

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

Mayor Moccia called the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and Boy Scout Troop 2 presents colors and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Moccia read a proclamation honoring the Boy Scouts and their achievements.

Ms. Gwen Lupinek, the Committee chair for Troop 2, spoke briefly on each of the boy's achievements:

Jeffrey White – cleaning and restoring flood damaged artifacts at Sheffield Island;
Justin McGown – restoration of a footpath between St. Paul's on the Green and Park Street;
John (J.C.) Moritz – repair and clean up work at Oyster Shell Park;
Sam Oster – cleaning and resetting stones at Brookside Cemetery, Rowayton;
Tyler Humphrey - cleaning and resetting stones at Pine Island Cemetery, Norwalk;
Charlie Kahler – painting hallways at Columbus Magnet School; and
Alex Miklave – construction of Norwalk Land Trust trail on West Cedar Street.

Council President McQuaid said that he did not know of any other time in the history of Norwalk where there were seven Scouts that had attained Eagle Scout level at the same time. He then announced where the boys would be attending college and congratulated all the Scouts on their achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Mayor thanked the boys and their parents for being involved through the years.

The Mayor then welcomed Ms. Halsey to her first official Council meeting as City Clerk.

I. ROLL CALL:

Ms. Halsey called the roll. The following Council Members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard McQuaid	Mr. Fred Bondi
	Ms. Joanne Romano	Mr. John Tobin
	Mr. Douglas Hempstead	
District A	Mr. Richard Bonenfant	Mr. David Jaeger
District B	Mr. Travis Simms	Mr. Carvin Hilliard
District C	Mr. Nicholas Kydes	
District D	Mr. Clyde Mount	
District E	Ms. Nora King	

Ms. Halsey announced that there was a quorum present with 12 Council members present and three absent: Conroy, Lindstrom and Straniti.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

May 10, 2011

Regular Meeting:

**** MR. KYDES MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2011.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2011 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Andy Garfunkel came forward and said that on the agenda was an ordinance to increase the salaries of those City employees. He then said there were two sides of the equations, on one side the BOE staff who were facing layoffs and the other side were City employees who would be receiving pay increases.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

The Mayor announced the following resignations:

Mr. Artie Kassimis from the Norwalk Library Board of Trustees due to recent appointment to Board of Education, and

Ms. Elizabeth Ackerman from the Conservation Commission due to relocation out of Norwalk.

APPOINTMENTS:

There were no appointments to be considered at this time.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Moccia then requested that those present observe a moment of silence for the passing of Dr. William Jassey who was the Coordinator for the Norwalk-Chiba exchange. The Mayor said that Norwalk suffered a great loss and went on to explain that he had never met anyone more dedicated to a cause than Dr. Jassey.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Council President McQuaid then said that the Veterans would like to thank the Council members that helped put the flags on the graves on Sunday.

He also commented that The Norwalk/Wilton Tree Festival had been held over the weekend at Cranbury Park and complimented everyone on the a nice job that was done.

The Rowayton Parade and the Norwalk Memorial Day parade will be held during the upcoming week-end.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR: VII.A.1 through VII.A.12, VII.B.1 (with corrections), and VII.B.3.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCQUAID MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: MAY 12, 2011.**
- 2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED APRIL 30, 2011.**
- 3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED MAY 12, 2011.**
- 4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO EPLUS TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SUPPLY OF A CISCO 3925 ROUTER FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,755.34, ACCOUNT NO. 09110600-5777-CO375 (BUDGETED IT CAPITAL EXPENSE; NO SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUIRED).**
- 5. APPROVE FY 2011-12 WPCA OPERATING BUDGET.**
- 6. AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF A NEW FIRE BOAT, TO BE FINANCED FROM A \$600,000 GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY (ACCOUNT: 09113110-5799-C0505).**
- 7. AUTHORIZE A \$190,000 REDUCTION IN THE APPROVED CAPITAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE OLD POLICE FACILITY (ACCOUNT NO. 09117100-5777CO368).**

8. AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION OF \$190,000 FOR THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF NEON FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ITS AGING CHILLER AT BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CHILD CARE FACILITY (ACCOUNT NO. 09117100- 5777-C0506).

9. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE REPAYMENT OF A LOAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$190,000 FROM THE CITY OF NORWALK TO NORWALK ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY NOW (NEON) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CHILLER AT THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CARE FACILITY.

10. RESOLUTION MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AGGREGATING \$27,774,200 FOR THE 2011-2012 CAPITAL BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$27,143,200 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2011-2012 CAPITAL BUDGET.

11. RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$50,000,000 CITY OF NORWALK, CONNECTICUT GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS.

12. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR GRANT FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR 2010 ENTITLEMENT (\$623,199.00).

B. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE THE USE OF RYAN PARK BY SERVING ALL VESSELS REVEREND ALBERT DANCY FOR A "COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP DAY" TO BE HELD SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2011 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.

3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO WARNER SHELTER SYSTEMS, LTD. FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$19,567.00. ACCOUNT # TO BE DETERMINED. THE STRUCTURES ARE FOR CALF PASTURE BEACH BATHHOUSE PROVIDING TWO (2) COVERED PAVILIONS FOR RENTAL.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hempstead recused himself from the meeting.

B. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2. **Authorize the Mayor Richard A. Moccia to enter into an Agreement with Stew Leonard's to utilize Andrew's Field Parking area for off site employee parking for the following dates:**

May 28, 29, 30, 2011

July 1, 2, 3, 2011

September 3, 4, 5, 2011

November 20, 21, 22, 23, 2011

December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 2011.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCQUAID MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Following the conclusion of the vote, Mr. Hempstead rejoined the meeting.

C. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ms. Romano, the Chair of the Personnel Committee, said that she would be presenting the Payroll Matrix. She said that many people mistakenly believe that the Council is approving the raises, but that the Council simply approves the matrix. The Council can only approve the cap on the raises. Mayor Moccia pointed out that while the range was capped at 7.5%, no one has ever received that percentage. Ms. Romano agreed. She also stated that Mr. Haselkamp was present to answer questions.

1. Approval of Merit Matrix

**** MS. ROMANO MOVED AGENDA ITEM VII-C-1 APPROVAL OF THE MERIT MATRIX.**

Mr. Jaeger said that he was very surprised that a 7.5% cap was approved in '08-'09 when the economic situation was developing. Mr. Haselkamp said that when he arrived, the first assignment he received was to develop a matrix for the City similar to Stamford's. The other two towns that he worked in had ad hoc raise processes.

Ms. King asked about the furlough days. Mr. Haselkamp said that based on some feedback he had received in December, there were concerns about costs and the five furlough days would offset the costs. Ms. King asked if it was better to have people off without pay rather than having them in City Hall. Mr. Haselkamp explained that this was simply a cost reduction and he would rather not have furlough days. Ms. King asked why the raises weren't cut with furlough days. Mr. Haselkamp then explained that last year, the ordinance employees had not been given raises and had furloughs. He added that the BOE had increases for both union and non-union employees during that time.

Mr. Kydes reminded everyone that once the budget funding is approved for the BOE, the City has no control over how that funding is spent. Mr. Haselkamp confirmed that was true, but also pointed out that the BOE could go to arbitration for more money.

Mr. Kydes had several questions about the matrix, how the increases were determined and asked when the last time someone received a raise. Mr. Haselkamp said that there had been a 4% increase for someone in '08-'09.

Ms. King then said she had a question. She pointed out that this topic had come up when the capital and operational budget discussions started. She stated that she had sat through emotional meetings with Finance Committee. She said that all the Council members and the Mayor spoken about going line by line, cutting the budget. Mayor Moccia requested that she ask her question. Ms. King replied that she was trying to do so. Ms. King then repeated that there had been many emotional meetings about the budget. Mayor Moccia asked her to ask her question. She replied that she was an elected official just like he was and had the right to ask a question. Ms. King then spoke about the budget process again and the Mayor ruled her out of order. He then declared a recess.

RECESS

Mayor Moccia then called a recess at 8:40 p.m. The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 8:47 p.m.

Ms. King then said that there had been six weeks where the Council Members had been told that there would need to be many cuts. She said that she had not received information on this. Mr. Haselkamp said that the Council Members had been sent the information via email. Ms. King replied that she wanted the backup before her.

Mr. Haselkamp then stated that 6 of the people of the 10 on the ordinance list make less than \$100,000. Ms. King said that the BOE members kept coming with requests and the City had cut their budget. The Mayor pointed out that the Board of Education did not have a budget cut, their budget request was cut. He added that they had also received 6 million dollars in State funding.

Ms. Romano reminded everyone that the Council was not voting on the raises. The City adopted a pay matrix in 2006.

**** MR. JAEGER MOVED TO TABLE THIS UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION.**

RECESS

Mr. Hempstead requested a recess at 8:53 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:59 p.m.

A roll call vote on the motion to table approval of the Merit Matrix was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM VII-C-1 APPROVAL OF THE MERIT MATRIX FAILED TO PASS WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (HILLIARD, JAEGER, SIMMS AND KING) AND EIGHT AGAINST (MCQUAID, BONDI, ROMANO, TOBIN, HEMPSTEAD, BONENFANT, MOUNT AND KYDES).**

Mr. Hempstead stated that he manages employees. This issue was a struggle for him because there could easily be a situation where the supervisor will make less than their employees. He said that there had been talk about budget cuts, and both last year and this year; however there had been increases in the budget both times along with tax increases. He said that since some of these employees had not received raises in some time, he felt that he felt that this was only fair.

Mr. Jaeger said that he was also a manager and he agreed with what Mr. Hempstead said. He said that he would like to see more information on this issue.

Council President McQuaid said that this was one of the most “whack-a-doodle” meetings he had been at. He said that after sitting here listening to the discussion, he felt that he needed to point out that he was one of the people whose job with the BOE was on the cutting block.

Mr. Hilliard said that he knew that there were departmental heads that deserve a raise. He added that the Norwalk students deserve more than what they are given. He said that the City's priorities were off if they voted for a raise to the matrix and not give the BOE a sufficient amount of money. He said he was not satisfied with the amount of money the City had given to the BOE.

Mr. Bondi said that he did not think it was fair that the union department heads received raises while the matrix employees have not received a raise for the last three years. He said that the BOE raises had been up to 10 1/2% in raises. Mr. Haselkamp confirmed this. Mr. Bondi added that there was no guarantee that the employees would received the full 7.5% raise. He said that he felt that the employees deserve it. As a taxpayer, a senior and knowing that there are many single parent households in Norwalk, Mr. Bondi said that he was very aware of the financial situation, but felt that it was right thing to do.

Mr. Tobin asked what would happen if the matrix was not approved. Mr. Haselkamp said that the current salaries would remain the same, but the actual pay would decrease because there were two anticipated cost increases for health care.

Ms. King asked if the scenario of not having a pay raise without the furlough days had been considered. Mr. Haselkamp said that there would be a 2% decrease in pay due to the anticipated health care costs.

Mr. Kydes said as chairman of the Finance Committee, he would like to clarify that the Finance Committee did not cut the BOE budget. The Finance Committee cut the percentage of the request. He said that the children of Norwalk were being used as a political football. He said that he would support this item.

A roll call vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM VII-C-1 APPROVAL OF THE MERIT MATRIX PASSED WITH IN SEVEN FAVOR, (BONDI, ROMANO, TOBIN, HEMPSTEAD, BONENFANT, MOUNT AND KYDES); FOUR AGAINST(HILLIARD, JAEGER, SIMMS AND KING) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MCQUAID).**

2. Amend Pay Plan regarding Assistant Corporation Counsel

**** MS. ROMANO MOVED AGENDA ITEM VII-C-2 AMEND PAY PLAN REGARDING ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM VII-C-2 AMEND PAY PLAN REGARDING ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL PASSED WITH IN SEVEN FAVOR, (BONDI, ROMANO, TOBIN, HEMPSTEAD, BONENFANT, MOUNT AND KYDES); FOUR AGAINST(HILLIARD, JAEGER, SIMMS AND KING) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MCQUAID).**

3. Amend Pay Plan Furloughs

**** MS. ROMANO MOVED AGENDA ITEM VII-C-3 AMEND PAY PLAN FURLOUGHS.**

Mr. Hempstead said that there were furlough days and zero increase. Mr. Hempstead reminded everyone that there were furlough days the first year and no pay increase last year. Mr. Hempstead then had several questions about the health care costs, which Mr. Haselkamp answered. Mr. Hempstead also stated that the City funds 2/3rd of the BOE health care costs. He said that he was trying to find a balance and would like 2 furlough days instead of 5.

**** MR HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM VII-C-3 AMEND PAY PLAN FURLOUGHS FROM FIVE DAYS TO TWO DAYS.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM VII-C-3 AMEND PAY PLAN FURLOUGHS FROM FIVE DAYS TO TWO DAYS PASSED WITH IN SEVEN FAVOR, (BONDI, ROMANO, TOBIN, HEMPSTEAD, BONENFANT, MOUNT AND KYDES); FOUR AGAINST(HILLIARD, JAEGER, SIMMS AND KING) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MCQUAID).**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM VII-C-3 AMEND PAY PLAN FURLOUGHS AS AMENDED PASSED WITH IN SEVEN FAVOR, (BONDI, ROMANO, TOBIN, HEMPSTEAD, BONENFANT AND KYDES); FOUR AGAINST(HILLIARD, JAEGER, SIMMS AND KING) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MCQUAID).**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARD AND COMMISSIONS:

There were no reports to be presented at this time.

VII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions to be presented at this time.

VIII. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were no motions postponed at this time.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were no suspensions of the rules at this time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services