

Council at Large:	Mr. Joshua Goldstein Mr. Johan Lopez	Ms. Barbara Smyth Ms. Nora Niedzielski-Eichner
District A:	Mr. Jalin Sead	Ms. Nicol Ayers
District B:	Mr. Dajuan Wiggins(7:40pm)	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Ms. Nicolé Eaddy	Ms. Anne Wennerstrand
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	Mr. Douglas W. Sutton
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair. Those present joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The roll was called by Ms. Dixon, Clerk. A quorum was confirmed.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: October 14, 2025

There were no comments, corrections, or deletions to the minutes.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2025.**

****THE MOTION PASSED 10-2 (ABSTENTIONS – MS. AYERS, MS.
SHANAHAN). THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Cece of Olmsted Place opposed the appointment of Mr. John Hubers as Planning and Zoning Commission alternate (IV.A.1.e), citing inadequate public notice (agenda posted Sunday, resume Monday at 12:30 p.m.), limited land-use experience per resume, and Mr. Hubers' recent Norwalk residency (voter registration August 5th after City Clerk notification). She raised concerns about the pre-election timing and term to January 2027, given alternates' path to full membership, and urged withdrawal by Mr. Hubers or Mayor Rilling, or tabling for review.

Ms. Ileana Zuniga of Runningbrook Lane opposed Mr. John Hubers' appointment as Planning and Zoning Commission alternate, noting residents' vocal concerns on development/overdevelopment and the commission's vital role in voicing them while preserving community character. She highlighted zoning decisions' enduring effects, urging careful, transparent selection with public trust, and called to table or reject the nomination amid the election cycle to exemplify accountability. Echoing Ms. Cece on notice/timing flaws, Ms. Zuniga cited Mr. Hubers' recent Norwalk move, lack of voting history, and August registration only after City Clerk advice; she argued the outgoing administration's pick, lasting to 2027, should yield to incoming leaders to rebuild confidence.

Ms. Ana Tabachneck of 4 Gilbert Street supported VII.A.4 (Residential Parking Permit Program ordinance), disclosing her Planning and Zoning alternate role but speaking personally after missing the prior committee meeting due to illness. She urged approval, emphasizing permits' need for overall parking management not just non-residents, and suggested broadening street/area approvals beyond petitions to include TMP proposals from complaints or Council recommendations.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINTMENTS

a. John Cusano, Historical Commission

The Council considered the appointment of Mr. John Cusano to the Historical Commission.

Mr. Sutton nominated Mr. John Cusano to the Historical Commission and detailed his qualifications, highlighting his residence at 29 Poplar Street in Norwalk and extensive background in arts, community engagement, equity, volunteerism, and education.

****MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. JOHN CUSANO TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED. THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. JOHN CUSANO TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION WAS APPROVED.**

b. Devan S. Healy, Conservation Commission, Regular

Ms. Shanahan described Ms. Healy as perfectly suited for the Conservation Commission, noting her current position as an environmental analyst for the Town of Greenwich, previous experience at HDR in White Plains, work with Harbor Watch, and background as a marine science educator at the Maritime Aquarium.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPOINT DEVAN S. HEALY AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MS. HEALY WAS APPOINTED AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.**

c. Elise Allum, Conservation Commission, Alternate

Ms. Shanahan spoke of her work with Ms. Allum through the Norwalk River Watershed Association on the Meadow Street microforest project, describing her as highly organized, diligent, and passionate. She noted that Ms. Allum is a Norwalk native who graduated from Norwalk High School in 2020 and summa cum laude from Fairfield University in 2024.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPOINT ELISE ALLUM AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MS. ALLUM WAS APPOINTED AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.**

d. Anthony Simari, Zoning Board of Appeals, Regular

Ms. Wennerstrand noted that Mr. Simari has lived in the Cranberry section of Norwalk since 2009 and works as a New York commercial real estate attorney with experience arguing for variances before the Yonkers Zoning Board. He previously served on the Darien Zoning Board from 2008 until relocating to Norwalk.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO APPOINT ANTHONY SIMARI TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MR. SIMARI WAS APPOINTED TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.**

e. John Hubers, Planning and Zoning Commission, Alternate

Mr. Goldstein spoke in support of Mr. Hubers, noting that while he is a new resident to Norwalk, he has been a regular attendee of Planning and Zoning Commission meetings and has spoken with city officials and commission members. He highlighted Mr. Hubers' professional experience consulting nonprofits on business operations and noted that as a renter, he would bring a valuable perspective to the commission. Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner echoed support for having a renter perspective, citing studies showing the lack of renters on Connecticut zoning boards. Ms. Dunn indicated she would vote no due to lack of transparency and inadequate time for vetting the candidate.

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPOINT JOHN HUBERS AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

****ABSTENTIONS – MS. EADDY, MS. AYERS, MR. WIGGINS.**

****OPPOSED – MS. DUNN**

****THE MOTION PASSED 8-1-3. MR. HUBERS WAS APPOINTED AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

f. Elizabeth Sile, Bike/Walk Commission

Mr. Goldstein noted that Ms. Sile has experience in the nonprofit and communications sector, currently serving as Director of Content with the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPOINT ELIZABETH SILE TO THE BIKE/WALK COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED. MS. SILE WAS APPOINTED TO THE BIKE/WALK COMMISSION.**

2. REAPPOINTMENTS

a. Jalin Sead, Fair Housing Advisory Commission

b. Carol L. Frank, Fair Housing Advisory Commission

Mr. Goldstein highlighted Ms. Frank's long history of service on Norwalk boards and commissions and Mr. Sead's work as chair of the Fair Housing Advisory Commission, particularly his collaboration with the new Fair Housing Officer.

****MR. SUTTON MOVED TO REAPPOINT JALIN SEAD AND CAROL L. FRANK TO THE FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MR. SEAD AND MS. FRANK WERE REAPPOINTED TO THE FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

c. Charles Pirro, Pension Board

Ms. Shanahan noted that Mr. Pirro has lived and worked in Norwalk for over 40 years and has extensive experience in Social Security and retirement benefits law. She shared positive feedback from his fellow board members regarding his knowledge, dedication, and thoroughness.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO REAPPOINT CHARLES PIRRO TO THE PENSION BOARD.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MR. PIRRO WAS REAPPOINTED TO THE PENSION BOARD.**

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling reported on the federal government shutdown's impact on SNAP benefits, noting that while existing benefits remain usable after November 1, no new benefits will be added until the government reopens. He directed residents to the Norwalk Local Food Access Guide at norwalkct.gov/meals and advised that applications will continue to be processed. For immediate help, residents may contact the Community Resource Hub or Alliance for Community Empowerment.

He commended the recent Halloween Night Fair in South Norwalk, describing it as highly successful with an estimated 6,000 attendees. The event, aimed at supporting local businesses and community engagement, received strong positive feedback. Mayor Rilling thanked the Economic and Community Development team, Police Department, and participating vendors for their efforts.

Mayor Rilling also reminded residents that early voting for the municipal election was taking place in the City Hall Community Room, with daily hours through November 2 and extended hours on October 30. Expressing concern over low voter turnout, he emphasized that municipal government directly affects residents through services such as schools, parks, and infrastructure. He urged participation in the upcoming election, highlighting the sacrifices made to secure the right to vote and the significant impact of local elections on daily life.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

No discussion occurred under this section.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner read the Consent Calendar as follows:

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. ORDINANCE

1. Approve changes to Chapter 126, Pension Plan, Sections 126-1, 126-2, 126-3, 126-4, 126-5 and 126-6
2. Approve changes to Chapter 84, Retirement Benefits, Article I, Post-Employment Benefits Trust, Sections 84-2 and 84-3
3. Approve changes to Chapter 112, Trees, Sections 112-1, 112-2, 112-3, 112-4, 112-5, 112-6, 112-7, 112-8, 112-9, 112-10, 112-11, 112-12, 112-13, 112-14 and 112-15

B. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1. Authorize Mayor Rilling, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into an agreement for the use of Calf Pasture Beach and immediate surrounding grounds by City of Norwalk Recreation & Parks for their Jingle Bell 5k to be held on Saturday, December 13th, 2025 from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Approximately 200 people.
2. Authorize Mayor Rilling, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into an agreement for the use of Washington Street Park and immediate surrounding grounds by City of Norwalk Department of Economic & Community Development for their Holiday Extravaganza to be held on Saturday, December 6th, 2025 from 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Set-up time by 9:00 A.M. with tear-down by 10:00 P.M. Approximately 1500 people.
3. Approve the use of Veterans' Park and immediate surrounding grounds by Norwalk Public Schools & City of Norwalk Department of Recreation & Parks for their 34th Annual Norwalk River Fun Run to be held on Saturday, December 6th, 2025 from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Rain date of Sunday, December 7th Set-up time by 9:00 A.M. Saturday, with tear-down by 11:30 A.M. Approximately 350 people.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. a. Authorize Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all documents and agreements necessary to accept grant funding under The Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety, FY26 DUI Enforcement Grant, Project number 0206-0722-1-BD.
- b. Authorize Chief of Police, James Walsh, to execute any and all documents and agreements as may be necessary to implement the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety, FY26 DUI Enforcement Grant, Project number 0206-0722-1-BD

2. a. Authorize Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all documents and agreements necessary to accept grant funding under The Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Project Name NWK10103-CIOT-2026-36 Click it or Ticket (CIOT) Enforcement Grant

b. Authorize Chief of Police, James Walsh, to execute any and all documents and agreements as may be necessary to implement The Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Project Name NWK10103-CIOT-2026-36 Click it or Ticket (CIOT) Enforcement Grant

D. PUBLIC WORKS

1. Authorize Mayor Rilling, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a Master Agreement for Construction Services with Colonna Concrete & Asphalt Paving LLC for a sum not to exceed \$381,556.00.

2. Authorize the Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to execute orders on the contract with Colonna Concrete & Asphalt Paving LLC for a sum not to exceed \$76,312.00.

3. Authorize the Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to execute a purchase order for Design and Permitting Services with IMEG Corp (Formally FHI Studio) for a sum not to exceed \$90,500.00

4. Authorize the Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to execute orders on the agreement with IMEG Corp (Formally FHI Studio) for a sum not to exceed \$9,050.00

****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS READ.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE CONSENT CALENDAR WAS APPROVED.**

VII. A. ORDINANCE

4. Approve new ordinance - Residential Parking Permit Program

The Council considered approval of the new ordinance establishing the Residential Parking Permit Program.

Ms. Young expressed support for the ordinance but emphasized that it is limited in scope and overdue, particularly in addressing long-standing issues in South Norwalk such as commercial vehicles, abandoned vehicles, and non-resident parking related to the beach or train station. She urged that additional research on long-term parking and abandoned vehicles be prioritized alongside this ordinance to avoid delays of years.

Ms. Dunn stated that the ordinance enables the Department of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to develop a plan with public involvement, noting that every neighborhood has unique needs. She also highlighted that the program would allow parking enforcement officers to address issues like vehicles blocking fire hydrants without relying on police resources and encouraged broad public engagement during the two 30-day public hearing periods required before final Council approval.

Ms. Ayers reiterated the need for proactive measures beyond resident petitions, such as the department or Council proposing areas based on complaints, to ensure all voices are heard, including those of impacted residents who may not participate due to lack of awareness. She stressed that funding for enforcement is essential, describing the ordinance as a band-aid without layered approaches, and noted similar parking challenges in District A including congestion, commercial vehicles and narrow streets.

Mr. Travers advised that commercial vehicles are ticketed per existing law, with limitations on accommodations like plumbing trucks, and that the police department has removed over 60 abandoned vehicles through a reporting and towing process requiring public participation. He noted extensive efforts in South Norwalk, including petitioning the state for legislative changes and expanding parking authority enforcement citywide, and committed to an open, transparent process with community input modeled on best practices from other cities. He also emphasized that the program requires resident participation and cannot be imposed, and that recent changes allow parking authority responses to issues like fire hydrant blockages.

Ms. Young clarified that her comments were not personal against Mr. Travers, acknowledging joint community walks and the lengthy process, but urged a comprehensive, layered approach to avoid piecemeal solutions taking another decade.

Ms. Shanahan noted discomfort with relying solely on resident-led petitions, as many constituents may complain without knowing resolution steps, and advocated for equitable consideration of all input, including from those without easy access to participation. She reiterated the need for multiple enforcement layers and funding to address the broader issue effectively.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING THE RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM.
**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE NEW ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING THE RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM WAS
APPROVED.**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

No resolutions were presented under this section.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

No motions were presented under this section.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

No suspensions were requested under this section.

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK,
CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING
7:30 PM**

**OCTOBER 28, 2025
VIA ZOOM & COMMON
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary