

Public Safety and General Government Committee of the Common Council

April 28, 2022

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those comments to the meeting staff person (mdeluca@Norwalkct.org) via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time.

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome and Roll Call

II. Acceptance of Minutes- 3/24/22

III. Public Participation

IV. New Business

Police Department

Fire Department

V. Old Business

VI. Discussion Items

Evergreen Efficiency study- Public Safety discussion (Chapter 6)

Next Meeting: 5/26/2022

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL
MARCH 24, 2022**

Attendance: Jenn Mc Murrer, Chair; Dominique Johnson; Thomas Keegan; Diana Revolus; Nicol Ayers; Josh Goldstein; Heidi Alterman

Staff: Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director Emergency Management; Gino Gatto; Fire Chief; Edward Prescott, Deputy Fire Chief; Mark Conte, Asst. Fire Chief; Susan Zecca, Deputy Police Chief, Lieutenant Terry Blake; Stuart Wells, Register of Voters

Others: Tanner Thompson, Chair, Bike/Walk Commission

I. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Ms. Mc Murrer called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- 2/24/22

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION- MS. AYERS**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

Mr. Goldstein joined the meeting at 7:03PM.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Police Department

**1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY. W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL
DOCUMENT NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA
SOLUTIONS , INC. FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION. AND SERVICE OF THE CLRMN
ADD-ON COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPGRADE, PER STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MASTER CONTRACT# A-99-001 AND A-23-0338C FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
\$5,561,994.00 ACCOUNT# 09213610-5777-C0368**

Deputy Chief Zecca said this project has been worked on and budgeted for a very long time and the current radio system is at the end of its current life, and they have done a tremendous amount of research to determine what the best options going forward for public safety were and ultimately this upgrade is a result of that. She said a consultant was hired to be sure the information they had received was accurate

and will not just be a public safety radio but will be a city-wide radio system (police, fire, EMS and DPW) for better coverage and safety for everyone in the city. Ms. Mc Murrer asked if and when this passes what the timeline will be for implementation. Lieutenant Blake said it will vary due to the supply chain issues but will have a better timeline once the item is approved because it will move for a sales phase to an operational phase. Ms. Ayers asked if there is a cost savings since the radio system will be used by various departments. Deputy Chief Zecca said that DPW currently has their own radio system separate from public safety that will no longer need to be maintained.

MS. AYERS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY. W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENT NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION. AND SERVICE OF THE CLRMN ADD-ON COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPGRADE, PER STATE OF CONNECTICUT MASTER CONTRACT# A-99-001 AND A-23-0338C FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,561,994.00.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

1B. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR CHANGE ORDERS WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND SERVICE OF THE CLRMN ADD-ON COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPGRADE, NOT TO EXCEED \$556,199.00 ACCOUNT# 09213610-5777-C0638

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR CHANGE ORDERS WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND SERVICE OF THE CLRMN ADD-ON COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPGRADE, NOT TO EXCEED \$556,199.00.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Fire Department

2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO PURVIS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF AN OVERHEAD PAGING SOFTWARE SYSTEM AT 5 FIRE STATIONS AND APPARATUS MAINTENANCE NOT TO EXCEED \$550,000 FROM ACCOUNT# 09213610-5777-C0638

Assistant Chief Conte said this is in conjunction with the communications system upgrade and the fire station alerting system is also at the end of its useful life and has been upgraded as much as possible and is incompatible with the new system and will require a complete replacement and after extensive research this system was found to be the best option and will be able to use some of the existing speakers, monitors and lighting. Ms. Mc Murrer asked if any training will be required. Asst. Chief Conte said this vendor offers the training and they will be training all of the dispatchers. Mr. Goldstein asked why the requests for radio systems are being presented when they are at the end of their useful life instead of earlier. Deputy Chief Zecca said this process has been in the works for over 10 years to be able to get the capital funding.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO PURVIS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF AN OVERHEAD PAGING SOFTWARE SYSTEM AT 5 FIRE STATIONS AND APPARATUS MAINTENANCE NOT TO EXCEED \$550,000.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS, TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO L&L ELECTRONICS OF BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF UPDATED RAYMARINE NAVIONICS (COAST GUARD COMPLIANT AND OFFERS PROGRAMMED SAR PATTERNS WITH ENCRYPTED COMMUNICATIONS). THE PURCHASE ORDER IN NOT TO EXCEED \$32,999 FROM ACCOUNT # 363152-4220-G00001. FUNDING FROM FEMA PORT SECURITY GRANT (EMW-2020-PU00449-S01) FOR FD MARINE BOAT 238

Chief Gatto said that this was a port security grant for an electronics upgrade to the fire boat and has been two years since they got the grant approval and are now wanting to move forward with replacing some of the electronics. Deputy Chief Zecca said the new electronics will provide better interoperability between the coast guard and the other boats in terms of a search and rescue mission etc. Deputy Chief Prescott said the current equipment is over 10 years old and L&L Electronics was the sole bidder, but they have worked on basically every boat in the region along the coast and are based out of Branford, Connecticut and are very reliable.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS, TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO L&L ELECTRONICS OF BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF UPDATED RAYMARINE NAVIONICS (COAST GUARD COMPLIANT AND OFFERS PROGRAMMED SAR PATTERNS WITH ENCRYPTED COMMUNICATIONS). THE PURCHASE ORDER IN NOT TO EXCEED \$32,999 FROM ACCOUNT # 363152-4220-G00001. FUNDING FROM FEMA PORT SECURITY GRANT (EMW-2020-PU00449-S01) FOR FD MARINE BOAT 238.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Register of Voters

4. APPROVAL OF REVISED VOTING DISTRICTS OF POLLING PLACES FOR STATE AND FEDERAL (EVEN YEAR) ELECTIONS

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED VOTING DISTRICTS OF POLLING PLACES FOR STATE AND FEDERAL (EVEN YEAR) ELECTIONS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Tanner Thompson- Bike/Walk Commission

Mr. Thompson introduced himself and said that he is the chair of the Bike/Walk Commission and has been for the past nine months and was a member of the commission a year prior to that and has been a resident of Norwalk for four years. Mr. Thompson presented a foot path on Route one and said that it is completely unsafe and one of the biggest issues he sees with walking and biking safely in Norwalk are the gaps in the network. He said there is an organization called Vision Zero and are proposing to take a new outlook on traffic safety and not look at traffic deaths as inevitable but look at them as preventable through interventions, and that it is possible to design a transportation system that is safe even when it comes to the human element.

Mr. Thompson presented the hierarchy of controls (elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE) and said it was designed by a safety organization for when there is a hazard in the workplace so that there is a way to keep workers safe, and is very applicable to traffic safety and is something that New York City has just started to experiment with open streets and are incredible with the freedom and flexibility that it gives to people that are both walking and biking to use the space safely. He said if he was to ask something of the Common Council when it comes to public safety it would be to recognize the opportunity that we have now to get a lot of federal funding to improve the infrastructure and the city has a huge asset with Mr. Travers and he is very motivate to design streets that are safe for all users which is a priority of the Bike/Walk Commission .

Ms. Ayers asked if there have been any studies or if there is any information on any truly hazardous locations in the city. Mr. Thompson said he is working on getting some large scale data from the police department but a year ago there was a teenager that was stuck on a bicycle on North Taylor Avenue @ Connecticut Avenue by someone taking a left hand turn, and also in the summer of 2020 on the Yankee Doodle Bridge someone was walking across the bridge at night and was hit by a car and killed. Ms. Ayers asked Mr. Thompson if he thinks there are any actions that the Common Council should be taking. Mr. Thompson said besides funding for specific projects to expand the TMP budget to be able to hire additional staff to be able to do more work inhouse which would be more cost effective and would enable them to do better and more work.

Ms. Revolus said she is a walker and most of the instances that happened when she got hit by a car she was in a crosswalk or on a sidewalk and asked how much of the study looks at taking pedestrians away from bicycles and cars and trying to give them more exclusive walking paths that actually shorten distances. Mr. Thompson said that TMP with at the encouragement of the Bike/Walk Commission recently commissioned a citywide sidewalk audit to figure out where the gaps in the sidewalk network are. Ms. Revolus asked how there can be a separate protected walk path. Mr. Thompson said a lot of the constraints they are facing is there are streets that are old and narrow, and it becomes very hard to fit in a travel lane for cars in each direction and separate the sidewalk. Mr. Thompson said he would like to meet with Ms. Revolus offline to discuss this further.

Ms. Johnson said this is completely related to sustainably for our city. Mr. Thompson said "yes" and the more we can make the city safe and accessible and inviting to walk and bike the less people will feel they would need to drive their car as well as the less land that would be needed for dedicated to parking. Ms. Johnson said she also hears about speeding from a lot of her constituents and asked what can be done to reduce speeding. Mr. Thompson said that a lot of studies show that a collision between a car and a pedestrian when a car is going 40MHP the fatality rate is 90% and when a car is going 20MPH would be 10% so it is a huge difference and there is a nationwide movement called "20 is plenty" and lowering the speed limit to 20MPH would be great, but without any enforcement is just a suggestion so enforcement is

part of the solution and the research shows that automated speed enforcement actually has a very big impact on speeding rates, but are not allowed in the State of Connecticut but he is hoping for it to be legalized. He said better than enforcement is to build infrastructure that is self-enforcing and that is something he would like to see TMP do more of with additional manpower.

Ms. Revolus asked if cleanliness will be a part of this at all. Mr. Thompson said "yes" and it is well understood that the more inviting a walkway is the more people will use it and added that street trees are an amazing investment and have so many benefits.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd