

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rilling requested a moment of silence for Pope Francis who recently passed away.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll as follows:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Joshua Goldstein
	Mr. Johan Lopez	Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	
District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. Jalin Sead
District B:	Mr. Dajuan Wiggins	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Ms. Nicole Eaddy	Ms. Anne Wennerstrand
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	Mr. Douglas W. Sutton
District E:	Ms. Lisa Shanahan	

At Roll Call there were fourteen (14) Common Councilmembers present and one (1) absent. A quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor, Harry Rilling; City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: April 8, 2025

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2025 MEETING.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 4, paragraph 2, please change the following from:

“Ms. Niedzielski-Eicher said she had also served with Ms. Sawyer on the Board of Ethics.”

To:

“Ms. Niedzielski-Eicher said she had spoken with Ms. Sawyer about the Board of Ethics.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2025 MEETING PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNETT, GOLDSTEIN, LOPEZ, NIEDZIELSKI-EICHER, SMYTH, SEAD, YOUNG, EADDY, WENNERSTRAND, DUNN, SUTTON AND SHANAHAN) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (AYERS AND WIGGINS)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Bonnefant came forward and said that he resides on Park Hill Avenue. He said that he had taken the Council portrait and announced that if anyone wanted extra copies, to please contact him.

He mentioned that there was an appointment for the Gender Equity Commission on the agenda and he had not been aware that there was a Gender Equity Commission at all.

Mr. Bonnefant said that he had read through the changes to the Parking Authority and asked if the Parking Authority would be able to roam around town issuing tickets and keeping the revenue.

Mr. Bonnefant said that he was concerned about the Parks and Rec about Black Heritage event in East Norwalk. This event will be for three days and there will be loud music. He said that if the main objective was to raise funding for a parade, they should just be allowed to have the parade and raise the money.

Ms. Diane Cece, of the East Norwalk Association, said that she would like to speak about Agenda Item 7 regarding the Black Heritage event. She had attended the Parks Committee and requested that the item be tabled since there were a number of unanswered questions. It was approved by the Parks Committee with the expectation that the information would be provided before it was presented to the Council. It appears that the concerns that she along with others was ignored. She stated that there were concerns about the number of people expected, the hours are not accurate and some clarity on who the applicant. The organization that claims to be a non-profit is not a non-profit. Ms. Cece said that she does not know who the non-profit is. She said that this was a three day event in a residential neighborhood and hopes that the Council will address having the music pointed away from the residents and to control the lighting and noise.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Kim Squires, Norwalk Commission on Gender Equity

**** MS. DUNN MOVED THE ITEM.**

Ms. Dunn said that she was very pleased that Ms. Squires was a new resident and interested in becoming involved with the community.

**** THE MOTION TO APPOINT MS. SQUIRES TO THE NORWALK COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUITY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling said that he hoped everyone had a good Easter or Passover holiday.

- This Sunday, April 26th at 11 a.m., rain or shine, Norwalk's 4th Annual Earth Day Festival on the Green will be held. He thanked former Council Member Melissa Murray for organizing this.
- There were a number of events being organized by the Bike/Walk Commission to encourage people to get to the Green without a Machine and reducing CO2 emissions.
- The Mayor's Ball was very successful and yesterday, the administration presented checks in the amount of \$30,000 to both the Salvation Army and the Family and Children's Agency.
- There was an anticipated donation to Person-to-Person of \$5,000 and another secret donation of \$5,000 to another organization.

Mayor Rilling said that The Hour had an article that stated that the Grand List decreased by \$1.6 billion dollars. Mayor Rilling said that this was incorrect and stated that the Grand List had increased by \$880 million dollars.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or appointments to consider at this time.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

Council President Smyth said that Ms. Ayers would be presenting the Consent Calendar.

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no reports from the Departments, Board or Commissions to consider at this time.

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Ayers read the Consent Calendar into the record.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE FY 2025-2026 PARKING AUTHORITY BUDGET.

2. APPROVE FY 2025-2026 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY BUDGET.

3. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED APRIL 2025.

4. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS DATED MARCH 2025.

5. CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT DATED APRIL 2025.

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CLA (CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP) TO PERFORM THE CITY'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028 AND 2029 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$637,000.00. ACCOUNT #011310-5253 ACCOUNTING AND 015725160-330-57 BOE OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

B. ORDINANCE

1. APPROVE CHANGES TO CHAPTER 73A: PARKING AUTHORITY, SECTIONS 73A-1 THROUGH 73A-9

C. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SPORT-TECH CONSTRUCTION CORP., FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$112,920.00, FOR PROJECT NUMBER 4430, CALF PASTURE BASKETBALL COURT RENOVATIONS, FROM ACCOUNT 09256030 5777 C0365

2. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS TO SPORT-TECH CONSTRUCTION CORP. IN AMOUNTS NOT TO EXCEED \$24,000 FOR PROJECT NUMBER 4430, CALF PASTURE BASKETBALL COURT RENOVATIONS, FROM ACCOUNT 09256030 5777 C0365

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NICE, INC. FOR THEIR NICE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2025 FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 6:00 A.M. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 8:00 P.M SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE.

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION

FOR THEIR 18TH ANNUAL OLD-FASHIONED FLEA MARKET TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 7:00 A.M. WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 10:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 2,500 PEOPLE.

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK, VETERAN'S PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY JIM GERWECK FOR THEIR O'NEILL'S 5K TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE.

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY SONO ENTERTAINMENT FOR THEIR BLACK HERITAGE PARADE FUNDRAISER CARNIVAL TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH, SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST AND SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND, 2025 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 8:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 12:00 P.M. TUESDAY, JUNE 24TH. APPROXIMATELY 250 PEOPLE.

D. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A TEMPORARY LICENSE AND ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH FOR USE OF A PORTION OF THEIR PARKING AREA LOCATED AT 17 BELDEN AVENUE TO STORE MATERIALS THAT WILL BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 1 OF THE WALL STREET CORRIDOR PROJECT.

E. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO LEASE APPROX. 1300± SQ. FT. OF SPACE AT THE SOUTH NORWALK TRAIN STATION (INBOUND SIDE) TO ADRIAN HURTADO (TACOS PLEASE LLC) FOR A TERM OF 5 YEARS WITH TWO (2) LESSEE OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR CONSECUTIVE (5) YEARS PERIOD EACH, RENT TO BE NEGOTIATED AND APPROVED BY THE NORWALK PARKING AUTHORITY.

F. PUBLIC WORKS

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AKRF, INC. FOR THE SIDEWALK DESIGN FOR AUSTIN STREET AND LAURA STREET

**CORRIDOR - DRAINAGE CHANGE ORDER DESIGN PROJECT FOR A
SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$38,000.00. ACCOUNT: 0924-3750-5777-C0824**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, AND
PARKING TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH AKRF, INC.
FOR THE SIDEWALK DESIGN FOR AUSTIN STREET AND LAURA
STREET CORRIDOR - DRAINAGE CHANGE ORDER DESIGN PROJECT
FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$3,800.00. ACCOUNT: 0924-3750-5777-C0824**

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

ORDINANCE

**2. Approve changes to Chapter 94: Solid Waste Collection & Disposal; Transfer Station
& Yard Waste Site**

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM.**

Ms. Valadares came forward and greeted the Council Members. She gave a brief overview of the changes that will begin on July 1st. Fourth Taxing District residents will no longer have the “opt out” option due to confusion when the properties are sold to new owners. There will also be a change in the type of bins used for solid waste. Apartment buildings that have five or more units will be considered commercial properties. She thanked Ms. Shanahan and the other Council Members who worked on this project.

Ms. Smyth asked for clarification on the apartment pick up regulations, which Ms. Valadares reviewed with her.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO CHAPTER 94: SOLID WASTE
COLLECTION & DISPOSAL; TRANSFER STATION & YARD WASTE SITE ITEM
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECREATION AND PARKS

3. Adopt the Tree Master plan for the City of Norwalk, April 2025.

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM.**

Ms. Young listed those who had worked on this Master Plan. The Tree Master Plan Program Inventory and Canopy Assessment was displayed on the screen. She said that the City had started this with the Urban Forestry project

Mr. Stowers came forward and narrated the PowerPoint Slide Deck. He said that the consultant, Sarah Cruz, the City’s horticulturist and arborist, was also present to

Areas with trees experience better air quality and better health. There are three primary goals, growing, caring and maintaining. Implementation is just as important as maintaining the trees.

Mr. Chris Peiffer of PlanITGeo came forward and thanked the Mayor and Council for this opportunity to present this on Earth Day. He gave a brief summary of the various steps that the study included. He spoke about the inventory of public trees and the aerial analysis of the canopy cover which was 43% of the overall acreage in Norwalk, a decrease from 49% in previous years. They held public workshops on the Tree Master Plan in March. Maintenance of existing trees and education are important issues. The consultants were able to create a road map for a sustainable urban forest. Areas for priority planting were identified, such as South Norwalk. He noted that there had been strategies developed to avoid future issues such as buckling sidewalk or interference with utility wires.

Mr. Burnett pointed out that money does not grow on trees and asked about the financial expectations for this project. Mr. Stowers said that this would be part of the Capital Plan and would have to be sustained by Private/Public partnerships. There is also the possibility for interns that are trained by arborists to help maintain those volunteers.

Ms. Cruz then said that it was clear that they could not plant all the trees needed because it would cost about \$900,000 per year. She explained that some of it could be done through Planning and Zoning requirements. Ms. Shanahan said that the Norwalk Land Trust has been working hard to add to the tree planting. They are great volunteers.

Ms. Cruz said that in 2023, the City was able to plant 500 trees. Discussion followed.

Ms. Young thanked Mr. Stowers for his work on this project and for introducing Ms. Cruz as the arborist.

Mayor Rilling said that he was pleased that Mr. Goldstein and others mentioned equity because the trees mean so much more than people realize. He hoped that in 2053, that the Council will realize what they did in 2025. He thanked Mr. Stowers and the Tree Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE TREE MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK, APRIL 2025 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions from Common Council members to consider at this time.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were no motions postponed to a specific date to consider at this time.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were no suspensions of the rules to consider at this time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk