

ALL COMMON COUNCIL ACTIONS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACTS OR TO ACCEPT BIDS AND OTHER PROPOSALS REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OF CITY FUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.

Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section.

All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section.

All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Irene Dixon at idxon@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Joshua Goldstein
	Mr. Johan Lopez	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	

District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. Jalin Sead
District B:	Mr. Dajuan Wiggins	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Ms. Nicole Eaddy	Ms. Anne Wennerstrand
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	Mr. Douglas W. Sutton
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were fifteen (15) Common Councilmembers present. A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor, Harry Rilling; City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: December 10, 2024

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted. Speakers are Norwalk residents unless otherwise noted.

Richard Bonenfant expressed concern over the Resolution regarding the regulation of dogs at City Parks. He asked about enforcement of the rules at the parks and said families and children need to feel safe at the parks; someone needs to stick up for the children.

Diane Lauricella expressed concern over the transfer of \$2.45 million left over from the Cranbury Elementary School project to the South Norwalk Recreation Center. She asked that the vote be taken as a Roll Call vote so people know about the stewardship of the money.

Mr. Gregory Helmes spoke about dogs at City Parks and said the majority of dog owners respect the rules and govern their dogs. He said he hoped the people who do not follow the rules do not ruin it for the rest of the dog owners.

Mr. Martin Gilmore spoke about dogs at City Parks and said the value of Cranbury Park, especially as an off-leash dog park. He described his positive experiences and said the vast amount of dog owners visiting the Park are very responsible.

Mr. Jeffrey Spahr spoke about dogs at City Parks and said people are respectful and it builds a sense of community.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations announced this evening.

1. REAPPOINTMENTS

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENT**

- a. Steve Klocke, Conservation Commission, Regular

Mr. Goldstein spoke in support of the reappointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling spoke about the opening of the fenced-in dog park at Oyster Shell Park. He thanked Robert Stowers and Ken Hughes from the Recreation and Parks Department for their work. He also expressed his thanks to Katherine Price Sloan Snedaker who reached out to him and asked about the possibility of dedicating the Park to the Norwalk Police Service Dogs.

Last week the Mayor's office announced the beneficiaries of the 2025 Mayor's Ball, scheduled for Friday, March 14, at the Italian Center. The proceeds will go towards The Salvation Army and Family & Children's Agency. He urged residents to join this event and support these two organizations.

The Mayor shared that 27 Norwalk restaurants made *Connecticut Magazine's* Top Restaurants for 2025 list. He encouraged everyone to support these business across the City. The Mayor reminded residents about the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony on Monday, January 20th at 5 PM at the Concert Hall and also the Breakfast at Grace Baptist Church at 8:00 AM.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

B. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. RESIGNATIONS

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATION**

a. PATRICIA AGUDOW, BOARD OF ETHICS, ALTERNATE

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPOINTMENTS

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT**

a. PATRICIA AGUDOW, BOARD OF ETHICS, REGULAR

Ms. Dunn spoke in support of the appointment and Ms. Smyth thanked her for her service as an Alternate.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT**

b. AMY AYALA, BOARD OF ETHICS, ALTERNATE

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner and Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Ms. Smyth announced that Mr. Frayer would be reading this evening's Consent Calendar.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

1. REAPPOINTMENT OF BRIAN CANDELA, ESQ. AS ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL.

B. BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED DECEMBER 2024

2. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED JANUARY 2025

3. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS DATED NOVEMBER 2024

4. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS DATED DECEMBER 2024

5. CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT DATED DECEMBER 2024

6. CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT DATED JANUARY 2025

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR MICROCOMPUTERS (PEPPM) CONTRACT # 533902-165 WITH CONNECTICUT BUSINESS SYSTEMS, LLC FOR A SIXTY (60) MONTH LEASE, A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000.00. ACCOUNT: VARIOUS DEPARTMENT ORGS- 5294

8. AUTHORIZE THE ALLOCATION OF \$2,450,000.00 IN SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION FUNDS TO THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORWALK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AT 98 SOUTH MAIN STREET.

9. AUTHORIZE THE REDUCTION OF \$2,450,000.00 FROM FREE BALANCE IN THE CRANBURY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – CAPITAL BUDGET ACCOUNT #09215010 5777 C0786.

10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FIVE-YEAR PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH TOTAL COMMUNICATION, INC. FOR CISCO ISE LICENSES, WITH A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$44,748.00. CITY ACCOUNT: #09251370 5777 C0375

B. ORDINANCE

1. APPROVE REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 95, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, SECTIONS 95-0 THROUGH 95-

39.

C. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY JS ENDURANCE FOR THEIR GARAVEL SONO HALF MARATHON, 5K & KIDS FUN RUN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2025 FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 8:00 A.M. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2025 WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 5:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 1200 PEOPLE.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH, TAYLOR FARM AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NORWALK MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR NORWALK BOAT SHOW TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 13,500 PEOPLE.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE OCTOBER 26, 2021 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND RACE COASTAL ENGINEERING FOR PURCHASING PROJECT 4154 DESIGN AND PERMITTING FOR REPLACEMENT OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PUBLIC MARINA DOCKS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$47,471.00 FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES.
ACCOUNT NO.09
22 6030 5777 C036709
23 6030 5777 C036709
24 6030 5777 C036709
25 6030 5777 C0367

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY BOSTON BUILDUP FOR

THEIR 10K RUN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2025 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

SET-UP TIME BY 7:40 A.M. SUNDAY WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 11:10 A.M.

APPROXIMATELY 150

PEOPLE.

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF SILVERMINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY BOSTON BUILDUP FOR THEIR 10K RUN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2025 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. SET-UP TIME BY 7:40 A.M. SUNDAY WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 11:10 A.M. APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE.

8. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ENTER INTO A MULTIPLE (3) YEAR SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH DUNNING INDUSTRIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF DURA EDGE CLASSIC FIELD CLAY.

9. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXTEND THE GEESE RELIEF GEESE CONTROL CONTRACT, FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR, PER THE TERMS OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT, WITH THE EXTENSION ENDING JULY 26, 2026.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. AUTHORIZE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING UNDER DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) BJA FY 24 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) AWARD# 15PBJA-24-GG-04596-JAGX.

2. AUTHORIZE CHIEF OF POLICE, JAMES WALSH, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) BJA FY 24 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) AWARD# 15PBJA-24-GG- 04596-JAGX.

E. COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. CT HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT

A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CT HEALTH FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025.

B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE CT HEALTH

F. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT

**1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A FINAL GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) AMENDMENT TWO TO NEWFIELD CONSTRUCTION GROUP, LLC'S CONTRACT FOR THE NEW NORWALK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AT 98 SOUTH MAIN STREET FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$4,645,770.00. TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:
TOTAL TRADE COSTS - \$3,570,686.00**

**CM FIXED FEES AT 1.95% FOR \$264,260.00
CM CONTINGENCY AT 1.5% FOR \$192,581.00 (BALANCE REVERT TO THE CITY AT PROJECT COMPLETION)
GENERAL CONDITIONS FEE - \$618,243.00 FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ACCOUNTS:
134030 5796 ABL01 – ARPA FUNDS -FOR COMMUNITY REC CENTER
140000 5796 ACMF3 – ARPA FUNDS FOR 98 SOUTH MAIN STREET COMM. REC. CENTER
510000 5796 GGP02 – GGP FUNDS FOR COMM. REC. CENTER
09191340 5796 C0634 – GGP FUNDS FOR COMM. REC. CENTER
09256030 5777 C0719 – CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDS FOR 98 S. MAIN COMM. CENTER
ACCT. TBD - 2025 SPECIAL CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
09247100 5799 G0050 – STATE DEC'D
09247100 5779 G0050 - HUD**

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE

**(GMP) AMENDMENT TO THE DOWNES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LLC'S
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (CM) CONTRACT FOR THE CRANBURY
PARK/GALLAHER MANSION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,173,342.00. TERMS OF THE
AGREEMENT SHALL INCLUDE:**

- **TOTAL TRADE COSTS - \$3,298,884.00**
- **CM FIXED FEES AT 2.5% FOR \$102,991.00**
- **CM CONTINGENCY AT 3% FOR \$121,554.00 (BALANCE REVERT TO THE CITY
AT PROJECT
COMPLETION)**
- **GENERAL CONDITIONS FEE - \$649,914.00.**

**FUNDS FOR THIS AGREEMENT ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE DECD
GRANT. ACCT #09236030
5782 C0831**

**3. AUTHORIZE THE CITY'S PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A SOLE SOURCE
AGREEMENT WITH CONNECTICUT TEMPERATURE CONTROLS, LLC FOR THE
KENDALL SCHOOL BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR A TOTAL NOT TO
EXCEED \$94,127.00. FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING
ACCOUNT: ACCT. #09255010 5777 C0721**

**4. BUILDING MANAGEMENT - LED RETROFIT LIGHTING PROJECTS - CITY
HALL**

**A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN
AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY RESOURCES USA, LLC TO PROVIDE LED
LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS AT CITY HALL FOR A TOTAL NOT TO
EXCEED**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL
DOCUMENTS WITH EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO APPLY FOR ENERGY
INCENTIVES AND ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADE FINANCING THROUGH
EVERSOURCE ON-BILL FINANCING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY HALL LED
LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

