

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 26, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: David Watts, Chair; Bruce Kimmel; Jerry Petrini; Joanne Romano;  
Carvin Hilliard (7:38 p.m.)

STAFF: Erin Halsey, City Clerk

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Mr. Watts called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and called the Roll.

**Approval of Minutes: October, 2011**

- \*\* MR. PETRINI MOVED TO TABLE THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES  
TO THE NEXT MEETING**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Public Participation**

Mr. Watts asked that all speakers limit their comments to two minutes, and ask for more time if needed.

Mr. David Shockley, represented the Sono Alliance Group. He explained that they are a community policing group. They have concerns about lighting in South Norwalk.

Mr. Hilliard joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Ms. Doreen Weston, Chair of the Sono Alliance Group, said that Sable Street is an area of concern in South Norwalk. She spoke in support of enhanced lighting in South Norwalk. She said that she wants to see Norwalk come back to the way it used to be. She said that they are trying to reduce fear in the community and believes that lighting will help.

Mr. John Hiscock, General Manager, SNEW submitted a memo that was sent to Ms. Mary Burgess dated January 17, 2012 regarding street lighting. He said that he has no objection to improved lighting, providing they are provided with specific direction.

A letter of support for improved lighting in the dangerous hot spots in Norwalk, was submitted by Ms. Anne Farrow, Harbor View on behalf of the Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations (CNNA).

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Ms. Deborah Olson spoke in support of improved lighting said that any effort should be explored and expedited.

Mr. Ernie Dumas, Sono Alliance, spoke in support of getting better lighting in the community. He also said that he has concerns about the safety of the Police officers going into dark areas.

There were no other members of the public who wished to speak.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business this evening.

### **New Business**

- \*\* MR. PETRINI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Sono Alliance Group**

**Authorize SNEW to comply with public street lighting improvements in Designated sections of South Norwalk, for the purpose of improving public Safety, as specified by the Norwalk Police SoNo Alliance Committee.**

Mr. Petrini asked Mr. Hiscock if they were putting in lighting with funds from the City. Mr. Hiscock said that they have the ability to change the light bulbs. In some of the neighborhoods served by wooden utility bulbs, some of the fixtures will take a different range of fixtures. He said that there are almost no utility poles in the district without light. He said that it could be a wattage issue. He said that the concentration of lighting in South Norwalk is relatively good. Mr. Hiscock said that someone needs to determine the wattage. He said that they are looking for direction in accordance with the City Charter.

Mr. Hilliard said that a few months ago, he addressed this issue. He asked Mr. Hiscock if anything was done. Mr. Hiscock said that he did not receive any communications. Mr. Hilliard said that he knows who dropped the ball and will take care of it.

Ms. Romano said that she feels for the residents and there are some areas that are very dark and it is frightening. She said that she hopes it gets addressed with the proper department.

Mr. Kimmel asked if there was a plan with costs, so that people can work with what has

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been budgeted from the City. Mr. Watts said that he did not know if there is a budget. Mr. Hilliard said that he would have to check with the Department of Public Works. Mr. Kimmel suggested putting this on the next DPW agenda.

Mr. Watts said that this is an important issue and they have heard from the community. People want to feel safe and he said that he wouldn't want any of the Officers to get out of their patrol car and into a dangerous situation. He noted that the bad guys want to hang out in the dark.

Mr. Watts suggested moving this item to the full Council for approval. He said that he does not want to move it to another committee because he does not want anyone in the City to feel that the community is not safe. Mr. Petrini agreed, but said that he is not comfortable moving this to the full Council without review by the DPW. He said that if it goes directly to the Common Council it may not be approved. Ms. Romano said that the full Council will want specifics from DPW.

Mr. Watts said that the people are speaking, including the Police Department. He said that he will try to get information before the next Council meeting, if not it can go back to Committee. Mr. Kimmel told Mr. Watts that he agreed with what he was trying to do, but was not sure if they are allowed to send an item to the Common Council without knowing the costs.

Mr. Hilliard said that it is a good idea to move this to the full Council; it has been discussed with the prior Council. Mr. Watts said that he has heard from the leaders in South Norwalk and they are in full support of this. Ms. Romano said that she was in full support of this, but is afraid that the Council will move to send this back to DPW for more answers.

Mr. Hilliard said that this was discussed with DPW a few months ago and they were supposed to follow through on this. Mr. Kimmel noted that the next DPW meeting is before the next Common Council meeting and suggested putting it on the DPW agenda.

**\*\* MS. ROMANO MOVED TO SEND THIS ITEM TO THE COUNCIL  
WITH FULL BACK UP INFORMATION  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Andrew Haskow, representing 50 Washington Street said that he understood that \$200,000 was allocated to the Sono Park area for lighting. He said that they have seen nothing and it is still very dark.

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Fire Department

**Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute any and all documents necessary to approve and adopt new Section 42A-5 of the Norwalk Code of Ordinances, which is entitled, “Approval of Rates and Fees,” and will authorize the establishment of a schedule of fees for permits issued by and services performed by the Norwalk Fire Marshal’s Office.**

Mr. Glenn Iannaccone, Fire Marshall explained that they only charged for blasting permits. A lot of municipalities are not setting fees as a revenue stream. The Committee reviewed the fee schedule. He said that he believed this had to go to a public hearing.

**\*\* MR. ROMANO MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE NEXT MEETING (FEBRUARY 23, 2012)  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Health Department

**Authorize the Mayor, Richard A Moccia, to execute any and all documents necessary to apply for and accept grant funds from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors for the ACHIEVE initiative in the amount of \$88,000 for the period January 31, 2012 through September 28, 2012.**

**Authorize the Mayor, Richard A Moccia, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments or amendments as may be necessary to implement the ACHIEVE initiative.**

Ms. Halsey said that the Legal Department said that no vote was necessary on these items and they should not have been on the agenda. Mr. Kimmel said that in the past there were issues and it is necessary to know if there are costs associated with these grants. Mr. Watts said that this needs to be checked.

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Police Department

**Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute a purchase order, on behalf of the Norwalk Police Department, to Motorola, under State Contract #A-99-001, for the purchase of fifty seven (57) Encrypted Motorola XTS2500 radios, chargers, and back up batteries not to exceed \$121,234. Account #35309A-5743**

Lieutenant Susan Zecca explained that the funding was coming from the COPS Technology grant. Mr. Petrini said that he researched the price and said that this is a good price.

**\*\* MS. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. HILLIARD MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM  
TO THE AGENDA  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Distribution of Smoke Detectors

Mr. Watts said that because of the recent fire in Stamford where several people lost their lives, he reached out to the Fire Chief and asked if this Committee could notify residents that they could get smoke detectors at no cost. Mr. Hilliard said that was a good idea. Ms. Romano suggested setting up a day event and have people talk to the public about fire prevention. Mr. Watts said that he will add this item to the next agenda.

Ms. Halsey said that a discussion about AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) in schools will be on a future agenda.

**\*\* MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services

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