

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 Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Council at Large: Mr. Richard Bonenfant Mr. Douglas Hempstead
Mr. Glenn Iannaccone Mr. Bruce Kimmel Ms. Sharon Stewart
District A: Ms. Eloisa Melendez Mr. David Watts
District B: Ms. Phaedrel Bowman Mr. Travis Simms
District C: Mr. John Kydes Ms. Michelle Maggio
District D: Ms. Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco Mr. Jerry Petrini
District E: Mr. David McCarthy Mr. John Igneri

Mayor Harry W. Rilling; Attorney Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel;
Donna King, City Clerk. Fifteen members present.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Regular meeting – January 14, 2014

Mr. Petrini stated that on page 8 in the motion vote, two names were left off, and to add Hempstead and Iannaccone to the yes votes.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2014 AS AMENDED WITH CHANGES NOTED. ****
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. ****

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Rilling read the rules for public participation and asked City Clerk King to call those who signed up to speak to come forward when their names were called.

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

1. Wendell Livingston, Rowayton Historical Society president, read her statement and provided it for the record: The Board of Trustees of the Rowayton Historical Society is vehemently opposed to the proposal to widen and lower Rowayton Avenue near the Rowayton train station. The plan would alter this historic stretch of the street irrevocably and the proposed plan would take place in an area that is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Because it uses federal funds, Conn. DOT Project No. 102-340, Rowayton Avenue Reconstruction is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1956.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – continued

This statute requires a formal federal review process for any project, activity, or program that can result in changes in the character or use of historic properties. We ask you to stop this project until the required reviews can be completed. The Rowayton Avenue reconstruction is an unnecessary and unrequested project that will waste taxpayer dollars and change the character of this part of historic Rowayton. We urge the Common Council to vote against this proposal.

2. Leslie Korzennik, Briar Street, read a statement from a Silvermine resident at 100 Comstock Hill Avenue: We are against the proposed Rowayton Avenue bridge reconstruction and are in support of the effort to keep this road as it exists. As stated, the reconfiguration will encourage greater use and speeding. We Silverminers heard all the arguments before when the south facade of the Perry Avenue Bridge fell into the Silvermine River after it was hit by a truck. State funding for reconstruction would have required the roadway to be 35 feet wide, putting the south edge of the bridge in the living room of an adjacent house. The answer was to leave the width as it was and make it a one lane bridge with alternating lane use. The result has been to calm the general flow of traffic and to reduce the use by trucks. The bridge is now on the National Register as a historic landmark, and construction that is an unnecessary will waste taxpayer dollars, changing the character of this part of historic Rowayton. She urged the Common Council to vote against this proposal.
3. Nora King, 17 Covewood, Norwalk stated she is speaking against the Rowayton Avenue train bridge project that is unworkable and unnecessary and the need for a revised plan. She stated that the process is flawed and similar circumstances have prevailed with East Avenue. She spoke about the traffic studies that have cost the City thousands and traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures that have been approved that should be implemented. She stated that the cost of the project has been inaccurately reported, with costs of easements and property takings, it adds up to close to \$3 million which is an unnecessary strain on City resources. She urged the Common Council to vote against this proposal
4. Erika Aguilera, 21 Laura Street spoke about the loss of work by the cleaning workers and asked how they are to get their jobs back.
5. Roger Smith, 57 Roton Avenue, asked how much longer residents have to put up with things like this that make it more and more difficult to remain in Norwalk with the high taxes. He stated that unnecessary projects like this are what drive taxes up and drive us out of town, and leave less for more worthwhile projects.
6. Todd Bryant, 23 Morgan Place, president of the Norwalk Preservation Trust spoke about the historic status of the area. He echoed the comments made by Wendell Livingston and asked that federally funded projects must be studied carefully. He reviewed historic preservation regulations and stated that certain projects are not in compliance, and the historical significance needs to be treated with respect.
7. Mr. Mushak, 50 Elmwood Avenue gave an overview of the project and stated that it is over-engineered, inappropriate and unnecessary. He asked why lower the incline of the road to increase traffic and build a speedway in this highly pedestrian traffic area? He spoke about the safe distance for braking and natural traffic calming feature that exists with the current road incline. He described the project as engineering gone wild and referred to the Merritt 7 project that had to be curtailed with a task force solution. He described the DOT meetings as a dog & pony show that highlights how the state is forcing another project that is not necessary. He stated that the community never asked for the bridge to be made truck-friendly and the road widened will ruin the historic charm of the station area. He explained that what are really needed are new sidewalks, better signage and a walk path to the station entrances on both sides. He continued that East Norwalk should not end like this, and he wants to guarantee that this message gets through loud and clear that is a wasteful boondoggle. He spoke about how the project should be scaled back to save hundred of thousands, that it is a shame that we are devoting all this time and money while streets and sidewalks all over town need much more attention. Mr. Mushak spoke about the plan for bike lanes that will cost much less, and asked the Council to vote no on this project.

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**JANUARY 28, 2014
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Public Comments -- continued

8. Mr. Tom Livingston had signed up to speak and stated that he had relegated his time to Mr. Mushak.
9. Jim McPartland, 337 Rowayton Avenue, Norwalk asked why no notice went out, yet tax bills are issued without fail. He stated that there are elderly residents along Rowayton Avenue that are strongly opposed and there is a petition of over 100 signatures that are against this. Reasons are destruction of property value, additional traffic and unnecessary construction expense and project commotion.
10. Andy Conroy, 17 Old Witch Court, Norwalk gave a historical overview of the item that began back in 1993. He explained that it began in an effort to address resident complaints of dangerous traffic conditions, road width and height clearance and high speed motorists. He stated that the current issue is the sight lines and re-grading Rowayton Avenue near the railroad bridge, as Conn. DOT is undertaking the road-lowering project with DPW which maintains the work is necessary to improve site lines for motorists and make the road safer for all. He stated that over the years with his prior terms on the council he had been closely involved with former district Commissioner Grace Lichtenstein and District Administrator Jack Robson and there were many resident meetings. He added that the project has a great deal of merit for commuters and residents that are pedestrians. He recommended that we need to bring this to a completion and to continue with this final phase of the project.
11. Mike Barbis, 4 Covewood Avenue stated he wanted to echo many of the prior comments and he thanked the city officials for their involvement and meetings. He asked that needs to back to the drawing board similar to the Merritt parkway route 7 interchange and reconsider the impact of further reconstruction. He said we can learn from this act and apply the action to the decision on Rowayton Avenue. He stated that it is very appropriate to hit the pause button, and the area will be irreparably changed and afterward, you can't put the genie back in the bottle,"
12. Tammy Langalis, Sixth Taxing District Commissioner, thanked the Mayor and DPW for tabling the item and for the meeting to provide more information, as it was very helpful. She spoke in opposition to rebuilding the railroad bridge and now we're just making unnecessary work and it's a waste of taxpayer money.
13. Diane Cece Olmstead Place spoke in support of the Rowayton residents and how citizens need to continue to speak out when it is time to hit the pause button. She explained that the state should not hold the City hostage, and projects should not have scare tactics associated with them. She stated that it is destructive that failure to proceed will have drastic consequences, and we should not be held hostage to state funding.
14. Carmen Sargent, SEIU Representative stated that cleaning workers have lost jobs and health insurance and she asked the Council to be aware of this situation. She said this affect the lives of many workers and the taxpayers will suffer the burden of the lay-off expense. Mayor Rilling asked her to stop by and see him after the meeting.
15. Burton Schatz, 8 Harstrom Place asked about the contractor responsibility with making the bridge the proper height for adequate clearance. He stated that it is unfortunate and a bureaucratic waste of tax payer dollars to redo a project of this nature.

Mayor Rilling asked if there were others who wished to make comments, and hearing none closed the Public Participation portion of the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Rilling noted that there is resolution brought forward on the Mentoring Program that Mr. McCarthy will read at the end of the agenda.

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**JANUARY 28, 2014
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Mayor announced that the next Mayor's Night Out will be on February 20, 2014 at Fox Run School at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Rilling thanked all of those who attended the Mayor's Ball, and stated that it was a great social charity event, one that brings everyone together each year.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS -- none

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Hempstead congratulated the Mayor on the successful Mayor's Ball and noted that it is one of those annual events that bring people together for a good cause. He added that it was a nice recognition of Ernie Dumas.

Mr. Hempstead reminded the Council that tomorrow evening is a work session with the Board of Education to review the budget.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS FOLLOWS:
VILA.1, VILA.2, VILA.3, VILA.4.A, VILA.4.B, VII.C.1, C2 (TO TABLE);
VIL.D.1, VIL.D.2, , VIL.D.3, VIL.D.4**

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

A

Items on the Consent Calendar are in bold as follows:

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

A. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to enter into an agreement with the Marching Bears Inc. for the use of the Andrews Field Parking Area to host their Annual Carnival Fundraiser to be held June 11 – 14, 2014, Wednesday, June 11, 2014 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Thursday, June 12, 2014 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Friday, June 13, 2014 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Saturday, June 14, 2014 from 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM with a rain date of Sunday, June 15, 2014. Set up will take place Monday, June 9, 2014 with tear down no later than 12:00 Noon on Monday, June 16, 2014. Estimated attendance 1,000.

2. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to enter into an agreement with TriFitness for the use of Shady/Calf Pasture Beach for a TriFitness Triathlon and Duathlon to be held Sunday, August 17, 2014 from 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM. Set up will take place Saturday, August 16, 2014 at 5:00 PM with tear down no later than 12:00 Noon on Sunday, August 17, 2014. Estimated attendance 300.

Consent Calendar – continued

3. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to enter into an agreement with “Music for Angels” for the use of the Cranbury Park Pavilion and immediate surrounding grounds for “Music for Angels/Fundraiser Raffle and Bands) to be held Saturday, June 21, 2014 from 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Set up to take place 8:00 AM Saturday, June 21, 2014 with tear down no later than 11:00 AM. Estimated attendance 500+

4. A) Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to enter into an agreement with SoNo Arts Celebration, Inc. for the use of 50 Washington Street Plaza for their SoNo Arts Celebration to be held Saturday, August 16, Sunday, August 17, 2014. Estimated attendance 1,500.

4.B) Approve the use of the Show Mobile by the SoNo Arts Celebration, Inc. for the Annual SoNo Arts Celebration to be held Saturday, August 16, 2014 and Sunday, August 17, 2014.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor to execute the required Certificate of Consistency on behalf of the Greater Norwalk Continuum of Care’s response to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development SuperNOFA.

2. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Amended and Restated Lease by and among the City of Norwalk and the Maritime Aquarium. (TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING 02.11.14)

D. HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute all documents necessary to apply for and accept funds from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for the Medical Reserve Corp project for the period December 20, 2013 to July 31, 2014 in the amount of \$3,500.

2 Authorize the Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments or amendments as may be necessary to implement a Medical Reserve Corp project for the period December 20, 2013 to July 31, 2014.

3 Authorize the Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute all documents necessary to retain Yale University to analyze, draw conclusions and make recommendations on data provided by the Norwalk Department of Health in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Account # 3520875258.

4 Authorize the Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments or amendments as may be necessary to implement the agreement with Yale University.

Mr. Petrini clarified the definition of consent calendar and noted to those in attendance representing Parks & Recreation items that if approved on consent, they were free to go.

Mr. Hempstead called for a five-minute recess.

The meeting was recessed at 8:26 and reconvened back into public session at 8:40 p.m.

B. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an agreement with M. Rondano, Inc. for ConnDOT Project No. 102-340, Rowayton Avenue Reconstruction for a sum not to exceed \$2,307,564.00. Approval of this line item is provided that a committee be created to study possibilities to modify the project in order to simultaneously address the safety issues and the concerns of the community.

2. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue orders on contract to M. Rondano, Inc. for ConnDOT Project No. 102-340, Rowayton Avenue Reconstruction for a sum not to exceed \$230,756.00. Account No. 100% reimbursable (80% federal, 20% state)

Mr. McCarthy moved the items together as one item for action. He gave an overview of the item and stated that he wanted to echo comments made by former councilman Conroy who described the project that resulted from “commuter revolt”. He explained that it began in an effort to address resident complaints of dangerous traffic conditions, road width and height clearance and high speed motorists. He disputed inaccurate comments made tonight that there were never resident meetings and there is no pedestrian plan. He stated that contrary to those comments, we're not increasing the height of the underpass, or trying to make the road acceptable to tractor-trailers, we're restoring the height of that underpass to what it had been before any of these projects. Two years ago, the state rebuilt the railroad bridge, decreasing its clearance, and now the Conn. DOT is undertaking the road-lowering project with DPW necessary to improve site lines for motorists and make the road safer for all. He spoke about the sight lines and described how the line of vision when coming down Rowayton Avenue due to the incline, results in car headlights that actually shine up on to the train tracks. He showed how this will be improved with a lowering of the grade of the road. He stated that parts of the road will be widened, the bridge will be restored strengthened and the overall safety will be improved.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there were two meetings last week with state officials and council members and there was adequate access to the plans and full disclosure of the scope of the project. He thanked Mr. Hempstead, Mr. Petrini and Mr. Watts for attending and added that he tried to get more residents to attend and had asked ten people but was only able to get Tammy Langalis and Sherry Burton. He said the meetings with the state were the right things to do and acts were brought out and understood. He added that these were very informative and not a show as described tonight but the scope of the project was outlined in detail by the stated and all those there listened and got a great deal of information. He stated he has been closely involved with the project and each step of the way and the item will remain on the agenda to closely monitor the scope of the project.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE --continued

Mr. McCarthy continued and stated that many comments are inaccurate, there is no comparison to East Avenue, that the bridge is not being raised. He described how the trucks can only fit at exceedingly low speeds since it was lowered and it is now being restored to avoid trucks hitting onto the bridge. He noted that this would include DPW bucket trucks to get through during emergency needs. He listed the project improvements to sidewalks and roadway is being narrowed and he described the change from concrete to stone walls was done to comply with the historic element of the area. He noted that in contrast to comments made, the project would not change the character, and trees and shrubs will be replaced in according to original landscape layout. In addition, the street will be properly striped with proper signage, with reduced speed limits to slow down traffic, and to ensure motorist and pedestrian safety.

Mr. McCarthy spoke about the inaccurate reports of no accidents in decades, and stated that research indicates that there were actually thirteen accidents, with eight attributed to the road width, the incline and grade of the road and the height of the bridge. He explained that this stage of the restoration will not disrupt traffic, there will be no night work and minor detours will be done in an orderly fashion, done all by the fall with little impact on residents. He explained that the funding was through the federal government for new improved roadway that unless fully completed as contracted could result in the state asking for reimbursement of the federal funds allocated.

Mr. Kimmel thanked Mr. McCarthy for the comprehensive review of the project and stated that it is counterproductive to revisit what we do or don't do rather than follow through with approved project. He stated that the example of Governor Christie is not something to emulate, it is not a good example, and he recounted his involvement with the project back in 2011. He expressed a lack of understanding and he could not see the merits back then and had called it a "boondoggle". He spoke about his experience as one of that being a regular five day a week roundtrip East Norwalk commuter he fully empathized with safety concerns and the lack of lighting and adequate sidewalks. He has since gone into an examination of the facts and the enhancements to safety for commuters, not to mention the consequences of not going what we contracted to do with the state. He added that we will continue to look for ways to improve safety and look for solutions.

Mr. Igneri thanked Mr. McCarthy for the project update and he provided a review of what was supposed to be done. He stated that there is a lack of confidence of residents to continue this project, based on the need to again change this area. He stated that he found no reason to proceed with the roadwork and asked why we have to bring that hill down 3.5 feet. He spoke about the need to scale back the project to address sidewalks and lighting. He explained that to again tear up the street and make it easier for cars to speed is very hard to understand. He said he would like to have it scaled back to something that is more reasonable for that area.

Mr. Watts asked Mr. Alvord to come forward to field questions. Mr. Alvord gave an overview of the phases of the project and explained the scope of the work and involvement of standard procedures with the DPW and the Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE --continued

Mr. Alvord spoke about the modifications to rework the project and address concerns such as keeping stone walls and they have worked closely with the district with the bidding documents to ensure consistency to maintain the area to its original condition. He noted that there is one area that a resident needs to replace one of the walls and that will be addressed. He spoke about the lighting and materials and explained that there are asphalt curbs and granite used to keep in the original historical context and sidewalks will be restored along the stone walls, and landscaping will be included.

Mr. Watts asked about the impact of hitting the pause button, and while there may be some good parts of the project, what will happen if this is not approved. Mr. Alvord stated that there were many good elements of the project and he spoke about the areas and concerns. He stated that the low clearance does inhibit several of the DPW vehicles such as the bucket truck and others from passing and this is a safety concern especially having access during storm clean up. He explained that all things equal, a vehicle may fit but once a wide based or long vehicle makes the incline, it scrapes the bridge and the DOT wants to prevent these strikes against the train bridge from occurring.

Mr. Watts asked if he is willing to work with the Committee and follow the project and be open to resident concerns. He stated that we want to do everything we can, so everybody in the project area knows what's taking place and that the city is keeping residents informed about the project.

Mr. Hempstead recounted his involvement with the project and reviewed the state's position that we complete and do what we committed to do. He spoke about the ongoing review and meetings to address concerns and make modifications. He suggested that an amendment be considered to add at the end the wording to modify the project where feasible. There was discussion over the wording of the amendment, and Attorney Coppola suggested that the words feasible and reasonable be included.

MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AMEND THE ITEM TO ADD THE WORDS MODIFY THE PROJECT WHERE FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE.

Mr. Igneri asked for a recess.

The meeting was recessed at 9:20 p.m. and reconvened back into public session at 9:59 p.m.

There was no vote on the proposed amendment. Mr. Hempstead withdrew his motion to amend.

Mr. McCarthy clarified that modifications have to be approved by the state, but if there are legitimate concerns brought forth, they will be addressed, subject to state approval. He asked to bring forth concerns and the time line is needs to be executed for completion by September.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE --continued

Ms. Maggio commented that she feels for residents and has discussed the East Avenue parallel; however at this stage the DPW has answered all of the legitimate concerns and will continue to address further concerns. She feels voting no will not change the scope of the project.

Mr. Watts stated that residents think it's a boondoggle that the City has an obligation, as well as the state, to work with the residents. He spoke about the citizens' right to speak and it seems that any time there is a controversial issue there are scare tactics of consequences, and we are always backed into a corner. He continued that there needs to be more time to address issues and our responsibility as a city to reach out to the residents and some type of system for them to be made aware such as a letter or e-mail or knock on the door, as it is wrong to hear from a neighbor. He said it is wrong for residents not to have the time to attend meeting as misinformation can overshadow the project, and DPW should work hand in hand with the Committee and citizens.

Mr. Kimmel stated that he rejected the comment that Council members had been backed into a corner, or that the overwhelming number of Rowayton residents oppose the roadwork. He reviewed that has been done and that he has not heard what has not been done and asked what is the problem? He said we all have been informed there have been many meetings, sub-committee meetings, community forums, and caucuses and research has been done with the pertinent facts. He questioned comments about overwhelming dissatisfaction and asked who took the poll and did the survey. He stated that the many of those that spoke do not even live in Rowayton and he finds it hard to understand why the controversy when the problem does not exist.

Mr. Watts said that regardless of what part of the City residents live it is one city and residents have a right to question projects. He added that Mr. Kimmel is honest and intelligent, a scholar, a gentleman and one of the finest council members. He complimented him on his service to the council and asked him to be sensitive to concerns of the public that they have a right to know all aspects of issues, and to hold their hand to give them the information.

Mr. Hempstead recounted the history of the project and his involvement with many site reviews and he reviewed the state's position that there should be a claim for non-compliance with federally funded project completions. He stated the state was willing to come here and meet to review of the phases and details of completion of the project, and all facts were discussed in great detail to satisfy the committee members and residents. He added that he had not received one e-mail or complaint from residents about this project.

Mr. Kydes stated that he wanted to include an amendment to add wording to the end of the item, to form a sub-committee.

MR. KYDES MOVED TO AMEND THE ITEM TO ADD THE CONDITION OF A SUB-COMMITTEE FORMED TO INCLUDE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT, ONE MEMBER FROM EACH CAUCUS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ALONG WITH DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES TO MODIFY THE PROJECT IN ORDER TO SIMULTANEOUSLY ADDRESS THE SAFETY ISSUES AND THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE --continued

There was discussion and a debate ensued over the proposed amendment.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he will not support this amendment due to the number of members and the logistics of coordinating all those involved to go through the process. He explained that while he appreciates the spirit of the amendment, it is difficult to have that many people. He added that as evidence to this, the fact that he asked ten to come out to last weeks meeting and was only able to get two to show.

Mr. Bonenfant stated that while he agrees in the spirit of an amendment for safety, this would add more delay and difficulty in the process and it is time to move it on as it is.

Mr. Hempstead added that another sub-committee overcomplicates the process and puts more roadblocks. He said he has heard many comments from both sides and we all want sidewalks and safety. He added that throughout this, there have been site reviews and meetings and public open forums. There was further discussion and exchange of comments over the wording of the amendment and a debate ensued.

Mr. Watts said that comments that there was no interest in coming to the table because it slows the process it wrong. He explained that he feels it is the responsibility of the Council it is not unreasonable to get community stakeholders to work with them and two Council members seems reasonable. He added that it seems we should encourage citizens to be a part of the process.

Mr. Hempstead stated that he takes exception to misdirected comments and that some have gone too far with allegations that there has not been community awareness and input. He stated that there have been many meetings and on-going Committee review. He explained that standard procedure has been followed, that the Chairperson will put this on the agenda and being a man of his word, Mr. McCarthy will be accountable to maintain review of the project.

Mr. Kimmel stated that he still is at a loss with what the problem is, and after many meetings, and it creates more confusion to create a sub-committee over an issue where a problem does not exist. He said he has not received e-mails about this issue and agrees with Mr. Hempstead and we have handled it well through the DPW committee and there is mechanism in place to address resident concerns. He added that if there are major concerns the item will be revisited.

Mr. Kydes thanked all for their comments and input, and stated that he is withdrawing his motion to amend the item.

The notion to amend was withdrawn.

Mr. Kydes requested a roll-call vote on the original item.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE --continued

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH M. RONDANO, INC. FOR CONNDOT PROJECT NO. 102-340, ROWAYTON AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$2,307,564.00. APPROVAL OF THIS LINE ITEM IS PROVIDED THAT A COMMITTEE BE CREATED TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES TO MODIFY THE PROJECT IN ORDER TO SIMULTANEOUSLY ADDRESS THE SAFETY ISSUES AND THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY.**

AND TO:

AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO M. RONDANO, INC. FOR CONNDOT PROJECT NO. 102-340, ROWAYTON AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$230,756.00. ACCT NO. 100% REIMBURSABLE (80% FEDERAL, 20% STATE).

**** MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED WITH NINE VOTES IN FAVOR (BONENFANT, HEMPSTEAD, IANNACCONE, KYDES, KIMMEL, MAGGIO, MCCARTHY, O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO, PETRINI) SIX OPPOSED (BOWMAN, IGNERI, MELENDEZ, SIMMS, STEWART, WATTS) AND NO ABSTENTIONS.**

Mayor Rilling thanked the Council for a healthy debate and a very comprehensive evaluation of the item with efforts to address public concerns. He noted that the Public Works Committee will monitor the project very closely and this will remain as an item on the agenda.

D. HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Maggio presented the following items and noted that they were moved together as one action:

5. Authorize the Mayor, Harry Rilling to execute a Letter of Intent with the Norwalk Housing Authority authorizing the Authority to commence operations of the Head Start and School Readiness and related child day care programs at Nathaniel Ely and Ben Franklin centers as of February 1, 2014, while negotiating the terms of the Management Agreements and / or leases to formalize the operation of such programs on behalf of the City. (Attached is a memo explaining these steps)
6. Authorize the Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute the Agreement between the Connecticut State Board of Education and The City of Norwalk -whereby the State Board of Education will provide funding pursuant to C.G.S. Section 8-210 for the development and operation of child day care programs for disadvantaged children. (The grant agreement is attached)
7. Authorize the Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute an Agreement with the Norwalk Housing Authority for a sub grant of the Section 8-210 child day care funding received from the State Board of Education to fund the operation of the Nathaniel Ely Center child care programs.
8. Authorize the Mayor to execute all documentation necessary to reprogram funding for the School Readiness Programs for FY 2013-2014 from NEON to the Norwalk Housing Authority for the operation of child day care programs at the Nathaniel Ely and Ben Franklin centers. (See attached letters dated 12.31.13)

HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY--continued

Ms. Stewart recused herself, left the Council Chambers at 10:35 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 10:40 p.m. following the vote.

Mr. Watts asked for Corporation Counsel to come forward to field questions. Attorney Diane Beltz Jacobson gave an overview and explained that the items were letters of intent to expedite and facilitate the operations. She added that there were certain provisions in managing the transition of operations and transactions necessary to facilitate in order to accomplish this transition.

Mayor Rilling clarified that no funds were exchanged and that there are management agreements. Mr. Bonenfant stated that he wanted to make sure the lease agreements with specific provisions will come back to the Council before execution.

**** MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS V.I.D. 5, 6, 7, 8:**

5. AUTHORIZE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING TO EXECUTE A LETTER OF INTENT WITH THE NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE AUTHORITY TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS OF THE HEAD START AND SCHOOL READINESS AND RELATED CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAMS AT NATHANIEL ELY AND BEN FRANKLIN CENTERS AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2014, WHILE NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF THE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS AND / OR LEASES TO FORMALIZE THE OPERATION OF SUCH PROGRAMS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY. (ATTACHED IS A MEMO EXPLAINING THESE STEPS)

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE CITY OF NORWALK -WHEREBY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL PROVIDE FUNDING PURSUANT TO C.G.S. SECTION 8-210 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAMS FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN. (THE GRANT AGREEMENT IS ATTACHED)

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR A SUB GRANT OF THE SECTION 8-210 CHILD DAY CARE FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO FUND THE OPERATION OF THE NATHANIEL ELY CENTER CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

8. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO REPROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS FOR FY 2013-2014 FROM NEON TO THE NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE OPERATION OF CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAMS AT THE NATHANIEL ELY AND BEN FRANKLIN CENTERS. (SEE ATTACHED LETTERS DATED 12.31.13)

**** MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

Mr. McCarthy stated that he has been a mentor for several years and had attended a mentor event earlier tonight with the Mayor at Stepping Stones to recruit people to become mentors.

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**JANUARY 28, 2014
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McCarthy added that in support of the Norwalk Mentoring Program, he is proposing the resolution. Mayor Rilling encouraged all Council members to mentor and stated that it is one way to make a difference, one child at a time.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:**

In support of the Norwalk Mentoring Program sponsored by David McCarthy, a mentor for 5 years, co-sponsored by Michelle Maggio, Jerry Petrini, Eloisa Melendez, Shannon O'Toole Giandurco, & Faye Bowman

WHEREAS, January 2014 is National Mentoring Month; and

WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring and committed adult friend in a young person's life who spends a few hours a week sharing activities, listening, encouraging, challenging, and enriching a youth's skills and self-reliance; and

WHEREAS a mentor is a wise and trusted friend and guide; a source of encouragement; and a developer of talents among youth; and

WHEREAS, the role of mentors is an invaluable part of producing youth who can be productive and contributing members of our society; and

WHEREAS mentors are people who give freely of their time and talent to support youth; and

WHEREAS, the future of Norwalk and Connecticut rests on its youth; and

WHEREAS, Whereas Mayor Rilling and Former Mayor Moccia strongly support the Norwalk Mentoring Program; and

WHEREAS, the need for mentors is increasing in view of the problems and pressures experienced by youth today; and

WHEREAS the Norwalk Mentor Program is now sponsored by The Human Services Council, and was previously sponsored by the Board of Education since its founding by Dr. Susan Weinberger of Norwalk 28 years ago, it continues to provide opportunities for caring adults to help young people succeed in life; now, therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Norwalk declares January 28th, 2014 to be Mentoring Day in the City of Norwalk ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Norwalk recognizes the major benefits to young people in having a close, one-on-one mentoring relationship with a caring adult, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Norwalk recognizes the contributions of the Norwalk Mentoring Program in encouraging the recruitment, training and deployment of mentors in the Norwalk Public School System since 1986, with an estimated 200 mentors matched with students through the organization

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk on January 28, 2014.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE – none

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES - none

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox; Telesco Secretarial Services