**5. BUILDING MANAGEMENT - LED RETROFIT LIGHTING PROJECTS -
NORWALK HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN
AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY RESOURCES USA, LLC TO PROVIDE LED
LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NORWALK HEALTH
DEPARTMENT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$35,622.16.**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL
DOCUMENTS WITH EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO APPLY FOR ENERGY**

**INCENTIVES AND ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADE FINANCING THROUGH
EVERSOURCE ON-BILL FINANCING PROGRAM FOR THE NORWALK HEALTH
DEPARTMENT LED LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

**6. BUILDING MANAGEMENT - LED RETROFIT LIGHTING PROJECTS -
NATHANIEL ELY CENTER**

**A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN
AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY RESOURCES USA, LLC TO PROVIDE LED
LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATHANIEL ELY CENTER FOR
A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$60,493.39.**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL
DOCUMENTS WITH EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO APPLY FOR ENERGY
INCENTIVES AND ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADE FINANCING THROUGH
EVERSOURCE ON-BILL FINANCING PROGRAM FOR THE NATHANIEL ELY
CENTER LED LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

**7. BUILDING MANAGEMENT - LED RETROFIT LIGHTING PROJECTS -
ROOSEVELT SENIOR CENTER**

**A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN
AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY RESOURCES USA, LLC TO PROVIDE LED
LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS AT ROOSEVELT CENTER FOR A TOTAL
NOT TO EXCEED \$41,548.66.**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL
DOCUMENTS WITH EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO APPLY FOR ENERGY
INCENTIVES AND ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADE FINANCING THROUGH
EVERSOURCE ON-BILL FINANCING PROGRAM FOR THE ROOSEVELT SENIOR
CENTER LED LIGHTING RETROFIT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

8. SOUTH NORWALK SCHOOL- FURNITURE PURCHASE

**A. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO
W.B. MASON CO. INC. FOR VARIOUS
FURNITURE ITEMS FOR THE SOUTH NORWALK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR A
TOTAL SUM OF \$1,108,466.00. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #0922 5010 5777
C0808.**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON
PURCHASE ORDER FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00.**

**9. AUTHORIZE THE LEASING OF APPROX. 1059± SQ. FT. OF SPACE AT THE
SOUTH NORWALK TRAIN STATION (INBOUND SIDE) TO SONO BREWING**

COMPANY FOR A TERM OF 10 YEARS WITH THREE (3) LESSEE OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR CONSECUTIVE (5) YEARS PERIOD EACH, RENT TO BE NEGOTIATED AND APPROVED BY THE NORWALK PARKING AUTHORITY. (CONSENT TO TABLE BACK TO COMMITTEE)

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

D. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Shanahan left the meeting.

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO** Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to sign any and all documents required for the installation of a micro forest at Meadow Street Park, project DEPA00002011221 South Norwalk "Pavement to Micro-Forest" Urban Resiliency Project, awarded through the Norwalk River Watershed Authority.

Ms. Young explained everyone was in favor of this item. Mr. Sead noted that he was originally opposed, but as a child had Asthma until he moved out of Meadow Gardens. He said he was in favor of this item.

Ms. Young said the basketball court at the new school can be used by the public. Mr. Wiggins said he had a change of heart when he saw how close the basketball court will be. He said he looks forward to seeing the benefits to the community.

Ms. Ayers said this micro forest will help continue making sure that Norwalk one of the best and healthiest places. Ms. Eaddy suggested looking at growing a small garden at Meadow Gardens.

Ms. Young expressed her thanks to those who had a change of heart. She added that part of this plan is education.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Shanahan returned to the meeting.

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE NORWALK PARK CURFEW HOURS AS FOLLOWS:**

NEIGHBORHOOD AND POCKET PARKS SEPTEMBER (LABOR DAY) TO MAY (MEMORIAL DAY) – PROPOSED HOURS 7:00 AM TO 9:00 PM MAY (MEMORIAL DAY) TO SEPTEMBER (LABOR DAY) – PROPOSED HOURS 7:00 AM TO 10:00 PM REGIONAL PARKS SEPTEMBER (LABOR DAY) TO MAY (MEMORIAL DAY) – PROPOSED HOURS - 7:00 AM TO 9:30 PM EXCEPT VETERANS PARK – PROPOSED HOURS 7:00 AM TO 8:00 PM MAY

**(MEMORIAL DAY) TO SEPTEMBER (LABOR DAY) – PROPOSED HOURS
7:00 AM TO 10:30 PM OYSTER SHELL PARK; CALF PASTURE BEACH;
TAYLOR FARM, AND CRANBURY PARK EXCEPT VETERANS PARK -
PROPOSED HOURS – 7:00 AM TO 9:00 PM**

Ms. Young said approval of this item will provide more clarity to the public and help with enforcement.

