**CITY OF NORWALK**
**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**
**CAPITAL BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**
**February 8, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Louis Schulman, acting as Chair**;** Brian Baxendale; Tammy Langalis; Jacquen Jordan-Byron; Steve Ferguson (arrived at 6:37 PM)

**STAFF:** Bryan Baker

**OTHERS:** None

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Baker called the roll. It should be noted that this meeting was held on Zoom.com with all participants calling in, separately.

## III. DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS ON 2022-23 CAPITAL BUDGET

### a. Review of capital budget items for consistency with the POCD and prioritization of specific capital requests

The review began with looking at Capital Budget requests that did not have a POCD code connected with it. The first one was for the Code Enforcement, Streetscape Improvements which was a new request. It was then realized that there was a POCD code for this item.

The next item that they reviewed was Operations and Public Works, Various Buildings and Energy Conservation. Mr. Schulman thought that it was the job of the department to provide a code so that the committee should not approve it until they do. They decided to allow them to get the code by the close of business on Monday, February 14. Another item under this department was Tree Maintenance.

Mr. Schulman asked Mr. Baker if there were any POCD codes that didn't align with the Capital Budget request. He noted that the committee should prioritize the projects as to which would align with the POCD. Mr. Schulman asked Mr. Baxendale if he had any recommendations for projects. Mr. Baxendale said it was important to maintain the Triple AAA rating of the city. He also thought water quality projects and the Wall Street area projects should be prioritized. Mr. Schulman said that these could be put on hold since there are significant lawsuits on some of the properties in the area and they could save money by not funding them until they have been resolved.

Mr. Ferguson agreed with Mr. Baxendale's recommendations which he said would add to Mr. Dachowitz' recommendations. There was a discussion about the specific items Mr. Baxendale would like to fund.  Ms. Jordan-Byron thought that the funding for Wall Street should be made for some of the area in order to attract businesses. She is concerned about the area from West Avenue to the Wall Street area with infrastructure improvements.

Ms. Langalis did not have a list of recommendations but thought that the division of Public Works and TMP had been good for the city. She thought another important project was the renovation of the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion. Mr. Schulman said that he did not have a list of recommendations. Ms. Jordan-Byron said that she was in support of projects in South Norwalk. She was in support of the library as well as the digitizing of The Hour.

There was a discussion about the Nathaniel Ely improvements which Mr. Dachowitz had decided not to fund, although requested for this year. There were problems with the HVAC over the last few years. Mr. Ferguson

There was then a discussion about the improvements of the Roosevelt Center as well as Ben Franklin. Mr. Ferguson said he was pleased to see there would be some maintenance to the Health Department building. There was also a discussion about Devon's Park and Flax Hill playground. It was noted that Devon's Park was originally funded by donations. There was a discussion about the large amount of money that would fund two parks. Mr. Schulman noted that it was not the purview of the Planning & Zoning Commission to decide where the funds should be used.

There was then a discussion about funding for vehicles requested by Public Works. The commissioners decided to make a note in the spreadsheet about how they arrived at this request. There was then a discussion about Calf Pasture Beach. Mr. Ferguson said that this had been discussed for a few years. They requested some clarifications including about the parking in this area.

There was a discussion about the reduction in funding for basketball courts. There was also a discussion about the updating of the marinas, especially since this was a revenue driver. The next item was for Casagrande field which had been fully funded. There was a discussion about planting trees in areas that already have many.

There was a discussion about backstops and fencing. There was also a discussion about the Broad River Complex because there have been requests but no funding for several years. There was a discussion about the Oyster Shell Park project, which Mr. Dachowitz had divided into two different years.

There was a discussion about the Board of Education requests. Mr. Fergsuon said that they had received a 25 year outline which had not been provided in the past. One request had not been approved by the CFO, which was for Enhancement to School Security. There was a discussion as to whether it should be left in. There was then a discussion about the reduction in Instructional Technology by the CFO.

There was a discussion about the function of the committee. They also decided to highlight what they thought was important. Mr. Schulman asked if Mr. Baker could write all the recommendations before the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting the following week.

There was a discussion about the SONO library refurbishment. There was then a discussion about the process of the Capital Budget funding requests. They then discussed what the next steps would be for this matter.

## IV. ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Schulman made a Motion to Adjourn.**
**Ms. Langalis seconded.**
**Steve Ferguson; Brian Baxendale; Tammy Langalis; Jacquen Jordan-Byron; Louis Schulman approved.**
**No one opposed.**
**No one abstained.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Palmentiero