

**CITY OF NORWALK  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 18, 2025**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman; John Igneri, Vice Chairman; Chris Mannella; Heather Dunn; Barbara Smyth; Mayor Harry W. Rilling

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Ralph Kolb, Senior Environmental Engineer; Christine Pacelli, Wastewater Systems Manager; Attorney Darin Callahan

Others: Trever Steeprock, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc. Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Oustafine called the roll; all those listed in attendance were present.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**A. REGULAR MEETING- JULY 21, 2025**

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND TWO (2)  
ABSTENTIONS- MAYOR RILLING AND MS. SMYTH**

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public comments this evening.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. EXECUTIVE Session** to discuss potential land acquisition.

Attorney Callahan said there would only be a need to go into an executive session if there are any specific questions.

Ms. Smyth asked if there were any changes since the last discussion that would require the need to go into an executive session. Mr. Callahan said that nothing has substantively changed since their last conversation.

**\*\* MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE NOT ENTERING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. ACT ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Whereas, the Water Pollution Control Authority for the City of Norwalk has determined that it is necessary to acquire the property located at 493 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut (hereinafter, the “Property”) for sanitary sewer purposes;

Whereas the City of Norwalk, acting through its Common Council during its regular meeting on February 11, 2025, and August 12, 2025, by affirmative vote of a quorum and its members present, authorizes the purchase, acquisition, and taking by exercise of eminent domain power of the Property for said purposes;

Whereas the Common Council further authorized at said meeting that Mayor Harry W. Rilling or his designee is authorized to execute and deliver any and all agreements, documents, and other instruments necessary to purchase, acquire, and/or take by exercise of eminent domain powers the Property;

Now, therefore, the WPCA hereby authorizes:

1. The purchase, acquisition, and/or taking by exercise of Eminent Domain power of the property for sanitary sewer purposes and to fully fund such acquisition and/or taking.
2. Authorize the WPCA Chairman Darren Oustafine or his designee to execute and deliver any and all agreements, documents, and other instruments necessary to purchase, acquire, and/or take by exercise of eminent domain powers the Property

**\*\* MR. IGNERI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE, ACQUISITION, AND/OR TAKING BY EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWER OF THE PROPERTY FOR SANITARY SEWER PURPOSES AND TO FULLY FUND SUCH ACQUISITION AND/OR TAKING, AND AUTHORIZE THE WPCA CHAIRMAN DARREN**

**OUSTAFINE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE, ACQUIRE, AND/OR TAKE BY EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWERS THE PROPERTY.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Contract Operations Report**

#### **1. Veolia Monthly Operating Report-July 2025 (copy included)**

Mr. Steeprock reported that the Veolia collections system team completed 3.80 miles of TV inspection in July. Additionally, the team performed .80 miles of sewer cleaning, 119 manhole inspections, .50 miles of SL Rat, and responded to five service calls. The IPP inspection program conducted 41 inspections. The collections team also completed two-point repairs; both events required reporting to the state, and all of the reporting was completed as required.

Mr. Steeprock stated that the north and south chlorine tanks were cleaned. The chain system on primary tanks two and three were cleaned. The weirs and lauders on final settling tank one through four were cleaned.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility's nitrogen performance for July was 558 pounds.

Mr. Steeprock stated that all permit requirements were met for July, and all required reports were submitted to the CT DEEP and the EPA. The Bi-monthly sludge report was also sent to CT DEEP.

#### **2. Major Repair or Replacement/ Out of Scope Items:**

##### **a. Westport Pump Station Repair**

Mr. Steeprock said one of the pumps will be repaired at the Westport Pump Station because some seals have failed, allowing moisture to enter the internals.

##### **b. Sammis Street Pump Station 45HP Pump Repair**

Mr. Steeprock said the pump will also be repaired at the Sammis Street Pump Station, which was also due to a seal failure that led to moisture in the internals.

**B. REPORTS:**

**1. FY 24/25 REVENUES/EXPENDITURES MUNIS REPORTS (COPY INCLUDED)**

There was no discussion.

**C. DISCUSSION ON WPCA ENGINEERING PROJECTS:**

**1. FINAL SETTLING TANKS**

Ms. Pacelli said the design of the final settling tanks is progressing toward 30%.

**2. BETTSWOOD ROAD AND BARBARA DRIVE SEWER SEPARATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECT**

Mr. Kolb provided an update on the project, stating that the design is ongoing and city staff are working with First District Water on signing an easement agreement

**D. DISCUSSION ON WPCA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:**

**1. PS- FORT POINT IMPROVEMENTS**

Ms. Pacelli said the WPCA team continues to work with the Walk Bridge team. Some interior work for that project is starting this month, and most of the exterior and a major part of the work will start next month.

**2. COLLECTION- BEACON STREET SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT**

Mr. Kolb said a positive meeting was held today with the Traffic Authority, and they have approved the road closures for this project. They anticipate starting the project at the beginning of September or early October.

**COLLECTION- SAMMIS AND BELL ISLAND SEWERSHED REHABILITATION**

Mr. Kolb said that Insituform has been working on manhole rehabilitation, lateral grouting, and completing the CIPP lining. They are on schedule to complete all the work by the end of September.

**E. SEWER USE APPEALS AND ADJUSTMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Pacelli stated that the sewer use bills were sent out on July 1st and, to date, have issued \$3,924 in adjustments.

## **VII. DISCUSSION**

Mr. Oustafine said it was nice serving with Mayor Rilling.

Mayor Rilling thanked the WPCA board for all of their work, which is a very important function, and said it has been a pleasure serving with the WPCA board.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd