

Council at Large:

Mr. Joshua Goldstein
Mr. Johan Lopez
Ms. Nicole Ayers

Jesse Buccolo
Colin Hosten

District A:

Mr. Jalin Sead

Mr. Broderick Sawyer

District B:

Mr. Dajuan Wiggins

Ms. Darlene Young

District C:

Ms. Nicol   Eaddy

Ms. Anne Wennerstrand

District D:

Jan Degenshein

Richard Dellinger

District E:

Mr. James Frayer

Brian Bailey

Mayor Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence in honor of former council member Ernie Dumas.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Elbourne (City Clerk), called the roll call and a quorum was confirmed.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: December 9, 2025

There were no changes, deletions, or omissions to the minutes as presented.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2025.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Special Meeting: January 5, 2026

There were no changes, deletions, or omissions to the minutes as presented.

****MR. SEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2026.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MS. AYERS).**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Levin addressed the Council. He expressed concern over the reappointment of all four Police Commission members without considering new candidates. He stated that the prior Commission had not fulfilled its charter duties regarding management, control, and supervision of the Police Department, citing issues such as failure to review the police union contract, avoidance of in-person meetings or convenient times, lack of best practices review, and limits on public input during meetings. He highlighted Norwalk's unique police overtime and salary patterns compared to similar Connecticut cities and requested that the four Police Commission reappointments be tabled for further evaluation.

No other public speakers signed up in person or online. Mayor Smyth closed public participation.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINTMENTS

a. Joseph Andrasko, Board of Estimate and Taxation

Mr. Frayer and. Mr. Dellinger spoke in support, noting Mr. Andrasko's effective financial leadership on the Oak Hills Park Authority, including stabilizing finances, eliminating annual borrowing, building a surplus, and implementing sound practices. Mayor Smyth commended his principled advocacy before the BET in past years.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH ANDRASKO TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Jon Wilkins Jr., Harbor Management Commission

Mr. Bailey spoke in support, emphasizing Mr. Wilkins' marina operations experience as dock master at Norwalk Cove Marina, his positive standing with current Harbor Commission members, and his community involvement including Norwalk High School lacrosse coaching.

****MR. BAILEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JON WILKINS JR. TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH MR. FRAYER OPPOSED.**

2. REAPPOINTMENTS

a. Kathy Olsen, Zoning Board of Appeals

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF KATHY OLSEN TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Wennerstrand spoke in support, citing Ms. Olsen's two years of service, financial expertise, long residency, and volunteer work including trustee and executive committee roles at Lockwood-Matthews Mansion. Mayor Smyth endorsed her continued public service.

b. Oscar Destruge, Howard Dixon, Steve Ferguson, and Ita Paskind, Fire Commission

Mr. Sead spoke in support, highlighting their combined expertise in public safety, military/aviation safety, financial/risk management, and community/faith leadership, along with the benefits of continuity.

****MR. SEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF OSCAR DESTRUGE, HOWARD DIXON, STEVE FERGUSON, AND ITA PASKIND TO THE FIRE COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c. Fran Collier-Clemons, Tony Lopez, Ronald Paladino, and Nathan Sumpter, Police Commission

Ms. Eaddy spoke in support, stating she had reviewed public comment and questioned each nominee individually, then provided a brief overview of their qualifications and service.

Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Dellinger, and Mayor Smyth spoke in support of Nathan Sumpter.

****MS. EADDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF FRAN COLLIER-CLEMONS, TONY LOPEZ, RONALD PALADINO, AND NATHAN SUMPTER TO THE POLICE COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d. Frank Ehrlich, Kenneth Lalime, and Anthony Santella, Board of Health

Mr. Dellinger spoke briefly in support.

****MR. DELLINGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF FRANK EHRLICH, KENNETH LALIME, AND ANTHONY SANTELLA TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

e. Kendrick Constant and Troy Jellerette, Board of Estimate and Taxation

Mayor Smyth called for a motion on the reappointment of Kendrick Constant and Troy Jellerette to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF KENDRICK CONSTANT AND TROY JELLERETTE TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Frayer spoke in support. He noted that Mr. Constant has served on the BET since 2023 and brings strong expertise from his role at RSM, a financial consulting firm in Stamford, where he evaluates internal controls, operational efficiencies, waste reduction, and elimination of non-value-added tasks. Mr. Frayer described Mr. Constant as a quiet but attentive listener who asks thoughtful questions behind the scenes and helps build consensus, making him a valuable continuing asset to the BET.

For Mr. Jellerette, Mr. Frayer stated he has known him for about seven years, having joined the BET together. He highlighted Mr. Jellerette's approximately 40 years of banking experience, particularly in credit risk assessment, which is essential for evaluating the budget's impact on the city's borrowing capacity and maintaining its AAA bond rating.

f. Matt Pentz, Conservation Commission, Regular

Mayor Smyth called for a motion on the reappointment of Matt Pentz to the Conservation Commission, Regular term.

Mr. Goldstein spoke in support. He noted that Mr. Pentz has served on the Conservation Commission since 2020. Mr. Goldstein's primary experience with Mr. Pentz is through his role as CEO of Norwalk Transit since 2018. He described Mr. Pentz as extraordinarily thoughtful, dedicated, smart, and an excellent communicator who has advanced Norwalk Transit's progress significantly in a short time. He highlighted Mr. Pentz as a consensus builder who gets things done effectively and adds value to any board or commission he serves on. Mr. Goldstein enthusiastically supported his friend's reappointment.

Ms. Eaddy spoke in support. She stated that Mr. Pentz is great and shared that he was very helpful when she and Ann requested assistance for a bus tour of East Norwalk. Mr. Pentz rode on the bus with them, and they had a great time. Ms. Eaddy appreciated his responsiveness, willingness to reach out and guide when help is needed, and expressed gratitude for his support.

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF
MATT PENTZ TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Smyth opened her remarks by referencing the moment of silence held earlier for Ernie Dumas, describing him as a great public servant and friend who was deeply committed to the community, particularly South Norwalk. She highlighted his advocacy, his organization of Christmas events and Thanksgiving meals to ensure families had food, and his efforts to give voice to those without one. Mayor Smyth noted her personal closeness to Mr. Dumas over the years, including sitting beside him during council meetings and visiting him in assisted living and the hospital in his final days. She stated that he made a significant impact on the city and that his passing is a great loss.

Mayor Smyth then opened the floor for any council members who wished to share comments about Mr. Dumas.

Mr. Sead spoke, describing Mr. Dumas as someone special who selflessly hosted community Thanksgiving meals using his family's own dinner rather than eating at home, reflecting the Dumas family's generosity. He praised Mr. Dumas's advocacy for South Norwalk, including fighting environmental injustice and issues during Washington Village reconstruction, often standing up even when it was unpopular. Mr. Sead noted that even critics would attend the Thanksgiving dinners because of Mr. Dumas's character. Personally, he said Mr. Dumas reminded him to keep God first and stay community-minded, even praying for the city, friends,

and the mayor toward the end. Mr. Sead called him selfless, unafraid to fight injustice, yet always there to help the community.

Ms. Ayers spoke, echoing Mr. Sead's comments. She shared that she met Mr. Dumas at age 23 while working at NEON, where he encouraged her community involvement. She recounted humorous personal anecdotes of Mr. Dumas repeatedly telling her "you're not doing enough" despite her efforts, which her mother advised her to take seriously. Ms. Ayers emphasized the partnership between Mr. Dumas and Ms. Martha Dumas, describing them as an intentional couple and family dedicated to showing up for others even when others did not reciprocate. She called the Dumas family legends in Norwalk, owing a debt of gratitude for their food, toys, positive words, and encouragement across all stations in life.

Ms. Young spoke, noting that working with the Dumas family for over 30 years made this difficult. She described Mr. Dumas as a soldier and fighter for the community who woke up every day to do that work, with Ms. Martha steadfastly by his side. Ms. Young said the Thanksgivings and Christmases were her own family holidays, to the point her parents were upset for years. She recounted collaborating on turkeys, Christmas cleanups, home repairs, Washington Village fights, the first carnival in South Park, the National Rideout, and involvement with WeeBC and Clean and Green. Ms. Young stated they truly cared about people and spoke into lives whenever possible. She expressed hope to honor them by naming the community room (or gym) in the South Norwalk Community Center after Mr. Dumas, as he had approved the community room during a hospital visit. Ms. Young said there is more to do to recognize their contributions, that she will forever miss him, and emphasized supporting Ms. Martha Dumas through this time. She called him a good man.

Mayor Smyth then moved on to other remarks. She noted that this was the first regular meeting of the City Council with newly elected leadership and committee assignments. She congratulated the council leadership and all members for their willingness to serve in these roles and expressed looking forward to working together.

Mayor Smyth provided updates on Martin Luther King Jr. Day observances. City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19th, in observance of the holiday, described as a day on for reflection on Dr. King's leadership and the civil rights movement's ongoing impact. Several events were announced:

Sunday, January 18th at 3:00 p.m.: Ecumenical worship service at Grace Baptist Church.

Monday, January 19th at 8:00 a.m.: Community breakfast at Grace Baptist Church (tickets required; information on city's website and social media).

Monday, January 19th at 11:00 a.m.: Norwalk High School annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Monday, January 19th at 5:00 p.m.: Citywide program at City Hall concert hall with guest speakers and music.

Finally, Mayor Smyth issued a winter safety reminder, urging residents to clear sidewalks after snowfalls for pedestrian safety, especially children traveling to and from school.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Announcement of City Council Committees

Mayor Smyth turned the floor over to Council President Goldstein for the announcement of City Council committees.

Council President Goldstein thanked everyone for their willingness to stand up and lead. He expressed that he is really excited with the committee assignments, which are now public and posted on the city website.

Council President Goldstein specifically thanked the new committee chairs: Ms. Wennerstrand, who will chair the Public Works Committee. Ms. Eaddy, who will chair the Public Safety General Government Committee in addition to the Ad Hoc Housing Committee; and Mr. Hosten, who will chair the Land Use and Building Management Committee.

He also acknowledged several council members who are staying on as chairs and continuing to do incredible work for the city, including Ms. Ayers, Mr. Sead, Ms. Young, and Mr. Lopez.

Council President Goldstein noted that there are new vice chairs this year who will help move the committees forward, specifically mentioning Ms. Ayers and Mr. Frayer. He stated that there are 15 leaders sitting on the dais along with the mayor, and they are ready to get to work.

B. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

No additional resignations or appointments were addressed under this section.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar was read by Ms. Ayers as noted below.

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

1. Executive Session - Authorization to Settle Claim: Sheldon Rawson v. Jake Colletto & City of Norwalk, FST-CV-24-6067011-S

VII. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. Narrative on Tax Collections dated December 2025

2. Monthly Tax Collector's Reports dated November 2025

3. Approve Claims Committee Report dated December 2025

4. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to Streamline Software, Inc. for a three-year agreement for Subscription Pro Plan in an amount not to exceed \$13,440 annually. Account # 011370-5742

5. Approve ARPA transfer request from 133710-5796-AEC04 PROJECT MANAGER in the amount of \$156,506.66 to the following ARPA accounts: 130100-5796-AMD01 MAYOR INITIATIVE ARPA \$103,451.34; 133710-5796-AEC16 EVENT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM \$40,526.42; and 134010-5796-ARP04 PARKS AND RECR ARPA PROJECTS \$12,528.90.

B. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute an agreement with Safety Marking LLC for Project TMP2026-1 Pavement Markings, Symbols and Legends at Various Locations for an amount not to exceed \$271,829.00. Pending committee approval on January 12, 2026. ACCT(S): 0926-3750-5777-C0562; 0925-3750-5777-C0562; 0926-3750-5777-C0562; 0926-3750-5777-C0824

6. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute any and all agreements and other documents necessary to transfer ownership of the "SONO" signage currently located under Railroad Bridge in South Norwalk, and a license agreement with the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation for the right to continue to maintain the sign at said location. Pending committee approval on January 12, 2026.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE
CONSENT CALENDAR AS READ INTO THE RECORD BY MS. AYERS.**

****THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute an agreement between the city and B&W Paving & Landscaping LLC for a sum not to exceed \$437,110.00 for project 4481 TMP2025-5 Pedestrian Access Enhancements on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive at Hamilton Ave. Pending committee approval on January 12, 2026. ACCT: 520000-5796-MLK01

2. Authorize the Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to execute orders on the contract between the city of Norwalk and B&W Paving & Landscaping LLC, for project TMP2025-5 Pedestrian Access Enhancements on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive at Hamilton Ave for a sum not to exceed \$43,711.00. Pending committee approval on January 12, 2026. ACCT: 520000-5796-MLK01

Council President Goldstein moved items 1 and 2 together as they are related. He noted for the record that although the agenda indicated these items were pending committee approval on January 12, 2026, they were approved by the Economic and Community Development Committee on that date.

Council President Goldstein spoke briefly in support, stating that this is a construction project as part of the MLK Corridor Initiative involving rehabilitation and construction of the staircase on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive at Hamilton Avenue in South Norwalk, across from Bates Court and the parking deck. He described the staircase as one in need of work and introduced Jim Travers, Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking, to provide additional details.

Mr. Travers thanked Council President Goldstein and expressed excitement about the project, which originated from concerns raised by the MLK committee and is funded through a grant for corridor improvements. He explained that the city had bid the project multiple times without successful responses and refined the plans to make it constructible. The work will relocate the staircase slightly farther from the road to meet current standards, create a larger plaza area for safer pedestrian waiting and crossing, add lighting from ground level to the top of the staircase, and improve sidewalk connections at the top near Hamilton Avenue. Upon completion of the city's portion, the project will be turned over to Economic and Community Development for potential artistic enhancements similar to the painted staircase at Clay Street. Mr. Travers stated the city is eager to start construction and complete the project by the end of the year. He offered to answer questions.

Ms. Young spoke in support, emphasizing that the project is part of the MLK Corridor Initiative for which Norwalk was recognized along with two other municipalities in the state. She noted that Norwalk has the largest corridor and that this effort aims to revitalize communities divested from for decades. Ms. Young expressed excitement about the ongoing progress since 2018-2019, thanked Mr. Travers and the team, and stressed the importance of keeping the initiative visible so residents know work is being done.

Mayor Smyth asked if there were any other comments or questions. Seeing none, she called for the vote.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 1 AND
2.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute an Agreement between the City of Norwalk and A. Vitti Excavators, LLC for Project TMP 2025-6 South Main Street Rail Spur and Berm Removal, for an amount not to exceed \$849,497.00. Pending committee approval on January 12, 2026. ACCT: 0924-3750-5777-C0835

**5. Authorize the Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking to execute orders on the contract between the City of Norwalk and A. Vitti Excavators, LLC for Project TMP 2025-6 South Main Street Rail Spur and Berm Removal, for a sum not to exceed \$84,949.70.
ACCT: 0924-3750-5777-C0835**

Council President Goldstein moved items 4 and 5 together as they are linked. He noted for the record that although the agenda indicated these items were pending committee approval on January 12, 2026, they were approved by the Economic and Community Development Committee on that date.

Council President Goldstein spoke in support, stating that these items concern the roundabout planned just outside the new Ruby Shaw Elementary School (formerly known as South Norwalk Elementary School, with a name change forthcoming). He described the intersection as a long-standing difficult and dangerous location and noted that the roundabout has been discussed for many years. He highlighted that the new school has spurred numerous improvements in the area, with this project as a crucial first step involving removal of the rail spur and berm. He referenced an excellent memo in the backup materials from Benjamin Jung providing a thorough description of this phase, as well as Mr. Jung's presentation the previous night. Council President Goldstein added that the overall project is expected to start in spring and hopefully be completed by the start of the next school year, with timing carefully planned to avoid disruption during the school year. He then introduced Jim Travers, Director of Transportation, Mobility, and Parking, to provide further details.

Mr. Travers thanked Council President Goldstein and explained that the project originated from community conversations about the new Sono School location, which offered many positives but raised resident concerns about the intersection. These concerns were echoed by school transportation officials. He noted the challenging sightlines due to the concrete wall and increased traffic from more children and vehicles. After reviewing multiple design options, the city determined a roundabout was the best solution for the offset intersections. To address immediate safety issues while finalizing the full design, the project is divided into two phases: Phase 1 removes the concrete wall and berm to improve sightlines and prepare the site for Phase 2 (the roundabout). This phasing minimizes disruption during the school year by scheduling major work during summer break when the school is closed. Mr. Travers mentioned ongoing weekly coordination with DPW on a concurrent drainage project in the area to ensure a cohesive outcome. He described this as Norwalk's first true modern roundabout, supported by safety data showing benefits for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, traffic flow, and emissions reduction. He expressed excitement about the phased approach making the project easier on the school and community despite its scale, and offered to answer questions.

Ms. Young spoke in support, noting that the location is in her district and has been dangerous for a very long time in South Norwalk. She expressed pleasure that the project will create a much safer experience for drivers and especially for parents walking children to school, aligning with safe routes to school goals and the purpose of locating the school there to enable walking. She acknowledged her initial concern about potential disruption during school time but was reassured

by the timing plan to minimize impacts. Ms. Young thanked Mr. Travers and looked forward to the change.

Mr. Travers responded and announced a community meeting on February 2nd at 5:30 p.m. at the Sono School to discuss Phase 1 work and the roundabout design, seeking public comment. He emphasized the meeting's importance as the city's first roundabout and noted coordination with the principal to distribute information via students. He encouraged marking calendars and stated more details would follow.

Ms. Young requested that Mr. Travers send the meeting information to all council members. Mr. Travers confirmed the flyer is being finalized and will be distributed to everyone, including council members.

Mr. Buccolo spoke in support, echoing Ms. Young. He stated that he frequently uses the intersection and the concrete wall creates a complete blind spot, preventing visibility of all four directions. He expressed excitement about the plan and the modern roundabout.

Mayor Smyth acknowledged the partnerships required, crediting Mr. Travers for bringing the roundabout idea forward, long-standing recognition of the problem, collaboration with the state for funding, addressing drainage issues, and interdepartmental city efforts—all focused on community and child safety.

Mr. Travers agreed, adding that the intersection is challenging due to geometry and because part of it is a state road requiring additional coordination. He praised the state's support and Senator Duff's assistance in securing funding, describing it as a combination of city capital dollars, state funds, and community investment sources. He noted it will be challenging but worthwhile.

Mr. Sead spoke in support, commending the Transportation, Mobility, and Parking team and expressing excitement about the project due to its necessity and the team's strong track record, citing successful fixes on Golden Hill at Stewart and Steven Streets and the award-winning traffic plan avoiding issues at Wegmans and Target. He highlighted their outreach on Wall Street and thanked the team profusely, stating he will continue to thank them whenever possible.

Ms. Wennerstrand spoke in support, jumping on the bandwagon for Mr. Travers. She recounted several instances where she contacted him for East Norwalk needs, including a yield sign after a tree fell (cones placed quickly), issues on Seaview Avenue (radar speed device deployed), and Van Z Street. She publicly thanked him for responding promptly and helpfully to her calls.

Mayor Smyth asked if there were any other comments. Seeing none, she called for the vote.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 4 AND 5 TOGETHER.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL

No resolutions were presented or discussed.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

No postponed motions were addressed.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

No suspension of rules was requested or discussed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

****MS. YOUNG MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin,
Recording Secretary**