

**COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

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

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:	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 thirteen (13) Common Council Members present and two (2) 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. May 13, 2025 Regular Meeting:

**** MR. SEAD MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2025 REGULAR MEETING
** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2025 REGULAR
MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Chris Dwyer came forward to address the Council. He said that he had addressed the Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing and had some general comments to make to the Council.

Mayor Rilling explained that the public can only comment on items that were listed on the meeting agenda. The Charter Revision Commission would be presenting at a future date and it will be noted on the agenda at that time.

Mr. Dwyer thanked Mayor Rilling for the information.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS -- None

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS

**COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Rilling said that both the Rowayton and Norwalk Memorial Day Parades were amazing. He noted that Mr. Dixon was the Grand Marshal.

Completion of the electrical upgrades at the Lockwood Mathews Mansion was recognized with a ribbon cutting earlier in the day. The Mansion pre-dates Newport, Rhode Island mansions. He said that the Mansion is up to code now. The Mansion hosts award winning exhibits. Both Ms. Patsy Brescia and Mr. Doug Hempstead were involved in the project.

There will be a nature walk at Cranbury Park on May 31st and give attendees a chance to learn more about the forest ecosystem from Ms. Sarah Cruz. It is open and free for all ages. Interested parties can sign up on the City's website pages.

Norwalk strives to be a welcoming environment including those with disabilities. He noted that the City had completed a number of ADA projects and was inviting residents to attend a meeting on June 3rd in the Community Room to share feedback.

The Pride Flag Raising will be held at City Hall on June 6th and there will also be a memorial for the Storming of Normandy in World War II. Mayor Rilling spoke briefly about knowing someone who was one of the soldiers who stormed the beaches there.

He welcomed the visitors from both the Police and Fire Departments who were present at the meeting.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONT'D

Mayor Rilling was informed that there was a member of the public who had his online hand raised to speak. Mayor Rilling apologized and called Mr. Bonenfant to address the Council.

Mr. Bonenfant came forward to speak about the recent traffic enforcement devices. He said that he understood the concern about the poor drivers and safety concerns. He said that they need to consider other factors. They will be going after the owners of the vehicles, who may not be the driver involved with the speeding. There are many out of state plates in town from folks who want to avoid the car tax. That's just another reason to register the vehicle in another state. There are also a number of stolen or mismatched plates floating around, not to mention the temporary plates. Mr. Bonenfant said that it is easy to fake one. Some vehicles have dark, tinted license plate covers.

Mr. Bonenfant said that Suffolk County had learned that the administrative fees that they had tacked onto the fines were illegal because they were sued. Now they have to refund millions of dollars because of the court's decision. After 14 years of red light and speed cameras, they are discontinuing the programs because it became a bigger safety issue when drivers slammed on the brakes to avoid going through a yellow light or entered a speed zone.

COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Ms. Kimberly Wilson of 121 Witch Lane came forward to speak about the Public Safety ordinances. She then read the following statement into the record:

“My name is Kim Wilson and I’ve lived in Norwalk Connecticut for 10 years with my husband Ryan and our two kids. Norwalk is a very special place to raise a family. We’ve always felt fortunate that our children can walk or bike to their friends house, grab an ice cream, head to school feels to play sports and have the freedom to safely explore their neighborhood. But that sense of safety was shattered a month ago when our dog, Jagger, was hit by a speeding car that was cutting through our streets. Just the night before, I had spoken to one of the fathers, whose son was involved in a hit-and-run accident on April 19th. I can’t even imagine the pain those families are going through but after these two heartbreaking events, I know we must do better for our community.

What we’re missing is accountability. speed limits are being treated as suggestions, not loss. Automated traffic enforcement is one tool that we can use to defer reckless driving And it does work. In New York city speed cameras led to a 94% drop in violations. And a 14% decrease in injuries. National studies show that these systems can reduce crashes by up to 49% and serious injuries by as much as 44%. And those are not just statistics. They mean safer streets for our kids our neighbors and everyone else in our city.

Over the past month, I have committed myself to mindful driving. And what does it mean to really mean to drive 25 miles an hour in a residential zone? I encourage anyone to try it because it takes conscious effort. You’ll find yourself braking more often just to stay within the limit. Cars are built just to go fast and it takes discipline to go slow. I have now driven past the scene of Jagger’s accident more than 100 times. I know in my heart that if the driver had obeyed the speed limit, Jagger might have just tempted fate, but he wouldn’t have met his. And as a friend recently shared with me she tells her children that you have to be able to drive in a way that gives you time to react. And at 40 mph in a 25 mile hour per zone, there is no time to react.

Several Connecticut towns, such as Stamford, New Haven, Milford, and Greenwich are already moving forward with this program. and while the grief of losing Jagger’s days with me, I find hope in the steps that Norwalk is taking to prioritize public safety. I want my children to continue to explore this wonderful city with confidence, not caution.

I’d like to publicly thank Norwalk’s leaders who are making our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclist. And I’m deeply appreciative of the support of my neighbors and friends and I urge the common counsel to pass this measure so that Norwalk can join others other thinking cities in Connecticut that are making safety a priority. Thank you.

Mayor Rilling asked if there was anyone else online who wished to address the Council at this time. Seeing no additional online hands raised, Mayor Rilling closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

**COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

There will be a special meeting of the Common Council on Wednesday, June 4th at 6:00 for the Chair of the Charter Revision Commission to present the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission to the Common Council.

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or appointments.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Wiggins read the Consent Calendar into the record:

A. ORDINANCE

2. Approve new ordinance: Issuance of Citations; Hearing Procedure

B. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1. Authorize the purchasing agent to enter a sole source Purchase Order for an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for PlanIT Geo from account #38 0000 5790 G0058.

C. COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with The Open Door Shelter (dba Open Doors) located at 4 Merritt Street Norwalk, CT 06854 in the amount of \$92,000.00 to provide shelter services for persons experiencing homelessness for Norwalk residents. Beginning June 1, 2025 to May 30, 2026. Account#012010-5A0620.

2. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all documents necessary To extend the term of the Eagles parking lease for a period of 1 year commencing on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 20, 2026, on the same terms and conditions as the initial two-year term. Account Number 016200-5265.

E. FINANCE AND CLAIMS

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into a five (5)-year purchase agreement with Milliman, Inc. for actuarial consulting services. The annual amount shall not exceed \$72,875, with a total amount not to exceed \$322,500. Account Number 019530-5258

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

A. ORDINANCE

1. Approve new ordinance: Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices

Mr. Travers, Director of Transportation, Mobility and Parking, came forward to speak about safer streets for some time. He said that his Department has been working with the Ordinance Committee to create safer streets. He thanked them for creating the Complete Streets legislation but that is just the first step. Mr. Travers explained that he has been advocating for safe streets for about 20 years and also advocated for automated enforcement in Hartford countless times.

The municipalities that have adopted speed enforcement cameras has seen a decrease in violators resulting in safer streets. It curbs behavior because it sends a message about what the City prioritizes.

Those who have out of state plates will receive a violation notice the same way they would receive a parking ticket notice for all 50 states. Vehicle owners are responsible for the use of the vehicle.

He explained that the citation does not put points on the vehicle's owner license. He said that the Police do an incredible job but they can't be everywhere all the time. Once this resolution passes, they have to create a plan. TMP will be suggesting which streets will be used but the State will be the one that makes the final selection. The State will not put more than 2 streets in any census tracts.

Mr. Travers was asked if there was the possibility to appeal the citation. He said that there was a multi-phase appeal process which is similar to a parking ticket.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about the provisions of State law regarding personal data. Mr. Travers reviewed the process and noted that the agency would be an outside group and the server would not be a City server.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner pointed out that there were promises made to individuals on a Federal level about privacy and those promises are being violated. Mr. Travers said that this would be a legal process and if the consultant or company violates the DOT standards, then legal measures would be taken.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if the City would be able to audit the data. Mr. Travers said that he did not know what the City would do other than looking at the server.

Mr. Lopez also had a technical questions about violations. Mr. Travers said that they would have to discuss how long they would want to retain the list of violations before deleting them.

Mr. Wiggins asked how they would handle a violation with the rental. Mr. Travers gave a brief overview of the fine process which would be handled through the rental car company.

COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Several Council Members spoke about their support for this proposal.

Ms. Smyth asked Police Chief Walsh if he wished to add anything to this discussion. He said that speeding and aggressive driving was increasing. The Department is not able to keep up with all of the complaints that are coming in. He felt this would definitely be a benefit for the City.

Ms. Smyth said that she supports this whole heartedly.

Mr. Burnett asked if any of the information would be used for infrastructure. Mr. Travers said that the top issue is speeding. He mentioned a young child who was struck on Wilson Avenue recently. The revenue that is captured from the violations will go back into the Traffic Safety such as sidewalk, ADA ramps and other improvements.

Mr. Travers said that he had been on Lexington checking on a new sidewalk earlier where the mother of a child with a handicap. The child will now have better access to the outside.

Mr. Goldstein said that the placement of the cameras would be deliberate and not disparate.

Mr. Travers said that it was not the intent of the program to capture revenue but to provide safer streets by curbing behavior.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner said that she would be voting no because she was concerned about what is happening on a Federal level and with immigration. She said that she was not comfortable with generating data and protecting its use. This is not. Protecting the privacy of the residents is extremely important.

Mayor Rilling announced a roll call vote. [48:18]

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE NEW ORDINANCE: USE OF AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES PASSED WITH NINE (9) IN FAVOR (BURNETT, GOLDSTEIN, LOPEZ, SMYTH, SEAD, YOUNG, EADDY, WENNERSTRAND AND SHANAHAN), TWO (2) OPPOSED (NIEDZIELSKY-EICHNER AND WIGGINS) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (SUTTON). [50:07]**

D. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. APPROVAL OF AND VOTE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS — EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. APPROVAL OF AND VOTE ON ORDINANCE SALARY SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS — EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Young recused herself and left the meeting. .

COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

**** MR. SEAD MOVED TO ENTER INTO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

1. APPROVAL OF AND VOTE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

**2. APPROVAL OF AND VOTE ON ORDINANCE SALARY SCHEDULE
ADJUSTMENTS**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members and the Corporation Counsel entered in to Executive Session at 8:21 P.M.. to discuss pending contracts. They returned to Public Session at 8:46 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** MR. SEAD MOVED APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.**

Mr. Sead thanked the Mayor, Atty. Coppola and Mr. Livingston for all the work that went into this agreement. He also thanked the City Hall staff along with the Police Department and Fire Department.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Mayor said that if the Council could give the staff, the Police and Fire all they deserved, but that's just not possible. He thanked them for keeping everyone safe.

**** MR. SEAD MOVED APPROVAL OF THE ORDINANCE SALARY SCHEDULE
ADJUSTMENTS.**

Mr. Sead thanked all that worked on this ordinance to make it equal for the salaried employees which will help in retaining employees.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Mayor said that when people realize how well the City of Norwalk runs, it is because of the staff that come and do their job every day with passion. He thanked everyone again.

VIII. SUSPENSION OF RULES

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

MAY 27, 2025

**COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk