

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOWED
BY REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2026
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wennerstrand called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Wennerstrand called the Roll: Anne Wennerstrand, Darlene Young, Jesse Buccolo, Jan Degenshein, Richard Dellinger

At Roll Call there were five (5) Committee members present, constituting a quorum. Jim Frayer and Dajuan Wiggins were absent.

ATTENDANCE: Anne Wennerstrand, Chair; Darlene Young, Jesse Buccolo, Jan Degenshein, Richard Dellinger

STAFF: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations, Thomas Szabo, Waste Programs Manager; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Kathleen Royle, Assistant Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Councilmember Johan Lopez, Councilmember Jalin Sead

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF LINCOLN AVENUE EXTENSION TO MASTER CHIEF ALEXANDER RESTREPO WAY. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE.

Katie Restrepo of 15 Fairfield Terrace. She is his sister-in-law. She speaks on behalf of herself, Adriana L. of 56 East Rocks Road and Michelle Petrides of East Avenue. She said he went to Columbus, Nathan Hale and graduated from Brien McMahon. He was state champion wrestler, one of the longest serving Navy Seals. The flag has flown over

the Capitol twice for his acts of bravery. He was hand selected to be on the first SEAL team six. She hopes to have another opportunity to name all his acts of valor and the way he served the country. Norwalk was always his home. He left for Virginia, got married had kids then came back to Norwalk to Lincoln Avenue. He was very humble and wouldn't want this if he was alive, but they feel he deserves this honor. Brien McMahon put him on the wall of fame two (2) years ago.

Chair Wennerstrand closed the public hearing at 7:11p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF A PORTION OF WEST AVENUE FROM WALL STREET TO CONNECTICUT AVENUE/MATHEWS PARK TO STANLEY SELIGSON WAY. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE.

Michael Serrao, President and CEO of Seligson Properties, for over 22 years, is located at 605 West Avenue. He is in favor of the honorary naming of a portion of West Avenue. He said that Stanley Seligson was born in 1933 in Norwalk. Attending Norwalk Public Schools. Since the early 1950's Mr. Seligson has continuously operated his various businesses headquartered in downtown Norwalk. He spent more than 60 years investing in Norwalk. He spent several decades specifically helping to shape and revitalize the West Avenue corridor. Mr. Serrao gave a brief background to all of Mr. Seligson's property. There are letters of support from Mayor Harry Rilling and several other prominent members of Norwalk.

Chair Wennerstrand closed the public hearing at 7:17p.m.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: DECEMBER 2, 2025

There was no report on this item.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. BUCCOLO, MR. DELLINGER AND MR. DEGENSHEIN ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENSTIONS**

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Lauricella, 21 Little Fox Lane. She thanked the staff for the hard work with the snowfall. She wants to speak about waste management, recycling and food scrap. She

has been in the waste management business for the last 40 years. She has assisted the city by helping start the household hazardous waste collection day as a League of Women Voters member under Bill Collins. For decades, she has been helping, trying to advise and offer some ideas that would help reduce costs for municipal waste and improve the metrics for recycling and reusing materials. She said based on the metrics, the numbers are not where they should be. She said they need a more effective and optimized recycling program. She said tomorrow she will forward a menu of ideas to improve the food waste recycling rate. She agreed to be the co-chair of the waste team of sustainability and resilience task force. She thinks they need to educate people and get them to start thinking about reducing and donating food waste. She asked that the NewGen item go back to the drawing board or tabled until Ms. Oliver and herself can take a look at and redo the RFP because the food waste should include education and a potential for aerobic static piles in the certain selected city-owned properties, like parks, and include reducing food waste with home composting elements. She finds that the scope of work in the proposal is limited and is not worth the money. The money would be better used to hire graphic and PR people for the recycling program, because there still is a need for a comprehensive educational program.

Chair Wennerstrand closed public participation at 7:27p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH TO ENTER INTO A SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT AND SUCH OTHER INSTRUMENTS INCIDENTAL THERETO WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY (“NHA”) FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK WITH RESPECT TO THE CITY’S EASEMENTS AT 20 DAY STREET IN CONNECTION WITH NHA’S ELUR APPLICATION TO DEEP.

Ms. Royle reported on this item. She stated that in order for NHA to develop a parcel at 20 Day Street, they need to submit and get approval from DEEP. ELUR stands for Environmental Land Use Restriction. The requirement is that any party interested in the property prior to that filing has to grant the applicant the subordination agreement. In order to file with DEEP, the city needs to provide the subordination agreement.

****MR. DEGENSHEIN MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. APPROVE THE HONORARY NAMING OF LINCOLN AVENUE EXTENSION TO MASTER CHIEF ALEXANDER RESTREPO WAY.

Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for his service. They

discussed the actual location of the sign.

****MR. BUCCOLO MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. APPROVE THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PORTION OF WEST AVENUE FROM WALL STREET TO CONNECTICUT AVENUE/MATHEWS PARK TO STANLEY SELIGSON WAY.

The Committee discussed tabling this item to ensure it meets the requirements. They talked about other business platforms that may be available to honor him in some way. The applicant would need to provide more information relevant to his community contributions that would meet the requirements for an honorary street naming.

****MR. DELLINGER MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. DEGENSHEIN MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO TABLE THE ITEM

D. ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF KNIGHT STREET TO CUTIE MAE JORDAN WAY.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF KNIGHT STREET TO CUTIE MAE JORDAN WAY. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M. BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH, TO EXECUTE THE 4TH AMENDMENT TO THE DECEMBER 12, 2023 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND M. RONDANO INC. FOR PURCHASING PROJECT 4322, DRG 2023-3 ON CALL DRAINAGE AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$1,124,616.15.

09 20 4062 5777 C0361

09 24 4062 5777 C0361

09 24 4021 5777 C0302

09 25 4021 5777 C0302
09 26 4021 5777 C0302
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 25 4021 5777 C0021
09 26 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 25 4021 5777 C0440
09 26 4021 5777 C0440
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 4021 5777 C0643
09 25 4021 5777 C0643
09 26 4021 5777 C0643
09 25 4021 5777 C0715
09 26 4021 5777 C0715

2. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT DRG2023-3 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$112,461.62.

ACCOUNT NO.

09 20 4062 5777 C0361
09 24 4062 5777 C0361
09 24 4021 5777 C0302
09 25 4021 5777 C0302
09 26 4021 5777 C0302
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 25 4021 5777 C0021
09 26 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 25 4021 5777 C0440
09 26 4021 5777 C0440
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 4021 5777 C0643
09 25 4021 5777 C0643
09 26 4021 5777 C0643

09 25 4021 5777 C0715
09 26 4021 5777 C0715

Chair Wennerstrand read Item F1 and Item F2 together.

Mr. Meehan reported on this item. This is an existing annual contract. The purpose is to prepare for their upcoming sidewalk and roadway paving projects. They like to have them come in and check for any drainage that needs to be done prior to any of their projects. They work throughout the year. The other purpose of the contract is for small drainage issues that may pop up. He said M. Rondano is a very reliable contractor. He gave some examples of their work. Notices are sent out to residents prior to any construction. The committee began to discuss drainage area issues in the city.

****MR. DELLINGER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

G. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH, TO EXECUTE THE 1ST AMENDMENT TO THE JULY 20TH, 2023 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND NEWGEN STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$33,300.

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 43 5298

Ms. Valadares gave background on this item. They have used NewGen as a consultant with the solid waste master plan and NewGen also assisted with the revamping of the solid waste program that was implemented on July 1, 2025. The city is seeking to enhance and expand its food scrap program, so they want to engage NewGen to further evaluate available options and recommendations for the initiative. The Committee began to discuss the program and alternatives. The committee decided they needed more information.

****MR. DEGENSHEIN MOVED THE ITEM**
****MR. DELLINGER MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO TABLE THE ITEM**

VII. REPORTS

A. 2025 METRICS

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She shared her screen with the committee and went through the DPW 2025 Metrics. She answered all questions the committee had.

B. SNOW OPERATIONS

Ms. Valadares shared her screen and gave an overview. Mr. Torre went over the report with the committee and answered any questions they had.

C. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Torre reported on this. The report has been updated. For the months of November and December 2025, they have removed 15 trees in the parks and 21 in the right-of-way. They pruned 23 trees in the parks and 24 trees in the right-of-way. They also keep track of locations and the species of the trees.

D. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT

Mr. Szabo went over his report and answered any questions the committee had.

E. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT

Mr. Szabo went over his report and answered any questions the committee had. The hazardous waste program will be in April and the recycle popup program will start again in March.

F. ONGOING PROJECTS STATUS

Mr. Meehan reported on this. He stated that there isn't much construction during the winter, but they are working on a couple projects. He went through all the projects with the committee. They are working on Flax Hill Road in conjunction with SNEW. They are putting in sidewalks and paving from Arbor Drive down to Washington Street. SNEW is putting in a watermain in the same area. The on-call drainage contractor is working on Roton Avenue. He gave an overview of the sidewalk project on Lockwood Lane. A discussion ensued about the sidewalks and difference between asphalt and concrete and ADA compliance. There is an ongoing drainage study for the intersection of Meadow Street and South Main Street around the area of the new school. He said they are doing a major storm water system in the Glendenning and Cannon Street area. They discussed the flooding in that area and others.

VIII. DISCUSSION

The committee began a discussion about Complete Streets, drainage issues and sidewalks. Chair Wennerstrand made a statement to remind the residents that customer service is available to all residents that need to process a complaint, compliment or work order. They are ready to assist.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Young moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:34p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOWED
BY REGULAR MEETING BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE**