

The next scheduled meeting of the Economic and Community Development Committee of the Common Council will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:00pm. 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 www.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 Maritza Alvarado at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF NORWALK
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 3, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; David Heuvelman; Thomas Livingston;
Lisa Shanahan; Barbara Smyth; Darlene Young; Thomas Keegan
(7:04 p.m.)

STAFF: Sabrina Church, Director Business Development and Tourism;
Jim Travers and Garrett Bolella, TMP

OTHERS: Brian Bidoli, John Igeneri; Kelly Bloom and Mary Peniston, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency; Eric Halvorsen, RKC Associates; Joe Balskus and Michael Goldenberg, VHB

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to comment this evening.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the Minutes of February 3, 2022 Meeting.

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

Mr. Keegan joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

- ** **MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE 3-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH KIVA AND THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES FOR A SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP LOAN PROGRAM ON A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT BASIS INCLUDING A CONTRACTED STAFF POSITION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$308,000. ACCOUNT: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS**

Ms. Church reviewed the item. She said this is a grant funded position, but they needed to include the cost of benefits.

- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK TO APPLY, ACCEPT, AND/OR RECEIVE THE NLC KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000.**

Ms. Church reviewed the item. Mr. Kydes noted that the three year position will be paid through a grant. This position will be in house, rather than remote.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Economic Outlook Review & Presentation

Ms. Church presented the Economic Outlook dated March 3, 2022 and included in the meeting packet. Ms. Church said she will provide census information broken down by age and she will also provide information about new businesses coming into Norwalk, including the number of staff employed by each new business.

Mr. Keegan asked if the City has determined the optimal population. Ms. Church said there are constraints in place, but they do not have a specific number.

Mr. Kydes asked Ms. Church to revisit this presentation over the summer. Ms. Church said she would like to present an Economic Outlook on a more regular basis.

Ms. Young thanked Ms. Church.

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

1. Discussion on CDBG Funding

Mr. Bidoli explained that applicants gave a presentation and said they were fortunate enough to be able to accommodate all of the top requests with minor reductions. He added that he hopes they will receive additional funding so they can make the projects whole.

C. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1. Webster Street Lot Update

Mr. Bidoli gave an update on the Webster Street lot. The received bids from seven firms and there has been a lot of community engagement taking place. They are in the process of identifying three firms that will move to the RFP stage.

2. SoNo TOD Plan presentation

Mr. Bidoli introduced Mr. Schwartz who walked the committee through the South Norwalk TOD plan. He said they received community input. Mr. Halvorsen provided the marketing analysis and Mr. Goldenberg gave an overview of the future buildout.

Ms. Young thanked the presenters and said they did a great job with the community meetings. She noted that parking is a big issue in South Norwalk and needs to be paid attention to. She asked if there will be enough parking, because of the development of all the new apartments. She said she hoped they would take that into consideration.

Mr. Goldenberg presented the location of the transitway and walked the Committee through the options. Mr. Schwartz presented development concepts for phase 1 and phase 2. Mr. Balskus presented the transportation and mobility plan.

The next step is to finalize and release the draft and obtain public comment. Mr. Livingston asked for copies of the presentation.

Ms. Peniston asked if there was a way to calculate how the traffic patterns will look in Norwalk. Mr. Balskus said the traffic will increase, but not as much, because it is near the train station. Mr. Bidoli added that they are looking to minimize and mitigate traffic. Ms. Peniston said she believed the benefits are important to articulate.

Ms. Young noted that part of the design shows parts of the sidewalk are widened. She asked if there was an opportunity to make some of the streets one way. She added that she was curious to know what the Spinnaker design looks like. Mr. Travers said they will continue to be in touch as they get additional information. Ms. Young expressed her thanks for this report and added that the residents in District B are pleased and feel heard.

D. TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY & PARKING

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND FUSS & O'NEILL FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE WALL STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT, PROJECT NO. 4149. FOR AN AMENDMENT AMOUNT OF \$49,500., WITH A REVISED TOTAL AGREEMENT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$399,500. ACCOUNT 0920-4120-5777-C0649**

Mr. Travers reviewed the project to reimagine Wall Street and said Mr. Bolella will be the Project Manager. He said they heard from the community and had their full support with the plans. He noted that they are 1,000% committed to making this happen.

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Mr. Bolella walked the Committee members through a high level concept plan. Mr. Heuvelman asked about a cross walk. Mr. Travers said they looked at a raised cross walk and introducing something uniquely to Norwalk. They want to work with the community to create a cross walk with flair that will create a comfortable connection for residents.

Ms. Smyth asked about the plaza at the foot of High and Knight Streets. Mr. Travers said they are fixing that by pulling out the island as far as they can.

Mr. Livingston commented Mr. Travers and Mr. Bolella. Mr. Travers said they are committed to a consistent corridor and a stronger, connected network to make a more walkable community.

Mr. Keegan asked if there were any concerns about truck turns. Mr. Travers said they run truck turn templates and there should be no problems.

Ms. Shanahan said she was excited to see this investment in the Wall Street area. Mr. Travers said they are very committed to community engagement.

Mr. Heuvelman thanked Mr. Travers and Mr. Bolella and expressed appreciation for the work they have done since arriving in Norwalk and looking at this as a unit. Mr. Bolella noted that at the last Parking Authority meeting, they discussed improvements to the Yankee Doodle Parking Garage.

Mr. Kydes thanked Mr. Travers and Mr. Bolella.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

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