

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. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for the victims and their families in the Nevada Middle School shooting.

I. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Herring 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: Mr. Nicholas Kydes Ms. Michelle Maggio
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 Herring, City Clerk. Fourteen members present. Absent: Duleep

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Regular meeting – October 8, 2013

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2013 SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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. He asked the Council for some leeway in allowing the Veterans to speak on a non-agenda item.

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

1. Karen Doyle Lyons, 58 Spring Hill Road, spoke on behalf of the Veterans and the proposed resolution. She stated that 125 soldiers from CT were sent to Afghanistan and wanted all to know the service and commitment that is going in, and she thanked Mayor Moccia for the Veteran's Wall of Honor and for all of his support of the Veterans.

Public Comments – continued

Ms. Doyle-Lyons urged the Council to lobby to the state to restore funds taken from the American Legion, and said she will hold Bob Duff to the floor for not supporting the veterans. She named others who could not attend and asked those in attendance to stand for recognition. She asked the council to please vote for the resolution to rescind this terrible de-funding act by the legislators.

2. Ella Lagasse, 595 West Avenue (spoke in replacement for Paxton Kinol) and asked the Council to support the Waypointe item on the agenda for the streetscape upgrade for utility infrastructure improvements in the Waypointe project area.

3. Leo Motyka, American Legion, Norwalk spoke in support of the resolution and gave an overview of his military background and service for the country. He described Veterans benefits and the difficulties shared by veterans during the post-war eras with medical treatment and expenses. He shared how the Soldiers, Sailors and Marine's fund contributed to the health and recovery of wounded and ill veterans and the importance of this fund to those who gave so much of their lives to our country.

4. Mark Albertson, East Norwalk spoke about the efforts of the magazine that he works with to support programs for veterans. He thanked Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Hilliard and Mayor Moccia for their military serve and the bi-partisan effort to put together this resolution. He asked the council to work to rescind this funding legislation and asked to urge Hartford to put the funding back to the legion.

5. Buddy Scudder, American Legion Post 12, NVMC, gave an overview of his background and officer positions he has held with the Post. He stated that the veterans need to have our support for the past, present and the future. He asked the council to please vote for the resolution and there should be no party lines when it comes to the veterans.

Mayor Moccia asked if there were others who wished to make comments, and hearing none closed the Public Participation portion of the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

The Mayor stated that he understands the concerns of the Veterans and realizes the difficult times regarding the state and funding for the Veterans and hopefully, they will take a second look at this. Mayor Moccia stated that was an article about Norwalk being a top city with regard to dog population, and the article was quite interesting since he did a ribbon cutting today for a veterinarian.

REAPPOINTMENTS:

Carol Frank - Fair Housing Advisory Commission
Joseph Pramer - Pension Board

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CAROL FRANK TO THE FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 09/01/16.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH PRAMER TO THE PENSION BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 09/01/18.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Mr. Hempstead stated that he wanted to remind everyone of the Halloween events being held at the Lockwood Mansion and Mill Hill with Haunted Houses. He stated that he wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming election on November 5, 2013 and wished everyone running good luck with their endeavors and thank all for their service. He added that it takes a great deal of time and commitment to serve on the Council and many people are not aware of this level of service and dedication that is involved.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS FOLLOWS:
VII.A.1; AND ON CONSENT TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:**

Resolution in Support of Returning Administrative Responsibility of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (SSMF) with Adequate Resources to the American Legion.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an amendment to the Agreement with A. M. Rizzo Electrical Contractors, Inc. for Utility Infrastructure Upgrade and Streetscape for an amount not to exceed \$960,000.00.

Acct. No. Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

Mr. McCarthy moved the resolution and read it as follows:

A Resolution in Support of Returning Administrative Responsibility of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (SSMF) with Adequate Resources to the American Legion Resolution Sponsored by Carvin Hilliard and David McCarthy, Veterans Co-Sponsored by Doug Hempstead, Michelle Maggio, Jerry Petrini, Bruce Kimmel, Sarah Mann, Michael Geake, Nicholas Kydes and Fred Bondi.

Whereas the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund was established by the General Assembly of Connecticut in 1919 to recognize the sacrifices and heroism displayed by its sons and daughters during "The Great War" (World War I).

Whereas at that time \$2,400,000 had been allocated to recognize the contributions of returning veterans.

Whereas the General Assembly decided that the money would be set aside in trust, with the interest, after investment of the funds, to be used to help veterans.

Whereas the fund is now valued at \$64,000,000 and generates \$3,000,000 annually, which is used for the benefit of the neediest veterans and their families.

Whereas Public Act 336 of 1919 designated The American Legion as the administrative agency, which was to have responsibility for the activities of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund.

Whereas the State of Connecticut ceased putting any tax derived public money into the fund in 1962, and all capital growth and interest have come from investment return.

Whereas the partnership between The American Legion and the State of Connecticut in serving Connecticut's veterans was unique in the nation and had achieved remarkable results.

Whereas there have been but nine Administrators of the Fund since its inception in 1919, and each has served concurrently as Department Treasurer of The American Legion.

Whereas The American Legion has addressed the pressing needs of Connecticut's veterans and alleviated suffering since 1919.

Whereas the fund addresses the needs of the neediest veterans for assistance in suicide prevention, sexual assault treatment and therapy, emergent medical and dental issues, as well as heating fuel costs and funeral arrangements.

Whereas the governor initially proposed that the American Legion be given complete control of the fund.

Whereas the state is now trying to fund the Legion less than a quarter of what the state's administrative costs had been.

Whereas Connecticut has more than 237,000 Veterans, including men and women returning from duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, that will need the help of the Veteran services the American Legion can provide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL THAT the Soldier, Sailor and Marine Fund is a beneficial tool used in supporting veterans who are homeless or in immediate crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL THAT the administration of the Soldier, Sailor and Marine Fund should be handled by the American Legion and that the American Legion should be given back the appropriate resources to perform the task.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL THAT the Soldier, Sailor and Marine Fund should be maintained in perpetuity as a trust solely for the benefit of Connecticut's Veterans and that the good work done by the Fund should be enabled and encouraged by the state, its governor and its legislature.

Mr. Geake noted that it was the resolution was intended to be put through Committee, but there was not enough time. He explained that it was e-mailed to all council members, he apologized for the lateness of the resolution, and stated that he was yielding to Committee member McCarthy.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he could not say anything more or better than what was already said tonight by many speakers that spoke about the great deal of good that is done with the Soldiers, Sailors and Marine's fund. He described how funds contribute to the health and recovery of wounded and ill veterans, suicide prevention, food and medication, and the importance of this fund to those who gave so much of their lives to our country. He added that control is being taken away from the local veteran organization and he hopes this resolution will help to send a message to the legislators that it needs to be added back.

Mr. Kydes and Mr. Bondi expressed disappointment that they were not notified by their caucus and that their names were not listed as sponsors to the resolution. Mayor Moccia noted that there was an e-mail to the members and all council names would be on the resolution as it is endorsed by the entire council.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he strongly supported this resolution and that money should be added back and not be treated as part of the state general fund, but locally controlled by the American Legion. Mr. Watts thanked all those who served and to the veterans who attended the meeting and came out to speak, they are all appreciated for their service to the country, and God bless them all.

Mr. Kydes stated that he has a great deal of respect and he shared how much he learned about WWII from veterans and his father and the importance of supporting those who fought for our country. He added that we often forget about the blood of the soldiers and hopes that their fight for our freedom will be treated with utmost respect, and the very least we can do is to support our veterans.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETURNING ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES FUND (SSMF) WITH ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO THE AMERICAN LEGION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**OCTOBER 22, 2013
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Marilyn Knox, Telesco Secretarial Services