

**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 7:35 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard Bonenfant Mr. Glenn Iannaccone Ms. Sharon Stewart	Mr. Douglas Hempstead Mr. Bruce Kimmel
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. David Watts
District B:	Ms. Phaedrel Bowman	Mr. Travis Simms
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Michelle Maggio
District D:	Ms. Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco	Mr. Jerry Petrini
District E:	Mr. John Igeneri	

Mayor Harry Rilling; Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel; Donna King, City Clerk

There were fourteen (14) members present and one (1) absent (Mr. McCarthy).

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

August 11, 2015

**\*\* MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. SIMMS)**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Mr. Eric Montgomery, Glenwood Avenue spoke in support of the appointment of Mr. Bruce Chimento as the director of Public Works and said that he has done a tremendous job in Public Works.

Mr. Dick Brescia, East Avenue, member of Norwalk Parking Authority, spoke in support of the appointment of Mr. Bruce Chimento as the director of Public Works. He said that over the last few months they spent a lot of time together and he watched his interaction with the staff and at the outreach programs. He said that he is a great listener and contributes and responds. He said that for weeks he tried to get Mr. Chimento to stay on and when he found out that he had reconsidered he asked him why. Mr. Chimento told him that the town is undergoing a great deal of change and he does not feel comfortable leaving it but mostly because he loves Norwalk.

Mr. Frank Guthman, Riverview Drive spoke in support of the appointment of Mr. Bruce Chimento as the director of Public Works. He said that he went through the administration when Mr. Chimento was in Public Works and he was the best director Norwalk ever had. He said that Mr. Chimento was born and raised in Norwalk and has pride in the City. He said that he is very qualified and the employees like him. From a contractor's view point, there was a bottleneck in Public Works.

Ms. Lisa Thomson, Highland Avenue spoke in support of the reappointment of Ms. Nora King to the Zoning Commission. She said that she hoped that the Common Council members would vote for Ms. King. She said that bullying Common Council members to vote as a block is wrong. She said that Ms. King has been the voice of taxpayers. She told the Common Council members that their vote sends a message to voters as to whether or not they are serious about Zoning in this town.

Mr. Fred Bondi, King Street, said that the appointment of a Public Works director is important and it should have been put out as was done in the past. He said that it does not look good when the Union who represents DPW recommends somebody. Mr. Bondi said that he does not know about Mr. Chimento's record, but there are a lot of things that are not done in the City. He said that he called about a pot hole on Tierney Street and added that it is a shame that Yankee Gas dug up the street and left it in disarray.

Mr. Bondi spoke in support of Ms. King's reappointment to the Zoning Commission. He said that she is a person who did a good job on the Common Council. She is outspoken and Norwalk needs someone like that on the Zoning Commission.

Mr. Piet Marks, Logan Place, spoke in support of Ms. King's reappointment to the Zoning Commission. He said that she is qualified and asked the Common Council members to put aside political, ideological and petty grievances aside and vote for Ms. King.

Mr. David Westmoreland, Elmwood Avenue, Chair Norwalk Historical Commission spoke in support of the appointment of Mr. Bruce Chimento as the director of Public Works. He said that he met him and found him to be very professional and easy to work with. He is collegial with the staff and his knowledge of Norwalk should not be underestimated.

Mr. Westmoreland also spoke in support of Ms. King's reappointment to the Zoning Commission. He said that her professional position brings a unique value to the Commission.

Mr. Bob Welsh, Wolfpit Avenue, member of Save Cranbury and the Norwalk Land Trust said that the views expressed are his own. He spoke in support of Ms. King's reappointment to the Zoning Commission. He said that for the Republicans, he was told that a member of that party insists that they vote no, or that they vote as a block.

There were no other members of the public who wished to speak this evening.

The following letter was submitted by Ms. Diane Lauricella:

Subject: Please support Appointments that create good, balanced governance

Council President Petrini  
Mayor Rilling  
Majority Leader Hempstead  
Minority Leader Simms  
Council

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a family health matter, so please note that I would like you to support all the candidates for appointment tonight. In particular:

Doug Stern: I have found Doug to bring new ideas to the table and he has demonstrated that he is willing to listen to all sides, learn and bring a keen legal mind to the Zoning proceedings.

Nora King: There is a real need to appoint Zoning Commissioners that will remember that their role is to review not only the affect of an application upon the

site itself, but also the site application's effect upon the City as a whole, especially the neighborhood near that site. I believe that reappointment Nora to the Zoning Commission will ensure that the harmony of a site development with its neighborhood can be achieved.

Ms. King has shown that she takes her Commission role seriously in attempting to achieve the land use balance that I feel the Santo Zoning Commission has lost over the years. I do not feel that a person that does his or her homework should be seen as a threat. If anything, I wish there were more Commissioners like her, trying to make sure that the Commission and its staff conduct their due diligence in order to create a more informed decision. I feel that the tension witnessed at some of the Zoning meetings between Mr. Santo and Ms. King will fade due to the fact that Mr. Santo is no longer on the Commission.

Bruce Chimento: I look forward to working with Mr. Chimento and take seriously his vow to bring an open mind to the Department of Public Works, where a culture of public disrespect at times reduced the effectiveness of the department.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
Diane Lauricella

## **MAYOR**

### RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

#### Resignations

There were no resignations announced this evening

#### Appointments

#### **James K. Page, MBA Board of Estimate and Taxation**

- \*\* MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES K. PAGE TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Douglas Stern – Zoning Commission**

- \*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS STERN TO THE ZONING COMMISSION**

Mr. Kydes said that he has known Mr. Stern for a long time and he has been a loyal Democrat and friend.

Mr. Bonenfant pointed out that he is seeing a double standard. There are two Zoning Commissions appointments this evening, and no one is asking where Mr. Stern is coming from and what he wants to do. This is turning Ms. King into a political football.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Bruce Chimento – Director, Public Works**

**\*\* MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE CHIMENTO AS THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Kimmel said that the Public Works department is very important; most of the complaints that Common Council members get from constituents are about public works issues. It is important that the director must have good interpersonal skills and Mr. Kimmel said that from what he is hearing he has excellent skills in dealing with the public and public works staff. There are no issues regarding his skills and experience.

Mr. Kimmel said that whatever void exists within the department, Mr. Chimento will be able to step in. He said that when he came on the Common Council in 1997, there were questions about Mr. Grumman coming out of retirement to be the director, but he was an excellent Public Works director.

Mr. Petrini said that he got along with Mr. Alvord and gets along with Mr. Chimento. He said that he listens to every suggestion and has his full support.

Mr. Hempstead said that his comments have nothing to do with Mr. Chimento's qualifications. His concern was that a process that may have taken in others for consideration did not take place. He said that there is nothing personal in this. Mr. Hempstead pointed out chapter 126 of the Code, Section D.

Mr. Kydes said that he had some dealings with Mr. Chimento and thanked him for his response.

Mr. Watts said that he echoed Mr. Hempstead's comments about the process. He said that this City should always try to put out a wide net. The process should always be open and transparent. He said that when people who normally have been excluded from employment; this gives pause when someone says they are not interested in the job. He said that he wants to hire someone who is interested in the job.

Mr. Watts said that he hoped that in the future a transparent process will take place, so that all qualified people can apply. He said that he hoped that in the future when there is an opening in City Hall that all individuals have the opportunity to apply vs. a back door placement. He said that he hoped that in the future a nationwide and local search is put out to determine who is best for the position, and not hire someone based on the recommendation from certain constituents. He said that this process was not right.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED BY A SHOW OF HANDS WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. WATTS)**

#### Reappointments

#### **Nora King – Zoning Commission**

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF NORA KING TO THE ZONING COMMISSION**

Mr. Igneri said that he and Ms. King are friends; she is passionate and wants to make a point. She understands her business and this is the type of person needed on the Zoning Commission.

Mr. Igneri read a statement submitted by Andrew Todd a resident of District C in support of Ms. King's reappointment.

Mr. Hempstead said that his caucus was not able to meet last evening as a full caucus and they wanted time to discuss new information.

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF NORA KING TO THE ZONING COMMISSION**

**\*\* MR. WATTS SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE WITH NINE (9) IN FAVOR AND (MR. BONENFANT; MR. HEMPSTEAD; MR. IANNACONE; MS. STEWART; MR. WATTS; MS. BOWMAN; MS. MAGGIO; MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO AND MR. PETRINI) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (MR. KIMMEL; MS. MELENDEZ; MR. SIMMS; MR. KYDES AND MR. IGNERI)**

#### Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Rilling announced that Norwalk lost Mr. Roger Hanford, a long time public servant. He called for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Hanford, a former Common Council member.

Mayor Rilling announced upcoming events, including the Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> walk in the Wolfpit area.

On Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut United Ride will begin from Norden Place. Over 3,000 people come together to remember the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the World Trade Center.

School will open next week and Mayor Rilling gave all a friendly reminder to drive carefully and to remember to stop for a school bus.

Mayor Rilling wished everyone a happy Labor Day.

James Page and Douglas Stern were sworn into their respective offices by Ms. King.

### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

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

#### **Recreation & Parks**

**7A1 tabled to Land Use and Building Management Committee**

**7A2**

**7A3**

**7A4**

**7A5 consent to send to Land Use and Building Management Committee**

#### **Finance/Claims**

**7A1**

**7A2**

**7A3**

**7A4**

### **RECREATION & PARKS**

**APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE MARVIN SCHOOL SOFTBALL  
FIELD AFTER ISBELLA EMMA ICATAR**

***TABLED TO LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE***

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN  
AGREEMENT WITH THE EXCHANGE CLUB NORWALK TO  
PROVIDE PARKING ATTENDANTS FOR THE NORWALK  
INTERNATIONAL IN-WATER BOAT SHOW TO BE HELD THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015, FOR  
A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$5,500.00**

**ACCOUNT #016027-5258**

**AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT CRANBURY SCHOOL FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$44,078.00**

**ACCOUNT # 09166030-5777-C0364**

**AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER R & S RENTALS & SALES (STATE CONTRACT #13PSX0321) FOR KUBOTA TRACTOR (L5460HST) FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$29,105.97**

**ACCOUNT # 09136030-5777-C0518**

**NAMING THE ENTRY ROAD TO CRANBURY PARK AS JOSEPH COTE WAY TO HONOR RECREATION AND PARKS LONG TIME EMPLOYEE, JOSEPH COTE**

***CONSENT TO SEND TO LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE***

**FINANCE/CLAIMS**

**ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATES: AUGUST 13, 2015**

**FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED AUGUST 13, 2015**

**FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: JULY 31, 2015**

**A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,200,000 FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN INVERSE CONDEMNATION SETTLEMENT RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,200,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID CAPITAL APPROPRIATION. THE PLANNING COMMISSION TOOK *NO ACTION* ON THE SUBJECT MATTER WITHIN 10 DAYS AS PER §30-11 OF THE NORWALK CITY CODE**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**



**MOTION S POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE**

There were none this evening.

**SUSPENSION OF RULES**

There were none this evening.

Mr. Hempstead noted that Mr. Hanford was a true gentleman and super knowledgeable about Norwalk. He served the City well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. BOWMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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