

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 7:34 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. Manny Langella Ms. Barbara Smyth	Mr. Colin Hosten Mr. Nick Sacchinelli
District A:	Mr. David Heuvelman	Mr. Kadeem Roberts
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Mr. George Theodoridis
District D:	Mr. George Tsiranides	Mr. Tom Keegan
District E:	Ms. Lisa Shanahan	

At Roll Call there were thirteen (13) Common Council members present and two (2) absent (Mr. Dumas and Mr. Livingston)

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: November 12, 2019

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS (MR. HEUVELMAN
AND MR. HOSTEN**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Ms. Sally Morasco said that she took great interest in the mall and occasionally has something she wants to share.

Mr. Julio Pardo said he is a consultant on Ryan Park and that artist, Raf Santella's name is missing from item 7A5.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
ELIZABETH L. GOLDEN TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Mr. Burnett spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN E.
IGNERI TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Mayor Rilling and Mr. Kydes spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

Ms. King administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Golden and Mr. Igneri.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling announced that November 30, 2019 is Small Business Saturday. The Wall Street Festival and Marketplace will be held on November 30 and December 1, 2019. Also, on December 1, 2019, the Tree Lighting Ceremonies will take place at the American Legion and at Roger Ludlow Park. Norwalk City Hall's Tree Lighting will be held on December 6, 2019. The Menorah will be lit on December 19th by Rabi Hecht.

The Annual Community Police Children's Holiday Party will be held on December 7, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at Columbus Magnet School. City Hall be closed on November 28 and November 29, 2019. The Mayor also mentioned the annual Norwalk High School and Brien McMahon football on Thanksgiving Day.

Mayor Rilling reminded everyone about the American Legion's monthly ceremony where they honor a deceased Veteran from the area. This is a time to stop and recognize the sacrifices made by our Veterans.

Mayor Rilling expressed his thanks to Mr. Dumas for hosting his annual Thanksgiving meal at the former South Norwalk Community Center building.

Mayor Rilling wished everyone a Happy thanksgiving and to recognize that there are people who do not enjoy the abundance we have.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ms. Smyth read the following Statement from the Common Council regarding civility:

"As members of the Common Council, we hold ourselves and other public officials to high levels of decorum and civility. In order to maintain the public trust, we do not condone the use of divisive language in our interactions with other public officials or with our constituents."

Ms. Smyth announced the following Council designees:

Mr. Kadeem Roberts and Mr. Emerson Straniti, Arts Commission

Mr. Thomas Livingston, Historical Commission.

Mr. John Igneri and Mr. Vincenzo Capozzoli, the Water Pollution Authority.

Mr. Colin Hosten, The Maritime Aquarium Authority.

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

**VI.A.1, VII.A.1a, VII.A.1b, VII.A.2, VII.A.3, VII.A.4a, VII.A.4b, VII.A.5,
VII.B.1, VII.B.2, VII.B.3, VII.B.4, VII.B.5, VII.B.6, VII.B.7, VII.B.11,
VII.B.12, VII.B.13**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

**1. AUTHORIZATION TO SETTLE CLAIM: NOVACK LAZARE AND
THE CITY OF NORWALK, FIRE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER
INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JS ENDURANCE FOR THE USE OF
VETERANS PARK FOR THE SONO ½ MARATHON/5K TO BE HELD
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020 FROM 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM. SET UP TO
BEGIN AT 10:00 AM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020 WITH TEAR
DOWN NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020.
ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,400.**

**1B. APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOW MOBILE BY JS ENDURANCE
FOR THE SONO ½ MARATHON/5K TO BE HELD SUNDAY, OCTOBER
4, 2020 FROM 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM.**

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB/LONGSHORE SOUTHPORT KENNEL CLUB FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM FOR THEIR 88TH GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB AKC DOG SHOW, OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS AND LONGSHORE/SOUTHPORT KENNEL CLUB AKC DOG SHOW TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020 FROM 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE AT 6:00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ON MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE MARITIME AQUARIUM FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK FOR THEIR ANNUAL NORWALK RIVER FUN RUN TO BE HELD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019 FROM 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 300-400.

4A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS, INC. FOR THE SAN VINCENZO PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$44,596.75 AS A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER FOR THIS PROJECT. ACCOUNT #'S 0917-6030-5777-C0364 \$3,586.25, 0918-6030-5777-C0364 \$21,760.85, 0919-6030-5777-C0364 \$19,249.65.

4B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, RECREATION AND PARKS, TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDER TO M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS, INC. FOR THE SAN VINCENZO PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00. ACCOUNT #0919-6030 5777-C0364

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO LICENSING AGREEMENTS WITH THE FOLLOWING ARTISTS LIZZIE ROCKWELL, CARLOS DAVILA, JAHMANE WEST, RAF SANTELLA AND DAVID MONTOYA, TOGETHER WITH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE ART INSTALLATION IN RYAN PARK.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: NOVEMBER 14, 2019.

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED NOVEMBER 14, 2019.

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: SEPTEMBER 2019.

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT TO PAUL FRIIA FOR GENERAL TAX ASSESSOR SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00 AT AN HOURLY RATE AND OTHER TERMS SET FORTH IN THE MEMORANDUM OF HENRY DACHOWITZ DATED OCTOBER 2, 2019. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCOUNT 011320-5253.

5. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO ALI KARIMI FOR GENERAL TAX ASSESSOR SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.00 AT AN HOURLY RATE AND OTHER TERMS SET FORTH IN THE MEMORANDUM OF HENRY DACHOWITZ DATED OCTOBER 2, 2019. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCOUNT 011320-5253.

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN VALUATION GROUP, INC. FOR SPECIAL TAX ASSESSOR SERVICES ON THE MALL IN A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCOUNT 011320-5253 ACCOUNTING, AUDITING SERVICES. THIS ACCOUNT HAS BUDGETED BALANCE OF \$158,000, NO SPECIAL APPROPRIATION IS REQUIRED.

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SAFEGROUND ORGANIC ANALYTICS FOR SPECIALTY TAX ASSESSOR SERVICES IN A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00 AT THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THE MEMORANDUM OF HENRY DACHOWITZ DATED NOVEMBER 4, 2019. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCOUNT #01-1320-5253, ACCOUNTING, AUDITING SERVICES. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IS REQUIRED.

8. RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM FUND BALANCE TO OPERATING ACCOUNT 01-7029-5A0620 TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE YMCA BUILD-OUT OF THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 98 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUBJECT TO CONTRACT APPROVAL. *CONSENT TO TABLE*

11. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BLUM SHAPIRO TO PROVIDE A ONE-TIME TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AT A COST OF \$39,000.

12. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE THE TAX ABATEMENT (TAX FIXING) AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK, THE NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY, AND “TRINITY WV3 NINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP” FOR BUILDING D AND “TRINITY WV3 FOUR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP” FOR BUILDING E PER ENCLOSED MEMORANDUM OF DARIN L. CALLAHAN, ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2019.

13. RE-AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FIS FOR THE INTEGRATED PAYABLES SERVICES TO PROCESS ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS VIA ACH AND VIRTUAL CARDS AS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE ENCLOSED MEMORANDUM OF DARIN L. CALLAHAN, ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2019.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

9. RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM FUND BALANCE TO EDUCATION ACCOUNT 01-5050-5050 FOR ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC RESOURCES RELATED TO THE RECENT INFLOW OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.

Mr. Burnett explained that these items were reviewed by the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Finance/Claims Committee. Based on the information presented, the funding is necessary to address the increase of ELL (English Language Learner) students. It is also forecasted that additional students will be joining the District.

Dr. Adamowski updated the material received by the Common Council members. He said this special appropriation was developed in September. The students came from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala and were held in detention centers. Once they were released, they found their way here.

Dr. Adamowski said they check the residency of the students very carefully and assured the Common Council members they are living with family members or friends in Norwalk. There are about 70 unaccompanied minors also living in Norwalk. Most of the ELL students are SLFE (Students with limited formal education) and it is very challenging for the teachers. The tipping point of ELL students is 25% and at that point, the teachers need additional support. Six schools are over the 25% tipping point, with Kendall being the highest.

Dr. Adamowski said that in meetings with the City, it was determined that the City would handle the social services needs for the ELL students and their families. He noted that it has been an interesting fall as they attempt to deal with unanticipated issues. He added that these circumstances are continuing.

Mr. Hosten asked how the ELL teachers will implement their programs. Dr. Adamowski said there are three recognized methods of learning for ELL students.

Mr. Kydes said he hoped talks would continue with State legislators to secure funding. He said he heard a lot of talk about the ELL students, but nothing about what they are doing for the other students. He added that he heard there are issues how non ELL students are learning and that their education may be suffering because of this.

Dr. Adamowski said the best way to help the non ELL students is to provide support services to the ELL students. The best thing they can do is to have good ELL services. He said that as a school system, they will have grown to 66% of high needs students. In addition, as a school system, they have to pay close attention to how these needs are met.

Mr. Kydes commented that it sounds like a plan is in place to best serve the ELL students, but what about the non ELL students. Dr. Adamowski said the plan is the general plan in place. He explained the tiers and said that Tier I is a multifaceted issue and offers day in and day out instruction.

Mr. Kydes said he would be curious to see test scores after one full year. Dr. Adamowski said they will not see test scores for one year. In their experience, it takes about three years to gain a level of proficiency in English. The State of Connecticut does not count the ELL scores for two to five years, depending on which system is operative.

Mr. Burnett asked if any adjustments have been made to the strategic plan as a result of additional students coming into the District. Dr. Adamowski said that will be addressed in the budget proposal in January. When they developed this request in September, they had the benefit of ELL students already enrolled; however, more students enrolled since then and they anticipate more students in January.

Ms. Young asked why they anticipate seeing more students in January. Dr. Adamowski explained that in some of the countries, the school year ends at the end of December and some of the families make the decision to move at that time. Ms. Young asked about the 'summer slide' and if they are doing anything to address that. Dr. Adamowski said they are running limited programs with ELL students over the summer. They revamped the program and will be offering more programs. Summer School is a well-accepted concept in the school system.

Mr. Kydes noted that a majority of the students go to the high schools because they are older. He asked if the numbers will decrease once they graduate. Dr. Adamowski said these students are under increased pressure to work and that competes with their education. Last year they lost 35 – 40 ELL students who dropped out of school to work. They lost those students, but they will be replaced by others. There are also immigrants who will stay in Norwalk for a year and then move where housing is more affordable.

Mr. Langella asked Dr. Adamowski if he is seeing similar trends in other districts. Dr. Adamowski said the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce indicated that 80% of all immigrants in Connecticut come to Fairfield County because this is an area of the State that is doing well financially and residents can afford to hire them for such jobs as landscaping or housekeeping. There are only three places they can live, Norwalk, Bridgeport and Stamford. This is a serious equity issue for our schools. Dr. Adamowski noted that Bridgeport has had a significant increase over the years, but Norwalk had the greatest increase. People gravitate to places where they have good ELL programs. Mr. Langella asked Dr. Adamowski to be sure to partner with surrounding cities.

Dr. Adamowski said this is not an historical trend this year. It is an anomaly. Ms. Smyth thanked Dr. Adamowski for the care of the students in the District. He replied that they are our students.

Mayor Rilling said Norwalk has shown a unique ability to prepare for an unanticipated issue. Norwalk is the best performing urban district in the state. With this anomaly, Norwalk is confident with the plan to effectively deal with this. The students need to be educated.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

10. RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM FUND BALANCE TO COMMUNITY SERVICES ACCOUNT NUMBER 01-2010-5298 FOR ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CITY STUDENTS.

14. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MID FAIRFIELD CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER, INC. FOR IN HOME MENTAL HEALTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000.00 ON A SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT BASIS.

Mr. Lamont Daniels explained the request for funding to provide support services to the ELL students and their families. He said they learned that the students are suffering and it is important to identify how to support them emotionally and mentally. Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center are the experts and know how to move and operate within the school system.

In response to Mr. Hosten's question, Mr. Daniels said that the high needs students will be referred to the Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center. Mayor Rilling said that Norwalk Public schools have Social Workers, but they can't do home visits. He commended Mr. Daniels for pulling together 30 non-profit organizations in Norwalk and asking for their help to work with the families and students.

Mayor Rilling said he reached out to the Governor and other delegates for additional funding to help offset some of the costs.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were none this evening.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. HOSTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk