CITY COUNCIL NORWALK, CONNECTICUT	**REGULAR MEETING 7:30 PM**	**DECEMBER 9, 2025 VIA ZOOM & COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Harry W. Rilling at 7:32 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. ROLL CALL

The Clerk, Ms. Dixon, called the roll. Fourteen members were present and a quorum was established.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Special Meeting: November 17, 2025

> ****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.**
> ****THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION – MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Lauricella addressed the Council regarding three agenda items: the proposed revisions to the noise ordinance (VII.B.2), the household hazardous waste collection day contract (VII.F.3), and the naming of the Norwalk Public Library History Room in honor of Ralph C. Bloom (VII.E.1). She expressed support for all three items and offered suggestions for public education on noise and hazardous waste reduction.

Ms. Moina Noor, President of the Norwalk Public Library Board, addressed the Council in support of agenda item VII.E.1, requesting that the History Room at 1 Belden Avenue be named "The Norwalk History Room Established by Ralph C. Bloom, 1972" in recognition of his decades of service as city historian and founder of the room. No other members of the public spoke.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or appointments.

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS
Mayor Harry W. Rilling reported that the West Cedar Street Bridge had reopened slightly behind schedule but was now wider and fully funded by federal and state grants with no city funds expended. He thanked the Department of Public Works for its work on the project. He highlighted recent community events including the tree lighting at City Hall, the Holiday Extravaganza with Santa and Grinch rappelling, the upcoming Jingle Bell Run, the menorah lighting, and the Kwanzaa celebration organized by Ms. Young. Mayor Rilling announced that this was his final meeting after twelve years and approximately 264 council meetings, expressed gratitude to the citizens of Norwalk, current and past council members, and city staff, and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
There were no resignations or appointments.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR
The consent calendar was adopted without objection.

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL
1. Executive Session:
Discussion concerning potential settlement of pending lawsuit titled, City of Norwalk v. 587 CT Ave, LLC, et al., Docket No. FST-CV-23-5029503-S.

The Council President moved this item to the end of the agenda.

VII. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

C. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. a. Authorize Mayor Harry W. Rilling to execute cloud renewal access with the Traffic Logix Corp. for continued use of the current hardware, software, and interface with cloud access and data retrieval beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2028.

b. Authorize the City of Norwalk Purchasing Agent, to execute purchase orders on behalf of the Norwalk Police Department to Traffic Logix Corp. utilizing JAG Grant account #G0070 based on the availability of funds not to exceed $2367.00.

c. Authorize the City of Norwalk Purchasing Agent, to execute purchase orders on behalf of the Norwalk Police Department to Traffic Logix Corp. utilizing NPD account # 0130265258 based on the availability of funds not to exceed $933.00.

D. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Agreement with MaintStar, for Project #4435 – Community Development Software & Services, for an amount not to exceed $500,000.00 to implement a new online permitting and licensing system.
ACCT: 0926-3710-5777-C0731

2. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to increase the contract with ARC Document Solutions for an amount of $2,495 to include GIS customization and a Public Access module. ACCT: 011370-5742

3. Authorize the Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to amend the agreement with NYCONN Corporation for Traffic On-Call Services for an amount not to exceed $175,000.00.

ACCTS: 0923-4120-5777-C0232
0925-3750-5777-C0232

4. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into any and all documents and agreements required by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) to accept grant funding under the Community Connectivity Grant Program.

E. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT

2. a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Agreement with Hertz Furniture Systems, LLC for the student locker replacement at Nathan Hale Middle School & Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy for a total not exceed $460,000.00. Funds are available in Acct. 09255010 5777 CO722 and Acct. 09265010 5777 CO722.

b. Authorize the NPS Facilities Department to issue Change Orders on this contract for a total of $46,000.00. Funds are available in Acct. 09265010 5777 CO722.

3. TECHNICAL CORRECTION: of City Council action on November 17, 2025, Item VII, D, 8a & 8b by correcting the typo in the GMP amount to properly reflect the actual bid amount. New action to read as follows:

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Amendment with Newfield Construction Group, LLC for the Marvin Elementary School HVAC improvement project in the amount of $3,086,483.00. Funds are available in Acct. #09245010 5777 C0841.

Authorize the Office of Building Management to issue Change Order on Contract for a total not to exceed $308,648.00. Funds are available in Acct. #09245010 5777 C0841.

F. PUBLIC WORKS

1. Authorize the acceptance of a sidewalk easement in favor of the City at 467 Connecticut Avenue.

2. a. Authorize Mayor Harry W. Rilling to execute the Second Amendment to the April 9, 2024, Agreement between the City of Norwalk and Burns Construction Company, Inc., for Project PM2024-2 – Permanent Roadway Repairs and Surface Restoration, for an amount not to exceed $525,000.00
Account No. 03 00 00 2602

b. Authorize the Chief of Operations and Public Works, to execute orders on Contract with Burns Construction Company, Inc., for Project PM2024-2 Permanent Pavement Repairs and Surface Restoration, for an amount not to exceed $52,500.00.
Account No. 03 00 00 2602

3. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a Third Amendment to the April 12, 2021, agreement for household hazardous waste collection between the City of Norwalk and Clean Harbors Environmental Services Inc. Project 4079 for an amount not to exceed $68.86 per household and $41.20 per ½ household.
Account No. 01 40 42 5258

4. Authorize the purchasing agent to issue a purchase order with Morton Salt Inc. (state contract# 24PSX0150) for road salt for a sum not to exceed $81.24/ton for the 2025-26 winter season.
Account No. 580000 5796 AID03

5. Authorize the purchasing agent to issue a purchase order with Cargill, Inc. (state contract# 24PSX0150) for road salt for a sum not to exceed $81.24/ton for the 2025-26 winter season.
Account No. 580000 5796 AID03

6. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a 3rd Amendment to the July 20th, 2023 Agreement between the City of Norwalk and CDM Smith Inc., for Project Nos. 4240 and 4240A, DRG2023-2 Engineering Design Services for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, for a sum not to exceed $232,580.00.
Account No. 09 19 4027 5777 C0425
09 24 4027 5777 C0425
09 25 4027 5777 C0425
09 26 4027 5777 C0425
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 25 4021 5777 C0440

7. Authorize the Mayor to execute Bettswood Road and Barbara Drive Drainage Improvements and Sewer Separation Grant and any and all other agreements and other documents necessary to effectuate the grant.

> ****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED. **THE CONSENT CALENDAR WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. Appropriate $1,000,000 of the Municipal Grant in Aid for design, engineering, and construction services related to pedestrian improvements / sidewalk connections.

Mr. Frayer explained that this $1,000,000 appropriation is part of a larger $20 million state grant package ($10 million in FY 2026 and another $10 million in FY 2027). He noted that the final Route 1 Corridor (CARDA) study recommendations have been received, enabling immediate work to begin on pedestrian and sidewalk improvements, specifically mentioning a new pedestrian walkway on Route 1 across from Chick-fil-A. He stated that a formal project kickoff meeting with Mr. Travis would take place on Thursday morning. There were no questions or comments.

> ****MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROPRIATE $1,000,000 OF THE MUNICIPAL GRANT IN AID FOR DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATED TO PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS.**
> ****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. ORDINANCE

1. Approve the new ordinance: Use of School Bus Violations Enforcement Systems

Mr. Jim Travers, Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking, explained that recent state legislation now permits municipalities to install cameras on school buses that activate only when the stop-arm is extended and the red lights are flashing. When a vehicle illegally passes the bus, the camera captures the license plate, and a citation is mailed to the registered owner. He emphasized that the cameras are solely for child safety and that police cannot be present at every bus stop.

Chief James Walsh strongly supported the measure, stating that the police department has already issued over 13,000 citations for passing stopped school buses and that the cameras would serve as a significant force multiplier for child safety.

Ms. Young, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Wiggins, and Mr. Sead asked questions about camera activation, image storage, leasing versus purchasing equipment, and the future RFP process. Mr. Travers and Chief Walsh answered that the cameras activate only during violations, images are stored by the vendor for a limited time, and a lease model is recommended to ensure up-to-date equipment and transferability if the bus contractor changes.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner stated she would vote no, citing broader concerns about the growth of surveillance, data privacy, potential misuse of data, and limited municipal control over third-party vendors, while acknowledging the importance of school bus safety.

Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Sead spoke in support, noting that the limited activation of the cameras addressed many privacy concerns and that child safety outweighed the risks.

> ****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW ORDINANCE: USE OF SCHOOL BUS VIOLATIONS ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS.**
> ****THE MOTION PASSED 12-1-1 (MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MR. SUTTON).**
> ****THE MOTION PASSED.**

2. Approve changes to Chapter 68 (Noise), Sections 68-1 through 68-15
Extensive discussion occurred regarding the proposed revisions to the noise ordinance. Chief James Walsh explained that the changes primarily simplify enforcement procedures for police officers, eliminate complex measurement tables, align the ordinance more closely with state standards, and make violations easier to address without significantly altering permissible decibel levels. Ms. Dunn, Ms. Shanahan, Ms. Smyth, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Ayers, and Mr. Wiggins spoke in support of the revisions, noting improved quality of life, easier enforcement, and applicability to both commercial and residential areas. Chief Walsh confirmed that fines were reduced but would begin immediately rather than after multiple warnings.

> ****MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 68 (NOISE), SECTIONS 68-1 THROUGH 68-15.**
> ****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT
1. Approve the proposed naming of a room in the Norwalk Library to be "The Norwalk History Room Established by Ralph C. Bloom, 1972"
Ms. Smyth reported that the Land Use and Building Management Committee unanimously recommended approval. She praised Mr. Ralph C. Bloom as a Norwalk treasure for founding the History Room in 1972 and his decades of service. Additional supportive comments were made by Ms. Dunn.

> ****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY ROOM AS "THE NORWALK HISTORY ROOM ESTABLISHED BY RALPH C. BLOOM, 1972."**
> ****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL
1. Executive Session:
Discussion concerning potential settlement of pending lawsuit titled, City of Norwalk v. 587 CT Ave, LLC, et al., Docket No. FST-CV-23-5029503-S.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE PENDING LAWSUIT TITLED CITY OF NORWALK V. 587 CT AVE, LLC, ET AL.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council entered executive session at approximately 8:40 p.m. and returned to public session with no votes having been taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION
Following return from executive session:

****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE PENDING LAWSUIT TITLED CITY OF NORWALK V. 587 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, LLC.**
****THE MOTION PASSED 12-1 (OPPOSED – MS. SHANAHAN) & RECUSED – MR. WIGGINS.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary