

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 28, 2024**

Attendance: Jenn McMurrer, Chair; Josh Goldstein; James Frayer; Douglas Sutton; Nicol Ayers;
Heather Dunn

Staff: Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director Emergency Management; Deputy Chief Melissa
Lepore; Stuart Wells, Registrar of Voters

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. McMurrer called the roll and all members that are listed were in attendance.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- FEBRUARY 22, 2024

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS- MS.
DUNN AND MS. AYERS.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL
DOCUMENTS, AGREEMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, AND AMENDMENTS NECESSARY WITH
EVERBRIDGE FOR USE OF THEIR MASS NOTIFICATION PRO SOFTWARE FOR
RESIDENTS FOR THREE YEARS.**

**COST FOR YEAR 1: \$31,053.00; COSTS FOR YEAR 2 AND 3: \$25,697.78 GSA CONTRACT#
511210-EVERBRIDGE- 101-00-22-8606-0000. ACCOUNT# 0131-60-5258**

Ms. DeLuca said for the past 15 years they have used Code Red for the mass notification services and while there are no issues with the software, they did announce a price increase last year and unless we are willing to lock in for a three-year period we are facing increases every year. She said staff is recommending piggybacking off the states' Everbridge contract for a three-year period for the use of their emergency notifications as well as non-emergency notifications and updates and at the end of the three-year period we can evaluate and a decision if we want to continue as is. She said the savings in the first year are approximately \$6,000 due to set up fees but following the first year the savings will be approximately \$12,000 per year.

Mr. Frayer asked if a comparison study was done on the two vendors. Ms. DeLuca said the two systems are pretty much the same, but Everbridge offers some tools that Code Red did not and vice versa, but knowing how the state uses their system and in speaking with some of the other municipalities that use Everbridge it makes sense to switch. She said we would not be giving up anything and the one benefit of Everbridge is because they are a state vendor we will now have access for emergency calls for the E-911 database which we did not have. She said the E-911 also has a much more robust number of cell phone numbers than they did not have before.

Ms. DeLuca said that the residents will have the option as to what language they would like to receive their messages for non-emergency notifications and will spend a lot of time educating residents about opting in, and we have a very strong community partner network. Ms. McMurrer asked if the instructions on how to opt in can also be included in the pre-recorded message. Ms. DeLuca said "yes."

Mr. Goldstein asked by entering into a contract with the new vendor there would be access to a much wider database of Norwalk residents because the state also contracts with the same company. Ms. DeLuca said because the state uses the system for statewide notifications they have access to the E-911 database, but we also need to be much stricter on how we are using the E-911 data and will be used for life saving messages and the local database would be used for all the other notifications. Mr. Goldstein asked if the state no longer uses Everbridge would access be lost to that database. Ms. DeLuca said if the state were to go to another vendor the new vendor would also have access to the E-911 database.

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, AGREEMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, AND AMENDMENTS NECESSARY WITH EVERBRIDGE FOR USE OF THEIR MASS NOTIFICATION PRO SOFTWARE FOR RESIDENTS FOR THREE YEARS.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Registrar of Voters:

DISCUSS AND VOTE ON WHETHER TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF NORWALK

Ms. Ayers asked how the early voting was going thus far. Mr. Goldstein said he went a few days ago and the team did an excellent job and was the most well-staffed polling place that he has ever seen and commended Mr. Wells, all the people from the Secretary of State's office, and the poll workers. He said there is one more day of early voting that will be held on Saturday and the primary day is April 2, 2024. Ms. McMurrer asked if it was well attended. Mr. Goldstein said it was a trickle and it was reported by the state that there were 5,000 votes on the first day. He said it is the first time in Connecticut's history that we have had early voting, and it was nice to be able to participate in that process.

Ms. McMurrer said this vote will be for the one current location which is at City Hall and is not approving more locations, which was the advisement that Mr. Wells had provided the committee last month.

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF NORWALK.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. DISCUSSION

There was no discussion this evening.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd