

**CITY OF NORWALK
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - MAY 26, 2026
VIA ZOOM AND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

ATTENDANCE: Nicol Ayers; Brian Bailey; Jesse Buccolo; Jan Degenshein; Nicole Eaddy; James Frayer; Joshua Goldstein, Council President; Colin Hosten; Johan Lopez; Broderick Sawyer; Jalin T. Sead Sr., Majority Leader; Anne Wennerstrand; Dajuan C. Wiggins Sr.; Darlene Young, Dajuan Wiggins.

STAFF: Marsha Elbourne, City Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. There was a quorum present.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Elbourne, City Clerk, called the roll and those present were as noted above.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

May 12, 2026 Corrections were noted to several name spellings.

****MR. DEGENSHEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED WITH THE CORRECTIONS NOTED.**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. 5th Street Resident (lives 5 houses from Gregory & Fifth intersection) Opposed removing on-street parking on Fifth Street for a bike lane/shared path in the Gregory Boulevard project. Argued it would increase congestion and suggested alternatives like resident parking permits, a stop sign at Hawkins, rumble strips, or making the street one-way.

2. Betty Bono – 35 Fifth Street Strongly opposed the shared path and loss of parking. Made 5 detailed points on safety risks of shared paths near driveways/intersections, hardship for vulnerable residents (seniors, disabled, families, women walking at night), the need to rip up new ADA sidewalks, and the broader impact on the Norwalk River Valley Trail on other streets.

3. Tricia Saccone – 13 Berkeley Questioned the historical monument at the roundabout and whether TMP had reviewed it. Emphasized safety but called for cheaper alternatives (pedestrian beacons, better lighting, marked crosswalks, enforcement) instead of a \$246k study and \$3.5M project. Stressed fiscal responsibility and listening to residents.

4. Reid Arbach (retired Norwalk Fire Captain, 44 years; lifelong resident) Opposed the project. Called for cheaper safety measures like better enforcement, stop signs, flashing lights, and crosswalks. Highlighted parking concerns near Marvin Beach and ball fields; said the current roundabout works and the new plan would create nightmares for emergency response.

5. Jim Anderson – Oldwell Court Thanked the Council and called for stronger traffic enforcement on Gregory Boulevard (no enforcement compared to Beach Road). Suggested a stop sign or traffic light at the roundabout as a lower-cost option.

6. Donna Menton – 8 Gregory Boulevard Spoke about ongoing construction fatigue in East Norwalk and daily traffic chaos. Criticized the process for finalizing plans and committing funds before meaningful resident input. Urged the Council to listen to neighbors and explore lower-cost alternatives instead of a large roundabout.

7. Luis Garcia – Bond Street (architect with 35 years experience) Called the project a massive waste of money. Questioned the \$246k design contract (820 hours) and overall \$3.5M cost. Asked why there was no public bidding and why VHB was grandfathered in. Urged the Council to vote it down and use the funds for schools, daycare, or seniors.

8. Diane Lauricella (Gregory Boulevard resident; spoke via Zoom) Urged the Council to table or defeat the item and send it back to committee. Criticized lack of alternatives analysis, high costs, and the rushed process. Asked for itemized justification of the \$246k scope and suggested moving the Norwalk River Valley Trail to another street to preserve parking.

9. Rich Bonenfant – 17 Park Hill Avenue Warned that approving the design plans tonight would make it almost impossible to turn back later. Strongly urged the Council to vote the item down.

MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Appointments & resignations were accepted as listed on the agenda.

Saj Oliver, Arts and Culture Commission

COUNCIL PRESIDENT A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINTMENTS

a. Brian Bailey, Board of Estimate and Taxation

b. Anne Wennerstrand, Board of Estimate and Taxation, Alternate

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPOINT BRIAN BAILEY AND ANNE WENNERSTRAND TO BE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION IN A NON-VOTING CAPACITY.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c. Nicole Eaddy, Affordable Housing Account Committee

d. Broderick Sawyer, Affordable Housing Account Committee

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED THE APPOINTMENTS OF NICOLE EADDY & BRODERICK SAWYER AS MEMBERS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

Read by Ms. Eaddy as noted below.

VII. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE – Items 1 through 9

B. ORDINANCE – Items 3 through 5

C. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS – Items 1 through 9

E. PUBLIC WORKS – Items 1 through 3

****MR. GOLDSTEIN CALLED FOR A VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS READ.**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. ORDINANCE

1. Approve changes to Chapter 7 (General Provisions), Article II (City Seal), Section 10 (Custody)

****MR. SEAD MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO CHAPTER 7 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), ARTICLE II (CITY SEAL), SECTION 10 (CUSTODY)**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Approve new ordinance: Financial Disclosures and Impact of Ordinances

****MR. SEAD MOVED TO APPROVE NEW ORDINANCE: FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES AND IMPACT OF ORDINANCES**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute an Amendment to the Contract between the City of Norwalk and VHB for Design and Engineering Services for the Gregory Boulevard Roundabout & Fifth Street Shared-Use Path Project, in an amount not to exceed \$246,000.

b. Authorize the Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to execute orders on the contract between the City of Norwalk and VHB for Design and Engineering Services for the Gregory Boulevard Roundabout & Fifth Street Shared Use Path Project, for a sum not to exceed \$24,600.

ACCT: 580000-5796-AID08

****MS. EADDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH AMENDED SCOPE LANGUAGE UNDER 1.0 WHERE ITS SAYS CONTENT DESIGN AND 1.1 AT THE 5TH STREET SECTION TO INCLUDE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS TO FIFTH STREET SHOWING MORE ADVANCED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES TO ACCOMMODATE THE NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL.**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

1. a. Authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with submission of the PY52 Annual Action Plan to HUD.

b. Authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents consistent with the approved PY52 Annual Action Plan.

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 1A AND B UNDER ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. RECUSALS (SEAD)**

ADJOURNMENT

****MS. AYERS MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Baldwin

Recording Secretary