

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 23, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Faye Bowman, Chair; Stephen Serasis; Nick Sacchinelli, Rich Bonenfant; Eloisa Melendez (7:35 p.m.)

OTHERS: Michelle Deluca

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the May 19th Meeting

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 19TH MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION:**

- A. AMEC CARTING HAD BEEN MISPELLED IN DOCUMENT**
- B. ON PAGE 6. MR. SERASIS – SHOULD BE VONA NOT VOMA,**
- C. MICHAEL WRINN’S NAME WAS INCORRECTLY SPELLED**
- D. DIANE CC LIVES ON OLMSTEAD PLACE**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (BONENFANT)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public was present.

Council Member Melendez entered the meeting at 7:35 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to sign the contract renewal with Emergency Communication Network (ECN) for the Code Red Emergency Notification system unlimited service for the period of July 1,2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$37,500. Account # 013160-5258

Michelle Deluca presented data to back the contract renewal with Code Red. She advised this would be their 8th year renewal and the system was used mostly for emergency notifications with some other community alerts as well. Ms. Deluca advised they went with the unlimited service plan as they found a set amount was too restrictive and they had exceeded the limit before during storms such as Irene. She gave statistics to the program's capabilities including that of reaching 36,000 households in about 10 minutes in an emergency; noting how effective this was.

Mr. Serasis complimented Ms. Deluca on her thorough presentation and her work over the years.

Mr. Sacchinelli was interested if they went out to bid often and if there were other providers like Code Red? Ms. Deluca stated that yes, there were other providers in the market and they went out to bid originally in 2007/2008. They found with what was tested, Code Red beat out the competitor (Everbridge) in regards to the quality of the message and the information shared. She also noted that the technology is growing and they are benefiting from the improvements, yet because they are in contract, their price has remained consistent.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if residents or users have to sign up for the text alerts. Ms. Deluca advised that the City has access to public phone numbers, but when presentations are made to senior citizens etcetera, they are encouraged to sign up to get the alerts. She advised the system allows for localized blasts in neighborhoods and gave an example of evacuation needs. Ms. Deluca also said that although her department is responsible for the program, other departments utilize the system include the Police, who use it with their internal team members.

Ms. Melendez asked if all of the messages were sent in English. Ms. Deluca stated that as of right now, yes they were all English. They had looked into translators but none of them deemed accurate enough and they prefer to do a live voice recording. Ms. Melendez commented she would be happy to help in that area if needed and asked if perhaps they could had a text in Spanish along with the English or have an option for the user to choose a language. Ms. Deluca stated she would look into this.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked if they had received feedback to have an "all safe" option and if there was a way to respond through the system. Ms. Deluca advised there is typically an "all clear" call afterwards after a crisis has passed and that logistically the system could potentially be overwhelmed with 86,000 residents programmed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SACCINELLI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RENEWAL
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion Items

**** MR. SERASIS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES IN ORDER TO BRING UP
OLD BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Serasis wanted to touch on the railing in a park in his district. He advised that John Igneri spoke to the DPW head and the item went to State. Mr. Serasis stressed his concern that now that the Tuesday events are being held every week, with alcohol present, it could be a very dangerous situation as a ledge drops down and there is no barricade to protect the public.

Ms. Melendez asked if not something temporary could be done? Mr. Serasis advised there is \$100,000.00 to put towards a fence, but there was no temporary construction planned.

Ms. Bowman commented that they should be able to make a temporary fix with that budget. She asked Mr. Serasis if he would like to make an action item, he confirmed. Ms. Bowman advised the action item would be:

DPW and Park and Recreation to place a temporary fence prior to June 28th based on Mr. Serasis' information regarding the park in his district.

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOTIONED TO MAKE THIS ACTION ITEM: DPW AND
PARK AND RECREATION TO PLACE A TEMPORARY FENCE PRIOR TO JUNE
28TH IN THE PARK OF MR. SERASIS' DISTRICT.**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED THE MOTION
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was then guided back towards the discussion items:

1. Panhandling in South Norwalk

This item was tabled.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOTIONED TO TABLE THIS ITEM.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Street Vendor Fees

Ms. Bowman advised that she specifically placed these two discussion items together because there is an instance in Norwalk where there is a panhandler trying to sell a service and this could fall under street peddling, which is allowed.

Ms. Melendez advised the ordinance currently in place does not outlaw panhandling, but it does outlaw aggressive panhandling. Ms. Melendez then described a few characters she has noticed in the South Norwalk area and advised the fee for a street vendor is \$200.00 annually.

Ms. Bowman read the definition of a street peddler and asked that the Council Members do some research to familiarize themselves with the two definitions and they would revisit the topic.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Mink
Telesco Secretarial Services