Mr. Stowers explained that this item was tabled for more information and he took that to heart. He said parks around the country now post defined hours. He described the benefits of posting specific park hours.

Police Chief Walsh said this will help with park safety and closing the parks. He talked about the number of calls they get regarding noise coming from Veteran's Park. He said he supports posting specific times for the parks.

Mr. Wiggins expressed concern about people going into the parks before opening or after closing and being harassed by the Police. He said he does not want the Police to tell people they can't enter the park, but then allowing others to go in. Chief Walsh said the Police Department is concerned with public safety and they will enforce any rules set forth by the Common Council. A closing time is a closing time.

Ms. Smyth asked about people walking at the Beach before it opens. Mr. Stowers explained, the morning hours will not change. It opens at 6:00 a.m. He added he will work with the communication people so residents are aware of the times.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner noted that Chief Walsh said they would enforce opening and closing hours excluding for pedestrians. Chief Walsh said the Police deal with criminal activity. He said they had a lot of communications with the Parks and Recreation last year. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner asked about people walking early in the morning. Mr. Sead said it poses a problem, and leads to selective enforcement.

Mr. Frayer said the regulation is confusing.

Mr. Stowers said the gates open at 7:00 a.m. They could open the gates earlier, but would need more staffing. The gates prohibit cars from going into the parking lot. Mr. Frayer commented that people could walk on the beach, but can't park their cars.

Mr. Hughes explained that four parks have gates and the Police have historically closed the gates at a certain time. Last year the ambiguity became a problem. He said he never got calls about people parking at the Beach before opening.

Ms. Dunn said this is a great tool for the Police when people are doing things they are not supposed to be doing.

Mr. Wiggins said he did not think his concern was being addressed. He said he was concerned about Police discrimination against someone walking in the park after hours.

Ms. Young said the City needs to protect itself by having signage. She said she heard Mr. Wiggins' concerns about the possibility of people being harassed. She asked about coming up with more specific language for the signage.

Ms. Ayers said she heard people express concern over enforcement. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner suggested fixing the time and said she feels the only place having serious issues is at Veterans' Park. She said she wants clarity and is not comfortable with ambiguity.

Ms. Ayers offered an amendment as follows:

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM AS POSTED AND SEND THE SIGNAGE BACK TO PARKS AND RECREATION AND ENFORCEMENT BACK TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

A discussion took place.

**** MS. AYERS WITHDREW HER AMENDMENT**

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said she would like to see modifications to the language based on public safety. Mr. Coppola suggested adding "pedestrians permitted at sunrise".

Mr. Goldstein suggested a collaboration between the Ordinance Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Wiggins suggested sending this item back to Committee and inviting other Common Council members to the meeting. He said he did not understand why this is such a rush.

Mr. Goldstein said that based on previous discussions, there was a clear issue about setting times that are not vague. He said he did not see a reason why they can't vote on the hours. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner asked when this would become a regulation if it is passed this evening. Mr. Coppola said the item references Memorial Day to Labor Day. He added this is the approval of hours, and he assumes it will take effect after the vote. Mr. Stowers said they will not enact signage until it has been approved.

Ms. Dunn offered an amendment as follows:

**** MS. DUNN MOVED THAT THE PARK CURFEW WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 1, 2025 TO ALLOW TIME TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC AND FINALIZE THE LANGUAGE**

**** THE AMENDMENT PASSED WITH TWO (2) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. SEAD AND MR. WIGGINS)**

Mr. Burnett asked if any of the times as presented will change. Ms. Young and Mr. Stowers said the times as presented will not change.

**** MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED WITH THREE (3) VOTES IN OPPOSITION
(MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER, MR. SEAD AND MR. WIGGINS)**

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION CONCERNING
THE REGULATION OF DOGS AT CITY PARKS.**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF DOGS AT CITY PARKS
THE REASON AND RATIONALE SET FORTH BY THIS RESOLUTION
CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF DOGS AT CITY PARKS ARE AS
FOLLOWS:**

**WHEREAS, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS REGULATION § 1-4
INACCURATELY STATES THAT DOGS
ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RUN LOOSE OR ROAM AT LARGE UPON ANY
PARK IN THE CITY OF NORWALK (HEREINAFTER
“CITY”); AND**

**WHEREAS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT SEEKS TO CORRECT AND UPDATE ITS
REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF DOGS AT CERTAIN
PARKS WITHIN THE CITY.**

**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS REGULATION § 1-9(6)
PROVIDES THAT “[N]OTHING HEREIN CONTAINED SHALL BE DEEMED
TO LIMIT THE POWER OF THE DIRECTOR TO PROMULGATE
REGULATIONS RESPECTING
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY, INCLUDING
BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE USE OF PLAYGROUNDS, GOLF [GOLF]
COURSES, TENNIS COURTS, PLATFORM TENNIS COURTS, SKATING RINK,
BOWLING GREENS, COMMUNITY CENTER BALL FIELDS, PARKS AND
CITY BUILDINGS, SUBJECT TO COMMON COUNCIL APPROVAL ...”**

**PURSUANT TO DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS REGULATION
§ 1-9(6), THE DIRECTOR OF THE
RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT SUBMITS THE THREE
REGULATIONS BELOW FOR APPROVAL BY THE COMMON COUNCIL.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, BY THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NORWALK APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. DOGS SHALL BE ALLOWED OFF LEASH AT TAYLOR FARM PARK AS
LONG AS THE OWNER, KEEPER OR**

PERSON HAVING CHARGE OF THE DOG IS PRESENT AND HAS IT UNDER COMMAND. THE OWNER,

2. DOGS SHALL BE ALLOWED AT OYSTER SHELL PARK ONLY WHILE ON LEASH UNLESS DESIGNATED OTHERWISE. WITHIN OYSTER SHELL PARK THERE SHALL BE A DESIGNATED ENCLOSED AREA WHERE DOGS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO RUN LOOSE OR ROAM OFF LEASH. AFTER ENTERING THE ENCLOSED AREA AND CLOSING THE GATE, THE DOG CAN BE TAKEN OFF LEASH AND ALLOWED TO RUN LOOSE OR ROAM WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE FENCED IN DOG PARK AS LONG AS THE OWNER, KEEPER OR PERSON HAVING CHARGE OF THE DOG IS PRESENT AND HAS IT UNDER COMMAND. DOGS SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE PLAYGROUND AT OYSTER SHELL PARK. THE OWNER, KEEPER OR PERSON HAVING CHARGE OF THE DOG MUST PICK UP AFTER IT.

3. DOGS SHALL BE ALLOWED ON THE TRAILS AT CRANBURY PARK WHILE ON LEASH OR UNDER VOICE CONTROL SO AS TO NOT UNREASONABLY INTERFERE WITH THE ENJOYMENT OF THE PARK BY OTHERS. WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE DOG PARK AT CRANBURY PARK, DOGS CAN BE TAKEN OFF LEASH AND ALLOWED TO RUN LOOSE OR ROAM WITHIN ITS CONFINES AS LONG AS THE OWNER, KEEPER OR PERSON HAVING CHARGE OF THE DOG IS PRESENT AND HAS IT UNDER COMMAND. DOGS SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE GREAT LAWN, PLAYGROUND, TEA GARDEN, PATIOS OR PAVILION AT CRANBURY PARK. THE OWNER, KEEPER OR PERSON HAVING CHARGE OF THE DOG MUST PICK UP AFTER IT.

4. PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 22-357, ALL DOG OWNERS AND/OR KEEPERS SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGE OR INJURY THAT THEIR DOG MAY CAUSE OR INFLECT. FURTHER, IF THE DOG OWNER AND/OR KEEPER IS A MINOR, THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF SUCH MINOR SHALL BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY SUCH DAMAGE OR INJURY.

THIS RESOLUTION, ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL ON JANUARY 14, 2025, SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON ENACTMENT AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL OR RESCINDED OR MODIFIED

Mr. Stowers explained that Attorneys Coppola and Spahr put together the language. He explained how the dog park evolved. Mr. Spahr said this puts into place what has always been in practice. He added that this came about due to trying to clear up some ambiguities.

Ms. Dunn asked if there were any exclusions. Mr. Spahr said there is a big sign at Oyster Shell Park stating requirements. In response to Mr. Burnett's question, Mr. Spahr said there is signage

at Cranbury Park stating dogs are not allowed to run on the Great Lawn or near the Pavilion. Mr. Stowers said additional signage will be placed in areas where dogs are prohibited. Mayor Rilling suggested that Animal Control Officers should be assigned to walk through Cranbury Park to help with enforcement. Ms. Smyth said signage needs to be bigger and clearer.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions offered from Common Council members this evening.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were no motions postponed to a specific date this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were no suspensions of the rules this evening.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk