

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chair; Greg Burnett; Tom Keegan; Dominique Johnson; Kadeem Roberts; Nick Sacchinelli

ABSENT: Ernie Dumas

OTHERS: Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services; Ray Burney, Personnel Director; Mary Oster, Early Childhood Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Ms. Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:11PM. She called the roll. A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lauricella requested changes to the minutes regarding her comments. She said the first change she is proposing is on page 1, in the second sentence to change “she said she was calling to thank him for creating a social services agency” to “she said she would like to thank the Mayor, the Common Council and Mr. Daniels for creating the social services agency. She also said in the second paragraph, on the second to last sentence to change “Personnel Department” to “Health Department”.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2020

On page 2, second paragraph, third line, to change “delinquent” to “delinquents”

On page 2, delete “Mr. Jimenez joined the meeting at 7:17PM.

On page 5, under the executive session add “to” to Mr. Burnett moved”

On page 3, second paragraph add “restorative” before justice.

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. DISCUSSION

a. Community Services Update. Early Childhood

Mr. Daniels introduced Ms. Mary Oster and said she is the Early Childhood Coordinator for Norwalk and she oversees and coordinates the early childhood work on behalf of the City of Norwalk. He said unlike some of our neighboring communities she is an municipal employee which builds on the importance of having a municipal employee to ensure our youngsters have quality childcare experiences, and the research suggests that children that have quality early childhood experience do better and thrive as they enter into kindergarten and move up into their school years.

Ms. Oster said early childhood is important in our city because we touch so many families and the early child experiences really matter.

Ms. Oster provided an overview on the background and said they got their first school readiness funding in 1997, and the Norwalk Early Childhood Council was created in 2007 through a grant fund and in 2014 aligned with Norwalk Acts.

She said there are three early care and education options for funded programs which consist of School Readiness which has 631 state funded preschool slots and is funded by a \$5.3 million dollar grant annually. The second option is a Child Daycare Contract and is a state funded program in a variety of locations and there are 83 toddler spots and are the only subsidized toddler spots in Norwalk and they are always full and there is always a wait list. The third option is the Head Start/Early Head Start program which is housed at Ben Franklin and Nathaniel Ely centers and 16 infants and toddlers and 150 to three to four year olds and is for the lowest of income families in Norwalk. She said there is also a Norwalk Early Childhood Center that is run by the Board of Education and is 50/50 special education/ typical peer's preschool program and is funded through the School Readiness Grant. She said the other early child education option is through unfunded programs and there are 17 licensed centers based in Norwalk. There is also Family Childcare which has 55 programs in Norwalk, and lastly there is the Kith and Kin which is the informal unlicensed childcare.

Ms. Oster provided an overview of her duties which includes supporting all of the childcare programs in Norwalk.

Mr. Daniels said that he will provide the committee members with a copy of the presentation.

Ms. Smyth thanked Ms. Oster for the presentation and her dedication and work with the young kids because it really makes a difference.

b. Approval of Early Childhood-Sub Contract Agreements for Child Daycare Contract funding.

Mr. Daniels said this is a continuous grant. Ms. Oster said there are no changes and they just need an approval to be able to receive the money.

**** MS. JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SUB-
CONTRACT AGREEMENTS FOR CHILD DAYCARE CONTRACT FUNDING.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Personnel- Collective Bargaining Agreement settlements
- b. Personnel- Ordinance Salary Schedule Adjustments

****MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The executive session began at 7:40PM.

The executive session ended at 8:55PM.

There were no motions made and no votes were taken.

****MR. BURNETT MOVED THAT THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT SETTLEMENTS AND THE ORDINANCE SALARY SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS BE SENT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

****MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd