

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 7:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL.

Ms. King called the roll.

Council at Large: Mr. Richard Bonenfant Mr. Michael Corsello
Mr. Douglas Hempstead Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
Mr. Bruce Kimmel, Council President.

District A: Ms. Eloisa Melendez Mr. Steve Serasis

District B: Ms. Phaedrel Bowman

District C: Mr. John Kydes Ms. Michelle Maggio

District D: Ms. Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco Mr. Michael DePalma

District E: Mr. John Igeneri

There were 13 Council Members present and two absent (Simms and Livingston). A quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, Attorney Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel and Donna King, City Clerk.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES.

Regular Meeting – October 24, 2016.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2016.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **ROLL CALL**: please add Mr. Douglas Hempstead in the **Council at Large** category and Ms. Michelle Maggio in **District C**.

Page 8, paragraph 1, line 1: after “way acquisition activities.” please add “Mr. Igneri noted that the agreement was a renewable 10 year agreement. Mr. Wright said that it was not a renewable agreement but a new 10 year agreement.”

Page 8, paragraph 3, line 1: please change the following from: “Mr. Coppola said that with a PAL, the Law Department” to “Mr. Coppola said that he attended a seminar the previous week and the 20% that were not happy were unhappy because of the price they were getting for their property.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2016 MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting – November 7, 2016.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2016.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 1, under **ROLL CALL**: please add “Mr. Michael DePalma” in **District D**.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2016 MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Mr. Vic Paladino came forward and said that he was a resident. His family has owned property at the corner of Hanford Place and Water Street for over 65 years. He said that he was concerned about the changes at the intersection of Day Street and Washington Street project. Mr. Paladino said that he was concerned about the effects that raising the intersection of Raymond and Day Streets would have on the flooding on the nearby properties. It is a fairly common occurrence to have flooding on Water Street during excessive high tides or large amounts of rain. He spoke about the flooding that has happened in the past and was concerned about where all the water would go when the road elevations were changed.

He said that he had stopped by City Hall to speak to a number of people including Mr. Chimento, Ms. Burns and Ms. Marisa Diez had taken time to speak with him. Mr. Paladino had been told that both the EPA and HUD had reviewed the overall plan. He said that he had been told that the properties would not be adversely affected and hoped that this objective would be both realistic and factual. He thanked everyone for their time and said that he hoped this project would be a benefit to the community. Hew wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Mr. Cesar Ramirez came forward to speak about the Norwalk Housing Authority. He said that on behalf of Norwalk Housing, and the South Norwalk Community, he would like to thank everyone for the long hours of work to move the Washington Village project forward. He thanked the Mayor for his strong support of the project and said that this would impact so many peoples' lives. He invited everyone to come to the ground breaking ceremony on Monday, November 28, 2016.

Ms. Diane Cece of Olmstead Place came forward and said that she had sent a lengthy email to the Council about Item 7D1. When she arrived at City Hall, she found out that many of the Council Member had not received the email yet. Ms. Cece said that she would like to request that this item be tabled to the next meeting or sent back to Committee. She said that the description was vague but the actual item that was being discussed was police working at the construction sites. The back up information does not include any information from the Committee and does not give the public an understanding of which streets would need more police presence. There was also some discussion regarding whether this change would be cost neutral. Ms. Cece said that she had several questions and said that while this agenda item rises to the letter of the FOIA law, it does not rise to the spirit of the law. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Rilling asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council. Hearing none, he closed Public Participation portion of the meeting.

MAYOR.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

Resignation: There were no resignations to consider at this time.

Appointment: There were no appointments to consider at this time.

Reappointment: There were no reappointments to consider at this time.

MAYOR'S REMARKS.

Mayor Rilling introduced his new assistant, Atty. Laoise King. Atty. King came forward and gave a brief overview of her work history as an attorney that included a position as the New Haven Deputy Chief of Staff; New Haven Public Schools Chief of External Affairs; Assistant New Haven Corporation Counsel; Denver, Colorado Assistant City Attorney and Staff Attorney for the National Association of Council for Children. For the last five years, she has worked for the United Way.

Atty. King said that she had been at City Hall for about a week and was very, very impressed with the staff. Many of the departments are working with fewer staff members than other cities and the employees were very efficient.

Mayor Rilling said that Mr. Wells, the Registrar of Voters, had provided a break down of the most recent election figures and that copies of the break out were available for the public.

Mayor Rilling then thanked the Council for the past wonderful year and asked that everyone be aware that right here in Norwalk and across the State that there are those who do not have the abundance that most of us have. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Everyone should be reaching out to those who are dis-enfranchised not only at this time, but year round. He mentioned Mr. Ernie Dumas, a community activist, who deep fries between 30 and 40 turkeys down at the South Norwalk Community Center along with all the fixings for those who may not be so fortunate.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

General Council Business

Mr. Kimmel said that this was his last meeting as Council President and that this past year had been a particularly difficult budget year, but the City was able to fully fund the BOE and keep the City at one of the lowest tax increases in a number of years. There has been coordination between the Council and the BOE regarding the Special Education program. The two groups are also working on improving the facilities for the Norwalk students. The Council was also working on providing Senior Tax relief, which is the third time that the City has done this. He said that the process to provide Senior Tax relief is not a simple thing to do. Mr. Kimmel mentioned that one of the first things that he and Mayor Rilling had discussed was insuring that the Seniors could remain in Norwalk.

There have been many development projects underway in Norwalk including the final details for the SoNo Collection, He spoke about the fact that the Washington Village had come out of its two year hiatus and the project was moving forward. Confirmation has been received that the bank is committed to the POKO project and the project will move forward. Mr. Kimmel mentioned the opening of the ice rink and said he would be interested in seeing how that works out.

He added that the City has hired outside counsel regarding the Walk Bridge and also worked closely with those who would be directly impacted by the project. At the most recent meeting, the City presented an united front and the State heard the City residents loud and clear. He congratulated everyone that was there at the meeting.

Mr. Kimmel said that it was Mr. Bonenfant's birthday and led the applause.

He then announced that the new Minority Leader for the coming year would be Ms. Maggio. Mr. Kydes will be the Majority Leader. He said that the last item on his list was the election of a new Council President.

Mr. Kimmel then turned the meeting over to Mayor Rilling to conduct the election of a Council President.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Kimmel for his hard work during the past year.

Ms. Melendez thanked Mr. Kimmel for his leadership during the past year and for making all the Council Members read the Consent Calendar.

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO NOMINATE MR. IGNERI AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT.**

Ms. Melendez spoke about how she had served with Mr. Igneri for the last three years and felt that he would represent all the citizens.

Mr. Hempstead said that he was impressed with Mr. Igneri for the last five years and that he had never raised his voice, which was impressive. He also thanked Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco for her work as Minority Leader.

Mr. Bonenfant said that he would support Mr. Igneri as Council President. He thanked Mr. Kimmel for all his hard work, along with Mr. Kydes and Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco.

Mr. Kydes thanked Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco for her work and said she never dropped the ball once while they were working together. He also thanked Mr. Kimmel for all the times when he provided, suggestions, options or solutions when no one else could. Mr. Kydes went on to say that while they were close friends, he had his full support.

Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco thanked Mr. Kydes for his flexibility with her work schedule and during her delivery. She said that she would support Mr. Igneri as Council President and was looking forward to working with him.

**** THE MOTION TO ELECT MR. IGNERI AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT PASSED WITH 12 IN FAVOR (BONENFANT, CORSELLO, HEMPSTEAD, KIMMEL, SACCHINELLI, SERASIS, DEPALMA, KYDES, MAGGIO, O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO, MELENDEZ AND IGNERI) AND ONE OPPOSED (BOWMAN).**

Mr. Igneri assumed the Chairmanship for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Igneri thanked everyone for their support, along with Mr. Kimmel for his leadership during the past year. Mr. Igneri said that he particularly liked Mr. Kimmel's innovation regarding reading the consent calendar. This practice will continue. He explained that he had been scheduled to read the Consent Calendar for this meeting and therefore would assign Mr. Kimmel to read the Calendar in his place.

Mr. Igneri said that he had some specific goals that he would like to work towards in the coming year and listed a number of them, including continuing smart development; continuing the Transit Orientated Development and to continue to foster the positive energy that has been created around the schools. He said that the attendance at the recent Walk Bridge meeting had been very good and that the State had contacted DPW and acknowledged a number of points that the residents had made during that meeting.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS –

There were no resignations or appointments to consider at this time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

B. BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

A. RECREATION, PARKS, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH “THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NORWALK, CT” TO CONTRACT FOR THE PARKING AT CALF PASTURE BEACH, SHADY BEACH, MARVIN SCHOOL AND TAYLOR FARM FOR THE ANNUAL NORWALK INTERNATIONAL IN-WATER BOARD SHOW TO TAKE PLACE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500.00. ACCOUNT #016027-5258.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY REGION – PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK AND PAVILION I FOR THE ANNUAL “SUMMER CONCOURS” TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017 FROM 6:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 125.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH N.I.C.E., INC. FOR THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK FOR THE ANNUAL N.I.C.E. FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2017 FROM 11:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017 AT 6:30 A.M. WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 4,000.

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NORWALK, CT FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM FOR THEIR ANNUAL CAR SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017 FROM 7:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017 AT 12:00 NOON WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ON MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017. RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE, 1,000.

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK KARTING ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THEIR SPRING AND FALL RACING SEASON TO BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

**SPRING 2017: MARCH 18, 25 APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22 MAY 6, 13
FALL 2017: SEPTEMBER 16, 30 OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, 28
 NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18**

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COLOR VIBE 5K FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017 FROM 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017 FROM 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2017. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 3,000.

IF RAIN ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY MAY BE AVAILABLE. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100+

7. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO INCREASE THE CHANGE ORDER ON PROJECT #3692 FLAX HILL PARK UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS FROM \$4,280.00 TO A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$13,265.00 FOR ADDITIONAL REMOVAL OF DEBRIS AND ADDITIONAL PAVING. ACCOUNT NUMBERS #0915-6030-5777-C0178; 016031-5585; 016010-5585; 09176030-5777-C0588.

8. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PROBUILT DESIGN, LLC FOR PROJECT #3659, INA CLARK COMMUNITY GARDEN, SAN VINCENZO PLACE FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$97,200.00. ACCOUNT #TBD 50% BY STATE DEEP GRANT.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: NOVEMBER 10, 2016.

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 2016.

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: OCTOBER 31, 2016.

C. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

2. RE-APPROVE THE WEST AVENUE CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS.

3. RE-APPROVE WASHINGTON-SOUTH MAIN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS READ PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7.B FINANCE COMMITTEE.

4. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Housing for the grant of \$4,000,000 in CDBG-DR funding for the raising of Raymond and Day Streets in connection with the Washington Village Choice Neighborhood Improvements Project.

5. Resolution approving a special capital appropriation in the about of \$3,950,000 to fund the Raymond and Day Street public improvement component of the Choice Neighborhoods project (09170910-5777-C0560) and authorizing the issuance if \$3,450,000 general obligation bonds of the city to meet said appropriation.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE TWO ITEMS.**

Mr. Kimmel said that the City was executing agreements with the State. He noted that the "DR" notation referred to in Item 4 "Disaster Recovery. The City received

\$3,000,000 in 2014 and last year, the City received an additional \$1,000,000 for this project from the Federal Government.

Regarding #5, the City would be bonding \$500,000 less because Trinity had agreed to reimburse the City for the sidewalk improvements. There were funds approved in 2015-16 and more funding in 2016-17. He explained how this would affect the finances for the infrastructure portion of the project. Due to the delay, the costs of the project has risen to \$140,000.

Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco thanked all the staff that had attended the Committee meetings because it helped everyone to have the details explained.

Mr. Hempstead said that this project started as "Project Hope" about seven years ago and this would be a game changer for the residents who would be living there. While the political parties have switched, along with the Mayor and various other factors changed, but everyone has worked hard to move this project forward.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the original agreements that stated that if the project did not start in a certain period, the land would revert back to the City. Mr. Sheehan said that the developer was within the window of time and had exercised the option.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the DEEP role in the project. Mr. Sheehan said that the DEEP had been working with the various developers and other parties to make sure everything had been addressed because they must issue a finding. That DEEP finding has been issued, so everything is in order.

Mr. Hempstead thanked everyone for their work on this. Mr. Sheehan said that the staff had worked together and done a fantastic job. Mr. Kimmel said that once the project had cleared the last delay, the staff had worked very hard to complete a number of tasks to moved the project forward. The staff has done a miraculous job to get the project this far into the process.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE GRANT OF \$4,000,000 IN CDBG-DR FUNDING FOR THE RAISING OF RAYMOND AND DAY STREETS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WASHINGTON VILLAGE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

5. RESOLUTION APPROVING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE ABOUT OF \$3,950,000 TO FUND THE RAYMOND AND DAY STREET PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT COMPONENT OF THE CHOICE

**NEIGHBORHOODS PROJECT (09170910-5777-C0560) AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,450,000 GENERAL
OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID
APPROPRIATION.**

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM
THAT WOULD HAVE TO DO WITH THE TRANSFER WITH THE
PROPERTIES AT 13 AND 20 DAY STREET.**

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM THAT
WOULD HAVE TO DO WITH THE TRANSFER WITH THE PROPERTIES AT
13 AND 20 DAY STREET PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any documents, including quit
claims deeds needed to transfer the City of Norwalk's interest in property located at
13 and 20 Day Streets to the Norwalk Housing Authority for the purpose of
inclusion in the Washington Village Housing Redevelopment Project.**

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W.
RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING QUIT CLAIMS
DEEDS NEEDED TO TRANSFER THE CITY OF NORWALK'S INTEREST IN
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13 AND 20 DAY STREETS TO THE NORWALK
HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCLUSION IN THE
WASHINGTON VILLAGE HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

Atty. Diane Beltz Jacobson explained that this was the option that Mr. Hempstead had
asked about earlier.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

1. Re-Approve the Wall Street Redevelopment Plan for a period of 18 months.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. Kydes said that the re-approval of the plan would allow it to be updated.

Mr. Bonenfant said that he was the one that asked about this. He noted that the Council
had approved a large housing project over at Washington village. While he understood
that this was to allow the Redevelopment Agency time to review the Plan. He said that
one of the comments that he hears from the Community is about the large number of

housing units being constructed and the impact that this would have on the infrastructure such as schools, along with Police and Fire Department services.

Mr. Serasis said that he represents the area and many of the local residents want a local train stop near Wall Street.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. Approve proposed revisions to Chapter 96, Excavations and Encroachments in Public Streets and Grounds.

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. Sacchinelli said that there were still some questions that the residents had that should be considered. There were also several version of the revisions that need to be removed from consideration and the language needs to be clarified.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED WITH NINE (9) IN FAVOR (BONENFANT, CORSELLO, HEMPSTEAD, SACCHINELLI, DEPALMA, KYDES, O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO, IGNERI AND MELENDEZ); TWO (2) OPPOSED (KIMMEL AND MAGGIO) AND TWO (2) ABSTAINED (SERASIS AND BOWMAN).**

MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were no postponed motions from the Council floor at this time.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were no suspensions of the rules to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services