

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 "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

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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.

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMON COUNCIL
JANUARY 26, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rilling called for a moment of silence in memory of Curtis Law, the former long time Director of the Norwalk Housing Authority and for Mr. Keith Williams, husband of Ms. Brenda Penn Williams, President of the Norwalk NAACP.

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 Mr. Manny Langella Ms. Barbara Smyth	Ms. Dominique Johnson Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
District A:	Mr. David Heuvelman	Mr. Kadeem Roberts
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
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 fifteen (15) Common Council members present. 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: January 12, 2021

The following addition under public comments was submitted by Ms. Diane Lauricella:

Ms. Lauricella stated that she was speaking as a member of the Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition about A7, a request to give a contract to City Carting for disposal of Yard Waste for sum up to 275,000. She stated that it was unusual that there was no backup documentation for public review of a large contract. Because the entire Council and the public had not been given a copy of the contract details before this vote, Ms. Lauricella asked that the item be brought back to Committee for examination of details, transparency and a more holistic discussion of the process of handling Yard-waste.

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Ms. Lauricella expressed her thanks for noting her request. She said that reducing costs is important and there are way to reduce solid waste costs. She said she has not received a call from Public Works staff.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling announced that a Virtual Town Hall Meeting will be held on January 27, 2021 to discuss the City's continuing efforts on COVID-19 testing and vaccination. The meeting will be broadcasted from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in English, Spanish and Creole.

Norwalk received 900 additional vaccines from the State which is predicated upon receipt from the Federal Government. The distribution of vaccines from the State is relatively slow, because it is slow coming from the government.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VII.A.2A, VII.A.2B, VII.A.3, VII.A.4, VII.B.2, VI.B.3, VII.B.4, VII.C.1

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK MILITARY & VETERANS LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR A REMEMBRANCE EVENT TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021 FROM 12:00 NOON – 2:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021 AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100.

2B. APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOW MOBILE BY THE NORWALK MILITARY & VETERANS LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR A REMEMBRANCE EVENT TO BE HELD SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021 FROM 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK FOR THE OYSTER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 FROM 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 FROM 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 FROM 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. SETUP TO BEGIN FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021 AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 30,000.

4. TECHNICAL CORRECTION: AMEND COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF JANUARY 12, 2021 ITEM 1B TO CORRECT ACCOUNT NUMBER FROM 0921-6030-5777-C0771 TO 0921-6030-5777-C0321.

B. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: JANUARY 7, 2021.

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

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH: VALUE PAYMENT SYSTEMS, LLC, A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER; T TECH, LLC.; AND WORLDPAY US, INC., FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENT PROCESSING SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPALITY ONLINE PERMITS, INSPECTIONS, FINES, AND FEES, FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE AGREEMENT. ACCOUNT 011340-5211.

C. PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ALL FORWARDING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY HUD FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE PY45 CAPER AND APPROVE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE PY45 CAPER TO HUD.

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

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK MILITARY & VETERANS LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021 FROM 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. SET UP TO BEGIN MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021 AT 7:00 AM AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 11:00 AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500.

1B. APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOW MOBILE BY THE NORWALK MILITARY & VETERANS LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE TO BE HELD MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021 FROM 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

Ms. Young explained this is the first time this Committee is approving events since the pandemic began. She said they will continue to follow all protocols. Ms. Young read a statement, saying that The City of Norwalk reserves the right to

cancel any events during Covid. She added that this information will be included on all event contracts going forward. This is what is needed to keep everyone safe and to comply with State protocols.

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

B. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

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

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: JANUARY 14, 2021

Mr. Burnett explained that there are two claims over the \$10,000 threshold.

Ms. Biagiarelli, Tax Collector reviewed two claims. AGW Sono Partners is for \$25,719.02 and Waypoint is for \$1,246,674.21 million dollars. All other refunds were under the \$10,000 threshold.

Ms. Biagiarelli said that normally, they are able to apply the credit to future payments. Mr. Ford, Tax Assessor said in the case of the Waypoint settlement, the property was sold. Mr. Keegan said he understood the assessment was done before Mr. Ford's arrival and asked if steps were being taken to be sure something like this does not happen. Mr. Ford explained that over 400 cases filed with this revaluation. He said the cases are being reviewed and adjustments being made. He said he does not anticipate a lot of these high settlement amounts.

Mr. Coppola said that Norwalk has a significant number of appeals, because there are a significant number of commercial properties.

Mr. Dachowitz, CFO said the largest source of revenue for the City are the taxes. When they estimate the budget, they estimate a collection assumption and Norwalk has a very good collection rate. He noted that he and Ms. Biagiarelli monitor the tax collection carefully. He said that when it comes to tax challenges, there is a five-year cycle. He described that cycle. Mr. Dachowitz said that he believes that so far the budget has not been impacted.

Ms. Biagiarelli said that this is not an unusual situation, but it is unusual due to the amount. She added that the City is obligated to honor the decision of the Court.

Mayor Rilling said he was interested in seeing if there were any trend as to why there were so many appeals this year.

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

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. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk