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**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMON COUNCIL
APRIL 13, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. King called the Roll. The following Common Council members were present:

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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: March 23, 2021

The following correction was made to page 6 – correct Mr. Ayala’s title to Director of Economic Development

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to participate this evening.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
JORDON HENSLEY TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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Mr. Heuvelman spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling wished the Muslim Community a peaceful Ramadan and a Spirit filled time of worship. He thanked them for all they do for the community.

Mayor Rilling announced that the City is following the recommendation of the CDC and DPH and halting use of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Moderna and Pfizer will continue to be administered in the City of Norwalk.

Mayor Rilling thanked the River Rowing Club, Keep Norwalk Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful and ORCA for their clean-up efforts along the Norwalk River banks. He noted that 4, 500 pounds of trash were collected by volunteers during the clean-up. He encouraged residents to be mindful of their garbage and dispose of them in the proper receptacles. The Annual Mayor's Clean-up is scheduled for April 17, 2021. Residents are invited to participate in this community project. More information will be available on the city website.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Sacchinelli announced that the Consent Calendar will be read by Mr. Heuvelman this evening.

RESIGNATIONS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: There were none his evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENTS:**

MICHAEL CHURCH, ETHICS BOARD, REGULAR

NORA NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER, ETHICS BOARD, ALTERNATE

LORI TORRANO, ETHICS BOARD, ALTERNATE

Mr. Kydes, Mr. Keegan and Mr. Livingston spoke in support of the reappointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

**VII.A.1A, VII.A.1B, VII.A.2, VII.C1, VII.C.2A, VII.C.2B, VII.C.3, VII.D.1A,
VII.D.1B, VII.D.2, VII.D.3, VII.E.1, VII.E.2, VII.E.3, VII.E.4, VII.E.5,
VII.E.6, VII.E.7, VII.E.8, VII.E.9**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE JUSTICE EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC UNDER FY20 PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.

1B. AUTHORIZE CHIEF THOMAS KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT FY20 PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT AWARD.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A LEASE WITH THE SECOND TAXING DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSES OF INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING RADIO COMMUNICATION ANTENNA AND EQUIPMENT ON THEIR EXISTING TOWER FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF 5 YEARS WITH 5 SUCCESSIVE 5 YEAR RENEWAL PERIODS.

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, ITEM VII.A.6 TO ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR ON-CALL SURVEYING SERVICES. ACCOUNT NO.

**09 18 4021 5777 C0599.
ACCOUNT NO.
09 10 4027 5777 C0302
09 20 4027 5777 C0302
09 21 4027 5777 C0302
09 18 4021 5777 C0021
09 19 4021 5777 C0021
09 20 4021 5777 C0021
09 19 4021 5777 C0318
09 21 4021 5777 C0318
09 06 4021 5777 C0315
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
01 40 30 5258
09 18 4021 5777 C0599**

2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC, FOR PROJECT PM 2021-1, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,008,196.40.

**ACCOUNT NO.
09 20 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4027 5777 C0302
09 20 4021 5777 C0503
09 21 4021 5777 C0503
09 20 4021 5777 C0649
09 21 4021 5777 C0318**

2B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC, FOR PROJECT PM 2021-1, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,819.64.

**ACCOUNT NO.
09 20 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4027 5777 C0302
09 20 4021 5777 C0503
09 21 4021 5777 C0503**

**09 20 4120 5777 C0649
1 4021 5777 C0318**

3. APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE CITY OF NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD DETAIL DRAWINGS NOTED AS FINAL APPROVED REVISIONS, DRAWINGS DATED MARCH 2021, APPROVED BY ANTHONY R. CARR, P.E. #28018, C.F.M., CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS AND VANESSA N. VALADARES, P.E., #28346, PRINCIPAL ENGINEER.

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH PINNACLE DESIGN BUILD LLC FOR MILL HILL JAIL AND BARN SITE ACCESSIBILITY ALTERATIONS – PHASE 2 PROJECT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$221,749.00. ACCT. #09196310 5799 C0374, 09196310 5777 C0430, 09216310 5777 C0521

1B. AUTHORIZE THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$23,000.00.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR ACCESS TO THE HOPE DOCK FROM NORTH WATER STREET PARKING LOT, TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PERIOD RETROACTIVELY FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2021 TO JANUARY 31, 2022.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO PROVIDE NATURAL GAS SERVICE FOR THE JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – RENOVATE AS NEW PROJECT FOR A TOTAL OF \$76,276. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #0919/20 5010 5777 C0619

E. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: APRIL 8, 2021

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

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

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY \$65,000.

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR GRANT FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (\$652,435- 2021 ENTITLEMENT).

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO APPROVE FOR THE LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES, PURCHASE, DELIVERY, AND TRAINING FOR THE STAFF FOR (2) LAPTOP VENDING KIOSKS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$70,000, (BUDGETED CAPITAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT 09212010-5777-C0784, NO SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUIRED).

7. APPROVAL OF FY2021-2022 PARKING AUTHORITY BUDGET.

8. APPROVAL OF FY2021-2022 WPCA BUDGET.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS, CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLP (FORMERLY KNOWN AS BLUM SHAPIRO), TO AUDIT FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AT A FEE OF \$97,000 (SECOND YEAR OF THE FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT).

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

A. HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- ** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DESPP/DEMIS AND THE CITY OF NORWALK REGARDING THE FEMA MOBILE VACCINATION UNIT**

Mr. Sacchinelli reported that the date has been extended into May. Mr. Heuvelman thanked the Health Department for their hard work. Ms. Young asked which vaccines will be given on the mobile unit. Ms. D'Amore said they were administering the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, but they will be administering the Pfizer vaccine. Ms. Revolus suggested talking to the people in the community about nutrition.

- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. REVOLUS)**

B. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- ** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NORWALK WITH MODIFICATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED MEMO.**

Mr. Kydes highlighted the 2021-2022 Capital budget initiatives. Mayor Rilling thanked the Planning Committee and the Planning Commission as well as the department heads who prioritized what they needed.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- ** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE CITY OF NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ROADWAY STANDARDS AMENDED MARCH 2021.**

Mr. Tsiranides reviewed the item and noted that these standards replace the 2017 standards. Mr. Carr added that they accommodate a complete streets system for all people. Mr. Livingston commended Mr. Carr and the staff. He said this is an important step toward walkability. In addition, this had the potential to slow traffic on the roads.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM – 301- 0515NP PROJECT, INCLUDING THE P.A.L., ENCLOSED WITH THIS AGENDA WHEREBY THE CITY OF NORWALK WILL TRANSFER FUNDS IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$3,750,000.00 ON MAY 30, 2021, \$1,875,000.00 ON JULY 1, 2022, AND \$1,875,000.00 ON JULY 1, 2023, TO FUND THE UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITY LINES ON EAST AVE FROM FORT POINT STREET TO OLMSTEAD PLACE TO BE PERFORMED BY CONN DOT. ACCOUNT NO.
09 19 4021 5777 C0471
09 20 4021 5777 C0471
09 21 4021 5777 C0471**

Mr. Tsiranides reviewed the item and said the funds are not going directly to the WALK Bridge project but are going toward a program dealing with overhead lines. Mr. Carr added that the headline in *The Hour* was incorrect. He said this work is required by CONNDOT. They came in with a project and the City wanted to be a part of that project. The City will pay for its part of the project. The City's part of the project will be done concurrent with CONNDOT's project. Traffic interruption will only occur once. The City will pay its portion in three installments. The staff is comfortable with the terms and provisions of this project.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH KAESTLE BOOS ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE NEW NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$5,954,083.00 ACCT. #09215010 5777 C0787.**

AND TO AUTHORIZE TO ESTABLISH A CONTINGENCY FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$297,704.00. ACCT. #09215010 5777 C0787.

Mr. Livingston explained that this is the next step in the new Norwalk High School project. Kaestle Boos Associates were selected through an extensive RFP process; they were the low bidder. He added that they have experience in building schools when they are occupied,

Mr. Keegan spoke in opposition to his project and said he could not support any appropriation for this project. He said he believes they will be unpleasantly surprised by how expensive this project will be. He noted that Mr. Dachowitz expressed warning signals. Mr. Keegan said there is talk about equity for all, but the elementary school in South Norwalk closed in the 1970s. He said that building a school in South Norwalk should be a priority. He said that 18 months ago, they did not know they needed or wanted a new high school.

Ms. Young thanked Mr. Keegan and said there is a need for a school in South Norwalk. She said she hoped it was not a case of one or the other. Ms. Young said she wants what is equitable for all.

Ms. Revulus thanked Mr. Keegan for looking out for the community as a whole.

Mr. Livingston spoke in support of the South Norwalk school and said they are currently allocating over \$70 million to renovate Columbus Magnet as well as building a new school in South Norwalk.

Mayor Rilling said that just before this meeting, many attended the District B meeting. The school in South Norwalk was a topic of discussion. He said there were plans in place, that turned out to not be feasible. The Board of Education commissioned a new study. He said that the Common Council and Board of Education are committed to moving forward with whatever plan is deemed feasible.

Mayor Rilling said that 18 months ago a new Norwalk High School was not planned, but when the State offered to reimburse at 80%, it was felt it was a good idea. That school is over 50 years old and in need of tremendous repair. A commitment made at that time was that this project would not delay the other projects.

Mayor Rilling said they are working to have preferable two schools in South Norwalk with a design the community wants.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. KEEGAN)**

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Livingston left the meeting.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO ROWAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$37,000.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Livingston returned to the meeting.

E. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

10. REVIEW THE SUMMARY OF THE FY 2021 - 22 TENTATIVE APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION (BET) ON APRIL 5, 2021, ALONG WITH THE ASSOCIATED MILL RATES BY TAXING DISTRICT. THE BET'S NET APPROPRIATION IS BELOW THE CAP ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 23, 2021.

Mr. Burnett explained that they are approaching the final phase of the budget cycle. The recommendation made by the Board of Estimate and Taxation is below the Common Council cap set on February 23, 2021, due to the additional revenue from the American Rescue Plan. The next step is for the Board of Estimate and Taxation to approve the final budget on May 3, 2021.

The current budget provides a 0% increase. This is a welcome assistance during these difficult times; however, this funding will not appear every year, so it they need to move forward cautiously.

Mr. Burnett said that the Finance Committee of the Common Council and the Finance Committee of the Board of Education agreed to hold meetings each quarter, beginning in June.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed details of the operating budget. He said that at the direction of the Mayor and followed through by the Board of Estimate and Taxation the net tax levy will be flat. He said the government body is not allowed to reduce taxes, but coming in flat is acceptable. Overall there will be a 0% tax increase. He added that there are restrictions in the funds.

Mr. Dachowitz said that he had a discussion with Mr. Hamilton about concerns about a cliff. The concept was that if they take this extra one time funding source, then in 2024 they will need a bigger increase. The efficiency study may help with the cliff.

Mr. Livingston asked about the type of restrictions on the funds. Mr. Dachowitz explained that on the City side, they could not use the funds to cut taxes or to fund pension or post retirement health plans. On the Board of Education side, there are restrictions on funds going to the schools.

Mr. Hamilton explained that they do not have definitive guidance from the State. He believes that at least 20% of the funds can be used to address learning loss. The intent of the funds is to address the needs of the students and to re-engage the students.

Mr. Hamilton said he was very concerned about the cliff and that at the end of the two years, they may be looking at an increase of \$27 million.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk