

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. Norwalk Girl Scouts, led by Mrs. Courtney Austin presented the Colors and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and in singing our National Anthem. The Girl Scouts took turns read a Proclamation stating that March 12th was Girl Scout Day.

Mayor Rilling recognized Mrs. Austin, who has been involved in the Girl Scouts for many years and announced that she is about to receive her 80-year pin. Mrs. Austin said she has enjoyed every minute of her time with the Girl Scouts.

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. Michael Corsello
 Mr. Colin Hosten Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
 Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A: Ms. Eloisa Melendez Mr. Chris Yerinides

District B: 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 fourteen (14) Common Council members present and one (1) absent (Mr. Dumas).

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: February 26, 2019

The following corrections were made:

Page 3-waive should read “wave”

Page 9 – second sentence should read: he also thanked Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Fogel for their work on the budget process

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr. John Romano, Harbor Management Commission spoke in support of the appointment of Jeffrey Mangels to the Harbor Management Commission.

Mr. Stuart Lane, Executive Director of the Mid Fairfield AIDS Project, spoke in support of the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. He said that he feels the plan is much better than what they have now.

Mr. Morris Gross, Vice President, Norwalk Hospital said he was a participant in the Wall Street/West Avenue working group. He said the Norwalk Hospital supports the plan. He talked about the new 254,000 sq. ft. ambulatory building that the Norwalk Hospital will build on the old YMCA site. He said that today that site is non-taxable; however, they plan to pay taxes on that site. In addition, their employees will take advantage of the housing and recreational activities in the area that will help revitalize that area.

Mr. Michael Mushak, Planning Commissioner and former Zoning Commissioner said that he was here as a private citizen to speak in support of the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. He reviewed his credentials and said that this is an excellent plan and urged the Common Council members to vote in favor of the plan. He said it does not take an expert to see the area is deteriorated and noted that the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency pulled off a miracle in South Norwalk.

Mr. Brian Deets spoke in support of the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. He spoke about the Head of the Harbor plan and said that the current debates about the proposed plan have turned into petty semantics over words. He said a state statute created the definitions used by the Redevelopment Agency. The minority who oppose the plan have created a camp against the Redevelopment Agency. The proposed plan has been in front of the public for almost two years; 50% of Wall Street is vacant and the existing zoning does not promote the variety of uses need to create a vibrant area.

Ms. Diane Lauricella, asked the Common Council to send the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan back to Committee or to table, without prejudice, or to have a Roll Call vote because the Plan is not ready. The public just had access to see the final revisions about a week ago. She asked the Common Council to pause, for no more than a month to check the data, because it is important to get it right. Ms. Lauricella said the Garden Cinema is under threat and is not mentioned prominently.

Mr. Adolph Neaderland spoke in opposition to the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan and said the design of the structure of the plan is not good. The square buildings are built to the edge of the sidewalk and do not allow for street side dining in the summer. He said that since the 1950s, City governance has had a sordid history. He said the plan was flawed and does not represent what the residents want. He said the plan should be tabled and re-thought.

Mr. Dick Brescia spoke in support of the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. He said that democracy is the messiest form of government, but is the best form of government. He said this was an excellent plan. In listening to different points of view, he said it was important to find a commonality. He said the Wall Street area needs to be energized and that work should be done sooner than later. The plan has been in existence for over two years and he feels that the public has had the chance to chime in with their thoughts. Mr. Brescia said that he feels comfortable that any issues regarding eminent domain will lie with the Common Council.

Ms. Lisa Brinton spoke in opposition to the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan and asked the Common Council to delay the vote on the Plan. She said it has been very difficult to determine who is in charge of this plan. A naysayer might think it is a deliberate plan to confuse the resident with the lack of transparency. Ms. Brinton said there is zero trust that there is zero trust in this governance to execute this plan. She spoke about eminent domain in Norwalk and said that very few people knowledgeable about commercial real estate are on the Common Council.

Mr. Allan Webber, CFO M. F. DiScala, spoke in support of the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan and said they have been in the area for over 30 years. He said he has seen parts of Norwalk grow and parts remain stagnant. He said that without more development and people the area is not going to become the vibrant area it was before the flood. The area just needs people and without people the retail will not happen. He said it was important for this plan to go through.

Mr. Michael McGuire pointed out that his wife was distributing data to the members of the Common Council. He said he is all in favor of the Redevelopment revitalization, but what is missing is that it all hinges upon the Redevelopment or Common Council being able to clarify this place as blighted. He said that 5 – 10% vacancy is healthy. Historically the plan area has been at or below 10% vacancy. Overall the retail market in Norwalk is the same. The office rates in the area is one of the healthiest in the plan area. He said that deterioration and blight are not demonstrated in the Plan.

Ms. Lisa Henderson asked the Common Council to err on the side of caution and vote no on the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. She said that the community does not trust the plan and that the Common Council owes it to the community to respond to unanswered questions.

Ms. Nancy McGuire encouraged the Common Council to have further analysis before voting tonight. She said the Redevelopment Agency can do great work; however, the problem is that a blanket map will leave small business owners behind. Wall Street has the potential to bring in revenue from the tri state area, but if the blanket statement is put out that the area is blighted it will prevent investors from coming into the area.

Mr. Jason Milligan spoke in opposition to the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. He said he had an opportunity to speak to five of the Common Council members at length and reached out to each one. He said he appreciated all he spoke to and found them to be reasonable. He said the stakeholders are up in arms, including him. He said he believes they will be able to come up with a plan and urged the Common Council to vote no or to table this item.

Mr. Milligan said it is a big plan area and would prefer less rules. He said that he finds the enforcement of the rules to be selective. Information revealed on Thursday was that the plan has been expired for about a year. He urged the Common Council to take a pause and table the item. He also suggested inviting the Wall Street Neighborhood Association in for a dialogue to bridge the divide.

Ms. Donna Smirniotopoulos spoke in opposition to the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. She said that she understands that people are concerned about the Garden Cinema. She said that the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan expired in 2018. She said that plan gives the failed POKO project to the developer, Mr. McClusky who has strong ties to Malloy. She said that when the Common Council votes to approve this plan, they tie the City to a

developer with a colored background. The legal fees tied to Mr. Milligan's case are double those of the Firetree case.

Mr. Richard Bonenfant spoke in opposition to the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan and cautioned the Common Council about jamming the City with more residential units. If more residential units are added, there will be no place for the kids to play and the schools are crowded. He said that the innovative tax breaks make it financially advantageous to knock down a building and build a multi-story building.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if the Waste Water Treatment plan is able to process the extra sewage. None of the plans address what the people want.

Mr. John DiScala spoke in support of the Wall Street/West Avenue Redevelopment Plan. He said his family works in the Wall Street area. Growing up, he said he used to hit all the shops; the only thing that has changed in 30 years were the shops. The only way to bring people there is to build apartments and bigger developments.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: Kelly L. Straniti, Zoning Commission

Mayor Rilling announced Ms. Straniti's resignation from the Zoning Commission.

APPOINTMENTS:

Anthony Robert Carr, Department of Public Works

Mr. Burney reviewed the search and selection process.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY ROBERT CARR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Igneri spoke in support of Mr. Carr's appointment. Mr. Livingston also endorsed him and added that he excels in flooding issues.

Mr. Hempstead expressed concern about the process. Mr. Corsello said he had an opportunity to review Mr. Carr's resume and said he looks like a perfect fit.

Mayor Rilling said the process used to was the same one used in prior administrations.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

Mayor Rilling said that Ms. Burns and Mr. Torre met with Mr. Carr and they were equally impressed by his resume and management style.

Jeffrey Mangels, Harbor Management

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY MANGELS TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Mr. Hempstead spoke in support of this appointment

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Margaret A Shanahan, Conservation Commission, Regular

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. MARGARET A. SHANAHAN AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Livingston spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS:

There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling congratulated the Norwalk Police Emerald Society for a successful fourth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Norwalk High School Girls Basketball Team for being the number one seed in the CIAC Class LL Basketball Tournament. He thanked their coach, Mr. Fuller and said they are putting Norwalk on the map.

Brien McMahon High School's Spring Musical, Mamma Mia, will run during the weekend of March 15th and March 22, 2019. Mayor Rilling said both high schools have very talented students. The third Annual Norwalk Public Schools STEM Expo will be held on March 16, 2019. The Norwalk Fire Department will unveil its newly wrapped Fire Safety House at the Expo. Norwalk High School will host their Winter Guard and Percussion Home Show on March 23, 2019. The Harlem Wizards will play an exhibition match on March 17, 2019 for the benefit of the Odyssey Pre-School.

The Board of Estimate and Taxation will hold its public hearing on the 2019/2020 operating budget on March 20, 2019. The US Postal Service will offer passport services at City Hall on March 21, 2019. Lastly, the Mayor stated that he was joined by the Lieutenant Governor, Susan Bysiewicz and Congressman Jim Himes for the announcement of the Kickoff of the 2020 Census, "Complete Count".

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS:

Kelly L. Straniti, Ethics Board

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KELLY L. STRANITI TO THE ETHICS BOARD**

Mr. Hempstead spoke in support of this appointment and said there is no one more ethical and knows she will do the right thing.

Mr. Burnett also spoke in support of the appointment and said she has business and Common Council experience.

Ms. Young said she had an opportunity to work with Ms. Straniti when she was the Assistant City Clerk and Ms. Straniti works in a bi-partisan way.

Mayor Rilling said he was sorry to see Ms. Straniti step down from the Zoning Commission, but she has the propensity to do the right thing.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS:

Kara A. T. Murphy, Ethics Board

**** MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF KARA A. T. MURPHY TO THE ETHICS BOARD**

Mr. Corsello spoke in support of the reappointment. He said she is very qualified and urged support of this reappointment.

Mr. Livingston said he was very impressed by her and urged support of this reappointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. King administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Straniti and Ms. Murphy.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mr. Corsello said he was advised that in dealing with a technical correction previously taken by the Common Council, it was not necessary to take that vote and to delete the items.

**** MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO AMEND THE AGENDA BY ELIMINATING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. TECHNICAL CORRECTION ITEM #VII.B.9 ON THE COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NEW ENGLAND AUTO MUSEUM FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019 FROM 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 4:00 PM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100 – 200.

NEW ACTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NEW ENGLAND AUTO & TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, INC. FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019 FROM 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 4:00 PM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100 – 200.

2. TECHNICAL CORRECTION ITEM #VII.B.8 ON THE COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION TO USE VETERANS PARK FOR THE ANNUAL OYSTER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 FROM 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 FROM 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 FROM 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00 AM ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 30,000.

NEW ACTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION, INC. TO USE VETERANS PARK FOR THE ANNUAL OYSTER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 FROM 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 FROM 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 FROM 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00 AM ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 30,000.

3. TECHNICAL CORRECTION ITEM #VIL.B.7 ON THE COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NORWALK EXCHANGE CLUB FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM FOR THEIR ANTIQUE CAR SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 FROM 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019. SET UP TO BEGIN ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 (RAIN DATE THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019) AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019). ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.

NEW ACTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EXCHANGE CLUB OF NORWALK, INC. FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM FOR THEIR ANTIQUE CAR SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 FROM 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019. SET UP TO BEGIN ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 (RAIN DATE THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019) AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019). ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.

**4. TECHNICAL CORRECTION ITEM #VII.B.2 ON THE COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LOCKWOOD-MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR OLD-FASHIONED FLEA MARKET TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 FROM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,500.**

NEW ACTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LOCKWOOD-MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM OF NORWALK, INC. FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR OLD-FASHIONED FLEA MARKET TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 FROM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,500.

5. TECHNICAL CORRECTION ITEM #VII.B.3 ON THE COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THE WALK TO END LUPUS NOW CT-NORWALK TO BE HELD SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 FROM 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:00 PM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER, 20, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 750-900.

NEW ACTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC. FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THE WALK TO END LUPUS NOW CT-NORWALK TO BE HELD SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 FROM 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:00 PM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER, 20, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 750-900.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
VII.B.1, VII.B.2, VII.B.3,**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
VII.C.1, VII.C.2, VII.C.3, VII.C.4a, VII.C.4b,**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE
VII.D.1, VII.D.2, VII.D.3, VII.D.4**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT WHICH INCLUDES THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020.

2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER, ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO FLEET AUTO SUPPLY FOR SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF UPFIT TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH VEHICLE FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.00. FUNDS FROM THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE GRANT AS ADMINISTERED BY THE NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT WHICH INCLUDES THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020.

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTIN, INC. (VHB) FOR PAVEMENT ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THE AGREEMENT IS TO ESTABLISH A

THREE (3) YEAR BASE PERIOD, WITH TWO (2) ONE-YEAR OPTIONS AND AN ANNUAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00 PER YEAR.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0021

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT AUTHORIZATION LETTER FOR STATE PROJECT 102-347 TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE PHASE 3.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TIGHE AND BOND, INC., TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE NORWALK LEVEE, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$201,100.00, FOR CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SERVICES OF BOTH THE MALL (GGP ESCROW) AND MISCELLANEOUS DPW CAPITAL PROJECTS.

ACCOUNT NO. 100002365

**09 19 4021 5777 C0021
09 19 4021 5777 C0318
09 19 4027 5777 C0425
09 18 4027 5777 C0440
09 18 4021 5777 C0021
09 20 4021 5777 C0021
09 13 4062 5777 C0361
09 14 4062 5777 C0361
09 15 4062 5777 C0361
09 17 4062 5777 C0361
09 18 4062 5777 C0361
09 19 4062 5777 C0361
09 15 4027 5777 C0440
09 17 4027 5777 C0440
09 13 4027 5777 C0425
09 16 4027 5777 C0425
09 13 4031 5777 C0514**

4A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT PM2019-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,538,688.50.

4B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT PM2019-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$453,868.85.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 18 4021 5777 C0021
ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0021
09 19 4027 5777 C0302
09 18 4021 5777 C0503
09 17 4021 5777 C0515
09 19 6030 5777 C0472
09 19 6310 5777 C0186
09 19 6310 5777 C0092
09 19 6310 5777 C0132
09 12 4021 5777 C0504
09 16 4021 5777 C0232
03 00 00 2602
01 41 50 5298

D. PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE THE REQUEST TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT DESIGNATING THE NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CITY'S ANNUAL CDBG ENTITLEMENT GRANT.

2. AUTHORIZE MAYOR RILLING TO EXECUTE SUCH AGREEMENT.

3. THE COMMON COUNCIL RECOGNIZES THAT ALL CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS RETURNED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS STATE NO CONFLICT WITH THE 2019-2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM SUB RECIPIENTS.

4. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR OF THE NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MULLIN & ASSOCIATES, LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$49,200 FROM CDBG ADMINISTRATION FUNDS (FUND 300) TO COMPLETE THE 2020 TO 2025 CONSOLIDATED PLANNING PROCESS.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. APPROVE THE WALL STREET-WEST AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

Mr. Kydes said he has lived in Norwalk all of his life and spent time at his uncle's shoe repair shop in the area. He said Wall Street was a vibrant area, but now the area is a shell of what it once was. The question is what can this plan do to re-vitalize the area. The plan is a vision for

the area in the form of a document. The plan stresses historical preservation, walkability and proper outside investment.

Mr. Kydes said that without a plan, there is not much to protect the area. He asked the Common Council to approve the plan.

Mr. Sheehan, Ms. Straus and Ms. Casey from the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency were present.

Mr. Hempstead said he voted in favor of the plans in the past. This is the fifth plan, but this does not address why the other plans failed. He asked what was going to make this plan work. He said there are a lot of great things in the plan, but questions the characteristics of the blight designation. Mr. Hempstead said he never saw a group of people fight the blight designation.

Mr. Hempstead asked why Norwalk Hospital needs to be included in that zone that is designated as blighted. He said that some of the two and three family houses may fit that criteria, but that is true affordable housing and they are becoming at risk. He said that the Hospital should be excluded from the plan. He said he remember Wall Street when it was super vibrant. The City over the years did not put enough money into the infrastructure and streetscape. Part of the plan should be a commitment to make that happen.

Mr. Hempstead said this is a B+ plan. He said that he has some reservations and would like to send the plan back to Committee to review the comments made tonight because they are worthy of discussion.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO SEND WALL STREET-WEST AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN BACK TO COMMITTEE TO ALLOW MORE TIME TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES**

**** MOTION FAILED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN FAVOR (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

Mr. Hosten thanked all who spoke this evening and said the comments were thoughtful and helpful. He said that there seems to be an apparent break in trust, but that provides an opportunity to address those issues. He said a lot of e-mails received today were about the fate of the Garden Cinema, but said that is not in the plan. He said the concerns about eminent domain need to be addressed, but how eminent domain is handled is not in the plan. In addition, municipal tax credits are not in the plan. He said he wants people to understand what is and what is not in the plan.

Ms. Smyth asked about hinderance to small businesses. Ms. Casey said that she does not see that this plan is a hinderance to small businesses. There has been growth in this area since 2010.

Mr. Yerinides said that they should have a discussion on eminent domain. Ms. Straus said that it is not on the table in the development of this plan. The Redevelopment Agency does not have the authority over eminent domain.

Mr. Sheehan said that during the public hearings there were a lot of comments about the need for eminent domain, but that was left out altogether.

Mr. Yerinides said that in a lot of e-mails he has received, there is concern that people want the character of the area preserved. Ms. Straus said they have been involved with members of the Historical Preservation Trust. Mr. Yerinides expressed concern over the term disrepair. Ms. Straus said that the term qualifies the area as a Redevelopment area and allows them to apply for grants and loans. She said it did not deter investment in SoNo.

Mr. Livingston said he applauded the Wall Street Neighborhood Association and all they do; however, he does not see a lot of change in that area. He said he supports the plan.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the plan can be amended. Ms. Straus said they would have to go through the public approval process. The plan protects the type of plan for this area. It is a regulation. She said the Redevelopment Agency voted down projects that were not inline with the design. Mr. Hempstead said he likes the plan more than he does not like it.

Ms. Smyth said that since she was elected, she has studied city planning and what she sees in this plan reflects what makes a vibrant and walkable city.

In response to Mr. Hosten's question, Ms. Straus said the plan is found to be consistent with the POCD. If the POCD is substantially changed and be in conflict with this plan, they would look at amending the plan. Mr. Sheehan said the POCD is a very macro document that takes into consideration the entire City.

Mr. Hosten asked if any new affordable housing would be included in the plan. Ms. Straus said that most of the two – four family houses in zone D are not associated with the plan.

Ms. Melendez said everyone had different experiences on Wall Street, but they can't ignore the progress as a result of the Wall Street Neighborhood Association. She said it is important to support the plan and noted that so many groups worked hard to create the plan.

Mr. Kydes addressed the e-mails received by the Common Council members today and said there was a lot of misinformation in the e-mails. He urged everyone to read the plan on the City's website.

Mr. Burnett asked about the public input. Ms. Straus said there were over 30 public meetings on the plan and the plan was revised based on public comment.

Mr. Sheehan said they have not done well once the plan was approved. They do not do incremental assessments and said they should get engaged back with the community.

Mr. Hosten said it is very helpful when the public raises their concerns and asked about the impact on public infrastructure. Ms. Straus said that the capacity for every project is reviewed. Mr. Igneri added that the system was built to handle 90 million gallons a day.

Ms. Melendez said that everyone is concerned about the e-mails they received today. She said that approving this plan does not mean they are voting for or against the Garden Cinema. It is not part of the vote.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

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 9:48 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk

