

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

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Donna King at dking@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. King read the announcement and called the Roll:

The following Common Council members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Ms. Dominique Johnson
	Mr. Manny Langella	Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	

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: Mr. Thomas Livingston Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were fourteen (14) Common Council members present and one (1) absent (Mr. Dumas). A Quorum was present.

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: August 11, 2020

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Ms. Diane Lauricella spoke in favor of the Solar for All program. She said that she loved that it focuses on low and middle income families. She said that the Energy Coordinator in Hamden said they had a great experience with this program.

Ms. Lauricella said that she would work with Ms. Young to be sure the Second and Third Taxing Districts can work with this program. She offered her assistance in spreading the word to help make this a successful program.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling announced that City Hall will reopen on September 8, 2020 by appointment only. Appointments must be made in advance and temperature checks will be conducted before admission to the building is permitted. Scheduling software will be installed for the Security Guard.

Mayor Rilling noted that Danbury had a significant spike in Corona Virus cases. He said that Norwalk has been very cautious and has been relatively successful in minimizing an outbreak in our community.

Schools will reopen on September 8, 2020. Norwalk Public Schools received \$8.2 million from the State of CT to assist in the safe reopening of schools.

Over 16,000 Norwalk households lost power due to a fire at the Eversource substation in Norwalk on the evening prior to this Council Meeting. On the night of this Council meeting, over 2,000 households had no power due to lightning incidents. Mayor Rilling said he has been assured by Eversource they will have adequate staff to restore power as quickly as possible.

Mayor Rilling said he is in constant communications with Eversource to address the company's response to these incidents and the extensive power outage caused by Storm Isaias.

The Common Council will be voting on a Chief Information Security Officer, a new position that will be focused on cybersecurity and protection of Norwalk's information assets.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Ms. Smyth said she was grateful everyone was able to attend this evening's meeting after last night's power outages.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING
CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: AUGUST 13, 2020

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED AUGUST 13, 2020.

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: JULY 2020.

B. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS/AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE SECTION 32-8 OF THE CITY CODE: CHAPTER 32-8: PROHIBITED GIFTS

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN; MS. SMYTH)**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

C. PLANNING COMMITTEE

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH POSIGEN AND THE CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK FOR THE SOLAR FOR ALL CAMPAIGN AND AUTHORIZE THEIR USE OF THE NORWALK CITY LOGO ON CAMPAIGN RELATED PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.**

Mr. Kydes reviewed the item and said information will be posted on the City's website shortly. He noted that PosiGen has been vetted by the City of Norwalk and the Connecticut Green Bank.

Mr. Livingston thanked the staff and the members of the Planning Committee. He said this program is designed to bring solar energy to households below 100% of AMI. He said he sees this as a win-win.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Kydes and the Planning Committee and said this is a wonderful program.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN; MS. SMYTH)**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A THREE-PARTY AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK PARKING AUTHORITY AND DORENBURG KALLENBACH ADVERTISING TO PROVIDE CITYWIDE MARKETING COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021.**

Mr. Kydes explained that this initiative started two – three years ago. He said he was very optimistic that this new one-year campaign will widen the span of business throughout the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Tsiranides said that going forward, this program will expand to the full City and will involve a variety of businesses. He said he felt this would be a good move for the City.

Mayor Rilling noted these are challenging times and there is a need to bring awareness of the City of Norwalk. He said they need to help local businesses thrive, especially since so many were closed during the pandemic.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN; MS. SMYTH)**

D. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER.**

Ms. Smyth explained that ransomware hacking has increased recently and as a result, has cost victims millions of dollars. The City of Norwalk stores a lot of sensitive information and everyone is at risk of a ransomware attack. She said the Chief Information Security Officer will oversee both the City and Board of Education operations.

Ms. Karen DelVecchio, Director of IT said the key takeaway is that the City is the caretaker of a lot of personal information. She explained that there have been greater levels of attack, especially since Covid. This position will help craft protocols and training and will take that training to employees of the City and the Board of Education.

Mr. Henry Dachowitz, CFO said that when he first arrived, he retained Bloom Shapiro who reviewed both the City and Board of Education. He was pleased that their evaluation for both sides was positive; however, a key finding as that the City and Board of Education needed a Chief Information Security Officer.

Mr. Dachowitz said that he envisioned the Chief Information Security Office as being a Cabinet level position, reporting to the Mayor and Common Council. He explained that this position looks at electronic and paper information to be sure all information is protected. He said they are in very high demand and he hopes they can find someone who can upgrade what they do.

Mr. Livingston said there was a very critical need for this position and that he totally endorses this.

Mr. Dachowitz added that Norwalk is viewed as doing a good job.

Mr. Keegan said he spoke with a number of people about this position and fully supports it.

Mr. Burnett said he was very supportive of this position. He said it is critical to the City's operation to have business and disaster recovery plans in place.

Mr. Heuvelman said Covid exposed the dependence on technology. He said he was glad the City was taking these steps and fully supports this initiative.

Mayor Rilling congratulated Ms. DelVecchio, Mr. Dachowitz, the IT team and Finance for their hard work. He noted Norwalk's bond rating is AAA, which is a testament to the team.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN; MS. SMYTH)**

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Young recused herself and left the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AND VOTE ON RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY A SHOW OF HANDS**

The members of the Common Council with Mayor Rilling, Mr. Coppola, Mr. Burney and Mr. Dachowitz went into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

The members of the Common Council came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

During Executive Session, no motions were made and no votes were taken.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Mr. Burney, Director of Personnel and Labor Relations reviewed the elements of the program. He said this is a retirement incentive program for 91 non-uniform employees of the City of Norwalk. Among other incentives, it will add three years of service credit to enhance the retirement package. The employees will have three weeks to opt in and then they will leave the workforce in early October. Mr. Burney projects that 30 employees will take the program. An analysis of the positions will be created in an effort to reduce payroll costs.

Ms. Smyth said she fully supported this retirement program.

Mayor Rilling explained that the City of Norwalk continues to be financially sound at this time, but he does not know what the future holds. By being pro-active, they are looking out for the taxpayer. This is a better plan than a layoff or furlough which could impact City services. This will allow the City to save money without impacting efficiencies.

Mayor Rilling said that during this pandemic, a priority was to provide essential services. He said they were able to provide essential services. People worked from home, which was a viable solution. This is an opportunity to streamline City services and avoid layoffs and furloughs. He noted there could be another surge in the Corona virus. He noted that Norwalk has been fortunate because we have low numbers.

Mayor Rilling said Norwalk is fiscally sound but noted there is work to be done with Norwalk Public Schools to get school back in session safely. He said the Norwalk Public Schools are saying there may be a \$12 million shortfall, despite getting \$8 million from the State of Connecticut.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Burney, Ms. L. King and Mr. Dachowitz as well as the Unions.

Mr. Burnett emphasized that this is a voluntary retirement incentive plan. Staff who are eligible, should look at the numbers to see if this plan can provide a sound financial footprint for them and their families. He noted that this plan was offered 12 years ago.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN; MS. SMYTH)**

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. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Donna King, City Clerk