CITY COUNCIL NORWALK, CONNECTICUT	**REGULAR MEETING 7:30 PM**	**FEBRUARY 10, 2026 VIA ZOOM & CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Council at Large:	Mr. Joshua Goldstein	Mr. Jesse Buccolo
	Mr. Johan Lopez	Mr. Colin Hosten
	Ms. Nicol Ayers	
District A:	Mr. Jalin Sead	Mr. Broderick Sawyer
District B:	Mr. Dajuan Wiggins	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Ms. Nicolé Eaddy	Ms. Anne Wennerstrand
District D:	Mr. Jan Degenshein	Mr. Richard Dellinger
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Mr. Brian Bailey

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Smyth at approximately 7:38 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Special Meeting: January 24, 2026

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Regular Meeting: January 27, 2026

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2026, REGULAR MEETING.**
****THE MOTION PASSED. WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS – MR. HOSTIN, MR. SEAD.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINTMENTS
a. Appointment of Robert Stowers, Director of Recreation and Parks
Ms. Young spoke in strong support of Mr. Stowers, highlighting his four years of transformative leadership, experience from Seattle, program development, team building, progress toward accreditation, and leadership on the new recreation center.

Ms. Ayers described Mr. Stowers as professional, calm, and a problem-solver.

Mr. Goldstein praised the transformation of the department and Mr. Stowers' ability to find ways to say yes.

Mr. Wiggins called Mr. Stowers the GOAT and noted his respectful demeanor during challenges.

Mr. Dellinger highlighted Mr. Stowers' helpfulness with the Oak Hills Park Authority.

Mr. Frayer apologized for an early tough budget interaction and praised Mr. Stowers' phenomenal work.

Mr. C praised Mr. Stowers' community outreach and support for youth sports leagues.
Mayor Smyth described Mr. Stowers as a visionary who increased revenue, built programs, and advanced the Parks Foundation.

Mr. Stowers thanked the Mayor, Council, staff, Vanessa, Darlene Young, Harry Rilling, Alicia King, Bob Duff, and the community. He reviewed major accomplishments including the 10-year Recreation & Parks Master Plan, 10-year Tree Master Plan, joint-use agreement with schools, new baseball complex agreement, playground replacements, marina improvements, Galler Carriage Barn reopening, staff increases through budget-neutral shifts, non-lapsing Recreation and Sports Activity Fund, and establishment of the Parks Foundation. He expressed commitment to making Norwalk's parks the best for its size in Connecticut and the country.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT STOWERS AS DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. – f. Urban Forestry Commission appointments
PETER FRANK VITERETTO – Chair
GAY E. MAC LEOD
SONJA E. OLIVER
AMY VEREL
DAVID MCGOLDRICK
Ms. Wennerstrand moved all five appointments together. She described Mr. Viteretto's 40+ years as a licensed landscape architect focused on tree health and green infrastructure; Ms. Mac Leod's environmental education, nonprofit leadership, and prior Tree Advisory Commission service; Ms. Oliver's long advocacy experience and prior commission service; Ms. Verel's decade-plus public service in New York City and New York State Parks; and Mr. McGoldrick's hands-on land stewardship with Aspetuck Land Trust.

Ms. Young spoke in support of Ms. Mac Leod and Ms. Verel.

Ms. Eaddy praised Ms. Mac Leod and Ms. Oliver.

Mr. Dellinger noted Ms. Verel's family connection and Mr. McGoldrick's practical skills.

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF PETER FRANK VITERETTO (CHAIR), GAY E. MAC LEOD, SONJA E. OLIVER, AMY VEREL, AND DAVID MCGOLDRICK TO THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. REAPPOINTMENTS – Commission on Gender Equity
KRISTINA TESTA-BUZZEE
JAZMINE PREZZIE
CHANTAL COFFY
Mr. Buccolo moved the reappointments and described the Commission's mission. He highlighted Dr. Testa-Buzzee's long Norwalk residency, former NCC leadership, and current state workforce role; Ms. Prezzie's mentorship program leadership and Board of Education service; and Ms. Coffy's nursing and multilingual background.

Mr. Sead praised Ms. Prezzie's leadership in growing the mentorship program.

****MR. BUCCOLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF KRISTINA TESTA-BUZZEE, JAZMINE PREZZIE, AND CHANTAL COFFY TO THE COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUITY.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS
Mayor Smyth recognized Black History Month and Heart Health Month, provided information on related events, reminded residents of upcoming budget hearings, and announced the Mayor's Ball on March 6, 2026 benefiting Triangle Community Center and Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center.

C. Presentation on progress regarding the Efficiency Study
Mayor Smyth introduced the item, noting that the Efficiency Study was conducted under former Mayor Rilling approximately four years earlier. She stated that an update had been requested for some time, that significant progress had been made, but that more work remained. She turned the presentation over to Chief of Staff Lamon Daniels.

Chief of Staff Lamond Daniels provided framing for the presentation. He explained that the Efficiency Study, completed in 2022, was a significant investment and had been used as a working reference by departments rather than sitting unused. The presentation offered a high-level overview of how the study informed operational decisions, examples of actions taken across departments, and how it could continue to serve as a framework for longer-term improvements. He emphasized that the full study spans over 500 pages and that the focus was on key themes and actions rather than a detailed status report of every recommendation.

He reviewed the study's original purpose: to assess city and Norwalk Public Schools operations, develop a customized plan for reinventing operations, drive transformational service delivery, and achieve cost efficiencies. The presentation covered only the city-side external assessment. Daniels stated that the study identified opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness, highlighted structural, operational, and financial gaps, and offered recommendations ranging from short-term to long-term improvements. It was intended as a guide for better decisions on systems, staffing, and investments, not as a one-year checklist.

He explained that departments assessed applicable findings, prioritized recommendations, and implemented many of them through internal policy changes, process improvements, and operational adjustments. Recommendations with budgetary or resource impacts underwent further administrative evaluation.

Selected examples of changes were grouped into four buckets: operational and governance, technology and systems, financial and administrative practices, and resident-facing services. Examples included:

- Finance, Comptroller, and Budget: major state reconciliation recovering approximately $730,000; development of cash collection manuals; updated position controls in MUNIS; review of budget transfer thresholds; coding improvements in MUNIS; grant guidelines and grants tracking database.
- Town Clerk and City Clerk: formal procedure manuals; expanded online services (dog licensing, marriage applications, fraud alerts); records digitization using ARPA funds; office construction and safety project; planning for early voting.
- Human Resources: job description analysis project by department; career progression mapping; new HR system module; recurrent leadership discussions on workforce and performance.
- Purchasing and Procurement: filling the Purchasing Officer position; full guideline review with Corporation Counsel; shift to virtual credit card payments; strengthened collaboration with Norwalk Public Schools.
- Technology and Systems: digitization of records and permits; integration of IT into RFP processes; citywide permit software; funding system upgrades via ARPA and grants; groundwork for long-term IT planning.
- Governance, Leadership, and Coordination: formalized internal policies and procedures; FOI handling benchmarking; commission and ordinance-related work.
- Community Services: strengthened customer service intake and response tracking; improved coordination between community services, communications, and customer service; better program alignment and grant compliance.
- Recreation and Parks: continued investment in maintenance and safety; coordinated operations and engineering; used study staffing analysis as reference; increased staffing capacity.

- DPW and Operations: facility and workplace safety improvements; better tracking of capital assets; strengthened coordination with finance and planning.

Mr. Daniels noted that many changes were behavioral, process-oriented, or planning-related and were achieved internally with limited resources, often during the COVID recovery period. He identified three major remaining pillars requiring deeper focus and sustained investment:

1. Enterprise technology and cyber resilience: aging, fragmented systems; manual workarounds; limited integration and visibility; cybersecurity risks.
2. Facilities and infrastructure: aging buildings; deteriorating facilities; space and safety constraints; deferred maintenance increasing future costs.
3. Staffing and workforce capacity: need for fair/competitive wages; excessive supervisory span of control; reliance on key individuals; succession planning needs; limited capacity constraining operations.

He emphasized that incremental operational changes alone would not address these structural issues and that meaningful progress would require deliberate decisions about timing, scope, and significant investment.

In closing, Daniels stated that the study was designed to inform decision-making over time, remains a valuable guide, has driven real operational change, but is not finished. The Mayor's office reviewed the internal tracker since taking office to ensure shared understanding of implemented items and remaining opportunities. The presentation provided the first consolidated update to Council, highlighting progress and framing future conversations.

Mr. Buccolo requested future details on Board of Education-related recommendations and potential collaboration/efficiency opportunities between the City and Board of Education.

Mr. Frayer followed up on consolidation of City and Board of Education operations (IT, communications, HR, etc.) and noted that an Efficiency Study from several years ago may now be stale given recent technology advances.

Mr. Bailey asked whether fiscal benefits of implemented improvements could be quantified to demonstrate value to taxpayers and suggested incorporating AI strategies to address rising fiscal pressures.

Ms. Ayers encouraged continued refinement of the document with staff and leadership, plus public-facing communication (website/newsletter) showing accomplishments and focus areas.

Ms. Young suggested linking future agenda items to relevant Efficiency Study (and POCD) references in backup materials or agendas to increase transparency and public understanding of how dollars are being used.

Mayor Smyth thanked Chief of Staff Daniels for the extensive work and presentation. No formal motion or vote was taken on this informational item.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
None.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR
Council President Goldstein read the Consent Calendar items as follows:

A, Public Safety and General Government.

1. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute any and all agreements, documents, applications, amendments as may be necessary with the Connecticut Department of Energy Services, Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for participation in the Emergency Management Grant Program and Regional Homeland Security planning and funding activities.

4. a. Authorize Mayor Barbara Smyth to execute an extension Agreement with Fleet Auto Supply, under RFP project number 4123 for the upfit of police vehicles until February 28, 2027, in the amount not to exceed $290,000.00 per year.
   b. Authorize the City of Norwalk Purchasing Agent to execute the purchase orders on behalf of the Norwalk Police Department to Fleet Auto Supply under RFP project number 4123 for the upfit of police vehicles based on unit pricing and the availability of funds not to exceed $290,000.00.

B, Land Use and Building Management.

1. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute a Land Use Restriction Agreement and Negative Pledge Agreement in favor of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development in connection with 7 Academy Street, site of Carver Center, Norwalk, Connecticut.

   2a. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute an agreement with ETT Environmental Services Inc. for the Police Headquarters Fuel Island Pump Replacement Project for a total not to exceed $128,000, account numbers noted.
   b. Authorize a contingency allowance for a total not to exceed $12,800, account number noted.

4. Authorize to increase design contingency with Tecton Architects’ design services contract for South Norwalk School for an additional amount of $56,147.72 for additional design services. Account number noted.

5. Technical correction of City Council action on November 17, 2025, Item VI, D, 6a & 6b for Calf Pasture Beach Project by correcting the typo in the account number to properly reflect the actual account. New action to read as follows: 'Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute an Agreement with O'Riordan Migani Architects LLC for architectural services for the Calf Pasture Beach Camp renovation project for a total not to exceed $119,480. Account #09266030 5777 C0365. Authorize a contingency allowance for a total not to exceed $11,948. Account #09266030 5777 C0365.

C, Public Works.

1. 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.
2. Approve the Honorary Naming of Lincoln Avenue Extension to Master Chief Alexander Restrepo Way.
3. a. 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, account numbers noted.
   b. 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 numbers noted.

D, Economic and Community Development.

1. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute an Agreement with Berry, Dunn McNeil & Parker, LLC, for Project #4435 – Community Development Software & Services, for an amount not to exceed $204,000.00 for implementation oversight services for a new online permitting and licensing system. Account noted.
2. 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. Accounts noted.
3. 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. Accounts noted.
4. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute any and all documents, to ratify the amendment to the Citywide Plan (Plan of Conservation and Development) to incorporate by reference the Arts and Cultural Plan within Chapter 6, Preserving & Promoting Our Historic Heritage, Arts & Culture, including the directive to evaluate, modify as necessary, and implement the plan's recommendations during the 2025–2029 planning period.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT GOLDSTEIN MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS READ.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT

3. Naming of South Norwalk Elementary School as Dr. Ruby Shaw Elementary School

Mr. Hosten moved the item, noting the school's fulfillment of long-standing community needs and Dr. Shaw's educational legacy in South Norwalk.

Ms. Young detailed Dr. Shaw's career, magnet school establishment, I Have a Dream program, and numerous board roles.

Ms. Ayers emphasized overdue recognition for the South Norwalk community.

Mr. Goldstein highlighted the symbolic importance for future generations.

Mr. Sead connected the naming to South Norwalk's history and changing community.

Mayor Smyth shared personal family connections and acknowledged Ms. Young's initiative.

Ms. Patrice Hunt (aunt) and Ms. Courtney Hunt (niece) expressed family gratitude and pride.

****MR. HOSTEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE SOUTH NORWALK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS DR. RUBY SHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

2. a. Authorize Mayor, Barbara Smyth, to execute a third amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement by and between Recovery Network of Programs, Inc. and City of Norwalk commencing on July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 in the amount of $300,528.00 to be paid from account #013026-5258.
b. Authorize the City of Norwalk Purchasing Agent, to execute purchase orders on behalf of the Norwalk Police Department to the Recovery Network Program utilizing NPD account #013026-5258 based on the availability of funds not to exceed $300,528.00.

Chief Walsh described the Behavioral Health Unit partnership with Recovery Network, noting 529 cases handled in 2025 and its success in diverting calls from patrol to clinicians.

****MS. EADDY MOVED APPROVAL OF ITEMS 2A AND 2B.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Cordico mobile application software – Lexipol

3. a. Authorize the Norwalk Police Department to utilize a Noncompetitive Procurement Justification Form with Lexipol for payment of Cordico mobile application software. This payment is for a one-year agreement for services commencing February 1, 2026 and ending January 31, 2027.

b. Authorize the City of Norwalk Purchasing Agent, to execute purchase orders on behalf of the Norwalk Police Department to Lexipol LLC. utilizing NPD account #09213610-5777-C0638 based on the availability of funds not to exceed $21,600.00.

Chief Walsh explained the Cordico wellness platform's anonymous support for officers, dispatchers, retirees, and families, reporting 46% usage, 23 Copeline calls, and broad engagement since implementation.

****MS. EADDY MOVED APPROVAL OF ITEMS 3A AND 3B.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4. Authorize the Mayor, Barbara C. Smyth, to execute any and all documents, to adopt the City of Norwalk Arts and Cultural Plan (2025, as amended) as the official guiding document for advancing arts and culture initiatives in the City, consistent with the City's designation as a State-recognized Arts and Cultural District.

Sabrina Godeski summarized the year-and-a-half process, public survey results, focus on diversified funding (including BID potential), and the actionable implementation table. She noted the approval sequence requires final P&Z action.

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM D.3.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

****MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary