

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 meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. King read the notice stating that the meeting was being audio recorded and videotaped with subtitles for public broadcast. She asked everyone to speak clearly, one at a time, into the microphone and said 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. Gregory Burnett Mr. Colin Hosten Ms. Barbara Smyth	Mr. Michael Corsello Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. Chris Yerinides
District B:	Mr. Ernest Dumas	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Beth Siegelbaum
District D:	Mr. Douglas Hempstead	Mr. George Tsiranides
District E:	Mr. John Igneri	Mr. Thomas Livingston

At Roll Call there were fifteen (15) Common Council members present.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling; Deputy Corporation Counsel, Jeffrey Spahr and City Clerk, Donna King.

Mayor Rilling welcomed Ms. Young and Mr. Hosten to their first meeting. He said both have been selected pursuant to the Charter.

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

December 11, 2018

\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. HOSTEN AND MS. YOUNG)

## III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr. Joseph Schnierlein spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. He said he knows the devastation brought about by plastic bags in the water. The Harbor Management, Shellfish and Water Quality commissions are strongly in favor of this ordinance.

Ms. Grace Blackwell spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said the plastic bags do not break down and end up in the water killing wildlife.

Ms. Betty Bell spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said Norwalk uses millions of plastic bags. They do not break down and are ingested by marine life. There are 10 drop off locations in Norwalk to donate plastic bags for users in need. Norwalk needs to be a city devoted to sustainability; this ordinance is in the best interest of the community.

Ms. Marne Smith spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said it is not hard to go without plastic bags. She presented reusable bags obtained over time and said she keeps them in her car.

Ms. Cece Mar spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said they give out 53,000 bags to their clients at Person to Person, but they are looking at ways to provide reusable bags to their clients, as well as provide education. It is a continuing effort and they are all in favor of protecting the environment and moving toward reusable bags.

Ms. Roshni Yousuf a student at Roton Middle School spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said that at school, they all know about the harm caused by plastic bags. This ban is a step in the right direction. She added that she hoped an education platform would be created.

Ms. Midge Kennedy spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said single use plastic bags are a waste of petroleum. The Board of Directors of the Norwalk land Trust voted unanimously to support the ban.

Ms. Liz Milue spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance and said Westport spearheaded the ban 10 years ago.

Mr. Edward Cesare spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. He said the use of microbeads in cosmetics was banned.

Ms. Marlene Harrick spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance but expressed concern about what to use when disposing of diapers and picking up after dogs.

Ms. Diane Lauricella spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said there are a lot of issues in Norwalk and that the City should not stop at plastic bags. She added that they need to be sensitive to low income people who do not have cars. The City also needs to provide education during the roll out and be sensitive to the needs of others. She suggested that churches provide free reusable bags and that the City put free reusable bags on buses.

Ms. Kelly Calderon spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She described how she and her family would get their groceries and carry their bags on the bus.

Ms. Bridget Cevero said that The Maritime Aquarium supports the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said this ordinance aligns with their mission.

Mr. Stephan Collot spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. He said he was shocked by the use of plastic bags when he moved here from France. He spoke about going to the Norwalk Islands and cleaning the debris.

Mr. Kevin Tzpas spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. He noted that it take many years for plastic bags to break down.

Ms. Nancy McClellan spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance and said she spent three hours on New Years Day collecting trash at Veteran's Park.

Dr. Peter Libre spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance said he typically walks or bikes. He said that during his outings, he picks up a lot of trash. He said he was dismayed that a recent study said that oysters are filtering the trash and that it is discouraging that oysters are becoming contaminated.

Ms. Ginger booker spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said children who grow up with adults who support the ban can make a difference. She suggested using cotton reusable bags.

Ms. Louise Washer spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance. She said that last year the Norwalk River Watershed picked up 1,800 pounds of trash in the Norwalk River.

Mr. Dick Harris spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance and said he worked in water quality for a long time. He said that people toss dog waste in plastic bags into storm drains.

Ms. Roma Stiberly spoke in support of the use of carry out bags ordinance and said it is not a burden to keep bags with you at all times. She said that some of the poorest countries completely adopted a ban on plastic bags.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling announced upcoming events:

January 21<sup>st</sup> – celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday

January 15<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> – public review and hearing on the new plan of conservation and development

Mayor Rilling invited everyone to participate in the annual Earth Day clean up in April.

**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA UNDER RECREATION PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Mr. Livingston welcomed Ms. Young and Mr. Hosten to the Common Council and announced their committee assignments.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

MARK A. DENTE V. CITY OF NORWALK EXECUTIVE SESSION

B. BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

1. RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$18,938 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM UNALLOCATED CONTINGENCY TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT FOR THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2018
2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED DECEMBER 13, 2018.
3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: NOVEMBER 2018.
4. RESCIND THE COUNCIL APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 2018:

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS TO EAGLE VIEW, A DOLE SOURCE PROVIDER, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE ENTIRE

**CITY OF NORWALK, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$23,530.50 PER PROPOSAL Q-23970, GSA CONTRACT NUMBER GS-35F-0801N, ACCOUNT 09190600-5777-C0375**

**APPROVE AS REVISED:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION, A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF EAGLE VIEW, A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF HE ENTIRE CITY OF NORWALK, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$23,530.50 PER PROPOSAL Q-23970, GSA CONTRACT NUMBER GS-35F-0801N, ACCOUNT 09190600-5777-C0375**

**C. PUBLIC WORKS**

- 1. APPROVE THE NECESSITY FOR THE ABANDONMENT/DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET BEGINNING AT THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-39-0) AS DEPICTED ON A MAP PREPARED BY RYAN AND FAULDS LAND SURVEYORS, A REDNISS & MEAD COMPANY ENTITLED "PROPERTY SURVEY ABANDONMENT MAP OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT," DATED OCTOBER 4, 2018, AT A SCALE OF 1"=20' ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INDICATING SAID PORTION OF STEVENS STREET TO BE ABANDONED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE EXISTING CITY PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE**
  
- 2. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR THE FREEHOLDER'S REPORT AND ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON SAID REPORT FOR THE ABANDONMENT/DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET BEGINNING AT THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-39-0) AS DEPICTED ON A MAP PREPARED BY RYAN AND FAULDS LAND SURVEYORS, A REDNISS & MEAD COMPANY ENTITLED "PROPERTY SURVEY ABANDONMENT MAP OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT," DATED OCTOBER 4, 2018, AT A SCALE OF 1"=20' ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INDICATING SAID PORTION OF STEVENS STREET TO BE ABANDONED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE EXISTING CITY PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 340 WEST**

**AVENUE AND 350 WEST AVENUE. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH REPORT, DETERMINE IF THE FREEHOLDER'S REPORT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID REPORT THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AT 7:00 P. M. IN ROOM 225, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR IN NORWALK CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT**

**D. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

- 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MULTIPLE MYELOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM FOR THEIR MMRF TEAM FOR CURES 5K WALK/RUN TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019 FROM 7:30 AM – 12:00 NOON. SET UP TO BEING AT 8:00 AM ON FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000 – 1,200.**
  
- 2. APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PROTECTIVE NETTING FOR BRIEN MCMAHON BASEBALL FIELD, SOLE SOURCE, TO FORENET INC., FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$23,557.00.  
ACCOUNT #0916-6030-5777-C0568**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**A. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

**\*\* MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE NEW ORDINANCE: USE OF CARRYOUT BAGS BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS**

Ms. Melendez thanked everyone involved for their assistance in making this a strong ordinance. She explained the purpose of the ordinance and said no one should feel helpless in fighting climate change. This is a step in the right direction. Norwalk has a responsibility to be a leader in this.

Ms. Melendez said a lot of groups provide free reusable bags. She encouraged her colleagues to support this ordinance.

Mr. Livingston thanked the public for coming out. He said it is clear how important the water is and it is incumbent upon all to respect the water.

Mr. Livingston clarified the ban saying that it bans the use of single use plastic bags, but does not ban the use of all bags. He said they are very aware of the burden on lower income residents and will reusable bags will be distributed to those in need. Education is part of this ordinance. He said Dr. Adamowski is on board.

There will be a six-month implementation period. Mr. Livingston said they need to start somewhere and will look at other plastics. Representative Dickinson in Stamford said he will look at Norwalk's ordinance to see if their ordinance needs to be strengthened.

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO SECTION TWO OF THE ORDINANCE**

**THE TERM SHALL NOT INCLUDE BAGS PROVIDED BY PHARMACIES**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Yerinides said he was very proud of this ordinance and was concerned about lower income residents. He said he received a lot of comments about bags breaking on public transportation. The goal is to adopt reusable bags over single use bags. This ordinance was not rushed through. This is an indication that there is a desire in Norwalk to be a leader in environmental issues. Mr. Yerinides said this will not solve all of the problems. He noted that reusable bags are used across the world.

Mr. Kydes said he believed this ordinance would be a minor inconvenience but will quickly turn into a routine. He thanked the Ordinance Committee who put a tremendous amount of work into this.

Mr. Hosten thanked everyone for the information he received tonight. This ordinance is a step in the right direction. He said the grocery store Kruger banned plastic bags years ago. He added that this issue could be related to the ongoing discussion about flooding in Norwalk due to plastic found in storm drains.

Ms. Young thanked the Ordinance Committee and said she was going to abstain from voting, but in hearing the young people talk she was moved by their message. She said she was prepared to vote.

Mr. Dumas said there is a lot of plastic clogging storm drains. There are a lot of refuse companies in South Norwalk and suggested making them cover their trucks so the trash does not fly out of the truck

Mr. Igneri said he was voting in favor and noted that many years ago, Ms. Marne Smith gave him his first reusable bag.

Mr. Burnett said he was supporting this ordinance, because if not now, when.

Mr. Hempstead said he changed his view and appreciated that this issue was brought to the forefront. He said this was a major step and suggested using it as a stepping stone. Mr. Hempstead said that he believes plastic straws will be next as well as the plastic caps on juice and milk cartons. Mr. Hempstead asked the Common Council to be bold and tackle other things.

Mr. Hempstead talked about composting leaves, banning plastic stirrers and recycling the small plastic trash bins left at the recycling center. He said they could be provided to low income residents.

Mr. Hempstead said this ordinance does not have an appeal process and suggested looking at that at future Ordinance Committee meetings. Mr. Livingston said he fully supported Mr. Hempstead's suggestions and said he is open to looking at the appeal process.

Ms. Smyth agreed that this ordinance is only the beginning and said she would like to see Norwalk tackle Styrofoam.

Mayor Rilling thanked the Ordinance Committee and said they put a lot of effort into this ordinance. He said he was impressed by the young people who came out tonight.

Mayor Rilling said he wants to move forward to ban plastic straws and Styrofoam. He said he met with Senator Duff who assured him that as this starts to move, the state will take up the plastic ban.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED**

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL**

There were none this evening.

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

There were none this evening.

**X. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

There were none this evening.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

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