

**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 Irene Dixon at [idxon@norwalkct.org](mailto:idxon@norwalkct.org) to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

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

**I. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Dixon called the Roll:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Joshua Goldstein
	Ms. Dominique Johnson	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	

District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman
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District B: Ms. Darlene Young Ms. Diana Revolus  
District C: Mr. John Kydes Ms. Jenn McMurrer  
District D: Ms. Heidi Alterman Mr. Thomas Keegan  
District E: Mr. Thomas Livingston Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were fifteen (15) Council members present. A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: March 8, 2022

**\*\* MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Ms. Diane Lauricella spoke about the emergency repairs for Fire Station 1 and suggested adding a proviso and look where they can add solar panels. She added that they should look at any and all green building designs.

## IV. MAYOR

### A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations announced this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: There were no appointments announced this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS:

**\*\* MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENTS**

**DON OVERTON, BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS  
STEVE SCATAMACCHIA, BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS  
JANET WOODWARD, BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

Mr. Keegan spoke in support of the reappointments.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling announced that tonight members of the Board of Education will join the Common Council for a presentation of the Evergreen Solutions Efficiency Study on the City of Norwalk and the Board of Education.

Mayor Rilling said this is not a criticism of any department or individual, but it is always good to bring in people to look with an eye for ways for improvement.

**V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: There were no appointments this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS:

**\*\* MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENT**

**KARA A.T. MURPHY, BOARD OF ETHICS, REGULAR**

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner spoke in support of the reappointment.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mr. Livingston announced that this evening's Consent Calendar was being read by Ms. Johnson.

**\*\* MS. JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VII.A.1, VII.A.3, VII.A.4, VII.A.5, VII.A.6, VII.C.1, VII.C.2, VII.C.3, VII.C.4

**VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**1. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE LIGHTFOOT RUNNING CLUB FOR THEIR NORWALK MOTHER'S DAY 10K RACE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY MAY 8, 2022 FROM 9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 11:00 AM. APPROXIMATE 100 PEOPLE.**

**3. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE COACHMEN ROD AND CUSTOM CAR CLUB FOR THEIR CRUISING AT THE BEACH CAR SHOW EVENT TO BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAYS MAY 17, JUNE 21, JULY 12 AND AUGUST 16, 2022 FROM 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN SAME TUESDAYS AT 4:00 PM WITH TEAR- DOWN AT 9:00 PM. WITH A RAIN DATE AS FOLLOWS: FRIDAY MAY 20, JUNE 24, JULY 15 AND AUGUST 19, 2022. APPROXIMATE 250 PEOPLE EACH TUESDAY (OR FRIDAY IN CASE OF NEED TO USE A RAIN DATE).**

**4. APPROVE THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE LOCKWOOD-MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM FOR THEIR SCAVENGER HUNT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2022 FROM 12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 11:00 A.M. WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 5:00 PM. APPROXIMATE 200 PEOPLE.**

**5. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY MOUNTAIN WORKSHOP FOR THEIR TEAM BUILDING DAY TO BE HELD ON MONDAY JUNE 13 AND WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 3:00 PM EACH DAY. APPROXIMATE 200 PEOPLE.**

**6. APPROVE THE USE OF SHOW-MOBILE AT CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THIRD TAXING DISTRICT ELECTRIC DEPT. FOR THEIR SUNDAYS DISTRICT CONCERTS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAYS JULY 10, 17, 24, AND 31; AUGUST 14, 21 AND 28, 2022 FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 1:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 9:00 PM EVERY SUNDAY. APPROXIMATE 250-300 PEOPLE.**

**C. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE**

**1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: MARCH 10, 2022**

**2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: MARCH 10, 2022**

**3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: FEBRUARY 2022**

**4. RESOLUTION: REQUESTING SPECIAL EMERGENCY FUNDING FROM THE ARPA FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$301,066 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT EMERGENCY REPAIRS AT FIRE STATION NO. 1 AT 90 NEW CANAAN AVENUE. GENERAL LEDGER ACCOUNT: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUND 13**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**\*\* MS. YOUNG MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**1A. APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUND GROUNDS BY FRANK C. GODFREY AMERICAN LEGION POST 12 FOR THE THE WALL THAT HEALS EVENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 31 TILL SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2022 FROM 3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM. SET UP ON TUESDAY MAY 31, 2022 AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN ON MONDAY JUNE 6, 2022 AT 6:00 PM. APPROXIMATE 15000 PEOPLE.**

**2B. AUTHORIZE HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH FRANK C. GODFREY AMERICAN LEGION POST 12 FOR THEIR THE WALL THAT HEALS EVENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 31 TILL SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2022 FROM 3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM. SET UP ON TUESDAY MAY 31, 2022 AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN ON MONDAY JUNE 6, 2022 AT 6:00 PM; LICENSING AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE STANDARD TERMS PLUS PAYMENT BY CITY TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE PROVISION OF THE WALL THAT HEALS, MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER AND SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE EVENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00.  
ACCOUNT NUMBER 14150-5585.**

Mr. Jeff DeWitt explained the request to host The Wall That Heals. Councilmembers expressed their gratitude. Mr. Kydes noted this was an unforeseen expense in the Recreation and Parks budget. He asked if Mr. Stowers will be able to come back if he needs additional funding. Mr. Stowers said Mayor Rilling assured him he could.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. DeWitt and said he is doing a remarkable job as the Military Liaison. He also thanked Post 12 for agreeing to host the event. He noted that many young people in Norwalk served in the Viet Nam War and did not receive the same reception others received when they came home from the war.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**7. APPROVE THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY TED THOMAS DANCE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR FAIRFIELD COUNTY DANCE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY JULY 21, 2022 FROM 6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN NO LATER 8:30 PM. WITH A RAIN DATE ON TUESDAY JULY 26, 2022. APPROXIMATE 200 PEOPLE.**

Mr. Thomas gave an overview of the event. He said they have several dance companies in the area and would like to present these dance companies free to the public.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

**\*\* MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**1. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING CITY CODE SECTIONS:**

**• 98-43 - BLOCKING OF INTERSECTIONS**

Mr. Garrett Boletta explained that signage would be installed. Mr. Kyle Benjamin gave a presentation. Ms. McMurrer expressed appreciation for reaching out to the neighbors.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**A. REPORTS**

**1. Report of Evergreen Solutions, LLC on the Efficiency Study of the City of Norwalk.**

Mr. Jeff Ling and Ms. Betty Ressel gave the presentation. Ms. Ressel reviewed commendations and recommendations for each department.

Following the presentation, Ms. Ressel entertained questions. Mr. Goldstein asked what the three most important things were. Ms. Ressel said it was technology, technology, technology. Mr. Goldstein said he agreed. Ms. Carpio, Board of Education, asked if it would be possible to return for a joint meeting between the Common Council and the Board of Education. Ms. Revolus asked about the libraries. Ms. Ressel said she was impressed that Norwalk has two libraries and that they work in collaboration with the school system on projects. Part of the issue was that there are some silos that need to be broken down. Ms. Revolus noted that Ms. Harris does a great job.

Ms. Ressel said they were available as needed and would be happy to speak individually or collectively.

Mr. Kydes asked if interviewing City employees anonymously gives a better end result. He said he was concerned that City employees would be hesitant to be forthcoming for

fear of repercussion. Ms. Ressel said that is always a concern, but there are no names in the report. She said they spent hours proving and disproving what they were told. Mr. Kydes asked if the names would be released. Ms. Ressel said they would not be released.

Ms. Carpio asked if the presentation would be on the website. Ms. King said a page has been created on the City of Norwalk website. Dr. Estrella said it will be posted on the Board of Education site as well.

Mr. Heuvelman asked about Charter and Ordinances and procedures. Ms. Ressel said the Charter should be simple and straightforward.

Mayor Rilling asked Dr. Estrella if she wished to comment. She said she did not have any comments.

Mr. Livingston responded to Mr. Heuvelman's comment and said they hope to have a presentation on revising the Charter at the first meeting in April.

Mr. Livingston asked Ms. Ressel if they considered salaries. She said they used salary data from the various Bargaining agreements. They did not do a salary study. She said Norwalk Public Schools did one last year.

Ms. Revolus asked what minimize legal costs means. Ms. Ressel said a step taken by the Norwalk Public Schools was to hire legal counsel, rather than contracting legal counsel. In addition, they now manage who calls the attorney, which helps control costs. Dr. Estrella explained that a challenge they had was not having legal counsel on staff and the cycle of Bargaining, which contributed to the spike in costs associated with engaging in collective bargaining.

Ms. Revolus asked about centralizing and tracking FOI requests. Ms. Ressel explained that on both sides, people have been free to request information and the departments have responded. There is no question about compliance, but there is no documentation. Ms. Revolus expressed thanks for the comment to use tools to be equitable in all languages.

Ms. Johnson asked if using the language tools would help the City government and the Board of Education become more equitable. Ms. Ressel said these reinvestments are important because they make services available to the people. Technology is the equalizer.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said she saw a comprehensive capital needs for the Norwalk Public schools, but not for the City side facilities. Ms. Ressel said there are needs on both sides and ignoring them is not an option. She said they recommend looking at the needs and then finding the money.



Ms. Young asked about the libraries. Ms. Ressel said that one of the issues they saw was that they have boards, commissions and chiefs with a Library Director stuck in the middle. There has to be clarification about who does what, and where so there is some efficiency in the org structure. There are too many chiefs.

Ms. Young asked about the East Norwalk Library. Ms. Ressel said they focused on the two libraries.

Mr. Goldstein asked for a sense of what the report said about hiring more teachers. Ms. Ressel explained that in education, they are moving away from hiring a regular educator, instead targeting on focused attention.

Mr. Azima asked about consumer input. Ms. Ressel said the contract did not include pulling in stakeholder input.

## B. CORPORATION COUNSEL

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\* MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:00 P.M**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public was excused.

The Common Council members came out of Executive Session at 11:00 p.m.

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

**\*\* MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING**

**1. AUTHORIZE ALAN LO, THE CITY'S BUILDING AND FACILITIES MANAGER, IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY'S LAW DEPARTMENT, TO NEGOTIATE A PURCHASE PRICE FOR THE PARCEL SITES IDENTIFIED AND SET FORTH IN THE LEGAL MEMORANDUM, FILE NO. WD50400-0153 ISSUED BY ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, DARIN L. CALLAHAN DATED MARCH 18, 2022 (THE "MEMORANDUM"), ACQUISITION FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, PER NEGOTIATION PARAMETERS SET FORTH IN SAID MEMORANDUM.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**X. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

**VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

**A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

2a. Approve the use of Veterans Park and immediate surround grounds by Frank C. Godfrey American Legion Post 12 for their The Wall That Heals event to be held on May 31 till Sunday June 5, 2022 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Set up on Tuesday May 31, 2022 at 8:00 AM with tear down on Monday June 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Approximate 15000 people.

2b. Authorize Harry W. Rilling to execute a License Agreement with Frank C. Godfrey American Legion Post 12 for their The Wall That Heals event to be held on May 31 till Sunday June 5, 2022 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Set up on Tuesday May 31, 2022 at 8:00 AM with tear down on Monday June 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM; Licensing Agreement to include standard terms plus payment by City to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the provision of The Wall That Heals, Mobile Education Center and Support Staff for the event in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Account Number 14150-5585.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:01 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Irene Dixon, City Clerk