

**COMMON COUNCIL                      REGULAR MEETING                      MAY 24, 2022**  
**NORWALK, CONNECTICUT            COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS & VIA**  
**TELECONFERENCE**

**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 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 7:30 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rilling asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of the children and teachers killed in the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

## I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett Ms. Dominique Johnson Ms. Barbara Smyth	Mr. Joshua Goldstein Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
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District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman
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District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
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District C:	Ms. Jenn McMurrer	
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District D:	Ms. Heidi Alterman	Mr. Thomas Keegan
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District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan
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At Roll Call there were fourteen (14) Common Council members present and one (1) absent 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: May 10, 2022

The following correction was made to the minutes.

Page 11: the motion made by Mr. Kydes should read Motion Passed Unanimously

**\*\* MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. GOLDSTEIN AND MS. MCMURRER)**

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### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to comment this evening.

### **IV. MAYOR**

#### **A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

##### **RESIGNATIONS:**

Mayor Rilling announced the resignation of Joseph A. Pramer from the Pension Board

##### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING  
APPOINTMENTS**

**JOHN E. IGNERI, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**CHRISTOPHER MANELLA, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL  
AUTHORITY**

Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the appointments.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Johnson recused herself.

**\*\* MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING  
APPOINTMENTS**

**MATTHEW J. SEEBECK, PARKING AUTHORITY**

**PAMELA PARKINGTON, PARKING AUTHORITY**

Mr. Goldstein, Ms. McMurrer, Ms. Niedzielski Eichner and Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the appointments.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Johnson rejoined the meeting.

**REAPPOINTMENTS:**            There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR’S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling reported that for two plus years, the topic of Covid has been discussed. He said that cases are on the rise and Norwalk is rapidly moving into the red level. He encouraged everyone to follow the recommendations of the CDC.

Mayor Rilling said that covid vaccines are offered at Veterans Park and testing is available at Lockwood Mathews Mansion lower-level parking lot. Information can be found on the City’s website.

Mayor Rilling thanked the State delegation for \$296 million in investments in the community since the beginning of the pandemic. He also thanked them for the significant increase in State reimbursement for Norwalk School Construction projects. He said that is a game changer.

Mayor Rilling said there will be an announcement tomorrow relative to the South Norwalk school. That school will be built with 60% reimbursement from the State, which will save the City \$40 million.

Mayor Rilling announced that Haitian Heritage Month and Haitian Flag day are celebrated in May. Ms. Revolus read a Proclamation honoring Haitian Heritage month and Haitian Flag Day that took place on May 18, 2022. Mayor Rilling said he had the honor of joining Ms. Revolus and Mr. Burnett in raising the Haitian Flag at Heritage Park.

**V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Mr. Livingston announced that Ms. McMurrer would be reading this evening’s Consent Calendar.

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*\* MS. MCMURRER MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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

**A. CORPORATION COUNSEL**

**VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**A. FINANCE AND COMMITTEE**

**1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS  
COMMITTEE DATED: MAY 12, 2022**

**2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: MAY 9, 2022**

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

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

**1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NICE FOR THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR SIXTH ANNUAL NICE FESTIVAL EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2022 FROM 11:00 AM TO 10:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 5:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 11:59 PM. APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE: 500 + PEOPLE.**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH YOUTH BUSINESS INITIATIVE FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR COMMUNITY DAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022 FROM 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 6:00 PM. RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022. APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE: 300 PEOPLE.**

**3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR SEAPORT FESTIVAL LOBSTER BAKE EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022 FROM 2:00 PM TO 10:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 11:00 PM. APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE: 500 PEOPLE.**

**4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAM RAVEIS CHARITABLE FUND FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR RAVEIS RIDE AND WALK 2022 EVENT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 FROM 7:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 5:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN AT 3:00 PM. APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE: 400 PEOPLE.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### A. FINANCE AND COMMITTEE

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

**RESOLUTION, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AGGREGATING \$38,983,540 FOR THE FY 2022-23 CAPITAL BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$38,983,540 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FY 2022-23 CAPITAL BUDGET.**

Mr. Burnett explained that the Common Council approved the capital budget last month. This item is the next phase of that process and will secure the necessary funds to pay for the approved items in the capital budget.

Mr. Dachowitz said this is the end of a very long budget season. He described the process and said that the Board of Estimate and Taxation established the capital budget. This resolution will authorize him as Chief Financial Officer to issue the general obligation bonds to pay for the projects.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed the IRS requirements for borrowing funds. He said that about two years ago, he and Ms. Lam began working with staff to find out what they expected to spend on capital projects and how much they expected to be reimbursed. He said they used that information as a basis to determine what they need to borrow. Mr. Dachowitz said he feels comfortable that they have sufficient funds without too much of a buffer. He said that this year, they have newly approved projects for \$38.9 million.

Mr. Dachowitz explained that the debt service is currently about 9 ½% and if the percentage exceeds 10%, they may no longer hold their AAA credit. He noted that last summer, he borrowed \$50 million for 2% interest rate; however, he expects the borrowing will be at 3.7 – 4%, which is double the previous interest rate. Mr. Dachowitz said they are getting into risky territory. If the City loses its AAA rating, it will have to pay a higher interest rate. Mayor Rilling explained they are watching the capital project expenditures very closely.

Mr. Burnett said the Finance Committee will begin looking at each of the capital items, line by line.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

There were none this evening.

**X. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING POLICE TRAINING**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO RE-AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, UPON RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE BY THE CITY OF NORWALK'S CORPORATION COUNSEL AND/OR ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, TO ENTER INTO NO CHARGE AGREEMENTS FOR USE AND ACCESS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR POLICE TRAINING PURPOSES THROUGH THE THIRD TUESDAY OF NOVEMBER 2023.**

Attorney Darin Callahan explained that for training purposes, the Norwalk Police Department needs access to private property. The Norwalk Police Department is approached from time to time by private developers to offer their property for training because the property is going to be demolished. This is a unique opportunity to simulate real life scenarios. Attorney Callahan said this is a testament to the Police force that the developer is offering the property. He added that there is a short window of opportunity before the property is demolished.

Mayor Rilling added that the training for Police Officers is paramount to responding to issues such as the one that took place today in Texas and what happened in Buffalo, NY last week.

This property will be used for training by the Norwalk Police Department and then demolished. This Agreement allows the Norwalk Police Department to use properties as they become available without having to go before the Common Council each time. There is no cost to the City.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Revolus expressed her appreciation to Ms. Sally Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Mayor. She said Ms. Johnson is an asset.

Ms. Revolus wished all a Happy Haitian Mother's Day on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Irene Dixon, City Clerk