

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 7:30PM and let the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rilling asked that everyone remain standing and said that today they have learned of the passing of an employee of the City of Norwalk for over a decade Mr. Frank Strauch. Mr. Strauch was a member of the Planning and Zoning Department and was a very pleasant young man and will be very much missed. Mayor Rilling called for a moment of silence.

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 Mr. Corsello	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: March 26, 2019

****MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Dave Davidson- 16 Bethbarethw Road

Mr. Davidson stated that his comments refer to the capital budget and said that last year a long term school renovation program was approved of approximately \$150 million dollars, and during the year a supplemental appropriation was approved for Norwalk High School for another \$11 million dollars for the program, and now the capital budget that is on the agenda to be approved is asking for an additional \$20 plus million dollars for the same school renovation program. The effect of this program will have an impact on the operating budget in future years with a debt service of approximately \$25 million dollars, and will double in a few years to approximately \$50 million dollars and continuing at that level for many years thereafter. The debt service in the future operating budgets should be a concern and he is concerned about the impact of the continually increasing program on the Operations and Public Works Department, Transportation and the Parks and Recreation budgets which are being starved to support the school programs, and will result in continuing infrastructure deterioration that the city can ill afford and are doing a disservice to the young people of the city. He asked that the Council should rethink and not rubberstamp the capital budget request, and convince the people of this great city that you are an independent legislative body elected to represent their interests and will not commit to sacrifice the other needs of the city by continuing to support an ever increasing program that the city can ill afford.

Elizabeth Greenwood-

Ms. Greenwood stated that she is a State advocate for the disabled and there are numerous disabled people in the city that have been coming to her being threatened by the Norwalk Housing Authority and other entities of the city. She requested that more action be taken to assist and protect the disabled.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: Steven Kvance, Shellfish Commission

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Kvance for his service.

APPOINTMENTS:

Nick Roberts, Director of Recreation and Parks

Mayor Rilling stated that it is his pleasure to put forward Mr. Nick Roberts for the Director of Recreation and Parks, and that he has an impeccable resume and it was a unanimous choice by the interview committee as well as his choice.

**** MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF NICK ROBERTS AS THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS.**

Mr. Corsello spoke in favor of the appointment and said that he is a quick study and already up to speed with regard to the parks, and he is a people person and has already interacted with some of the employees and the Acting Director was pleased to meet him and is excited to begin working with him.

Ms. Smyth spoke in favor of the appointment and went on the say that she had requested that he is aware of the difficulties to get swimming lessons for the children who live in poverty and that it is a health issue and a concern for their safety and Mr. Roberts was very responsive to that.

Mr. Livingston spoke in favor of the appointment and went on to say that Mr. Roberts is a certified Parks and Recreation professional as well as an accreditation visitor for the commission for accreditation of Parks and Recreation agencies, which accredits Parks and Recreation agencies throughout the country and that is a great goal for us to have and he is looking forward to him working to get Norwalk accredited.

Mayor Rilling went on to say that Norwalk has the distinction of having the largest municipal police department in the State of Connecticut, as well as the first Health Department in the State of Connecticut to be nationally accredited and he has issued the challenge to Mr. Roberts and that he would like to start the process to get the Recreation and Parks Department accredited nationally.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Roberts thanked Mayor Rilling and Common Council for the opportunity and said that Norwalk is a beautiful place to live and play, and he looks forward to working with the staff and the community to enhance the recreational programs, and looks forward to the challenge of getting the department accredited.

Casey Fitzpatrick, Human Relations

**** MR. HOSTEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CASEY FITZPATRICK TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.**

Mr. Hosten spoke in support of the appointment and said that he has a diverse background in the arts and communications and is a local business owner on Wall Street. He is driven by an inspiring passion for equality and respect for all human beings and will be a strong addition to the commission.

Ms. Melendez spoke in support of the appointment and said that she is thankful he decided to open his business and live in Norwalk and he will be a great addition to this commission because of how much he cares.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Stephanie Thomas, Zoning Commission, Regular

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE THOMAS TO THE ZONING COMMISSION**

Mr. Kydes spoke in support of the appointment and said that she has a strong work ethic and has a great ability to work with others, and Norwalk is lucky to have her and he thanked her for stepping up.

Ms. Melendez spoke in support of the appointment and said that her work ethic is amazing and she is so glad that she is going to be on the Zoning Commission because it a very serious job and she is the perfect person for it.

Ms. Young spoke in support of the appointment and said that not only does she brings light to any room but she is also level headed and tries to bring consensus and is very thoughtful in that. She will be a good addition to the Zoning Commission.

Ms. Siegelbaum spoke in support of the appointment and said that she has impressed her as someone who can do great things for Norwalk.

Mr. Hosten spoke in support of the appointment and said he that zoning can be a challenging commission and he is so glad she will be joining, and he thinks she is a natural diplomatic who brings out the best in those around her and he looks forward to her being on the commission.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REAPPOINTMENTS: Alex A. Knopp, Public Library Board
Ralph C. Bloom, Public Library Board
Tyrone R. McClain, Public Library Board
Richard M. Brescia, Parking Authority
Darren Oustafine, Water Pollution Control Authority
Frederika Bikakis-Hajian, Water Pollution Control Authority

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ALEX A. KNOPP, RALPH C. BLOOM AND TYRONE MCCLAIN TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.**

Ms. Melendez spoke in support of the reappointments and thanked them for serving and said that the Library is an amazing asset to the city and keeps getting better.

Mr. Igneri spoke in support of the reappointments and said that Mr. Bloom works tirelessly behind the scenes and really knows the collection of art and books. He also tirelessly goes around the city collecting donations and congratulated him on the work that he does.

Mr. Hempstead spoke in support of the reappointments and said that Mr. Bloom in the last surviving member that originally fought to preserve Lockwood Matthews Mansion which shows how far back his commitment goes to ensure our historical assets are protected and he thanked him for all of the work that he has done.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Knopp for his leadership at the Library and his efforts have made the Library an amazing place. He also thanked Mr. Bloom for the remarkable job that he has done.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RICHARD M. BRESCIA TO THE PARKING AUTHORITY.**

Mr. Tsiranides spoke in support of the reappointment and said that he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Parking Authority, and it has been very helpful in dealing with some of the challenges they have faced with parking and he looks forward continuing to work with him.

Mr. Burnett spoke in support of the reappointment and said that he has presented several times before the Finance Committee and not only has he expressed the fine work of the Parking Authority, but has brought several innovation ideas to the Parking Authority which are of great benefit to the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Hempstead spoke in support of the reappointment and said that he is a professional and is dedicated and thanked him for his work.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Brescia for all that he does for the Parking Authority.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DARREN OUSTAFINE AND FREDERIKA BIKAKIS-HAJIAN TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY.**

Mr. Igneri spoke in support of the reappointments and said that Mr. Oustafine does a fantastic job as Chairman of the committee and Ms. Biakis-Hajian does a great job and when funds are being allocated she questions any financial impacts to the city and he looks forward to continue working with them.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. King administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Thomas, Mr. Knopp, Mr. Bloom and Mr. Brescia.

MAYORS REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling said that Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 10:00AM is the annual spring clean-up across the city, and they will be meeting at City Hall and will hand out bags, gloves, t-shirts, and litter tools while supplies last. The teams can choose locations such as neighborhoods, Local Parks, business areas, schools, the beach or shoreline and that it is everyone’s duty and responsibility to help keep Norwalk clean.

He said that next week the holy days of the Jewish and Christian faith will be celebrated and that Friday, April 19th is Good Friday, followed by Easter Sunday on April 21st and that Friday, April 19th is also the start of Passover and wished everyone a happy and peaceful holiday season.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Livingston said that pursuant to the City Code the BET has tentatively approved the FY 19-20 operating budget and the Common Council has until the third Tuesday of April to amend the cap. The BET will approve the final operating budget at their meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019.

A. General Council Business:

Resignation and Appointments:

Resignations: There were none this evening.

Appointments: There were none this evening.

Reappointments: There were none this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE
CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VII.A.1, VII.A2A, VII A.2.B, VII.A.3

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS #7 MARGARET STREET, NORWALK, CT. 06851 (ANGELA V. AKHUNDZADEH), TO ESTABLISH A RIGHT OF ENTRY, FOR THE PURPOSES OF RE-SIZING THE PIPE, OF THE EXISTING STROM OUTLET FOR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES AND MEETING EXISTING UPSTREAM FLOW, SUBJECT TO SECTION 8-24 OF THE STATE STATUTES, IF REQUIRED.

2.a AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT PM2019-2 PERMANENT PAVEMENT REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$387,875.00.

**Account No. 03 00 00 2602
09 18 6030 5777 C0588**

2.b AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATION & PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT PM2019-2 PERMANENT PAVEMENT REPAIRS & SURFACE RESTORATION FOR A SUM NOT OT EXCEED \$38,787.50.

**Account No. 03 00 00 2602
09 18 6030 5777 C0588**

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR PRIME AE GROUP, INC. TO ASSIGN TO 3SG PLUS, LLC ITS RIGHTS AD OBLIGATIONS UNDER PRIME AE GROUP, INC.'S CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR SCANNING AND INDEXING SERVICES PERTAINING TO THE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROJECT, DATED JANUARY 5, 2019.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE THE 2019-20 CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NORWALK WITH MODIFICATIONS AS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED MEMO.

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

Mr. Kydes said that there are a lot of good things to talk about in this capital budget that the public should be made aware of because with this capital budget we are not just getting by but are raising the bar and improving the quality of life for the residents of Norwalk. He provided some examples on how the capital budget is doing that and said the first being a \$23.5 million dollar investment into the construction and major investments to our schools citywide, and that is a continuation of the city's commitment to the Board of Education's Facilities Master Plan; \$ 5 Million dollars for street paving and close to \$1 Million dollars for sidewalks, and Norwalk still has the highest paving budget in the area; the design cost to modernize and improve the main library; and upgrades to the sports fields and parks. He said this was a group effort and thanked the Planning Commission, Planning Committee and Mayor Rilling and said we should all be proud of this budget and he hopes it gets approved this evening.

Mr. Livingston echoed Mr. Kydes comments and said that this is a very good budget and keeps the city moving forward in a positive way. He highlighted a few of the items included in the capital budget and said the \$2.5 million dollars for the Lockwood Mathews Mansion that is being added to \$5 million dollar state grant which will enable them to complete the mechanical upgrades and without the funds they would not be able to take advantage of the grant. He said the feasibility for the turf softball field at Brien McMahon High School is a small item but it shows the commitment that the city has to the athletic fields throughout the city. He said that there has been some concern about turf field and as we move forward with this it is incumbent upon them to be sure that the fields are safe. He said another small item is a new permit software to streamline the city's current permit process.

Mr. Hempstead said investing in our schools is the right way to go because at the end of the day it increases the values of our homes and he whole heartily supports this capital budget. He also highlighted on the tree planting program and the commitment to the ADA improvements.

Mr. Burnett emphasized that with the leadership of Mr. Livingston the Land Use Committee each month looks at every school project and spends a lot of time questioning how our city dollars are being spent on those projects.

Mr. Hosten said that the priority items in the capital budget reflect the best use of Norwalk and the best interest of the citizens.

Mayor Rilling thanked the Planning Commission, the Planning Committee and members of the various committees and said he knows there is some concerns regarding the estimates that have come in for some of the school projects and that he has been discussing this with Mr. Hamilton and Dr. Adamowski, and they believe that the shortfall will be reconciled and will get the project underway so that our young people and teachers can have schools they can be proud of.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**** MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA:**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JS ENDURANCE FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK FOR THE SONO HALF MARATHON 5K MARATHON ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 FROM 9:00AM. TO 12:30PM. WITH SETUP TO BEGIN AT 6:00AM AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 3:00PM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,500

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

Mr. Corsello said that this was originally approved for a different date but there were all sorts of logistical difficulties so the date had to be moved. Ms. Young asked if the route of the race has changed. Mayor Rilling said “yes” and that Mr. and Mrs. Whipple have met with the Police Department and it has been approved by the Traffic Authority, but unfortunately was approved for October 20, 2019, but that there is another race scheduled for that date so the item will be going back to the Traffic Authority for approval of the date of October 6, 2019. Mr. Whipple provided an overview of the route change. Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. & Mrs. Whipple, Chief Kulhawik and the staff of the Police Department for working on a route that everyone is comfortable with. Ms. Young

asked that since the date has been changed if additional advertising will be done. Mayor Rilling said that the lighted signs will be out and that it has also been advertised in the media.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk