

**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**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at [norwalkct.org/meetings](http://norwalkct.org/meetings)

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

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.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

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](mailto:dking@norwalkct.org) to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF NORWALK  
COMMON COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 23, 2021  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. King read the announcement and called the Roll:

The following Common Council members were present:

Common Council  
February 23, 2021  
Page 1  
Via Teleconference

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

### Special Meeting: February 9, 2021

The following corrections were made:

Page 4: Correct the spelling of Ms. Connors' name and correct the spelling of increases

**\*\* MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Regular Meeting: February 9, 2021

The following correction was made to page 4: Correct the spelling of month

**\*\* MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Mayor Rilling reviewed the public participation procedure.

Mr. Justin Matley said the budget process should be collaborative and transparent. He said this is not a chore, but an investment in the community and increases property values. He said this is not the time to be austere and is a time to be bold. He said that some of the City's financial positions are at best passive and sometimes misleading. He said he hoped the City can collaborate with the Board of Education.

Ms. Donna Smirniotopoulos read and submitted the following letter:

The Connecticut Center of Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut School of Business released a forecast in May that augers poorly for the state's economic future. It begins:

"It looks bad. Even an optimistic scenario argues recovery will be slow and painful; a more realistic assessment sees Connecticut struggling to recover in employment, real output, personal income, and state revenues out past 2030. Connecticut's economy was in trouble before the COVID-19 shutdown. In February 2020, Connecticut had not yet recovered from the contraction the 2007-2009 Great Recession wrought; both employment and output (state GDP) were still below their previous peaks. It is the worst record on any state....." It continues, "the contrasting performance of other states underlines how Connecticut's dismal performance was anomalous, with job creation in low-skill, low-wage sectors: tourism, hospitality, logistics, and elder care. None are growth drivers. Connecticut had been progressively weakening since the 1980s. Every recovery since the recession of the early 1990s had seen progressively slower recovery in jobs."

In Washington, the House Budget Committee voted Monday to approve a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package proposed by President Joe Biden. The new stimulus package includes \$170 BILLION earmarked for public schools by the Biden administration. The Norwalk Public Schools will receive millions in direct aid as a result of this package, plus additional economic aid for the City and state. Bear in mind that we also pay for federal aid.

In Greenwich, the BET suggested the GPS limit their budget increase request to 3.38% over last year. Greenwich Superintendent Toni Jones is seeking a nearly 4% increase. She may not get it. And her request is less than the 4.6% Norwalk is seeking. Remember last year in Greenwich, the Board of Selectmen held the line on budget

increases out of respect for the economic hardship associated with COVID-19 business closures.

In Hartford, the Democrat controlled legislature's Martin Looney is proposing legislation to levy additional property tax on homes valued at over \$400k. If passed, this bill will hit middle class Norwalkers hard. Average home values in Norwalk are already higher than the bottom end of the Looney bill. Once again Norwalk is punished for its relatively high land values. If you think this bill will only impact the rich, you're wrong. This one will hurt average Norwalk homeowners already saddled with an average property tax increase of 4% this year if you pass this budget as approved by the Finance Committee last week.

Given the grim economic statistics from CCEA and given the relative restraint of our more affluent neighbors in Greenwich, how can the Common Council in good conscience approve a budget with a burn rate of over \$1 million/day—an increase of \$15 million over last year, with a General Fund drawdown of \$8 million?

City Hall is still fundamentally closed for business, unless your purpose is to pay your tax bill. They've even provided a drive-through option for our "convenience."

There is nothing convenient about tax obligations so onerous that even longtime Norwalk residents with generations of history are fleeing the state in search of more felicitous tax rates—places where state and local governments create incentives for investment in real estate and business. According to the CCEA, Connecticut has a lot of catching up to do.

I enjoin the Common Council to do the right thing for your neighbors. Do not draw down the rainy day fund. Do not raise residential property taxes. And do not approve this budget as presented.

Ms. Iliana Zuniga said the only thing expensive is ignorance. She said that she keeps hearing about equality, but as much as she would like a new high school, she wants the children to have bathrooms. She asked the Common Council to be smart and invest in everyone's future. She said the best way to predict the future is to create it.

Ms. Sarah McIntee spoke in support of funding the Board of Education request. She said the parents are aware and thankful of the investments the City has made in the schools. She said this year's school request is reasonable and is essentially flat. The Superintendent did all she could to keep the budget flat. Ms. McIntee said the cut means there will be \$5million less in program sand staff next year. She said there is a large population of minorities and those students will be left behind.

Ms. Jessica Kordas said the Board of Education's request is disingenuous. She said it is unfortunate that due to the statutory structure there is little oversight as to where the money goes. She said she wants the Board of Education to be transparent as to where the money goes. She said they need to find efficiencies in the Board of Education.

Ms. Heidi Alterman said she heard the people on the Common Council do not fully trust the Board of Education. She asked them to take a moment to think about how to gain that trust. She suggested having an audit firm chosen by neutral parties. She said the new Superintendent is doing all she can to save money and brought in over \$2 million in grants. Ms. Alterman asked the Common Council to reconsider raising the budget to 4.6% or have a delay to ask for more information.

Ms. Jessica Jones said the schools are at 105% capacity. She said she considered leaving Norwalk because of everything. She asked the Common Council to consider the 4.6% request. She added that her son is in Special Education and is concerned that he will lose services.

Mr. John LaChansky asked the Common Council to consider he proposed budget. He said we are a year into the pandemic; teachers and students deserve the best platform for the most successful learning and this takes funding. He said that as we continue to rely on technology, the City needs to invest in it for the sake of the children.

Ms. Teresa Patterson said she chose to do remote learning for her child in Kindergarten. She asked the Common Council to re-consider and fully fund the Board of Education's request.

Ms. Barbara Meyer-Mitchell said Norwalk is a City on the rise and the City needs to continue to invest in the services it provides. She asked the Common Council to make the allocation more equitable.

Ms. King read the following letter from Isabelle Hargrove:

As we all are acutely aware, the pandemic has wrecked the lives of many in our community and has created serious financial hardships for many home and business owners in Norwalk. In light of this harsh reality, it is paramount that the city of Norwalk not raise property taxes this year and keep the drawdown from the rainy day fund to an absolute minimum.

Therefore, I support a 2% only increase in the BOE budget and recommend the same for the city side. These are unprecedented times and the hardship created by the pandemic does impose serious restrictions on our ability to conduct business as usual, including spending as usual. Right now is unfortunately not the time to invest, it is the time to save and cut spending.

Please hold the line at a 2% increase for the full budget.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.

#### **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 reported that the State of CT converted to an age based COVID-19 vaccination schedule. A Town Hall Meeting with members of the Clergy and Common Council will be scheduled to address vaccination distribution disparity. In addition, a vaccine clinic will be conducted at the Grace Baptist Church. Norwalk is participating in Mayor's Across the Nation to recognize March 1st as COVID Memorial Day. A proclamation issued by the Mayor to honor the 500,000 Americans lost to COVID-19 was read by Ms. Revulus. The Mayor stated that first responders, educators and essential workers who look after our well-being and keep our economy going should be remembered and honored as well.

#### **V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

##### **A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Mr. Sacchinelli commented that this was one of the most challenging they have had to face. He said that although everyone remains optimistic, it is going to take time to learn the impact from Covid. These are all highly dynamic variables. Mr. Sacchinelli said that all Common Council members did a lot of soul searching. He thanked them all for undertaking this. He noted that this is not an easy year.

##### **B. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*\* MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

#### **VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

##### **A. CORPORATION COUNSEL**

#### **VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

##### **A. RECREATIONS, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK KARTING ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THE SPRING AND FALL 2021 SEASON TO BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES FROM 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM.**

**SPRING 2021 – MARCH 13, 20, 27 APRIL 10, 17, 24 MAY 1**

**FALL 2021 – OCTOBER 2, 9,16,23,30 NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20**

**PLEASE NOTE: DATES MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE DEPENDING ON SCHEDULED EVENTS.**

**IF RAIN ON SATURDAY; SUNDAY MAY BE AVAILABLE.**

**ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 50-100.**

**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 89TH GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB AKC DOG SHOW, OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS AND LONGSHORE/SOUTHPORT KENNEL CLUB AKC DOG SHOW TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 12,2021 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021 FROM 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE AT 6:00 AM ON THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ON MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500 OR LESS.**

**3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF WILTON AND FRIENDS OF NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL, INC. CONCERNING THE RETENTION OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR AND POT-CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE OF THE WIL-WALK SECTION OF THE NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL, AND ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**

**B. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE**

**1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

**2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: FEBRUARY 8, 2021.**

**3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: JANUARY 2021**

**4A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXERCISE THE TWO, 2-YEAR EXTENSION OPTIONS OF THE AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND ADVANCED CORPORATE NETWORKING, INC, D/B/A DIGITAL BACK OFFICE, FOR MANAGED NETWORK SERVICES RELATED TO THE MUNICIPAL AREA NETWORK PROJECT TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS FROM THE END OF THE INITIAL TERM AT THE CURRENT MONTHLY RATES, CITY ACCOUNTS 011370-5245, LIBRARY ACCOUNT 016200-5245, BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNT 2III22253-730-II.**

**4B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXTEND THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK TRANSIT DISTRICT FOR ITS USE OF THE CITY MUNICIPAL AREA NETWORK FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS FROM THE END OF THE INITIAL TERM.**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND ADVANCED CORPORATE NETWORKING, INC, D/B/A DIGITAL BACK OFFICE, FOR MANAGED NETWORK SERVICES RELATED TO THE MUNICIPAL AREA NETWORK PROJECT FOR MANAGED NETWORK SERVICES RELATED TO CALF PASTURE BEACH AND VETERANS PARK FIBER EXTENSION FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS FROM DATE OF NETWORK ACCEPTANCE, ESTIMATED TO BE SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$226,368.00, ACCOUNTS 361370-5744 (GRANT \$127,332), 011370-5741 (\$42,444), AND 011370-5245 (\$56,592 [MONTHS 37-48]).**

**C. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND WSP USA, INC. FOR PROJECT NO. 3756- ON-CALL TRAFFIC PEER REVIEW CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF 4 MONTHS.**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND DECARLO & DOLL, INC. FOR PROJECT NO. 3788- ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE PLANNING REVIEW SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF 4 MONTHS.**



**D. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**1. TECHNICAL CORRECTION: AMEND COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF JANUARY 12, 2021, ITEM VII.A.6 AS FOLLOWS:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A THREE YEAR AGREEMENT WITH CLEAN HARBORS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. FOR PROJECT 4079 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000. 00 PER YEAR.  
ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 42 5258**

**2. TECHNICAL CORRECTION: AMEND COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF JANUARY 12, 2021, ITEM VII.A.7 AS FOLLOWS:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A THREE AND ON-HALF YEAR AGREEMENT (JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 20, 2024) WITH TWO 1 YEAR EXTENSION OPTIONS WITH CITY CARTING, INC. FOR PROJECT 4077 TRANSPORTATION & DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE MATERIALS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$135,000.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021, \$275,000. 00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022, \$275,000.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, AND \$275,000.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.  
ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 42 5299**

**3. TECHNICAL CORRECTION: AMEND COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF JANUARY 12, 2021, ITEM VII.A.8 AS FOLLOWS:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A THREE AND ONE-HALF YEAR AGREEMENT (JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024) WITH TWO 1 YEAR EXTENSION OPTIONS WITH D.W. TRANSPORT & LEASING, INC. FOR PROJECT 4078 TRANSPORTATION & DISPOSAL OF STREET SWEEPINGS / CATCH BASIN GRIT, EXCAVATED MATERIALS AND BROKEN STRUCTURAL CONCRETE FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021, \$150,000.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022, \$150,000.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, AND \$150,000.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.  
ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 42 5299**

**\*\* 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)**

B. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

6. RESOLUTION:

**\*\* MR. BURNETT MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION**

***WHEREAS, SECTION 1-289 OF THE NORWALK CHARTER REQUIRES THAT A MAJORITY OF THE COMMON COUNCIL VOTE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIFIC SPENDING LIMIT ON LOCALLY EXPENDITURES DURING THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR'S OPERATING BUDGET.***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK THAT:***

***THE MAXIMUM LIMIT ON THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 SHALL BE NO MORE THAN \$384,676,326. THIS APPROPRIATION CAP REPRESENTS TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF \$400,599,192 LESS ESTIMATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANTS OF \$15,922,866.***

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE RESULT OF THIS VOTE AND RESOLUTION, TOGETHER WITH THE ATTACHED 2021-2022 BUDGET GUIDE, BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY OF NORWALK TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION.***

Mr. Burnett thanked all Norwalk residents for reaching out, related to the budget. He said everyone is facing health and economic challenges. He said that one year ago, no one could have envisioned this. Mr. Burnett said they need to proceed with caution because of all of the unknowns.

Mr. Burnett said this budget maintains the City services and student learning in Norwalk. He said there needs to be a long term solution that will reduce taxes. He said a long term plan is the responsibility of the Council and that he supports the recommended budget.

Mr. Kydes said he did not support the recommended budget when so many residents are struggling.

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT:**

***WHEREAS, SECTION 1-289 OF THE NORWALK CHARTER REQUIRES THAT A MAJORITY OF THE COMMON COUNCIL VOTE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIFIC SPENDING LIMIT ON LOCALLY***

**EXPENDITURES DURING THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR'S OPERATING BUDGET.**

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK THAT:***

**THE MAXIMUM LIMIT ON THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 SHALL BE NO MORE THAN \$383,683,246. THIS APPROPRIATION CAP REPRESENTS TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF \$399,557,112 LESS ESTIMATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANTS OF \$15,922,866.**

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE RESULT OF THIS VOTE AND RESOLUTION, TOGETHER WITH THE ATTACHED 2021-2022 BUDGET GUIDE, BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY OF NORWALK TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION.***

Mr. Langella spoke in support of Mr. Kydes' amendment. He said that families have lost their income and there are a lot of unknowns. He said he cannot ignore the burden of a large tax increase on the residents. He added that he is waiting for the efficiency study.

Mr. Livingston asked Mr. Kydes how he arrived at that number. Mr. Kydes said it is based on the tax increase in his district and what they would be able to afford.

Mr. Livingston said this is a particularly difficult budget. He said he heard from parents, teachers and taxpayers. Covid hit everyone in different ways. He said he understands the desire to give more funding to the schools, but said he was going to support Mr. Kydes' amendment. He said that Mr. Hamilton said they expect a surplus of about \$2 - \$4 million. He added that it is critical to have the efficiency study. Mr. Livingston said they do not know what the stimulus funding will be. Mr. Livingston said he is in support of the amendment and he is not directing this to any particular group. He said he is leaving that to the Board of Estimate to find the money because they talk to each department.

Mr. Keegan said he will support Mr. Kydes' amendment. He reminded everyone that they need an efficiency study for both sides. The taxpayers deserve to know where their money is being spent. He said he agreed with Mr. Livingston to let the Board of Estimate and Taxation figure out how to divvy up the money.

Ms. Smyth said she did not support Mr. Kydes' amendment. She said that while she understands his concern for his constituents, she comes from an education background and has real concerns for the Board of Education. She said she wanted everyone to know, Norwalk has great schools and staff and everyone can be proud of the schools.

What makes Norwalk different from other towns, is that our students come from diverse backgrounds and they enrich all of us. Ms. Smyth said she has been conflicted about this budget that recommends funding the City side higher than the Board of Education. She said that to just meet the contractual obligations will be 2.6%.

Ms. Smyth said that the students need the support. The 2% increase feels punitive to the new Superintendent. She said that she knows people are suffering and have concerns about tax increases, but does not support Mr. Kydes' amendment.

Mr. Heuvelman said he echoed Ms. Smyth's comments. He said that he cannot support Mr. Kydes' amendment because it is punitive in nature and punishes a new Board of Education administration.

Mr. Heuvelman said that everyone is experiencing a fatigue and there is the fundamental understanding that they are all on the same side and want what is best for Norwalk.

Mr. Heuvelman said he was proposing an amendment to cap the increase to reflect a 2.5% increase for the Board of Education that will put them closer to their contractual obligation. He said this has been a difficult year and the teachers have risen to the task. This new administration has worked hard to create a strategic plan for the students.

Mr. Heuvelman said his proposal represents a tax rise, but they need to maintain the investment in the kids. He said he cannot support Mr. Kydes' amendment.

Ms. Shanahan said she supported Mr. Kydes' amendment. She said that in no way did she think this as being punitive or directed to the Board of Education. She said they are all paying taxes and this has been an extraordinarily difficult year for everyone. She said she was comfortable with this due to the Federal stimulus funds and because there is a surplus in the budget. She added that there is the ability to do a special appropriation if the Board of Education needs funding.

Ms. Shanahan explained that they are not cutting the budget, they are cutting the budget request. They can never cut the budget over what was approved last year.

Mr. Sacchinelli said he will support Mr. Kydes' amendment. He said it would be irresponsible to move forward with an increase. He said it is not about the Board of Education and that he would love to give them as much as possible because they do a great job. He said people are losing jobs and their homes and there is a downward trend in our commercial tax base. If the City loses businesses, the entire burden will be on the residents.

Ms. Young said she will support Mr. Kydes' amendment. She said they have to be good stewards of the budget. She added that it would not be fiscally responsible to increase the budget up to 2.5%. Ms. Young said the efficiency study needs to be done; they cannot

provide funding if they do not know where the money is going. She thanked Mr. Burnett, the Finance Committee, the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Board of Education. She said this is not an easy task and everyone wants the City to succeed.

Mr. Burnett said he will not support the amendment to reduce the cap by \$1 million. He said the CFO did a great job of looking at all of the City departments and came back with a bare bones budget for the City. He said that the current cap is fair and to reduce it would be catastrophic.

**\*\* MOTION ON THE AMENDMENT PASSED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH TEN (10) IN FAVOR (MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. REVOLUS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN) AND FIVE (5) IN OPPOSITION (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS)**

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED**

***WHEREAS, SECTION 1-289 OF THE NORWALK CHARTER REQUIRES THAT A MAJORITY OF THE COMMON COUNCIL VOTE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIFIC SPENDING LIMIT ON LOCALLY EXPENDITURES DURING THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR'S OPERATING BUDGET.***

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**\*\* MOTION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED PASSED BY ROLL CALL VOTE TEN (10) IN FAVOR (MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. REVOLUS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN) AND FIVE (5) IN OPPOSITION (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS)**

Mayor Rilling thanked everyone for their hard work. He said he appreciated the comments made by the Common Council members and sends the message that they are trying to be good custodians. He said he is hopeful the money from the Federal government will supplement the Board of Education budget. Some of that money will help prevent lay offs.

Mayor Rilling explained that the Board of Estimate and Taxation will look at the recommended budget.

Ms. Revolus said there is a misconception that Norwalk is compared to other towns. She said that the closest town Norwalk is compared to is Stamford and Norwalk outperforms most other towns.

Mayor Rilling said that the money allocated this year to the Board of Education becomes the base for next year's budget. He said if there is a cut, it is a cut in the request and not from the baseline from last year.

#### **VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL**

There were none.

#### **IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE**

There were none.

#### **X. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

There were none.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna King, City Clerk