

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.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moccia called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Council at Large: Mr. Douglas Hempstead Mr. Fred Bondi Ms. Sarah Mann

Mr. Warren Peña

District A: Mr. Matthew Miklave Mr. David Watts

District B: Mr. Carvin Hilliard Mr. Michael Geake

District C: Ms. Michelle Maggio Mr. Nicholas Kydes

District D: Mr. Jerry Petrini Mr. Bruce Kimmel

District E: Mr. David McCarthy Mr. John Igneri

Mayor Richard A. Moccia; Attorney Robert Maslan, Corporation Counsel;

Ms. Erin Halsey, City Clerk. Fourteen members were present. Absent: Ms. Anna Duleep

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular meeting – April 23, 2013

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2013 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MAYOR COMMENTS: Mayor Moccia stated that there is an invitation to the opening of Oyster Shell Park for Sunday, May 19, and he acknowledged those involved with the improvements made to the Park.

Mayor Moccia stated that with regard to the West Avenue Corridor Master Plan, it is difficult to accomplish the priorities of traffic patterns with bike lanes and there is a balance to be attained with the objective of safety for motorists and pedestrians. He noted that the accident at Marvin was one of many accidents on that day and this incident cannot necessarily be attributed to the sidewalks or bike lanes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Moccia stated the rules for public comment and asked those that had signed up to speak to state their name, affiliation and to keep comments civil in nature with no personal attacks and to be related to the agenda to a limit of three minutes.

Public Comments represent summarizations of comments made, unless otherwise noted.

Public Comments

1. Ms. Jackie Lightfield, 5 Wall Street, Norwalk stated that she wanted to speak on the West Avenue Corridor Plan. She stated that it was not perfect, but that much work has been done with outreach to the community for input on slowing the traffic and improving pedestrian and biking areas. She feels that the plan should be accepted by the Council. She added that the DPW item for renaming of the portion of Colonial Place are contradictory to maps that indicate other names and that it was actually Sherman Place. She asked that there be a further review and that there should not be approval of the name change as proposed by the Committee.

2. Mike Mushak, 50 Elmwood Avenue stated that he was here as a private citizen to speak about two items. He noted that there is a switch from Sprint to Verizon and feels that the City will benefit from better service and coverage. On the West Avenue Corridor Plan, he wanted to thank all for the hard work that is a wonderful plan for improvement. He stated that it was not perfect, and that much work has been done with on slowing the traffic but that the biking lanes can be improved. He described the impact of public safety with sharrows that are dangerous and suggested that three-lane road diet is the best way to go that provides a lane barrier and island approach for better safety. He referred to City Planner, Jeff Speck who is knowledgeable on bike lanes and asked that this be incorporated into the plans for consideration.

3. John Daley, 21 Split Rock Road, spoke on the on the West Avenue Corridor Plan, that the on street parking is an issue. He stated that it is an input on slowing the traffic but it will fail to be pedestrian friendly unless on street parking is there. He suggested that Washington Street be used as a model and he gave the example of how the absence of on-street parking has a negative impact on businesses and reduces pedestrian usage. He spoke about the parking problems that plague areas of the City and asked that on-street parking be incorporated into the design.

4. Todd Bryant, 23 Morgan Avenue spoke about the renaming of the portion of Colonial Place He stated that he concurred that the plan is contradictory to maps that indicate other names and that it was actually YNNAF, which is Fanny spelled backwards. He spoke about the historical significance of General Sherman and suggested that it be kept as Sherman Court to maintain the historical element to the street name. He asked that there be a further review and that there should not be approval of the name change as proposed by the Committee.

5. Collin Gotheer, 16 West Rocks Road, spoke on the West Avenue Corridor Plan. He stated that it is good to move forward that much work has been done with slowing the traffic and improving pedestrian and biking areas. He added that there have been extensive studies on biking and this should be incorporated into the infrastructure of the plan to accommodate cyclists.

Mayor Moccia asked if there were others who wished to speak, and hearing none, closed the public participation portion of the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS - none

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - General Council Business:

Mr. Hempstead stated that while there are many community events that call upon participation of the Council, he reminded members that it is an honor privilege to attend these events and this is what makes Norwalk such a vibrant City. He reminded the members that the Shea McGrath Memorial service at the Beach is Sunday, May 19th and it is very meaningful tribute to those who served our country. He added that the Memorial Day parade is also an annual event and he hopes all will come out and participate.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON CONSENT*:
VI.A.1, VII.A.2, VII.A.3, VII.A.5, VII.A.6, VII.A.7 VII.B.2, VII.C.2, VII.C.3.a,
VII.C.3.b, VII.C.4**

**** MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WAS UNANIMOUS.**

**It is noted that the motion reflects an amended motion to remove following items from consent as noted:*

Mr. Kydes requested item VII.B.1 be removed from the consent calendar.

Mr. Miklave requested items VII.A.1 VII.A.8 be removed from consent.

Mr. Bondi requested Item VII A.4 be removed from consent.

The following items in bold are approved on the Consent Calendar:

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

A. BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

1. RESOLVED, that a sum not to exceed \$240,000.00 be and the same is hereby transferred from Fund Balance to various Departments to cover the remaining operating expenses related to Storm Sandy. (Account #Various).

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE

2. For informational purposes only: Monthly Tax Collector's Report dated: April 30, 2013.

3. For informational purposes only: Narrative on Tax Collections dated: May 9, 2013.

5. Approve FY 2013-14 WPCA Budget.

6. Authorize the Mayor, Richard Moccia, to execute an amendment to the Agreement with Vision Government Solutions, Inc., for the supply, installation, data conversion, training, and 24 months technical support for the Building Official Software System for an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Account: 09130600-5777-C0375.

7. Authorize the Mayor, Richard Moccia, to execute an Amendment to the existing Agreement with Innovative Interfaces, Inc., for the renewal of the Automated Library Management system Hardware and Software Maintenance Agreement. The Amendment coverage periods and costs shall be as follows: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014: \$38,484; July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015: \$39,639; July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016: \$40,828. Acct: 010600-5269.

B. PLANNING COMMITTEE

2. Approve attached list of programs for inclusion in the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program for 2013.

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

2. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Amendment to the Agreement with Alcaide, Inc. d/b/a/ A& J Construction for Project PM 2012-1 Pavement Management Program, for a sum not to exceed \$215,000.00. Account No. 0913/14 3310 5777 C0473 (\$65,000) P&Z 2013-14 Capital budget (\$150,000)

3. a. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement with P & S Paving, Inc. for Project No. PM 2013-2 Bituminous Concrete Permanent Pavement Repairs for a sum not to exceed \$244,974.94.

3.b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to execute Orders on Contract with P & S Paving, Inc. for Project No. PM 2013-2 Bituminous Concrete Permanent Pavement Repairs for a sum not to exceed \$24,497.49. Account No.030000-2602

4. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement with H. W. Lochner, Inc. for construction engineering services relative to the construction of Connecticut DOT Project No. 102-278, for a sum not to exceed \$38,550. State to reimburse City 100%.

A. FINANCE/CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. Accept and Approve the Report of the Claims Committee: April 11, 2013 - May 9, 2013.

Mr. Miklave recused himself to avoid a potential conflict and left the Council Chambers. Mr. Hilliard moved the item for discussion. There were no questions or comments from the Council members.

**** MR. HILLIARD MOVED TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: APRIL 11, 2013 AND MAY 9, 2013.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Miklave returned to the meeting after the vote was taken.

4. Approve FY 2013-14 Parking Authority Budget.

Mr. Hilliard moved the item for discussion. There were no questions or comments from the Council members.

**** MR. HILLIARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2013-14 PARKING AUTHORITY BUDGET.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED (BONDI) AND NO ABSTENTIONS.**

8. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, Gerald J. Foley, to issue annual Purchase Orders to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for cellular, blackberry, and wireless broad band access services for various City Departments for an annual amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, per fiscal year, for a period not to exceed two (2) years, with one (1) one (1) year optional extensions. (Accounts Various).

Mr. Miklave recused himself to avoid a potential conflict and left the Council Chambers.

Mr. Hilliard moved the item for discussion. There were no questions or comments from the Council members.

**** MR. HILLIARD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD J. FOLEY, TO ISSUE ANNUAL PURCHASE ORDERS TO CELSCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR CELLULAR, BLACKBERRY, AND WIRELESS BROAD BAND ACCESS SERVICES FOR VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00, PER FISCAL YEAR, FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED TWO (2) YEARS, WITH ONE (1) ONE (1) YEAR OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS. (ACCOUNTS VARIOUS).**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Miklave returned to the meeting after the vote was taken.

B. PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Review and approve Landscape Design Master Plan for the West Avenue Corridor.

Mr. Kydes asked to speak on the item and stated that it is a well thought out plan that defines urban space. He stated that before tonight's council meeting there was a special presentation by the design firm to give the members of the full council an overview of the plan. He shared his long-term vision and objectives are to create a loop around Norwalk from West Avenue to Wall Street, up East Avenue, over to Van Zant, pass Veterans Park and back through to the Norwalk downtown area. He described this as something like was in the past in Norwalk with horse drawn carriages and trolley cars, creating a unique attraction for tourists that highlights historic elements of Norwalk. He further described this area as a scenic route containing flowering trees such as blooming dogwoods and fruit trees to have a beautiful vista of color that is welcoming and artistic, with year round foliage.

Mr. Kydes stated that another area in the plan is an issue that is part of the connectivity plan which is that bike lanes are an important consideration for the city. He explained that due to a limitation of space, it is difficult to have dedicated lanes in the corridor as the size just does not permit this without jeopardizing safety.

Mr. Kydes then spoke about the on street parking and that it is an issue that we should have in this corridor as it provides a buffer with the road and shops and helps pedestrian traffic. Also, as experienced with Lockwood Matthews Mansion, parking is essential for tourist attractions.

Mr. Kimmel asked for a point of procedural clarification, that the item is as presented, and he is not prepared to vote on the type of trees that will be planted.

Mr. Kydes stated that to clarify that he does not recommend a change to the plan but restated that this is an opportunity to have a vista of beautiful blossoming trees with seasonal foliage to provide a unique appeal to attract tourists and people to visit.

Mr. Hempstead clarified that there is tremendous history, great strides have been made to enhance the historical aspects of the area, and he thanked the Redevelopment Agency for all of the efforts with the landscaping master plan.

Mr. Bondi asked the Council to be reminded what became of trees that were planted on Wall Street and grew too large for the street and had to be cut down and replanted again. He added that consideration be used to make sure the conditions are such that the type of trees planted will survive.

Mayor Moccia asked for a motion, and Mr. Kydes noted that he had moved the item for approval.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN MASTER PLAN
FOR THE WEST AVENUE CORRIDOR.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. Approve renaming the portion of Colonial Place from Morgan Avenue south approximately two hundred eighty feet (280') [to the ninety degree bend] to Morgan Place. Staff are directed to coordinate with the Historical Commission regarding the placement of a historical marker, sign or placard in an appropriate location on the street.

Mr. McCarthy moved the item for discussion. He explained that the Committee had spent a great deal of time with this and it came back and forth twice. He stated that they did take into consideration the historical significance and carefully evaluated information from the DPW along with input from the Historical Society. He stated that a decorative historical plaque will be created to showcase the history of the entire Sherman family.

Mr. Watts stated that his district is where the street lies and suggested to table action on the proposal to rename the street Morgan Place until residents' wishes were fully considered. He explained that he had received numerous telephone calls from constituents regarding the matter, expressed their disappointment and stated that he felt we should be accommodating to their input. Mayor Moccia asked that he refrain from a table motion until other members could comment.

Mr. Kimmel spoke about his street and the confusion that exists with other street names, and that it is disastrous to do this. He feels that the compromise presented by the Committee solves the problem and acknowledges the historical significance.

Mr. Alvord referred to the supporting documents in the packet and explained that the renaming is necessary to preserve the orderly numbering of houses on Colonial Place. He added that confusion with mail delivery and emergency departments creates a safety issue that needs to be avoided. He gave examples of other streets with similar names that are nearby as well as several miles apart, and explained that there needs to be an orderly process to follow when it comes to street naming.

Mr. Miklave stated that he was in agreement with the objective to avoid using the same name for different streets and explained that such a practice has ramifications not only in petty inconvenience with mail but represents a major public safety issue in an emergency. He spoke in favor of the public comment to use Fanny backwards and gave an example of streets in Washington that maintain a historical namesake such as Tunlaw, which is the reverse spelling of Walnut.

Mr. Kydes stated that he rejected that this argument is valid and stated that there is Morgan Avenue and Morgan Place, Newtown Court, Newtown Avenue, and Newtown Terrace.

Mayor Moccia suggested that a dedicated sign such as what was done for Richard Fuller Way could accomplish a dedication without a name change. It added that this was just a suggestion.

- ** MR. KYDES MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**
- ** MOTION TO TABLE FAILED WITH SEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR (KYDES, WATTS, BONDI, PENA, MIKLAVE, GEAKE, IGNERI) EIGHT VOTES OPPOSED (HEMPSTEAD, HILLIARD, MCCARTHY, PETRINI, KIMMEL, MANN, MAGGIO, MAYOR MOCCIA) AND NO ABSTENTIONS.**
- ** MOTION TO TABLE FAILED.**

**It is noted that the Council vote was a 7-7 tie; Mayor Moccia was asked for a tie-breaking vote, and he voted "No", which made the vote tally at 7-8-0.*

Mayor Moccia then called for a vote on the motion.

Mr. McCarthy clarified that a yes vote was to approve the motion.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE RENAMING THE PORTION OF COLONIAL PLACE FROM MORGAN AVENUE SOUTH APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY FEET (280') [TO THE NINETY DEGREE BEND] TO MORGAN PLACE. STAFF IS DIRECTED TO COORDINATE WITH THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF A HISTORICAL MARKER, SIGN OR PLACARD IN AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION ON THE STREET.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR (HEMPSTEAD, HILLIARD, MCCARTHY, PETRINI, KIMMEL, MAGGIO, MANN) SIX VOTES OPPOSED (KYDES, WATTS, BONDI, PENA, MIKLAVE, IGNERI) AND ONE ABSTENTION (GEAKE).**

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE - none

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES - none

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services