a four-year term. Mr. Fitzgerald said that they did not come to this lightly and that the sentiment from the residents was to have a four-year term for Mayor.

Mr. Serasis thanked the members of the Charter Revision Commission and said that he agrees with 99% of the report. It comes down to the mathematics of the elections. He said that he would like to see 4-4-4. He said that if there was 100% voter turnout, he would be 100% in agreement. Mr. Keogh said that voter turnout as far as local elections, is that voter turnout is driven by particular circumstances.

Mr. Serasis said that there needs to be a system of checks and balances. He said that if something went wrong, the voters would not have an opportunity to say anything except for every four years. He said that it is important to see the interaction between the two-year Common Council term and the four-year term for Mayor.

Mr. Kimmel asked if there were any other recommendations. Ms. Maggio recommended leaving the Common Council pay as is. Mr. Fitzgerald said that they spent a lot of time on this questions. He learned that the compensation is \$46.00 per month and given Common Council member's hard work, time and money out of pocket, had to find something more representative than \$46.00 per month. He said that they came up with 2% of the Mayor's salary. He noted that the voters will have the choice of either making this change or leaving the salary as it is.

**** MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH 11 (ELEVEN) VOTES IN FAVOR (MR. CORSELLO; MR. KIMMEL; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. MELENDEZ; MR. SERASIS; MS. BOWMAN; MR. SIMMS; MR. KYDES; MR. DEPALMA; MR. IGNERI; MR. LIVINGSTON) AND 4 (FOUR) IN OPPOSITION (MR. BONENFANT; MR. HEMPSTEAD; MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO; MS. MAGGIO)**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THAT THE COMMON COUNCIL ADOPT THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND THAT IT BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO SEPARATE THE REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL VOTES**

Mr. Coppola strongly suggested not separating the report. He said that it is improper and conflicts with Legislative intent.

**** MOTION FAILED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (MR. BONENFANT; MR. HEMPSTEAD; MR. SERASIS; MS. BOWMAN; MS. MAGGIO; MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO) AND NINE (9) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. CORSELLO; MR. KIMMEL; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. MELENDEZ; MR. SIMMS; MR. KYDES; MR. DEPALMA; MR. IGNERI; MR. LIVINGSTON)**

Mr. Hempstead said that he was in favor of two items:

- B. Shall the offices of City Treasurer, City Sheriff and Selectman be eliminated?
- D. Shall all Charter references to members of the Common Council be gender-neutral?

Mr. Hempstead said that he opposed a four-year term for Mayor; he said that it is about accountability. He said that he only recalls two Mayors in the last 40 years that only had one term. He noted that this is not personal, but has always felt this way.

As far as increasing the salary of Common Council members, Mr. Hempstead said that he is not in it for the money. He said that he will vote against the report based on these two items.

Mr. Corsello said that this was done in a completely non-partisan manner and the Charter Revision Commission did a great job; they were thorough and thoughtful. It is time to let the voters decide on their recommendations.

Ms. Bowman said that if the Charter Revision report is approved, the Common Council will be the only body with two year terms. She said that she hoped this would be revisited.

Ms. Maggio said that she stands by her statement about not increasing the pay.

Mr. Simms said that the Charter Revision Commission did a phenomenal job and stayed bi-partisan. He said that Common Council members go to a lot of functions and go out to meet residents. Gas is still expensive and an increase would be a nice gesture. The last increase was in 1931.

Mr. Sacchinelli said that he was happy to not take a salary, but that would discount people who would not be able to run.

Mr. Kydes said that he often has to get a babysitter so he can attend meetings. An increase would help with that cost. He said that he supports the four-year term for Mayor.

Mr. Igneri said that he fully supports the Charter Revision Commission's report and said that it is time to put it to the voters. He noted that if someone does not want the additional pay, they could donate it to charity.

Ms. Melendez said that when she first ran for Common Council, she did not know about the \$46.00, but this is one of the most expensive areas in the country. She said that the increase would help.

Mr. Bonenfant said that he understands that it costs people money to serve on the Common Council. He said that he will vote no.

Mr. Kimmel said that it costs a fair amount of money to serve on the Common Council and can exclude people from running. He said that the City is beginning to blossom and now is the time to change. He said that he will support the motion.

**** MOTION TO ADOPT THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND THAT IT BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER PASSED WITH ONE (1)**

ABSTENTION (MR. SERASIS); TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (MR. CORSELLO; MR. KIMMEL; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. MELENDEZ; MS. BOWMAN; MR. SIMMS; MR. KYDES; MS. MAGGIO; MR. DEPALMA; MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO; MR. IGNERI; MR. LIVINGSTON AND TWO (2) IN OPPOSITION (MR. BONENFANT AND MR. HEMPSTEAD)

Mr. Kimmel asked that Ms. O'Toole Giandurco and Mr. Kydes work with Mr. Coppola on the wording of the questions and bring that back at the second meeting in June.

A recess was called at 9:10 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:20 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

7A3

FINANCE COMMITTEE

7B1

7B2

7B3

7B4

7B6 – CONSENT TO REFER BACK TO COMMITTEE

7B7 – CONSENT TO REFER BACK TO COMMITTEE

7B8

7B9

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GEESE RELIEF LLC FOR PROJECT #3688 CANADA GEESE CONTROL/MANAGEMENT CALF PASTURE BEACH, VETERANS PARK FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM WITH THE OPTION OF 2 (1) YEAR TERMS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$31,200. ACCOUNT #016031-5585 GENERAL PARK IMPROVEMENT OPERATING BUDGET.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: MAY 3, 2016**
- 2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED APRIL 14, 2016**
- 3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: MARCH 31, 2016.**
- 4. APPROVE FY 2016-2017 PARKING AUTHORITY BUDGET**

- 6. CLOSEOUT THE FOLLOWING CAPITAL PROJECT, HEALTH DEPARTMENT SECURITY SYSTEM REPLACEMENT WITH AN AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$6,400 (ACCOUNT: 09152012-5777-C0552).
*CONSENT TO REFER BACK TO COMMITTEE***

- 7. RESOLUTION: APPROVE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,400 TO FUND HVAC REPAIRS AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING (ACCOUNT: 09162012-5777-C0453).
*CONSENT TO REFER BACK TO COMMITTEE***

- 8. RESOLUTION MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AGGREGATING \$29,034,000 FOR THE 2016- 2017 CAPITAL BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$23,902,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2016-2017 CAPITAL BUDGET.**

- 9. RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND SALE OF UP TO \$47,500,000 CITY OF NORWALK GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS EFFECTIVE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2016.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Bonenfant recused himself and left the Common Council chambers.

- ** MR. SIMMS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK FOR THE 2016 OYSTER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 FROM 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 FROM 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. SET-UP TO TAKE PLACE SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN NOON ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016.**

PRICES

GENERAL ADMISSION	\$12.00
CHILDREN 5-12	\$ 5.00
CHILDREN UNDER 5	Free
ADVANCE TICKETS ADULTS	TBD

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE

20,000

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Bonenfant returned to the Common Council chambers.

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Hempstead recused himself and left the Common Council chambers.

- ** MR. SIMMS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STEW LEONARD'S FOR THE USE OF THE ANDREWS FIELD PARKING LOT**

**FOR THEIR EMPLOYEE VEHICLES DURING THE BUSY STORE
DATES LISTED BELOW:**

2016

**JULY 1, 2, 3,
NOVEMBER 22, 23
DECEMBER 3, 4, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24**

2017

**APRIL 14, 15
MAY 13, 14, 27, 28, 29**

Mr. Antonio, representing Stew Leonard's said that the parking lot would be used from 4:45 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Simms added that this has been an on-going agreement with Stew's; prior to 2005, there was a barter agreement, but since then, they pay \$125.00 per day.

Mr. Kimmel noted that Stew's gives so much back to the community. Mr. Serasis said that he spoke with Mr. Mocciae and he said that it is easier to keep track of fees rather than barter services.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Hempstead returned to the Common Council chambers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE FY 2016-2017 WPCA BUDGET**

Mr. Hempstead said that he firmly believes that the sewage fees should be based on usage and not a flat fee. He said that he could not understand why there are now sewer meters. He added that having a sewer meter would be a terrific way to conserve water.

Mr. Kimmel said that for a number of years, he and Mr. Hempstead agreed on this. He said that going forward he would like to explore recommending that the Common Council not approve the WPCA budget unless they are convinced that it would be a detriment to the City to move in the direction of Mr. Hempstead's recommendation. He said that this would be the last time he would vote in favor of this budget.

Mayor Rilling said that he agreed and that it was not treating people equally. Mr. Serasis agreed and said that he supports that direction going forward. Mr. Bonenfant said that he did not think the bills would be reduced, due to the administrative costs, but appreciates the conservation argument.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were none this evening.

MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

**** MS. BOWMAN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. BOWMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REPLACE ITS CURRENT ISSUED SERVICE HANDGUN, THE SIG SAUER P- 229R .40 CALIBER SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL, WITH THE GLOCK 17 GENERATION 4 9 MM SEMI AUTOMATIC PISTOL VIA TRADE IN WHICH ENTAILS 185 GLOCK 17 GENERATION 4 9 MM SEMI-AUTOMATIC HANDGUNS, 25 GLOCK 34 GENERATION 4 9MM SEMI- AUTOMATIC HANDGUNS FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT TACTICAL TEAM, 10 GLOCK 17 SIMUNITIONS TRAINING PISTOLS, AND 09133010- 5777-C0436 AND ACCOUNT #03-0000-2660 NPD CAPITAL ACCOUNTS.**

Ms. Bowman said that this item passed in Committee, but it was too late to get it on the agenda.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD M. BASKIN TO PENSION BOARD

Mr. Hempstead said that he did not have any backup information on this and does not know what the urgency is. He said that he would not support this appointment.

Mr. Igneri explained that the Pension Board needs seven members present for a quorum for official business.

Mr. Simms said that he knows Mr. Baskin and he would be a great asset. Mr. Hempstead said that this is not about his resume, it is about procedure. He said that if they need a quorum, they could change the date of the meeting. Mr. Serasis said that he did not see the e-mail in time, so can't support moving forward on this.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. SERASIS); FOUR (4) OPPOSED (MR. BONENFANT; MR. HEMPSTEAD; MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO; MS. MAGGIO) AND TEN (10) IN FAVOR (MR. CORSELLO; MR. KIMMEL; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. MELENDEZ; MS. BOWMAN; MR. SIMMS; MR. KYDES; MR. DEPALMA; MR. IGNERI; MR. LIVINGSTON)**

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD M. BASKIN TO PENSION BOARD**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO; MR. SERASIS; MS. MAGGIO) AND TWO (2) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. BONENFANT AND MR. HEMPSTEAD) AND TEN (10) IN FAVOR (MR. CORSELLO; MR. KIMMEL; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. MELENDEZ; MS. BOWMAN; MR. SIMMS; MR. KYDES; MR. DEPALMA; MR. IGNERI; MR. LIVINGSTON)**

ADJOURNMENT

**** Ms. MAGGIO MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Irene Dixon, Assistant City Clerk

